

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Friday August 6, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 92

Rio Rancho Weather: high 88

Espanola Weather: high 85

Santa Fe weather: high 83

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 94

and now the news:

>>Obama Says Kagan Will Be Outstanding Supreme Court Justice

(Chicago, IL) -- President Obama has expressed confidence that Elena Kagan will be a distinguished U.S. Supreme Court justice. The Senate confirmed Kagan for a seat on the high court yesterday. In Chicago, Obama said the vote wasn't just an affirmation of her intellect and accomplishment, but also an affirmation of her character temperament and open-mindedness. The 50-year-old Kagan will replace retired Justice John Paul Stevens. For the first time in U.S. history, three women will be serving on the Supreme Court as Kagan joins Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor.

>>Senate Approves Funding To Secure Border With Mexico

(Washington, DC) -- A 600-million-dollar package to help secure the U.S. border with Mexico has been approved by the Senate. The legislation would pay for hiring of 15-hundred new federal agents to patrol the border. The new funds come on the heels of a 700-million dollar measure already passed by the House. Differences need to be worked out before the additional funding measure can be sent to President Obama to sign into law.

>>Wyclef Jean Talks Haiti Candidacy On "Larry King Live"

(Undated) -- Hip-Hop artist Wyclef Jean says if he becomes president of Haiti his focus will be on education, agriculture, job creation, security and health care. Jean has officially made the decision and discussed his candidacy on Thursday's "Larry King Live" on CNN. Haiti was rocked by a massive earthquake in January, and he says now is the time to rebuild his homeland. He also denied allegations that he took money from his charitable foundation, Yele Haiti, and added

that he's had residency in Haiti long enough to satisfy the government's requirements for all presidential hopefuls.

#### >>Government Asks WikiLeaks To Return War Documents

(Washington, DC) -- The Pentagon is demanding that WikiLeaks return all classified documents it has about the war in Afghanistan. The whistleblower website still has about 15-thousand unpublished war records. Last month, WikiLeaks published 90-thousand classified documents about the nine-year-long conflict. The Pentagon also wants WikiLeaks to delete the documents it has already posted online.

#### >>Riders Stranded On Sky Glider At Wisconsin State Fair

(West Allis, WI) -- Some people at the Wisconsin State Fair spent a little more time on one of the rides than intended last night. About 130 people waited a few hours to be rescued from the Sky Glider after the ride's motor stopped and left them stranded. Firefighters used lifts and other equipment to bring people down from their seats. The last passengers were helped down at about 11:15 p.m. local time. State Fair spokeswoman Patrice Harris says no one was injured.

#### >>IRS To Stop Providing Debt Indicator Codes

(Undated) -- Beginning with the 2011 tax season, the IRS says it will no longer provide tax preparers and lenders with a so-called "debt indicator" code, which lets them know whether part of a tax payer's anticipated refund could be withheld to pay government debts. Lenders often check the debt indicator before offering short-term, high-interest refund-anticipation loans. Consumer groups complain that these loans target low-income Americans. IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman says that with the popularity of e-filing and direct deposit, there isn't much need for the debt indicator or refund-anticipation loans anymore.

#### >>Holocaust Survivors Blast Museum Over Helen Thomas Statue

(Dearborn, MI) -- A chorus of objection has been raised by a group of Holocaust survivors over plans for a statue of reporter Helen Thomas at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Thomas, who was raised in Detroit and is of Arab descent, was pressured to resign from her job at Hearst Newspapers earlier this year for an anti-Semitic comment at a White House Jewish Heritage celebration. The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and their Descendants called honoring Thomas, quote, "a moral taint on the Arab American National Museum."

Diego Olivas might have faced nothing more than traffic tickets if he had just pulled over for a police car early Thursday.

Instead, the 20-year-old Santa Fe man, who Santa Fe County sheriff's deputies say was spotted drag racing with another driver on Airport Road, was killed when he crashed his car while trying to flee.

There were no initial indications that any drugs or alcohol were involved.

Olivas lived in Santa Fe but the 1992 Nissan 240 he was driving had temporary Arizona tags.

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Plane makes emergency landing in Taos

TAOS — A male pilot with three female passengers aboard had to make an emergency landing near the Taos Regional Airport on Thursday evening, a spokeswoman for the Town of Taos said.

All aboard were reported to be OK and walked away from the crash scene after the aircraft landed in sagbrush north of the airport.

The plane had trouble after taking off from the airport and attempted to return to the airport to land but didn't have the correct altitude to successfully make it back, the spokeswoman said.

The Taos Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene.

