

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Thursday August 19, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 90

Rio Rancho Weather: High 90

Espanola Weather: High 88

Santa Fe Weather: High 85

Belen/Los Lunas high 92

And now the news

>>Operation Iraqi Freedom Ends

(Iraq-Kuwait Border) -- Operation Iraqi Freedom came to an end Wednesday as the last full convoy of U.S. combat troops left Iraq. The Army's 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team crossed the Iraq-Kuwait border shortly before 9 p.m. Eastern time. The withdrawal brings to a close the combat phase of the seven-and-half-year war that overthrew Saddam Hussein. More than 44-hundred American service members died in the conflict. Fifty-six-thousand American troops remain behind in Iraq, most of them to train Iraqi forces. President Obama aims to have all U.S. troops out of the country by the end of next year.

>>Obama "Looks Forward To Signing" 9-11 Health Bill

(Undated) -- President Obama is speaking out in support of a bill that would provide healthcare to 9-11 responders who developed long-term illnesses after working in the toxic dust and debris at Ground Zero. On Wednesday, the White House issued a statement saying Obama "looks forward to signing the 9-11 health bill" after it's passed by Congress. The statement came out after 9-11 responders slammed Obama for staying silent on the 9-11 health bill even though he was willing to address the Ground Zero mosque controversy.

>>Ground Zero Mosque Imam Promotes Religious Tolerance Abroad

(Undated) -- The U.S. State Department has tapped the imam at the center of the Ground Zero mosque controversy to promote religious tolerance in the Arab world. Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf has received national attention for wanting to construct a mosque and cultural center two blocks from Ground Zero. He will begin a two-week speaking tour today in Bahrain. He'll also travel to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to address audiences on Muslim life in America. In 2007, Rauf made two trips to the Middle East at the request of the Bush administration.

#### >>CA Governor Deploying National Guard To Border

(San Diego, CA) -- California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is deploying National Guard troops to secure the U.S.-Mexico border. Schwarzenegger announced yesterday that the first wave of troops will be on the border by September 1st. Their job will be to support federal counter-narcotics and security operations. Schwarzenegger said a total of 224 soldiers and airmen will be deployed to the state's border with Mexico. They're among 12-hundred National Guard troops to be deployed along the border at President Obama's request.

#### >>Heavy Rains Cause Flood Concerns In Tennessee

(Nashville, TN) -- Federal and state agencies in Tennessee are working to head off another flood disaster in the Nashville area. Parts of the region have already received up to seven inches of rain, and up to seven more inches are expected today. Nashville was devastated by severe flooding back in May, when the Cumberland River crested at nearly 52 feet. This time, the National Weather Service is forecasting a 30-foot crest at 7 p.m. Central time. While that's only a ten-foot rise, agencies are making preparations to avoid a repeat of May's flood disaster, which killed 22 people in Tennessee.

#### >>House Panel Examines Gulf Seafood Safety

(Washington, DC) -- A House panel is returning to Washington, DC today for a hearing on the safety of Gulf seafood. The House Energy and Environment subcommittee will hear from representatives of the EPA, NOAA and the FDA. The government recently announced that most of the oil from the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico had disappeared. However, questions linger about whether it's safe to eat seafood that comes from the Gulf. An unprecedented amount of oil spewed out of a damaged well in the Gulf for three months after the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded in April.

#### >>Brett Favre To Stay With Vikings

(Eden Prairie, MN) -- Quarterback Brett Favre [[ FARV ]] is returning to the Minnesota Vikings for a 20th NFL season. The 40-year-old future Hall of Famer announced his decision to return to the Vikes for a second season at the team's training facility Wednesday. The announcement came after he participated in a morning practice with the team. Favre flew to Minnesota Tuesday after defensive end Jared Allen, offensive guard Steve Hutchinson and kicker Ryan Longwell all made a trip to Mississippi to talk to Favre about returning.

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A soldier from Albuquerque has been killed in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense says 21-year-old Charles High IV, a Private in the Army, was killed Tuesday in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan. He died after an improvised explosive device hit the vehicle he was riding in. High was stationed out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He entered the Army in June 2007.

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Albuquerque police are investigating an officer-involved shooting that happened Tuesday evening at the Montgomery Boulevard entrance to Del Norte High School. Around 6 p.m., police

responded to a domestic dispute call where 38-year-old Enrique Carrasco and his fiancée were arguing in the parking lot of the Ross clothing store near San Mateo and Montgomery in Northeast Albuquerque. Carrasco's 7-year-old daughter was also present and in his fiancée's car. Chief Public Safety Officer Darren White says witnesses reported Carrasco had slashed a pickup's tires with a knife but quickly left the scene when police arrived. Another officer on patrol in the area located the suspect across the street near Del Norte High School. According to police, Carrasco then attacked the responding officer's unit by jumping on top of the car and stabbing the windshield with a knife. Carrasco then broke the driver's side window and began attacking the officer in a brief tug-of-war over the car door. Officer Josh Brown then shot Carrasco, killing him. Police say he died with a knife in his hand.

Carrasco worked as a maintenance man for the city's Senior Affairs Department. He was also a convicted felon who bit and broke a deputy's finger 10 years ago. Since then he had been jailed for other crimes, including for domestic violence. Enrique Carrasco was the seventh person killed by Albuquerque police in 10 police-involved shootings this year.

