

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Friday August 20, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 92

Rio Rancho Weather: High 92

Espanola Weather: High 88

Santa Fe Weather: High 85

Belen/Los Lunas high 94

and now the news:

>Police Capture Two Arizona Fugitives

(Springerville, AZ) -- Arizona police have captured a pair of fugitives who led officials on a nationwide manhunt. John McCluskey and his accomplice Casslyn Welch were apprehended in Springerville, Arizona late Thursday. That's about 330 miles southeast of the prison Welch allegedly helped McCluskey and two other inmates escape from nearly three weeks ago. Welch and McCluskey are suspects in the murder of an Oklahoma couple found in their burned-out camper in New Mexico. As recently as this week, authorities thought they were hiding out in the woods of Montana or Canada.

>>No One Arrested In San Francisco Plane Threat

(San Francisco, CA) -- So far, no one has been arrested in connection with yesterday's hijacking threat against an American Airlines flight at the San Francisco Airport. A police spokesman says people were taken off a jet after authorities received a call threatening a hijacking. Two people were taken away in handcuffs and questioned, but were later released. Officials now believe the case was just a hoax. The FBI is still investigating the threat. The agency also said a report that there was a bomb on the plane was incorrect.

>>Libya To Celebrate Lockerbie Bomber Release Anniversary

(London) -- The Lockerbie bomber was released from a Scottish prison on compassionate grounds one year ago today. Abdelbaset al-Megrahi was the only person ever convicted in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland that killed 270 people. Britain has told Libya it'll take a dim view of any celebrations marking the release anniversary. Scotland has also voiced concerns about celebrations, as a large party is reportedly planned in Tripoli. It will include a giant screen showing Megrahi arriving in Libya to a hero's welcome on August 20th of last year.

>>GOP Candidate Uses 9-11 Footage In Anti-Mosque Ad

(Albany, NY) -- New York's presumptive Republican candidate for governor is using the controversy over the proposed mosque near Ground Zero in a new campaign ad. The ad by Rick Lazio features a few seconds of the smoldering rubble of the World Trade Center. It attacks both the imam behind the planned mosque near Ground Zero and Democratic candidate Andrew Cuomo, who supports the mosque plans. The ad starts running today on TV stations throughout New York. The Uniformed Firefighters Association and the NYPD's Sergeants' Union are urging Lazio to pull the ad.

>>Funeral Today For Boys Allegedly Killed By Mother

(Orangeburg, SC) -- Funeral services will be held in South Carolina today for two young boys who were allegedly murdered by their own mother. The boys were found early Monday inside a submerged car in the Edisto River. Police say Shaquan Duley [[DOO-lee]] later admitted to suffocating her sons. The 29-year-old allegedly faked a car accident to cover up the crime. Authorities say she admitted strapping the boys' lifeless bodies into child restraint seats and sending the car into the water. The children were identified as 18-month old Ja'van Duley and two-year old Devean Duley.

>>Roger Clemens Denies Steroid, Perjury Allegations

(Houston, TX) -- Seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens is denying accusations that he lied to U.S. lawmakers about his alleged steroid use. The former pitcher was indicted Thursday on one count of lying to Congress, three counts of making false statements and two counts of perjury. The charges stem from testimony Clemens gave to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in 2008. In a Twitter post, Clemens says he never used Human Growth Hormone or steroids. He also says he looks forward to challenging the charges against him.

>>Wyclef Jean Optimistic About Presidential Run

(Undated) -- Election officials in Haiti are slated to release a list of candidates cleared to run in the upcoming presidential election today. Wyclef Jean [[ZHAWN]] is confident he'll make the cut, disputing a report that came out yesterday that said the former Fugees rapper had been excluded. He called in to CNN's "Larry King Live" Thursday to say he's hopeful. Wyclef says he meets the country's requirement of being a resident for at least five years.

