

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Friday August 13, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 95

Rio Rancho Weather: high 95

Espanola Weather: high 92

Santa Fe weather: high 88

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 97

and now the news:

>>Obama Expected To Sign Border Security Bill

(Washington, DC) -- President Obama is expected to sign a new border security bill into law today. The legislation allocates roughly 600-million dollars to secure the U.S.-Mexico border. It will pay for more Border Patrol agents, weaponry, high tech support and unmanned drones to patrol the border. The bill won final congressional approval yesterday during a one-day emergency session called by the U.S. Senate in the middle of its August recess. The House approved the measure in another emergency session earlier this week.

>>Same-Sex In CA Can Get Married Next Week

(San Francisco, CA) -- More same-sex couples will soon be able to get married in California. A federal judge in San Francisco has ruled that same-sex marriages can resume next Wednesday. U.S. District Court Chief Judge Vaughn Walker said that should give the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals plenty of time to consider whether a voter-approved gay marriage ban should be left intact while appeals continue. County clerks in the Golden State say they're accepting gay and lesbian marriage applications now.

>>Administration Braces For Round Two Of WikiLeaks Fiasco

(San Diego, CA) -- The Obama administration is bracing for round two of the latest WikiLeaks fiasco. The whistleblower website has announced plans to release another 15-thousand documents related to the war in Afghanistan. The Pentagon is calling the plan the "height of irresponsibility." WikiLeaks created an uproar last month when it published more than 70-thousand formerly secret documents dealing with the nine-year war in Afghanistan. The defense department said the move put U.S. troops and Afghan informers at risk.

>>GM To File Registration For IPO

(Detroit, MI) -- General Motors is moving forward on plans for an initial public stock offering. Those familiar with the process say the registration could be filed today. The GM public offering is expected to be worth up to 20-billion dollars, which would be the biggest IPO since a 19-point-seven-billion dollar public offering from Visa in 2008. News about the impending stock offering comes follows yesterday's news that GM earned one-point-three-billion dollars in the second quarter. GM Chairman and CEO Ed Whitacre also announced he's stepping down effective September 1st.

>>Serial Stabbing Suspect Charged

(Flint, MI) -- Charges have been filed against the suspect in a serial stabbing case that spans three states. Elias Abu Elazam [[el 'uh-zam]] is charged with assault with intent to murder in the July 27th stabbing of Antwoine Marshall in Flint, Michigan. The 33-year-old Elazam is suspected of attacking a total of 20 men in Michigan, Ohio and Virginia. He was arrested at the airport in Atlanta Wednesday night while waiting for a flight to Tel Aviv and is being held in Georgia's Fulton County Jail pending extradition to Michigan. Additional charges are expected to be filed at a later date.

>>BP May Not Need Relief Well

(Houston, TX) -- BP may not need to finish drilling its relief well in the Gulf of Mexico after all. National Incident Commander Thad Allen told reporters yesterday that cement poured into BP's busted oil well in a procedure dubbed "static kill" may have already sealed it. The relief well would be used to channel cement into the well through the bottom for a procedure known as "bottom kill." BP's relief well has only 45 more feet to go before it intercepts the broken well shaft.

>>Woods One-Under-Par At PGA Championship

(Kohler, WI) -- Tiger Woods carded a one-under 71 in the opening round of the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin yesterday. Woods started on the 10th tee and birdied three of his first four holes. Woods then had three bogeys before picking up a birdie on the final hole. Not only is Woods looking to win his first tournament and major of the season, he's also trying to hold on to the number-one spot in world rankings. He is also trying to play his way onto the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

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>>Perseid Meteor Shower Resumes Tonight

(Undated) -- Planet Earth is currently passing through a cloud of comet dust which, weather permitting, will make for an entertaining evening across the U.S. The dust is debris from Comet Swift-Tuttle that passes through our part of the solar system every 133 years. Right now, Earth's orbit is taking it through the dust that flashes as it strikes the atmosphere. The show actually

started last night but tonight is likely to be the best for viewing since the moon will be gone and the sky will be about as dark as it gets. Best viewing will be away from city lights and around midnight.

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>>Ninety-Percent Of University Health Records Destroyed In June's Fire

(Albuquerque, NM) -- June's warehouse fire at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center destroyed most of the patient medical records. Officials for the facility announced yesterday around one-point-four-million, or about 90-percent, of digitally stored records were lost either from the fire or the water used to extinguish the flames. The fire burned for several days near Broadway and Mountain. The university moved to digital record keeping in 2005.

>>Finance Board Signs Off On Cuts To Most State Departments

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The state Board of Finance yesterday officially approved three-point-two-percent cuts to every state department except Medicaid and disabled services. Schools will also be exempt from the cuts until money roles in from the federal jobs bill. The Board of Finance had little discussion before agreeing to the cuts to almost every department.

>>Sandoval County Sheriff Busted For Speeding On Interstate 25

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Sandoval County's sheriff John Paul Trujillo is used to being in charge of busting criminals, but the sheriff now finds himself in trouble with the law. Trujillo was pulled over by state police while driving an unmarked police allegedly up to 90-miles-per-hour in a construction zone along Interstate 25. State police say the vehicle's license plate did not match the unmarked car when the sheriff passed through the highway stretch between Bernalillo and Tramway. Trujillo denies speeding through the construction zone and says he was on his way to the scene of a traffic crash at the time.

