

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Wednesday Aug 4, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 92

Rio Rancho Weather: high 92

Espanola Weather: high 90

Santa Fe weather: high 85

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 94

and now the news...

>>Static Kill On BP Well Seems To Be Working

(Houston, TX) -- BP's latest effort to permanently stop the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico seems to be working. The British energy giant says heavy drilling mud pumped into its ruptured undersea oil well yesterday for the so-called "static kill" procedure has successfully stabilized the hydrostatic pressure inside the once-gushing well. Meanwhile, federal scientists are putting out a report that claims three-fourths of the oil that leaked from the well has already dispersed, evaporated, or been captured or eliminated.

>>WH: GOP Challenging 14th Amendment To Win Votes

(Washington, DC) -- White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs is accusing Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell of playing political games with the immigration debate. The Senate Republican leader said yesterday he would support calls from a growing number of fellow GOP lawmakers to reconsider the 14th Amendment, which grants automatic U.S. citizenship to anyone born in the United States. Gibbs responded by accusing McConnell of political posturing ahead of the November midterm elections.

>>Workplace Shooting In CT Leaves Nine Dead

(Manchester, CT) -- A workplace shooting in Manchester, Connecticut left nine people dead yesterday. Police say 34-year-old Omar Thornton shot at least ten people, killing eight of them, inside Hartford Distributors, a beer and wine wholesaler. Thornton, who was a driver for Hartford Distributors, had only worked there for a short period of time. The shooting spree started after he attended a disciplinary hearing at work. Thornton then shot and killed himself as police closed in.

>>Ruling On CA's Same-Sex Marriage Ban Expected

(San Francisco, CA) -- A ruling from a San Francisco federal judge today could have major impact on same-sex couples in California. U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker is expected to issue a decision on a legal challenge to Proposition 8. The constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2008 bans same-sex marriage in the Golden State. Two gay couples have sued to overturn Prop 8, claiming it's discriminatory. The case is likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, regardless of the judge's decision today.

>>Judge Lets Religious Runaway Quit Chemotherapy

(Columbus, OH) -- An Ohio teenager who ran away from home last year claiming her Muslim parents would kill her for converting to Christianity won't be forced to undergo chemotherapy. On Tuesday, a Columbus juvenile court judge rejected a request from Rifqa Bary's parents to order the 17-year-old to continue treatment for uterine cancer. Bary's attorney says the teen is cancer-free, and stopped chemotherapy after consulting with her doctor. Her parents claim treatment could prevent the disease from coming back.

>>Report: Wyclef To Announce Candidacy On "Larry King Live"

(Undated) -- CNN claims to have the scoop on Wyclef Jean's plans to run for president of Haiti. The cable news network is citing a source close to the Haitian hip-hop star who says Wyclef will announce his candidacy on Thursday's "Larry King Live." The 37-year-old star has always been a vocal advocate of his homeland, but he took his support to a new level after a massive earthquake devastated the country back in January. Many political analysts believe Wyclef would win Haiti's presidential election easily.

>>Memorial Service Today For Lorenzen Wright

(Memphis, TN) -- A public memorial service for former University of Memphis and NBA basketball star Lorenzen Wright will be held at FedExForum today. Memphis Grizzlies owner Michael Heisley, former Memphis Tiger Elliot Perry as well as Memphis Mayor AC Wharton are expected to speak at the service. Wright was found dead last week in Southeast Memphis from gunshot wounds. He was 34 years old.

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>>Hazing Ring Leader Gets Two Years

(Las Vegas, NM) -- The ring leader in the Robertson High School football hazing case has been sentenced. Michael Gallegos will have to spend two years in a juvenile detention center. Gallegos had pleaded guilty to numerous charges last May including two counts of criminal sexual penetration. He and five others are accused of using a broomstick to sexually assault younger teammates at a 2008 training camp. Meanwhile, a civil litigation could start soon as the families of the victims have filed lawsuits against the six defendants, school administrators and the school district.

>>Robber Wearing Wrestling Mask, Caught During Heist

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A robber wearing a purple wrestling mask was caught breaking into a local ice cream shop. A neighbor near the Dairy Queen off Isleta, saw the suspect using a crowbar to try and pry the door open early Monday morning and called the sheriff's department. When deputies arrived they saw the pry marks and ordered the robber to come out. The robber, who turned out to be a teenager, complied with the deputies orders. Officials say they found a cell phone on him with a text message that had what looked like directions on how to open the restaurant's safe.

>>Berry Unveils New Employee Policy

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The mayor has unveiled a new policy which deals with city employees who are arrested and charged with driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Mayor Richard Berry says the new policy will suspend the employee's permit for driving while on duty for at least 90 days. The employee would also be reassigned or asked to take leave during that time. The policy goes on to say if an employee is cleared of the DWI they will get their permits back, but if they are convicted they could be terminated. Lastly, Berry says any new employee hired for a driving job, cannot have any DWI convictions in the last five years.

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>>APD Looking For Those Who Abused Pit Bulls

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Albuquerque Police are looking for the people who are responsible for abusing three pit bulls. The Animal Humane Association says the dogs were chemically burned and one had a gouged eye. Authorities say those responsible for the abuse could face fourth-degree felony charges of extreme cruelty. For more information on the dogs call the Animal Humane Association.

>>Shots For Tots Starts August 7th

(Undated) -- The New Mexico Department of Health will be holding special immunization clinics starting this weekend. The clinics are part of the Got Shots? Protect Tots! immunization campaign. Any child up to age 18 is eligible for the shots. Officials say the clinics are being held to help out parents who need their child immunized for school. The clinics will start August 7th and run through August 21st. To find a nearby clinic visit immunizenm.org or call 866-681-5872.