-0-

>>Palin Defend Dr. Laura Schlessinger

(Undated) -- Dr. Laura Schlessinger has former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in her corner. In the aftermath of Schlessinger quitting her radio talk show for repeatedly using the "N-word" on air, Palin took to Twitter to express support for her. Palin wrote that Schlessinger's First Amendment rights had vanished due to activists trying to silence her. Her advice to Dr. Laura: "Don't retreat...reload!" She added that such activism, quote, "Isn't American, not fair." Palin later noted that Schlessinger would be more powerful and effective

without "the shackles." Schlessinger also voiced the same sentiments when she announced she was leaving radio earlier this week, saying she wants to regain her First Amendment rights and be able to say what's on her mind.

-0-

>>Pat Tillman Documentary In Theaters Today

(Undated) -- A documentary on the late Pat Tillman arrives in theaters today. The former Arizona Cardinal was killed by friendly fire in April of 2004 while serving in Afghanistan. He gave up his NFL career to join the Army in June of 2002 after the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks. Army investigators initially covered up details of Tillman's death, claiming he died when his unit was ambushed near the Pakistan border. The documentary, "The Tillman Story" details his mother, Mary Tillman's efforts to find out the truth behind her son's death.

-0-

>>Family Of Man Killed By Police Upset

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Family and friends of a man fatally shot by police Tuesday are outraged. Authorities say Albuquerque police officer Josh Brown and Enrique Carrasco were involved in a tug-of-war that turned into a life-or-death struggle. Carrasco had allegedly jumped on the hood of Brown's patrol car and was repeatedly jabbing the driver's side window with a knife. After the window broke, Brown shot Carrasco multiple times. Carrasco's loved ones, however, say he was not a violent person and deserve answers.

>>Millions Of Dollars Worth Of Cocaine Seized In Montgomery

(Montgomery, AL) -- An Albuquerque man is facing federal drug trafficking charges after being busted in Alabama. The Montgomery Police Department says the 43-year-old driver of the 18-wheeler was stopped Wednesday for improper lane usage. During a search of the vehicle, officers found and seized 50-kilograms of cocaine from under the bed located in the tractor of the truck. The street value of drug is estimated at five-million dollars.

>>Fire Damages Downtown Church, APS Still Interested In Purchasing It

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Firefighters continue to investigate a blaze at a church Albuquerque Public Services hopes to still purchase. The fire broke out at the Fire Baptist Church at Central and Broadway avenues Wednesday night. Flames reportedly started in the parlor area of the historic downtown church and then spread to the second floor library. Although officials say moderate to heavy smoke damage was done to the building, APS says it would still like to buy the property and convert it into a fine arts magnet school.

-0-

>>Gubernatorial Candidates Debate

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The two candidates for governor faced off in their first debate last night. Republican Susana Martinez and Democrat Diane Denish squared off during the hour long debate at Eldorado High School. More than 400 people came to hear what the candidates had to say to questions submitted by Albuquerque Public School teachers. When meeting federal standards came up, Denish says schools spend too much time testing while Martinez disagreed, saying more testing is needed for progress to be properly measured. Both candidates did agree on no more budget cuts to education and that every district should be audited each year for financial accountability.

>>Penalty Phase For Astorga Delayed

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The death penalty phase in the Michael Astorga trial has been delayed. Astorga was convicted in March for the 2006 murder of Deputy James McGrane Jr. Plans were originally put in place to have a second jury determine if he should be put to death. It was to start in September, but it has been delayed until January 10th, 2011. The delay has been put in place because of the November election. District Attorney Kari Brandenburg doesn't want the case to be sensationalized in the news, which would give the defendant a chance to argue he didn't get a fair trial. Defense Attorney Gary Mitchell thinks the delay is not necessary as he believes the death penalty will not be an issue for any candidates running for office.

>>Domestic Violence Cases Up

(Bernalillo County, NM) -- The number of domestic violence cases is up in Bernalillo County. District Attorney Kari Brandenburg says cases have increased by 19-percent since 2007. Also the number of violations of protection orders have increased by 26-percent. Brandenburg says a poor economy always seems to drive up the number of domestic violence cases, but she doesn't know for sure why the number is up.

>>Foreclosures Lead To Evictions

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Four families have to find a new place to live after their apartments were red tagged for not having hot water. The four-plex was foreclosed and was being bought out by a bank out of Florida. The bank has not hired a manager to take care of the property or collect rent. Tenants did not know where to send the rent, a portion of which pays for water and gas. Without payment the water and gas were turned off and the city red tagged the building. The tenants were moved to a hotel last night, but may have to permanently move out if the Florida bank doesn't fix the problems in the near future.

