

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Tuesday August 17, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 92

Rio Rancho Weather: high 92

Espanola Weather: high 88

Santa Fe weather: high 85

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 92

and now the news:

#### >>Same-Sex Couples Will Have To Wait To Get Married

(Riverside, CA) -- California's same-sex couples looking to get married have a wait ahead of them. A federal appeals court panel ruled Monday that a hearing in early December would decide whether it will hear an appeal of a judge's ruling striking down Prop 8, the measure that banned gay marriage in California. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals announced it wants to hear arguments about whether the group Protectmarriage.com has the legal standing to pursue the appeal. The court will schedule a hearing the week of December 6th.

#### >>Obama's Approval Ratings Hit New Low

(Washington, DC) -- The approval ratings have slipped to a new low for President Obama. Gallup's daily tracking poll notes only 42-percent of respondents approve of the job Obama is doing. Obama gets particularly low marks when it comes to his handling of the budget deficit, with just 31-percent of Americans giving their approval. The numbers are even worse when it comes to immigration, with only 29-percent saying Obama is doing a good job. Overall, Gallup says Obama's disapproval rating has hit 50-percent.

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As President Barack Obama stumps for Democrats ahead of the midterm elections this week, his recent comments supporting plans for a mega-mosque near Ground Zero in New York City are creating more problems for his party. Returning from a trip that was supposed to boost the morale of the battered oil-stained Gulf of Mexico, Obama is now trying to clean up his own

political mess. The firestorm over the controversial Ground Zero mosque plans took on new life when Obama weighed in on the subject, defending Muslims and their practice of religion. "That includes the right to build a place of worship and a community center on private property in lower Manhattan, in accordance with local laws and ordinances," he said Friday night, while hosting an iftar for the start of Ramadan. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid broke ranks Monday, issuing a statement saying though he respects the First Amendment and freedom of religion, "the [Ground Zero] mosque should be built some place else."

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Members of New Mexico's all-Democratic U.S. congressional delegation said a mosque planned near ground zero in New York City isn't New Mexico's business, but they stressed that religious liberty is important even when inconvenient.

The three Republicans challenging incumbents for U.S. House seats in New Mexico say the mosque ought to be moved, although they agree there is no legal basis to force the mosque to relocate.

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#### >>Virginia Governor Weighs In On Ground Zero Mosque Debate

(Richmond, VA) -- Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell is weighing in on the issue of building a mosque near Ground Zero in New York City. The Republican governor says it is an issue for the people of New York to decide, but if it were his decision, he certainly would not put the center near the location where nearly three-thousand people lost their lives. McDonnell says he believes that religious liberty is a tenet of American democracy, but he would not put the center at the proposed location.

#### >>Mom Arrested After Toddlers Found In Submerged Car

(Orangeburg, SC) -- Authorities have arrested a 29-year-old mother and an investigation is underway after two toddlers were found dead inside a submerged vehicle in the North Edisto River in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. Divers found the boys' bodies still strapped in their car seats Monday morning. The county sheriff says the mother walked almost a mile before calling for help and claimed the incident was an accident. However, he says the evidence doesn't support an accident.

#### >>Missouri Funeral Protest Law Unconstitutional

(Kansas City, MO) -- Missouri's law restricting protests at funerals has been ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge. Judge Fernando Gaitan ruled the state law infringes on the right to free speech and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The law was challenged by a member of Topeka's Westboro Baptist Church, whose members regularly protest at the funerals of soldiers, claiming their deaths are punishment for America's tolerance of

homosexuality. The law prohibited protests near any funeral or procession from an hour before until an hour after the service.

#### >>Rodriguez Out For Season Following Fight

(Queens, NY) -- The baseball season has ended for New York Mets closer Francisco Rodriguez. The Mets announced Rodriguez has torn ligament in his right thumb that is likely related to his alleged fight with his girlfriend's father last Wednesday. He allegedly slammed the man against the wall repeatedly and punched him in the face. Rodriguez will need surgery and will be done for the season. He was arrested on assault and harassment charges and is due back in court next month.

#### >>Tyra Banks Apologizes For "Next Top Model" Promo

(Undated) -- A recent promo for the 15th cycle of "America's Next Top Model" has forced Tyra Banks to issue an apology. The clip features Banks and the judges praising a contestant's incredibly small waist and has drawn criticism. On her website, Tyra.com, she apologizes to people who see her as a representation of upholding the fact that beauty comes in all sizes. She adds, quote, "The jokes of my fellow judges connected with my edited sound bite sounded like I was supporting unhealthy eating habits." She emphasized that she is and always will be committed to promoting healthy body image.

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#### >>Albuquerque Man Faces Bigamy Charge

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A 49-year-old Albuquerque man is facing a felony charge after he was allegedly caught with two wives. Gary Ruiz could get 18 months in prison and up to five-thousand dollars in fines if convicted of bigamy. Ruiz told KOB he doesn't believe in having two wives and that the situation is a big misunderstanding. He said his second wife Eulalia never got around to filing divorce papers for him while he was in prison for felony DWI. Ruiz's first wife Diana reportedly caught Ruiz in bed with another woman awhile before the news of the second marriage, but never got divorced. Then a friend told her about Eulalia and she decided to go to police.

