

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Tuesday August 24, 2010.

Albuquerque Weather: High 79

Rio Rancho Weather: high 77

Espanola Weather: high 77

Santa Fe weather: high 70

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 79

and now the news:

#### >>Four State Primaries Scheduled For Today

(Undated) -- Four states are holding primary elections today. Florida and Vermont have wide-open contests to replace outgoing governors, and Democrats in the Sunshine State are also picking a Senate candidate. Republicans in Arizona and Alaska are deciding whether to keep an incumbent U.S. senator. A recent Rocky Mountain Poll showed Arizona Republican John McCain ahead of former Congressman J.D. Hayworth 64-percent to 19-percent. McCain has spent more than 21-million dollars to keep his U.S. Senate seat.

#### >>Funding For Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Put On Hold

(Washington, DC) -- Human embryonic stem cell research is now on hold after a U.S. district court issued a preliminary injunction. The judge granted the injunction on the belief President Obama's new guidelines violate federal law banning the use of federal funds to destroy human embryos. Researchers filed a lawsuit in June, claiming human embryonic stem cell research would involve the destruction of human embryos. In a 15-page ruling, Judge Royce Lamberth agreed.

#### >>Government Fines SeaWorld In Whale Trainer's Death

(Orlando, FL) -- Federal regulators have slapped SeaWorld with a 75-thousand-dollar fine and issued a scathing report of the park's safety practices following an investigation into February's deadly attack on a trainer by a killer whale. OSHA recommended that trainers not be allowed to have anymore contact with the six-ton whale named Tilikum, citing the animal's involvement in

two other deaths. The government report also said that unless significant safety improvements are made, whale trainers should not be allowed to keep swimming with the orcas.

#### >>Former Marine Convicted Of Killing Pregnant Colleague

(Camp Lejeune, NC) -- A former Marine has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 2007 killing of a pregnant colleague in North Carolina. Cesar Laurean didn't show any emotion while the judge read his sentence yesterday. Police found the charred body of Lance Corporal Maria Lauterbach underneath a barbecue pit in Laurean's backyard in January 2008. Autopsy results showed Lauterbach had died from a blunt force trauma to the head. Laurean's lawyers plans to appeal the decision.

#### >>Shirley Sherrod Set To Meet With Ag. Sec. Vilsack

(Undated) -- The woman forced to step down as the Agriculture Department's Georgia Director of Rural Development will meet with USDA secretary Tom Vilsack today to discuss a job offer. Shirley Sherrod made headlines when a video surfaced that appeared to show her making racially insensitive comments. That video, it turned out, had been taken out of context and Sherrod soon received an apology from Secretary Vilsack. Today's talk between the two will be their first face-to-face meeting since Sherrod resigned last month.

#### >>Minister Faces Church Trial For Marrying Same-Sex Couples

(San Francisco, CA) -- A retired lesbian minister in Napa, California is facing a Presbyterian Church trial this week for officiating at same-sex weddings. Church officials have charged the Reverend Jane Adams Spahr with violating her denomination's constitution when she married dozens of same-sex couples during the five-month window in 2008 when gay marriage was legal in California. While the Presbyterian constitution doesn't explicitly mention gay marriage, it does define marriage as, quote, "a civil contract between a woman and a man." Spahr could face censure and be defrocked if she's found guilty.

#### >>Judge Grants Wesley Snipes Emergency Stay

(Undated) -- Actor Wesley Snipes will get to enjoy his freedom for a little bit longer. According to "Variety," a judge of the Middle District of Florida granted the "Blade" star an emergency stay on Monday. Snipes, who has been convicted of tax evasion, was slated to surrender to a U.S. Marshal on September 2nd to begin serving a three-year sentence. The court has ordered that several pending motions in Snipes' case must be ruled on before a new date for his surrender can be set.