>>Man Pleads Not Guilty To Cashing Check Late Wife Stole

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A man has pleaded not guilty to five felony counts for cashing a stolen 28-thousand-dollar check. Jerry Archuleta entered the plea yesterday for receiving the money his wife stole while working as the business manager for the Jemez Mountain School District. Archuleta's wife, Kathy Borrego, previously pleaded guilty to stealing the money and committed suicide before being sentenced. Archuleta could face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

>>Senate Passes Border Security Bill

(Washington, DC) -- The Senate has approved a roughly 600-million-dollar bill aimed at boosting border security in New Mexico and other border states. In a brief Senate session, New York Democrat Chuck Schumer called it a key priority. Senate action followed earlier passage by

the House. The measure passed with only two senators present in a process known as "unanimous consent." Lawmakers are in their annual August recess.

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Accused Ponzi schemer Doug Vaughan has been sentenced to a week in jail for driving on a revoked license, according to a metro court judge. Vaughan was convicted of driving on a revoked license in June. On Thursday, Judge Fitzwater sentenced Vaughan to seven days behind bars. He was arrested back in February when he drove away from state regulatory officers who were trying to question him at his home. The officers knew his license was revoked at the time from a prior arrest.

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The city of Santa Fe, Keep Santa Fe Beautiful and Albuquerque Recycling Inc., are co-sponsoring an e-waste recycling dropoff day Aug. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1142 Siler Road. Most electronic items will be accepted for free; however, there will be \$10 disposal fee for televisions and a \$5 disposal fee for old-style CRT computer monitors.

Acceptable items include: computers, servers and laptops, flat-screen monitors, printers and scanners, fax machines, telephones and cell phones, Palm Pilots and other hand-held electronic devices, lead acid batteries, computer back-up batteries, UPS batteries, TV satellite equipment, VCRs and CD players, stereo equipment, computer and TV game assemblies, cameras and video cameras.

Items that are not acceptable include: coffee makers, alkaline batteries, hair dryers, bread machines, light bulbs of any kind, cardboard or paper appliances including microwave ovens and household hazardous waste.

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>>Federal Judge Opts To Lift Ban On Same-Sex Marriages In California

(San Francisco, CA) -- There's still a chance an appeals court will undo the ruling but for now, gay and lesbian couples in California can look forward to tying the knot as of Wednesday if they wish. The same federal judge who ruled last week a proposition banning gay marriage was unconstitutional has now given a green light for those marriages to begin on August 18th.

>>Progressive Baptist Group Applauds Marriage Ruling

(Undated) -- A progressive Baptist group came out in support of the ruling by a federal judge declaring a California ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. According to Associated Baptist Press, the Alliance of Baptists issued a statement saying the ruling overturning California's Proposition 8 is an "encouraging step" in challenging laws that discriminate against

sexual minorities and define marriage in such a way as to deny same-sex couples a legal framework to provide for each other.

>>Missionary Held By Taliban Says Afghan Workers Were "Unwavering"

(Undated) -- Heather Mercer was one of the two missionaries held captive by the Taliban for 105 days nine years ago. According to Baptist Press, Mercer says the aid workers killed recently in Afghanistan were an example of what it means to love a forgotten people. Mercer knew two of the workers killed while she was in Afghanistan. She says Tom Little and Dan Terry were "unwavering" and not afraid to give their lives. Mercer says, quote, "Their hope was in Jesus. Their hope was in the promise of heaven."

>>Evangelicals Welcome Fair Sentencing Act

(Undated) -- The National Association of Evangelicals applauds U.S. Congress' bipartisan passage of legislation to reduce the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine offenses. A release from the NAE says the bill passed the Senate in March and now has been signed by President Obama. NAE's Galen Carey says the legislation makes significant progress toward the balancing of criminal penalties for possession and use of crack and powder cocaine. In June the National Association of Evangelicals sent a letter to some House leaders urging support for the Fair Sentencing Act. The NAE was joined by Focus on the Family and Prison Fellowship joined the NAE in supporting the legislation.

>>The Case Of Rifqa Bary Has Ended

(Columbus, OH) -- Rifqa Bary is the teenager who ran away from her Muslim parents after converting to Christianity is now free from the court battle she has faced more than a year. Baptist Press says Bary turned 18 earlier this year. "The Columbus Dispatch" says she has been in the care of a foster family in Columbus, Ohio, but Children Services terminated its custody of her on her birthday. Bary was diagnosed with uterine cancer in May and has underwent three operations. Attorney Angela Lloyd says Bary has "suffered so much" but looks forward to "preaching the word to all the nations." Lloyd says those are Bary's words.

>>President Of Nigeria Calls For Prayers

(Nigeria) -- The President of Nigeria has urged local religious leader to persist in "praying for the peace of the country." Assist News Service says President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan made the request during a Prayer Breakfast in Abuja, the nation's capital. During his remarks the President of Nigeria said, quote, "No matter the wisdom, skills and ability I have, I cannot succeed except with God."

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