By late Thursday, the crash site was under the control of the New Mexico State Police and the Federal Aviation Administration was expected to conduct an investigation.

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Wagon Mound will host a Centennial Bean Day Celebration over the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-6.

A news release said the annual event in the northeastern New Mexico community began when Higinio Gonzales and his crew in 1909 cooked up a pot of beans in wash boilers behind the local school house for what was then called the "Mora County Farmers Harvest Jubilee."

The following year, the name "Bean Day" was born to honor the crop that was once a staple of the local farming economy, the statement said.

The event includes daily rodeos, nightly dances, a horseshoe tournament, a softball tournament, live entertainment, historical presentations, class reunions, vendors, children's activities, a parade and, on Labor Day, a free Beans & Barbecue Lunch.

For more information, call 575-666-2697 or visit [www.wagonmoundnm.com](http://www.wagonmoundnm.com).

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ALBUQUERQUE — A decades-old program that has allowed Albuquerque police officers to take their patrol cars home after-hours is being curtailed.

As of Jan. 1, officers who live beyond 11 miles of the Interstate 25 and 40 interchange in Albuquerque won't take their cars home, Chief Ray Schultz said.

That includes officers who live in Valencia County or in much of Rio Rancho and the mountain area east of Albuquerque.

The policy affects about 170 officers, about 16 percent of the force, Schultz said.

In addition, all officers will be limited immediately in how they use police vehicles off duty. Instead of going to the grocery stores or the movies in patrol cars, officers will be allowed only to drive them to and from work, court or city functions. The exception is if they're on call and subject to immediate deployment.

The new policy is intended to save about \$650,000 a year in maintenance and mileage costs.

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A ticket price increase for the annual Zozobra burning may have some Santa Feans doing a little groaning of their own this year.

The cost to attend the ritual torching of Old Man Gloom, a Santa Fe tradition for 87 years, will be \$10 in advance at the Lentic Box Office or \$15 at the gate on Sept. 9 — \$5 more than last year.

The Kiwanis Club's board authorized the price hike to cover growing costs of staging what has become an elaborate production, to raise more money for scholarships and grants, and to cut down on the crowd size.

Zozobra producer Ray Valdez said last year's attendance exceeded the 25,000 maximum that public-safety officials say should be allowed into Fort Marcy Park.

The price hike is the first since 2002 when advance tickets went from \$3 to \$5, and the gate price from \$5 to \$10.

Tickets and other Zozobra merchandise also will be available during the Zozobra Arts Show from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sept. 3 at Warehouse 21 and at the Kiwanis booth during the Fiesta Arts and Crafts Show on the Plaza on Sept. 4, 5 and 6.

More information about Zozobra is available online at [zozobra.com](http://zozobra.com). Information about handicap parking is available by calling Valdez at 660-1956.

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#### >Multiple Collisions Knock Out Power

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Albuquerque police have yet to determine what caused a tractor-trailer driver to hit multiple power poles on Thursday night. Police say the driver was traveling on 2nd Street north of Montano Road when he struck a utility pole around 10:30 p.m. Police say the man continued to drive and hit several additional power poles that eventually knocked out power in the area. Officials located the driver several miles down the road, but have yet to release what charges he's facing. PNM has since restored power to the area.

#### >>Valencia County Sheriff And Council Argue Over Purchase

(Valencia Co., NM) -- Controversy surrounding the purchase of a truck heated up the exchange between the Valencia County sheriff and county commissioners on Thursday. Sheriff Rene Rivera says it was none of the county's business about how new vehicles were purchased, while County Manager Eric Zamora expressed his ire about the sheriff's handling of the issue. Both parties' debate escalated and ended with Rivera stating Zamora needed to be fired.

#### >>Protestors Want Junior ROTC Programs To End

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Protestors are calling for Junior ROTC programs to be taken out of Albuquerque Public Schools. Members of Military Families Speak Out say the program is a tactic to recruit high school students into the military, while others feel it costs taxpayers too much money to support. Protestors gathered outside APS headquarters earlier in the week to get their opinions heard. APS says the protestors are misinformed and the district only pays for half the price of ROTC, while the military picks up the other half.

#### >>Alleged Dog Thief In Custody

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Albuquerque police have taken the man they believe stole three puppies into custody. Twenty-year-old Benjamin Rivera was arrested late Wednesday night for allegedly stealing three Pomeranian puppies from a couple selling them in a grocery store parking lot last week. Rivera is charged with felony conspiracy and larceny and is being held on 25-thousand-dollar bond. The puppies have yet to be recovered.