[[note nature]]

>>Clovis Walmart Pulling Pinatas After Complaint

(Clovis, NM) -- A Walmart in Clovis has pulled the pinatas from its shelves after a complaint was made that one was stuffed full of adult newspaper advertisements. The parents of a two-year-old found the newspaper ads as they were cleaning up after a birthday party for the little girl. They told the Walmart there were pictures of nearly nude women and in some places the

genitals were blurred or covered by designs. The paper mache pinatas, in shapes of popular cartoon characters, were purchased from a New Mexico company and are believed to have been made in Mexico.

-0-

>>Catholic Archbishop Weighs In On Ground Zero Mosque Controversy

(New York, NY) -- The Catholic Church is weighing in on plans to build a mosque near Ground Zero. New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan says he favors finding a new location for the project. Dolan drew parallels to the late Pope John Paul the Second's decision to move a convent that was set to open near the former Auschwitz concentration camp. Archbishop Dolan says he has a "major prayer" that a compromise will be reached. Meanwhile, New York Governor David Paterson is trying to set up a meeting with the developer to move the proposed mosque to an alternative location.

>>Florida Church Denied Permit For Koran Burning

(Gainesville, FL) -- City officials in Gainesville, Florida, have denied a burning permit to a local church that wants to burn copies of the Koran on the anniversary of 9-11. The Dove World Outreach Center announced the planned Koran burning last month on Facebook and urged other religious groups to join in, quote, "in remembrance of the fallen victims of 9-11 and to stand against the evil of Islam." Gainesville officials say book burnings like the one planned by the Dove World Outreach Center are prohibited under the city's burning ordinance. That doesn't appear to be deterring Senior Dove World Pastor Terry Jones. The pastor, who has written a book called "Islam is of the Devil," sent out an e-mail saying the church would "still burn Korans" despite the possible consequences.

>>One In Five Americans Uncertain About Obama's Faith

(Washington, DC) -- There's a fair amount of uncertainty about President Obama's faith. That's according to a Pew Research Center poll, which shows one-in-five people incorrectly say Obama is a Muslim. That's an increase from eleven percent last year. About one-third correctly say he's a Christian, which is down from 48 percent who said so in 2009. In addition, 43-percent admit they don't know Obama's religion. The poll also found about one-third of self-described conservative Republicans believe Obama is a Muslim.

>>New Lutheran Church Body To Be Formed In North America

(Columbus, OH) -- More than one-thousand Lutherans from throughout North America will gather next week in Columbus, Ohio, to form a new church body. The annual Convocation of Lutheran CORE will adopt a constitution, forming the North American Lutheran Church. The Reverend Mark Chavez is director of Lutheran CORE and says NALC will embody the center of Lutheranism in America and will uphold the confessional principles dear to Lutherans including a commitment to the authority of the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.

>>White House Assures Pro-Life Groups

(Washington, DC) -- Pro-life advocates have an important assurance from the Obama administration regarding one aspect of the new health-care reform law. Baptist Press says the Department of Health & Human Services issued a regulation clarifying that an interim program established under the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act to cover uninsured Americans will prohibit the use of federal funds for most abortions. But the White House says the rule would not necessarily apply to other programs. Pro-life advocates will continue their fight to have the health-care reform law repealed by Congress.

>>Crosses On Utah Highways Must Be Removed

(Salt Lake City, UT) -- A federal court ruled crosses set up on Utah highways and roads in remembrance of state troopers are unconstitutional. Baptist Press says the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that they must be removed. The court found that the 12-foot tall, six foot wide crosses amount to an unconstitutional government establishment of religion. Each state-approved cross has the troopers name, rank and badge number, the year he or she died, biographical information and a picture. The program began in 1998 and the crosses were placed as close as possible to the side where the trooper died.

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

Get Free Email with Video Mail & Video Chat!

<http://www.juno.com/freemail?refcd=JUTAGOUT1FREM0210>