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#### >>Arizona Border Deaths May Break Record This Year

(Tucson, AZ) -- Arizona border deaths look to be at an all time high. In 2007, the bodies of 218 illegal immigrants were found in the desert outside of Tucson. This year, law enforcement officials have already recovered the remains of 170 individuals who attempted to cross the blistering landscape on foot. Pima County Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Eric Peters acknowledged the troubling numbers by saying, quote, "we're kind of looking at a record-breaking year this year." The "Los Angeles Times" reports that in July alone, 59 migrants were found dead. Arizona border deaths have been spiking for the past several years. It's believed that a border crackdown in California has caused more illegal immigrants to cross into the U.S. through Arizona's blazing and dangerous deserts. About two-thirds of the bodies discovered this year remain unidentified.

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>>Florida School Faces Court Challenge To Bible Ban

(Fort Myers, FL) -- A showdown takes place today in the Fort Myers, Florida federal courthouse where the Collier County School Board is being challenged for its decision to ban the distribution of Bibles during Religious Freedom Day at school campuses. Only literature approved by the school superintendent and the Community Request Committee can be distributed inside schools even though the group World Changes has been making Bibles available in classrooms for years. The Bibles they give out even include a disclaimer saying it shouldn't be considered an endorsement or sponsorship by the school district. The Liberty Counsel has taken up the case and will meet with Judge Charlene Honeywell and ask her for an injunction.

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>>NY Governor To Meet With Archbishop Dolan Over Planned Mosque

(New York, NY) -- Governor David Paterson meets this morning with the head of the New York Archdiocese to discuss the controversial proposed mosque near Ground Zero. Both Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Governor Paterson support the idea of an alternative location for the one-hundred-million-dollar Islamic community center and mosque that would be located two blocks from the World Trade Center site. The controversy surrounding the project touched off two competing rallies over the weekend in lower Manhattan. While emotions ran high and tempers flared on both sides, no arrests were reported.

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>>Native American Tribal Members Protest Against NYC Mayor

(New York City, NY) -- Tribal members protested against New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg outside of his office on Monday. Bloomberg recently said that Governor David Paterson should wear a cowboy hat and grab a shotgun to make sure that a law taxing cigarette sales on Native American land is implemented. The National Congress of American Indian representatives says the comments are insensitive to their history and ignore tribes sovereignty.

New York tribal members recently filed suit against the Paterson administration and the state for the proposed tax.

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#### >>Charges Announced Against Former Escapees

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Federal authorities in New Mexico say they've charged three former Arizona prison escapees with the murders of a Tecumseh, Oklahoma couple. U.S. Attorney Kenneth Gonzalez issued arrest warrants for John McCluskey, Casslyn Welch, and Tracy Province. Gonzalez says the three hijacked vehicles belonging to Gary and Linda Haas before shooting them and setting the trailer ablaze near Santa Rosa, New Mexico. McCluskey and Welch were recaptured in northern Arizona last week after a three-week manhunt while Province was caught previously.

#### >>Police Identify Body Found In Cochiti Lake

(Cochiti Lake, NM) -- Authorities investigating a body that washed ashore at Cochiti Lake over the weekend have identified it as 32-year-old Marriah Walker of Glorietta, New Mexico. The badly decomposed remains were found near the shore by a deputy on boat patrol with the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office. Walker is the mother of two and was last seen swimming in the Rio Grande near Diablo Canyon on August 11th.

#### >>Students Still Missing Schedules At Rio Grande High

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A scheduling mishap has caused a crisis at Rio Grande High School as students have yet to partake in a full day's education since classes began last week. Some parents of the 16-hundred students say their children have not been given permanent class schedules. Rio Grande first-year principal Cynthia Challberg-Hale decided to change the schedules a few weeks ago even though it takes months to place every student into their correct classes. Despite concerns from parents over the delay, Albuquerque Public Schools superintendent Winston Brooks said the schedules will be finalized as soon as possible.

#### >>Fire Victim's Cause Of Death Still Uncertain

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A day after two people were found dead amongst the remains of a house fire in Albuquerque, officials aren't ready to say the victims perished in the blaze. Officials with Albuquerque's fire department can't say how the people died in the fire on Sunday. They also don't know how the blaze started near the seven-hundred block of City View Drive in southwest Albuquerque. The mobile crime lab and homicide detectives are still investigating.