#### >>Senate Approves Funding To Secure Border

(Washington, DC) -- Senators have approved a 600-million-dollar package to help secure America's southern border with Mexico. In a rare election-year display of bipartisanship, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved the measure before it begins its five-week recess. The legislation would pay for hiring 15-hundred new federal agents to patrol the border. The new funds come on the heels of a 700-million-dollar measure already passed by the House. Differences need to be worked out before the additional funding can be sent to President Obama to sign into law.

#### >>Valley Group Leads Gay Marriage Fight; AZ Gay Marriage Ban At Risk

(Scottsdale, AZ) -- A Scottsdale-based conservative Christian group is at the center of the gay marriage fight. The Alliance Defense Fund is a key part of the legal team that unsuccessfully defended California's law banning same sex marriage, known as Proposition 8. ADF spokesperson said the group is appealing the ruling that overturned the voter-approved initiative, and the matter now goes before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and may eventually wind up in the Supreme Court. Arizona passed a gay marriage ban two years ago and legal experts say if the high court upholds Wednesday's ruling, Arizona's law will likely be struck down.

## >>Proposition 8 Ruling Reactions Continue

(Undated) -- Some are calling the ruling striking down Proposition 8 in California and the traditional definition of marriage as shocking. CitizenLink Judicial Analyst Bruce Hausknecht claims the ruling by U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker raises what he describes as a "shocking notion" that a single federal judge can nullify the votes of more than 7-million California voters, binding Supreme Court precedent, and thousands of years worth of evidence that "children need both a mom and a dad." Hausknecht fully expects the decision to be overturned on appeal.

## >>Research Shows Conservative State More Religious

(Undated) -- A new survey found states with the highest percentage of conservatives have a higher rate of citizen claiming religion is important to them. Baptist Press says the Gallup survey also revealed politically liberal states are less likely to be religious. As is expected the more conservative were in the South and much of the West and the more liberal states in the Northeast and the West Coast. The results showed Wyoming and Mississippi tied for first as having the highest percentage of self-identifying political conservatives, followed by Utah, South Dakota, Alabama, North Dakota and Idaho. The rest of the top 10 included South Carolina, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Louisiana.

## >>"Sacred Cocktails" Ministry In San Francisco

(San Francisco, CA) -- A ministry in San Francisco called "Sacred Cocktails" has been on tap for a year now at the Lookout Bar. Episcopal News Service says the Reverend Tommy Dillon of St. Aidan's Church partnered with the popular bar as a vehicle for those interested in "sacred discussions" in a location they feel comfortable. Sacred Cocktails recently received a one-thousand dollar grant from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific Celtic Cross Society as the first Episcopal presence in the Castro District of San Francisco in decades. The Reverend Dillon says the ministry has had a good response and even the bartenders come listen to the speakers when they are on break.

## >>Churches Seeking To Serve Members "Cradle-To-Grave"

(Undated) -- For centuries cemeteries were church-based and are now well removed from church grounds. Associated Baptist Press says some congregations are recapturing the "cradle-to-grave" concept by providing a resting place for congregants' remains. Columbaria, a structure with niches in which to place a burial urn, are appearing more and more around the country. Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas recently dedicated its columbarium. At the ceremony three members were placed in resting places, two of them Baptist statesmen. Alan Wright is hospice chaplain at Baylor Medical Center and a member of Wilshire Baptist. He says in a recent

blog posting that the church in general, especially the Baptist wing of it, needs more columbaria. He likes the new trend.

>>New Edition Of Bible Created For Ease Of Use

(Undated) -- A company hoping to make Bible reading easier is providing an alternative to what they describe as current heavy, bulky and expensive editions of the Bible. BibleByBook.com is now publishing the Bible by individual book in an easy to read magazine format. A release from the company says BibleByBook.com uses the text of the New International version and currently offers 17 books of the Bible. Each edition is priced from \$2.95-to-\$4.95. BibleByBook creator Kevin Taylor looked for months for a product like this for personal use and when he did not find it, he created it himself. For more information logon to [www.BibleByBook.com](http://www.BibleByBook.com).

>>Research Suggests Proximity Helps Faith Healing Work

(Bloomington, IN) -- A new study is bolstering claims about the healing power of prayer. Religious studies professor Candy Gunther Brown from Indiana University Bloomington led a team of researchers to a rural community in Mozambique to observe how praying would affect 14 locals with impaired hearing and eleven others with impaired vision. They found that the subjects' hearing and vision improved in a way that was statistically significant after Christian faith healers prayed near them. Researchers conducted a similar study in urban Brazil and came back with similar results. The studies appear online and in the September issue of the "Southern Medical Journal."

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