

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Friday August 27, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 88

Rio Rancho Weather: high 88

Espanola Weather: high 88

Santa Fe weather: high 83

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 88

and now the news:

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Politics::

Two polls down and one to go. Rasmussen released a New Mexico Gov survey Thursday that showed Dem Diane Denish trailing Republican Susana Martinez by five points--48% to 33%. Three percent name others and six percent are undecided. The poll, taken Wednesday, comes on the heels of the news here of an insider candidate poll from mid-August that had Di trailing by a dozen points and days before Sunday's ABQ Journal poll which is now expected to confirm the Susana trend.

>Carter, Gomes Heading To U.S. From North Korea

(Washington, DC) -- Former President Jimmy Carter has been successful in persuading North Korea to release an American jailed in the communist country. State Department spokesman Philip Crowley thanked Carter for his work to bring Aijalon Mahli Gomes back to the U.S. The Carter Center said both left Pyongyang earlier today and headed to Boston. Gomes was arrested by the North in January and sentenced to eight years of hard labor after being convicted of illegally entering the country. Crowley noted Carter's trip was a private, humanitarian and unofficial mission.

>>FDA Traces Salmonella Outbreak To Iowa Farms' Tainted Feed

(Washington, DC) -- The FDA has confirmed that two Iowa egg farms used feed tainted with Salmonella. Food and Drug Administration researchers said that early results of testing done at the barns at Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms turned up evidence of Salmonella. The

germs had the same DNA fingerprint as the strain that caused an outbreak of food poisoning. The FDA said the contaminated feed was the most likely source of the outbreak but possibly not the only source. More than 550-million eggs have been recalled.

>>Hurricane Danielle Makes Category 4 Status

(Miami, FL) -- Hurricane Danielle has quickly gained in intensity. Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida say it's become a Category 4 storm, packing maximum sustained winds of 135 miles an hour. It's now located about 545 miles southeast of Bermuda. The present movement of Danielle is northwesterly at 12 miles an hour. The current forecast calls for the storm to pass well east of Bermuda on Saturday night.

>>Obama To Help Commemorate Katrina Anniversary

(Washington, DC) -- President Obama is expected to update what's being done to help in the recovery effort as he helps mark the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans on Sunday. Some critics have accused Obama of not living up to campaign pledges to do more to help New Orleans, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In late August, 2005, the powerful force of Hurricane Katrina caused widespread damage along the Gulf Coast. New Orleans was particularly hard-hit as the city's fabled levee system failed, causing widespread and devastating flooding.

>>Family Of Witness To SeaWorld Whale Attack Files Suit

(Orlando, FL) -- The family of a ten-year-old boy who watched a killer whale at SeaWorld attack and kill one of its trainers has filed a lawsuit against the theme park. Todd and Suzanne Connell from New Hampshire say their son Bobby has been plagued by nightmares since he watched Dawn Brancheau get attacked by the six-ton whale named Tilikum. New York's "Daily News" reports that the suit was filed in court on Tuesday. A theme park spokesperson could not comment on pending litigation.

>>Empire State Building Refuses To Honor Mother Teresa

(New York, NY) -- Midtown Manhattan was packed last night when the Empire State Building was lit in red, white and blue. It was lit in patriotic colors to mark Women's Equality Day. However, the landmark rejected a request to shine in white and blue in remembrance of Mother Teresa. Thursday night marked what would have been the nun's 100th birthday. The Empire State Building rejected the request from the Catholic League, stating a policy against lightings for religious figures or requests by religious organizations.

>>Bristol Palin Will Be "Dancing With The Stars"

(Undated) -- Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin may have a rooting interest in the upcoming season of ABC's "Dancing With The Stars." E! News is citing sources who say Palin's daughter, Bristol Palin, will be among the contestants on the upcoming season of the celebrity dance competition. The 19-year-old made headlines earlier this summer when she ended her second engagement to Levi Johnston, the father of her young son.

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(Santa Fe) Embattled Secretary of State Mary Herrera held a Thursday morning press conference — but bolted before reporters could ask her any questions about allegations of "criminal activity" in her office and about two administrators she recently put on paid leave.

Before leaving, however, she called allegations of wrongdoing "blatantly false and ridiculous ... thrown at the press like red meat in an election year."

Herrera, who is seeking election to a second term in November, apparently was referring to allegations, made by an attorney for two of her current employees, that there has been criminal wrongdoing in her office.

The press conference, held in the lobby of the Secretary of State's Office at the Capitol, had been called to discuss voting information being mailed to active voters before the general election.

As reporters began asking questions about the investigations, Herrera turned and walked briskly to her own office.

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>>Suspect Named In Killing Of Mom, Infant

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Police in Albuquerque have named 22-year-old Jesus Joaquin Arredondo-Soto as the principal suspect in Sunday's murder of a mother and her one-year-old son. Authorities initially believed 21-year-old Yuriko Santana-Hernandez and her son Julian Montoya-Santana were killed in a fire inside their mobile home on Rim Road. Investigators later revealed the fire was set intentionally and the two died of cuts and stabs from a knife or sharp instrument. Albuquerque police chief Ray Schultz said Arredondo-Soto went to the home to burglarize it.