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#### >>Man Accused Of Molesting Boy ID'd

(Albuquerque, NM) -- An Albuquerque man accused of molesting his girlfriend's eight-year-old son has been identified. The suspect is 49-year-old Miguel Gandarilla, a sports coach for children. Gandarilla was allegedly caught by his girlfriend molesting the victim. Detectives responded to a tip from a northwest Albuquerque neighborhood around noon Sunday and say they have a witness who confirms the allegations. Gandarilla has since been charged with criminal sexual penetration of a minor as well as contributing to the delinquency of a minor and kidnapping.

#### >>Mother Allegedly Slaps One-Year-Old On Flight To Albuquerque

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A mother on a plane headed to Albuquerque is accused of slapping their one-year-old baby. The incident happened yesterday afternoon on a Southwest jet from Dallas. A flight attendant ended up taking the child from the mother, then returned it as the plane descended on Albuquerque. As the plane docked at the airport, police were waiting for her. They took the child and did a welfare check before determining it fit to be returned to the woman. No charges were filed.

>>Suspect Shot By Officer ID'd

(Los Lunas, NM) -- The man shot by a Los Lunas police officer after a report of a suspect with a gun at a home has been identified. KRQE reports 34-year-old Michael Anzures came out of the home at 415 Blaylock Lane with a weapon drawn and was ordered to drop it. That's when Anzures allegedly pointed the weapon at officers and was shot. He was taken to a local hospital late Sunday afternoon with a gunshot wound to the abdomen and is listed in stable condition. He now faces charges of aggravated assault on a peace officer with a deadly weapon and negligent use of a deadly weapon.

>>USPS Offering Shipping Services, Products In Office Depot Stores

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The next time you're in one of the major office supplies stores in Albuquerque, you may wonder if you made a wrong turn at the United States Post Office. That's because USPS is now offering shipping products and services at Office Depot stores in the region, as well as nearly 11-hundred across the country. USPS is reportedly offering their goods in-house to compete with UPS, which also offers its shipping products and services at its own stores. To find USPS supplies and services in-store, visit the Office Depot at 350 Eubank Boulevard Northeast, Suite B or visit one of the three other stores in the city.

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A 46-inch HD flatscreen television was stolen from Santa Fe Brewing Co., 27 Fire Place, early Sunday morning after police believe a burglar rappelled into the business through a skylight.

"The unknown person(s) tied off a black cable ... and used it to enter the business through the skylight," according to a report filed by Santa Fe County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Benavidez.

Police reported they were able to obtain "viable" fingerprints from the business as well as footprint and tire impressions left at the crime scene. The case is still under investigation.

In addition to the television being stolen, several hundred dollars of damage was caused to a roof vent, alarm system and the skylight.

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Tax revenues from gross-receipts in the city of Santa Fe increased this month, bringing the year's revenue in line with what officials budgeted.

A report delivered Monday showed revenues collected in the month of June were up 4.23 percent from the prior year. The cash brings the city's fiscal year-to-date GRT revenue about 1.6 percent lower than last year.

The construction sector is still experiencing the biggest slowdown among industries tracked by the state. The report shows revenues from building are down about 40 percent from the same month last year.

City Finance Director Kathryn Raveling said the numbers show "good news" for the city, but not enough to indicate a recovery from the recession that began in 2008.

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#### >>Virginia Native New President Of Baptist World Alliance

(Undated) -- The Baptist World Alliance has chosen a Virginia native as its new president. "The Christian Post" reports John Upton has led Virginia Baptists since 2001 and succeeds David Coffey of the United Kingdom. The Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of 37-million members and its senior officers are the president and general secretary. Upton has also served on several panels including the Baptist World Aid Committee, the Commission on Christian Ethics, and the Executive Committee of the North American Baptist Fellowship, and was a missionary in Taiwan with his wife through the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### >>New Study Positive News For Homeschoolers

(Undated) -- A recent study titled Exploring Academic Outcomes of Homeschooled Students shows homeschooled college students outperform their peers. A statement from the Home School Legal Defense Association says the study covered homeschoolers from 2004-to-2009 at a mid-sized college in the upper Midwest. HSLDA president describes it as great news for the homeschool community and again shows homeschooling parents are capable of preparing their children for all aspects of life.

#### >>Bomb Hoax Forces Evacuation Of French Catholic Shrine

(Paris) -- A bomb threat forced French police to evacuate the Roman Catholic shrine in the town of Lourdes on Sunday. Some 30-thousand pilgrims had gathered to celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary at the site, where Mary is said to have appeared to a young shepherdess named Bernadette more than 150 years ago. Police received an anonymous call saying four bombs would go off at the site. After everyone was evacuated, police conducted an inspection that determined the bomb threat was a hoax. The shrine was reopened for evening services.

#### >>Another Layoff At Focus On The Family

(Colorado Springs, CO) -- Focus on the Family has announced another layoff. According to "The Gazette" the Colorado Springs-based ministry trimmed its workforce by 110 employees. Focus now has a staff of 750, a little over half of the workers the ministry employed in 2002. Focus spokesperson Gary Schneeberger says of the recent layoff, quote, "The economy continues to be in recession... And people who have given in the past are having financial difficulties of their own."

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