#### >>Dodgers Extend Partnership With Albuquerque

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Major League Baseball will continue its ties with the city of Albuquerque for at least another year. The Los Angeles Dodgers announced yesterday they will keep their player development partnership with the Triple-A Isotopes through the 2012 season.

Albuquerque has been home to the Dodgers' highest level of minor league baseball since 2008. The Isotopes are a member of the Pacific Coast League.

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>>Law Group: Roadside Cross Ruling Could Affect Military Cemetery

>>Crosses

(Undated) -- A public policy law group is concerned the recent ruling against cross displays honoring fallen members of the Utah Highway Patrol may call into question many military crosses and displays honoring fallen soldiers. Liberty Counsel says the ruling by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals distorts the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. All of the Utah crosses were privately funded yet the court found they sent a religious message to motorists that the state, quote, "prefers or otherwise endorses a certain religion." Liberty Counsel's Matthew Staver believes if the ruling stands then crosses, Stars of David, or other religious symbols in cemeteries are in jeopardy.

>>Evangelical Leader Born In Egypt Weighs In On Mosque

(Atlanta, GA) -- Dr. Michael Youssef is an Evangelical leader born in Egypt and has weighed in on the controversial Majestic Mosque to be built two blocks away from Ground Zero. The Founder and President of Leading The Way says in a statement that building the mosque in that location is not only insensitive but also a part of Islam's, quote, "overall goal to dominate the world." Youssef, who has lived in Lebanon claims that Islam is not a religion in how Westerners understand what that word means, but a political and social ideology that will never submit to a secular form of government.

>>California Christian Schools Fires Teachers Over Religious Beliefs

(Corona, CA) -- A Christian school in Corona, California, has dismissed four teachers and seven other employees over issues with religious beliefs. Riverside's "Press-Enterprise" says most of the employees fired belonged to the Catholic Church, which has conflicting teachings with the conservative evangelical Crossroads Christian Schools. School superintendent Beth Frobisher claims the school cannot be a ministry of the church if what is taught to the students is not consistent with what is taught in the church. Some parents pulled their children out of the school after the teachers were dismissed.

>>Lutheran Relief Group Responding To Floods In Pakistan

(Undated) -- Lutheran World Relief is working quickly with partners in Pakistan to deliver critical relief to people affected by some of the worst flooding there in 80 years. At least 16-hundred have died and more than 700-thousand people have been left homeless. Joanne Fairley is LWR's regional director for Asia and the Middle East. She says the floods bring more devastation to the poor and disaster prone areas of Pakistan.

>>First Muslim College In U.S. Opens

(Berkeley, CA) -- The first four-year Muslim college in the United States is now open in Berkeley. Zaytuna College is a non-profit liberal arts school founded by three Muslim scholars with the goal of teaching Islam in a way that is compatible with contemporary American life. It follows in the tradition of schools such as Harvard, Princeton and Yale, which were also founded by religious groups. The motto at the eleven-thousand-dollar-a-year college is "Where Islam meets America."

>>Jury Selection Begins In Synagogue Bomb Plot Trial

(White Plains, NY) -- Jury selection has started in the trial of four men accused of plotting to blow up synagogues in the Bronx. The four were arrested in May of last year after they allegedly tried to detonate explosives near a synagogue. They are also accused of planning to shoot down military aircraft at the New York Air National Guard Base in Newburgh.

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TUCSON, Ariz. - Another border tunnel has been found on Arizona's border with Mexico. U.S. Border Patrol agents working in cooperation with local and federal law enforcement agencies found a tunnel Friday in Nogales, under the southbound lane at the DeConcini Port of Entry. The weight of a passenger bus caused a collapse in the road. Border Patrol agents, with assistance from Mexican law enforcement, discovered an unfinished tunnel originating in Mexico. From Oct. 1, 2009, to July 31, 2010, five tunnels were identified within the Tucson Sector. During the same period last year, 20 tunnels were discovered. Authorities say smugglers mostly use tunnels to move drugs to the U.S.

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

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