>>Superintendent Recruits Help At Rio Grande

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Albuquerque Public Schools' superintendent Winston Brooks made an unprecedented move yesterday when he re-assigned his assistant to work exclusively with Rio Grande High as the school sorts through the controversy over its class schedules. Brooks said he would not force Rio Grande principal Cynthia Challberg-Hale to step down as requested in a letter from the parent-teacher association. Assistant superintendent Dr. Diego Gallegos will monitor the school for the next few weeks while schedules are completed. First-year principal Challberg-Hale has come under fire for her decision that left all 16-hundred students without permanent class schedules just before school opened.

>>Infant Dies In Fall From SUV

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A ten-month-old baby from Rio Rancho who fell yesterday from an SUV driven by his mother has died. Police said the baby was likely run over by the SUV while traveling in the 600-block of Emerald Drive. The baby was airlifted to University of New Mexico Hospital where he died. Police said they have not made any arrests but are attempting to secure a warrant to search the vehicle and the mother's residence.

>>Wrongful Death Lawsuit Filed Against APD

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A lawsuit has been filed that charges an Albuquerque police officer with wrongful death and civil rights violations. The suit was filed by the family of 42-year-old Roderick Jones who was shot in November inside a home in southwest Albuquerque. It claims officer Brandon Carr said he only shot Jones while inside the home. However, a ballistics investigation later revealed that at least one shot was fired by Carr outside the residence.

>>Sheriff's Deputy Shot In Leg

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A deputy with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office was released from a hospital after he was shot in the leg early yesterday morning. During a "high-risk" SWAT team search of a home on Mescalero Road in northeast Albuquerque, deputy Justin McKinney was shot by 27-year-old William Westfall. Westfall has an extensive criminal background and is said to have fired the shot at McKinney from inside the home. Westfall is facing federal charges because he is a convicted felon and was operating a firearm.

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(Albuquerque) The search for a bear in the Four Hills neighborhood had the entrance to the area shut down for a time Thursday afternoon. Game and Fish officials were able to locate and tranquilize the bear. Officials say the bear is around 1 year old and 150 pounds. They say it likely came through the neighborhood looking for food.

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>>Poll Shows Most Believe Ground Zero Mosque Inappropriate

(New York, NY) -- A new poll indicates a majority of Americans take a dim view of the idea of a mosque and Islamic cultural center two blocks from where the World Trade Center once stood. The CBS News poll shows 72-percent believe building a mosque so close to the site is inappropriate, while 22 percent say it is acceptable. Those who have a favorable opinion of Islam are more likely to view the mosque as appropriate. People with an unfavorable view of Islam have a decidedly negative opinion of the proposal. Still, nearly seven out of ten agree that the developers do have a right to build a mosque at that location.

>>U.S. Catholic Bishops Call For Support Ban On Taxpayer-Funded

>>Abortions

(Washington, DC) -- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is urging Congress to support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. CNSNews.com says the legislation introduced by New Jersey Republican Representative Chris Smith would codify a permanent ban on taxpayer-funded abortions.

>>Southern Baptist Leader Claims Evolution "Incompatible" With Christian
>>Faith

(Louisville, KY) -- The president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary claims evolution and Christianity are not compatible. According to Associated Baptist Press, Albert Mohler wrote in his blog, quote, "The theory of evolution is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ even as it is in direct conflict with any faithful reading of the Scriptures." The head of the Louisville, Kentucky, school posted an open letter in response to a Huffington Post article that accused him of making false statements about Charles Darwin. The reactions in the Huffington Post were from Karl Giberson, vice president of the BioLogos Foundation, a Christian group formed to promote harmony between science and faith.

>>Texas Faith-Based Men's Conference Includes Health Screenings

(Fort Worth, TX) -- Evangelical leader Bishop T.D. Jakes is hosting a ManPower Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. Attendees will be invited to participate in free health screenings. The screenings are a courtesy of MegaCare, a humanitarian organization affiliated with The Potter's House. Participating men can be screened for a variety of health issues including diabetes and general cardiovascular issues. A new element to this year's conference, ManPower Health Stations are designed to educate and raise awareness on the most common health issues that can affect all men but impact a considerably high percentage of African-American and Hispanic men.

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Wildfire near Pecos grows

A lightning-caused fire that started Wednesday afternoon near Pecos in the Santa Fe National Forest grew to about 50 acres by 6 p.m. Thursday, but still wasn't threatening any structures.

The Hartman wildfire is eight miles southeast of Pecos and three miles southeast of Lower Colonias, according to fire officials. Fire managers monitored and confined the fire to handmade containment lines, natural barriers such as roads, and the Hartman prescribed burn area. About 25 firefighters and four engines were managing the fire.

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Valles Caldera launches public Web forum

The Valles Caldera Trust has launched a new Web page for sharing information about its proposed landscape restoration and management plan and giving the public a chance to comment.

The trust, responsible for managing the preserve, is working on a plan for protecting natural resources while allowing livestock grazing and recreational activities.

The page includes documents, maps and other links related to the proposed 10-year strategy for restoring and managing the forests, grasslands and riparian ecosystems on the 89,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Trust officials say restoration and management of the preserve's resources is at the heart of their stewardship responsibilities and will be one of the most important planning efforts undertaken by the trust.

The plan will guide decisions on forest thinning, prescribed fire, wetland restoration, travel management and noxious weed control, among other things.

Comments will be accepted through Sept. 29.

To see the plan and comment, visit www.vallescaldera.gov.

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