

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Thursday August 26, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 88

Rio Rancho Weather: high 88

Espanola Weather: high 86

Santa Fe weather: high 81

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 88

and now the news:

The shootout left four people dead, but that was just the beginning. As dust began to settle on a ranch in north-eastern Mexico, thought to have been owned by one of the world's most powerful drug cartels, the battle-hardened Marines stumbled upon their first decomposing corpse.

Minutes later, they found a second, then a third. By the time troops had finished searching the remote property, roughly 90 miles from the US border, a total of 72 contorted bodies had been laid out in rows beneath the summer sunshine. The 54 men and 18 women had all been recently murdered.

A lone wounded survivor, who was left for dead but later stumbled upon a military checkpoint, told local newspapers yesterday that he and the victims were illegal migrants from Central America trying to make their way to the US. They had been taken hostage by the Zetas, a gang of drug-runners who have recently taken to kidnapping and human trafficking. The Ecuadorian man said his group was taken to a ranch by gunmen and shot after they refused to pay ransoms.

-0-

>>NY Man Jailed For Stabbing Cabbie In Alleged Hate Crime

(New York, NY) -- A New York man remains jailed in connection with an apparent hate crime stabbing. Twenty-one-year-old Michael Enright is being held without bail on a charge of attempted murder. Ahmed Sharif was stabbed across his face, arm, hand, and throat inside his yellow cab on Monday night. Enright allegedly began the attack after asking Sharif if he was Muslim. The 43-year-old Sharif fought back and called 911. A police officer was nearby and arrested Enright. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has extended an invitation for Sharif visit to City Hall and discuss the incident.

>>Secretary: U.S. Military Computers Breached In Cyber Attack

(Washington, DC) -- A 2008 cyber attack on U.S. military computer systems has been labeled the most significant breach of American military computer security in history. Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn brought the attack to light yesterday, saying it began when an infected flash-drive was inserted into a U.S. military laptop at a base in the Middle East. That virus embedded itself into the Central Command network. The result, according to Lynn, was code that "spread undetected on both classified and unclassified systems."

>>Blagojevich's Lawyers Back In Court Today

(Chicago, IL) -- Lawyers in former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's [[bla-GOYA-vich's]] corruption case will be back in court today. It's expected the government will ask for a retrial to begin October 1st, although Judge James Zagel has already indicated nothing will likely happen until next year. Blago's heavyweight defense team may bow out due to depleted finances. He could then be appointed a team of two court-appointed defense lawyers and a couple paralegals.

>>Obama To Visit New Orleans & Texas; Deliver Iraq Speech

(Undated) -- President Obama will end his vacation on Martha's Vineyard this weekend and fly to New Orleans Sunday, where he'll help mark the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. He's scheduled to speak at Xavier University of Louisiana. On Tuesday, the President will visit Army troops at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. From there he'll fly back to the White House and deliver a primetime speech about the end of combat operations in Iraq.

>>Civic, Community Leaders Meet To Boost Gulf Coast Economy

(New Orleans, LA) -- Community and civic leaders from Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana will gather today in New Orleans in an effort to boost Gulf Coast businesses along with the area's economy. The group plans to lobby the federal government to buy Gulf seafood for the military. They also want to cement a deal for a 40-billion dollar federal contract for construction of the KC-45 tanker in Mobile, Alabama. Today's events are meant to coincide with the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

>>Priest Arraigned On Threat To Fly Plane Into AFLAC

(Columbus, GA) -- A Houston priest is accused of threatening to fly a plane into an insurance company building. The FBI says Father John Rouse called AFLAC customer service on May 24th and threatened to bring a shotgun to the company's Georgia building unless his pending claim was handled within a day. Rouse reportedly then made a bomb threat and claimed he'd fly a plane into the AFLAC building. Rouse was wearing his clerical collar when he was arraigned Tuesday in federal court in Columbus. Rouse could spend five years behind bars if convicted.

>>Quarter Of Los Angeles Marijuana Shops Eligible To Remain Open

(Los Angeles, CA) -- A large number of medical marijuana dispensaries don't meet the standards of a restrictive ordinance in Los Angeles. The "Los Angeles Times" reports that after a two-month review, the city clerk's office found that three-quarters of the 170 dispensaries that applied to remain open don't meet the requirements. Some of the ineligible dispensaries are among the most reputable in Los Angeles. The city clerk's office sent letters on Wednesday to the shops notifying them of their status.

-0-

>>Occupied FEMA Trailers Now Number Less Than 200

(Jackson, MS) -- Five years after Hurricane Katrina killed several hundred people in Mississippi and left thousands homeless, fewer than 200-FEMA travel trailers are still in use in the state. Governor Haley Barbour says Katrina forced families into more than 45-thousand temporary housing units. That number today has dwindled to 176, more than half of them located in the state's three coastal counties.