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#### >>Man Kidnapped, Held For Ransom

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A man was kidnapped and held for ransom yesterday. Police say the man was walking south on Coors near Rio Bravo in southwest Albuquerque when a red Honda pulled up. A woman pointed a gun at him and a man screamed at him to get inside the car. They took him to a Walmart and demanded he go inside to get money. A security guard at the store told them to leave as she thought the vehicle looked suspicious. The victim was then told to call a relative to let them know he was being held for ransom. He tipped off the relative, who then called the police to let them know where the victim was. Police found them at the Family Dollar store across the street from the Walmart and were able to arrest the alleged kidnappers. The case is still being investigated.

#### >>No Crossing Guards At Some Schools Yesterday

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Yesterday was the first day of school in Albuquerque, but many schools did not have crossing guards causing some confusion. Albuquerque Public School Officials say they were short about 40 guards because of a state policy. The policy says seasonal employees cannot be hired back until they have been terminated for 90 days. Many of the crossing guards have another ten days before they can be hired back. The city will rely on school resource officers and public service aids to help fill the gaps until they are back at full strength.

#### >>Residential Treatment Centers For Homeless Closing

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Drug Rehabilitation residential treatment centers that help the homeless will be closing their doors. Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless will be closing its eleven bed residential treatment center for women at the end of September. The 12-bed facility for men and 22-bed transitional living center for men and women will be closing at the end of

December. Health Care for the Homeless officials say the economic downturn is the reason behind the closings.

>>More New Mexico Students Take ACT Test

(Undated) -- A record number of New Mexico students took the ACT test this year, leading to a slight increase in the overall average score. The average score in New Mexico was 20-point-one, The national average is 21. The highest score possible is 36. The ACT test measures the academic achievement of 11th and 12th grade students and shows how ready they are for first year college course work.

>>Boeing Tests New Passenger Aircraft In NM

(Roswell, NM) -- Boeing was in Roswell testing their newest passenger aircraft yesterday. The 787 Dreamliner made several takeoffs and landings to make sure the jet's brake's could handle the load. Boeing uses Roswell for testing because of the length of the runway and the airspace. The Dreamliner is scheduled to be delivered to Continental Airlines next year.

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Pecos Valley Cowboy Church hosts open rodeo

It's rodeo time in Pecos.

The Pecos Valley Cowboy Church is hosting an open rodeo at the Pecos Sheriff's Posse Arena at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

A rodeo parade will take place in downtown Pecos at 10 a.m. Saturday. A Cowboy Church service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Admission to the rodeo per day is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 12. Children age 5 and under can attend the rodeo for free. Bring your Saturday ticket on Sunday for half-price off. Teachers will enter for free on both days with identification.

Rodeo contestants can sign up an hour prior to rodeo time. The rodeo stock contractor is Wiseman Rodeo Company from Clayton.

For more information on events, guidelines and forms, go to [www.pecosrodeo.net](http://www.pecosrodeo.net).

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>>Report: Clergy Need More Vacation Time

(New York, NY) -- Surveys show members of the clergy are suffering from obesity, hypertension and depression at higher rates than the general public. "The New York Times" reports healthcare and religious leaders have settled on more time off as a simple remedy. Duke University's Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell says one of the pastors in their study group had not taken

a vacation in 18 years. She says members of the clergy tend to be driven by a sense of duty to God to answer every call for help. Today's technology means many pastors are on call 24-7. Many denominations including Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, and Lutheran churches have directed health initiatives emphasizing the need for pastors to take vacations. "Sabbath Days," the weekday time off in place of Sundays, are also encouraged.

#### >>Gay Rite Goal Of Episcopal California Seminary

(Berkeley, CA) -- The Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, is convening Episcopal priests from across the country to create a liturgical rite for same-sex couples to receive religious blessings. "The Bay Citizen" reports the group has the support of both a 400-thousand-dollar grant and the Episcopal Church. The new rite will consist of a series of original prayers, Bible readings and two essays, but will take years to complete. The Reverend Ruth Meyers is chairwoman of the church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. She describes the work as "significant" and acknowledges a "fuller participation of gays and lesbians in the life of the church."

#### >>Baptist Church Worker Charged With Embezzlement

(Virginia Beach, VA) -- Almost 300-thousand dollars was embezzled from King's Grant Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Associated Baptist Press says the church's former financial administrator, Michele M. Roberts, has been arrested for the embezzlement that took place over six years. The 61-year-old Roberts worked as financial administrator for 12 years before resigning in May, saying it was time to move on with the next phase of her life. She was not a member of the church. The church's new financial administrator uncovered the financial irregularities.

#### >>University Of North Carolina Students Pay For Abortion Coverage

(Undated) -- Pro-life students of the University of North Carolina find the school health insurance policy problematic. CitizenLink says the school system requires all students to carry health insurance and the only plan offered for students not covered otherwise affords abortion coverage. The current plan is wholly paid for by the student purchasing the school's insurance plan. The state of North Carolina does not pay into the plan.

#### >>SC Governor Sanford To Sign Abortion-Related Bill

(Spartanburg, SC) -- The governor of South Carolina signed an abortion related bill. The bill will require women in South Carolina to wait 24 hours before an abortion is administered. It was passed by the General Assembly in June. Governor Mark Sanford signed the bill at the Carolina Pregnancy Center in Spartanburg.

#### >>Scientology Launches TV Campaign

(Undated) -- The Church of Scientology launched a television campaign to explain its theology. Baptist Press says three commercials have aired on CNN and can be viewed on YouTube. Seth Stevenson rates ads for Slate.com and says the Scientology ads show impressive

cinematography and editing and will likely sway some viewers to visit their Web site. The Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board has listed Scientology as a cult.

That's the news, I'm Frank Haley cjf For God's Glory alone!!