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>>Search Warrants Executed For West Mesa Murders

(Joplin, MO) -- A Joplin, Missouri man was the subject of sealed search warrants in connection the West Mesa murders. Working in conjunction with the FBI and Joplin authorities, Albuquerque police searched the homes and businesses of Ron Erwin. Officials have yet to label Erwin a suspect or person of interest in the case. The 11 female victims and a fetus murdered and buried in West Mesa were discovered nearly a year ago. Investigators say the victims were killed between 2003 and 2005.

>>Rio Rancho Kids Need Registration For Busses

(Rio Rancho, NM) -- Rio Rancho parents will need to decide if their children will ride the bus before school starts. Rio Rancho School District officials say they're facing a nine-million-dollar budget deficit so they have to figure out how many children will ride the bus now to ensure funding. Bus funding is on a per-student basis so children wouldn't be allowed on busses until parents have completed a registration form.

>>Sandia Park's Positive Impact Recognized

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The Sandia Science and Technology Park received special recognition for their contributions to the local economy on Tuesday. During a press conference Mayor Richard Berry thanked the company for pumping over three-point-five-billion-dollars into the weakened economy while providing jobs. Sandia has brought in over 22-hundred direct and 54-hundred indirect jobs around the state since 1998.

>>Unemployed Residents Receive Wrong Information

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Thousands of New Mexicans ran into a huge roadblock when they attempted to get their extended unemployment benefits. The Department of Workforce Solutions says close to 53-hundred people trying to file for benefits were mailed the wrong number to contact the department. Officials say the phone number listed was constantly busy and the second number was incorrect. Workforce solutions says the mailing and phone number was their error, but they have corrected the issue.

>>State Fair Ticket Prices Released

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Lowered ticket prices mean one thing for the New Mexico State Fair this year -- more people. On Tuesday fair organizers announced adult ticket prices had been reduced to seven-dollars while seniors and children between the ages of six through 12 will pay five-dollars. Parking fees have also been decreased to seven-dollars per vehicle. Anyone who wants additional information about pricing changes and the fair can visit www.ExpoNM.com.

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FARMINGTON — Road crews were on the front lines, plowing through mud Monday to remove debris from streets and culverts after heavy rain and high winds moved through northwestern New Mexico's San Juan County.

Sunday night's storm flooded businesses and homes, cut power and forced the rescue of two people from cars in swift water.

Fire crews pulled Farmington High School senior Zoe Wilson-Meyer, 18, to safety after she tried to drive through water that had pooled on a street.

Deputy Fire Chief Terry Page says her decision to stay in her car may have saved her.

Page says people tend to underestimate the depth and power of flowing water.

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>>Law Group Ready To Challenge Proposed Ground Zero Mosque

(Washington, DC) -- The American Center for Law and Justice is prepared for legal action after yesterday's decision that may clear the way for an Islamic mosque near Ground Zero in New York City. A statement from the ACLJ says the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission voted 9-to-0 to withhold landmark status to a site where the landing gear of the one of the 9/11 hijacked planes crashed through the roof of the building. ACLJ's Jay Sekulow describes the vote as a "blatant disregard" for the city's own procedures. Sekulow claims the location is a "historic and hallowed" site that should not be destroyed to build an Islamic mosque."

>>Charges Dropped Against Chicago Pro-Life Activist

(Chicago, IL) -- Charges against a pro-life activist arrested outside a Planned Parenthood facility in Chicago have been dropped. The Thomas More Society challenged the city's new "bubble zone" ordinance that brought Joseph Holland's arrest in July. Thomas More Society's Peter Breen says in a statement that the First Amendment protects prayer on a public sidewalk in Chicago just as in any other city. The legal group hopes the ruling will stop arrests under the "bubble zone" ordinance.

>>Credit Given To Baptist Preacher For Carter Election

(Undated) -- A recent "roast" of Southern Baptist leader Jimmy Allen saw a former president credit him for his election. According to Associated Baptist Press, President Jimmy Carter says the Texas Baptist preacher endorsed him in 1976 when his presidential campaign was floundering. Carter says Allen, who was pastor of First Baptist in San Antonio at the time, said he wasn't really supporting him, but supporting the right for someone to say they are a born-again Christian. Carter says Texas turned around for him after Allen's endorsement. The "roast" was part of an introduction of a new biography of Allen titled "Loving Beyond Your Theology: The Life and Ministry of Jimmy Raymond Allen" by Larry McSwain.

>>MinistryFlix.com Giving Away Free Christian Videos During The Summer

(Undated) -- Christian media website Evangelize.com has rebranded itself as MinistryFlix.com. In celebration of the name change the site is giving away brand new exclusive content every week through the summer. MinistryFlix.com offers thousands of short videos that give viewers an opportunity to hear about important themes. The ministry says in a statement that the

videos highlight issues such as gossip, worship, relationships and forgiveness from a Christian perspective.

>>Brownback Bemoans Committee Vote On Abortion Policy

(Washington, DC) -- Senator Sam Brownback calls an abortion amendment approved by a Senate committee last week "a grave misuse of U.S. tax dollars." Brownback is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which voted Thursday to permanently repeal the so-called Mexico City Policy, which prohibits federal money from being used for international groups that promote or perform abortions. The policy was first implemented by President Reagan in the 1980s. The amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill would codify into law an executive order issued by President Obama last year.

>>Faith Leaders Call For immigration Reform

(Undated) -- National faith leaders are leading a charge calling for immigration reform. According to The Reverend Peg Chemerlin, President of the National Council of Churches, the current controversy over an Arizona immigration law is not only divisive, but doesn't help anyone. The Reverend Chemerlin says reforms should include background checks, requirements to learn the language and pay taxes, as well as a plan to work toward full citizenship.

That's the news, I'm Frank Haley, cjf, for God's Glory alone.