-0-

[[note nature]]

>>Mother, Son Were Stabbed Before Fire

(Albuquerque, NM) -- State investigators confirmed yesterday that an Albuquerque woman and her one-year-old son were murdered before someone deliberately set fire to their mobile home. The state's Office of the Medical Investigator said 21-year-old Yuriko Santana-Hernandez died Sunday of multiple stabs and cuts while her son Julian Montoya-Santana died from having his throat slashed. Firefighter made the grim discovery as they were extinguishing a fire at their trailer home on Rim Drive Southwest. No suspects have been identified.

>>Parents: Rio Grande Principal Should Resign

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The principal of Rio Grande High has been asked by the school's parent-teacher association to step down due to the controversy over changing class schedules. Association president Terrie Hamilton told the "Albuquerque Journal" yesterday she believes first-year principal Cynthia Challberg-Hale is incompetent and should resign. Challberg-Hale has said she changed the school's class schedules because she discovered last year's regime did not properly place the 16-hundred students in their proper classes. School superintendent Winston Brooks said despite complaints he will not replace Challberg-Hale.

>>Hotel Magnate Says No To Proposed Complex

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A state hotel mogul said the proposed four-hundred-million dollar event center in downtown Albuquerque should not be built because it would become an "economic albatross." Hotel owner Jim Long told the "Albuquerque Journal" yesterday the project is a bad investment for state and city taxpayers. Members of the city council and the city's convention and visitor's bureau believe the new structure is a needed commodity because event bookings

have declined dramatically since the city's peak in the mid-1990s. The structure would be home to an event center and hotel complex.

>>NM Border Agent Run-Over By Truck

(Albuquerque, NM) -- State police said an agent with New Mexico's border patrol was deliberately run-over early Sunday morning after he was knocked off his motorcycle while trying to avoid a dog. Police said 22-year-old Jasper Rowell was off-duty when he allegedly lost control of his motorcycle on I-10 outside Las Cruces, New Mexico. A man driving a Dodge Ram who Rowell did not know stopped where the agent was laying and got out of his truck. Police said the man said something to Rowell and then ran over him as he sped off.

>>Rio Rancho May Ban Dog, Cat Sales

(Rio Rancho, NM) -- Business owners in Rio Rancho, New Mexico are angry over a proposed ordinance that would ban all sales of cats and dogs from pet stores. Members of the city council say they have to get a grasp on the proposal before they take a vote on the controversial measure. Proponents of the law argue a ban on animal sales at pet stores would translate into fewer puppy and kitten mills. But at least one pet store said that eighty-percent of their business comes from the selling of cats and dogs.

-0-

The Albuquerque Public School system is getting ready to put millions in bond money to work on some major construction projects. Renovations include a \$30 million renovation at Del Norte High and a \$20 million renovation at Sandia High School. Both schools will get bigger, more energy efficient classrooms. APS will also spend about \$30 million on a new West Side sports stadium. Currently the district's 13 high schools and some private schools share two facilities. Another project announced on Wednesday was a new \$24 million food service building that can produce more meals than the old one. Voters approved the \$616 million to fund the renovations in a February bond election.

-0-

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- Albuquerque police officers said they found 11 children with little food in one home. Police said a malnourished girl led them to a house near Central and Pennsylvania streets on Wednesday. The children ranged in aged from toddlers to teenagers and have not been attending school, police said. Officer Robert Gibbs called it "complete disarray." He said officers found little clothing and almost no food. "(There was) not enough to adequately feed 11 children," Gibbs said. Neighbors said they are not surprised. While police and Children, Youth and Families Department investigate, both families moved to hotels, and the kids can stay with their mothers. Police said cruelty to children charges are pending, while they continue to investigate.

-0-

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- It started off as a simple welfare check that landed a local optometrist behind bars.

Dr. Phillip Simmons made his first court appearance on Wednesday.

Simmons had little to say to the judge. He was charged with drug trafficking, drug possession and paraphernalia.

Less than a week ago, officers came to his Albuquerque home for a welfare check after reports that Simmons hadn't shown up for work.

Not only did they find him on the floor unconscious, court documents show they also found almost 2 ounces of heroin, 4 pounds of dried marijuana, 21 marijuana plants and 39 rifles.

Simmons' public defender argued the search on Simmons' property violated his fourth amendment rights.

Officers also had to red tag the property after finding human and mice feces throughout the home.

The city said Simmons hired people to clean up his home while he is behind bars and expect the red tag to be lifted in a couple of weeks.

The judge kept Simmons' bond at \$50,000 cash security.

Attorneys in court said Simmons had five prior misdemeanor arrests, three of which were DWIs.

-0—

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