

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Monday August 30, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 85 (40% chance rain)

Rio Rancho Weather: high 83 “

Espanola Weather: high 81 “

Santa Fe weather: high 76 “

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 86 “

and now the news:

WASHINGTON —In a Copyrighted story, The Alq Journal reports that New Mexico Republicans overwhelmingly disapprove of the job performance of Congress, and even Democrats — who control both chambers — are almost evenly split on the issue.

Just 42 percent of likely New Mexico Democratic voters surveyed in the Aug. 23-27 poll said Congress is doing a good job, and 39 percent said it wasn't.

Eighty-one percent of Republicans disapproved; 9 percent approved.

Journal pollster Brian Sanderoff said it is not surprising more Democrats approve of Congress than Republicans, because Democrats control both chambers.

"Congress is led by the Democrats, but even New Mexico Democrats are equally divided about Congress," Sanderoff said. "Among Republicans, it's nearly universal disapproval."

The Journal Poll found that overall, 56 percent of likely New Mexico voters disapproved of the job Congress is doing, 28 percent approved and 16 percent were undecided or wouldn't say.

According to a CBS News poll conducted Aug. 20-24, just 22 percent of Americans approve of Congress' job performance, compared with 71 percent who disapprove.

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Republican Susana Martinez picked off the support of one in five Democrats and had strong backing from members of her own party to take an early lead over Diane Denish in New Mexico's race for governor, a Journal Poll found.

Sixteen percent of voters were still undecided, but Journal pollster Brian Sanderoff said erosion of the Democratic vote is a problem for Denish, who has served as lieutenant governor for the past eight years.

Sanderoff also noted that Martinez had strong support in several key categories of voters.

Martinez drew more votes than her Democratic opponent among men, Anglos and voters over 50 years old — all categories that tend to lean conservative, Sanderoff said.

That, along with some support from Democrats, gave Martinez a good outlook in the race heading up to the general election on Nov. 2.

"Politically, it's a very good place to be," Sanderoff said.

Independent voters — just one of the categories in which Martinez appeared to have the edge over Denish — also could be a decisive battleground, with 29 percent of them undecided, he said.

"For Diane Denish to win this thing, she needs to stop the slippage of crossover Democrats," Sanderoff said. "In fact, she needs to reverse it."

In the Journal Poll overall, Martinez led Denish 45 percent to 39 percent with 16 percent undecided. The poll was conducted Aug. 23-27 by Research and Polling Inc. of Albuquerque. The margin of error for statewide results is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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>>"Restoring Honor Rally" Held In Washington, D.C.

(Washington, DC) -- This weekend's "Restoring Honor Rally" at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. is history. Tens of thousands gathered Saturday in the nation's capital for the event hosted by conservative talk-show host Glenn Beck. He wrapped up the rally exhorting the crowd to change their life. He urged them not to let critics prove they wasted their time coming to Washington. "It's what we do from here that matters," he said, adding, quote, "If you restore honor in your own life, we will leave freedom better than we found it."

The rally, on the anniversary and at the same site of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, was touted as a demonstration meant to pay tribute to American troops. Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin told the crowd the way to honor Dr. King was to honor the men and women in the military who protect the U.S. She began her speech by urging the crowd to "never retreat" in their effort to beat back those out to "fundamentally transform America" in the wrong direction. She also reminded the crowd she had been asked to speak "not as a politician" but as the mother of a combat veteran. Palin's 20-year-old son Track who served a yearlong deployment in Iraq.

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>>National Guard Troops To Arrive At U.S.-Mexico Border

(Tucson, AZ) -- The first group of National Guard Troops ordered to protect the U.S.-Mexico border are expected to arrive at their post in southern Arizona today. They'll assist the Border Patrol with surveillance and serve as a deterrent to anyone trying to sneak across the border from Mexico. President Obama ordered 12-hundred National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border in response to growing concerns about illegal immigration, human trafficking, and drug

and weapons smuggling. A total of 532 guardsmen will be deployed to Arizona alone by the end of September.

>>Danielle Creates Dangerous Conditions On Atlantic Beaches

(Undated) -- The effects of Hurricane Danielle made for dangerous conditions along Atlantic coast beaches over the weekend. At least one person was killed and more than 100 had to be rescued because of strong rip currents and high surf. On Saturday, the body of 47-year-old surfer Tazwell Brown was pulled from the ocean near Satellite Beach, Florida. And the search continued yesterday for a 23-year-old Washington, DC man who disappeared while swimming in Ocean City, Maryland.

>>Obama Announces Fresh New Orleans Relief Funding

(New Orleans, LA) -- The Obama administration is releasing funds to rebuild New Orleans schools damaged or destroyed Hurricane Katrina. Louisiana education officials say the White House is granting more than one-point-eight-billion dollars to cover storm-related reconstruction. Authorities say it is a victory for education and the economy. School district estimates show the planned projects will create more than 20-thousand jobs.

>>Mormon Bishop Fatally Shot Inside California Church

(Visalia, CA) -- A Mormon bishop was shot to death inside his California church. Police say the suspect entered the office of Visalia's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints yesterday and asked to see the leader of the church, then shot him. That led to a confrontation which ended with the suspect being fatally shot. The victim, 44-year-old bishop Clay Sannar is survived by his wife and six children. Authorities are still trying to determine the motive for the shooting.

>>Lead Organizer Of NY Mosque Owes Back Taxes On Site

(New York, NY) -- The leading organizer behind New York City's controversial Muslim cultural center and mosque owes back taxes on the proposed site. The "New York Post" reports Sharif El-Gamal's company, 45 Park Place Partners, didn't pay taxes in January and July. City records show he currently owes more than 224-thousand dollars in back property taxes. The debt could be a possible lease violation with the company who owns half of the property. El-Gamal owns the other half of the site, but must pay taxes for the entire property.

>>Japan Crowned Little League World Series Champions

(Williamsport, PA) -- Tokyo, Japan, defeated Waipahu, Hawaii, by a score of 4 to 1 to claim the Little League World Series championship in Williamsport, Pennsylvania yesterday. With the win, Japan captured its first title since 2003. Also on Sunday, Chinese Taipei hammered the little leaguers from Pearland, Texas, 14 to 2 in the Consolation Game. Texas finished the tournament in fourth place after suffering two consecutive losses.

>>Weather Wreaks Havoc In Arizona

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Parts of Arizona looked less like a desert and more like a war zone over the weekend, thanks to a powerful storm system that tore through the region. A sudden and intense rain storm struck Saturday evening, blinding drivers and causing a chain-reaction collision involving an estimated 70 vehicles along the busy Interstate 10. Phoenix Fire reports 20 fire trucks, 100 firefighters and other emergency crews were used to treat 40 people at the scene. That stretch of the freeway was shut down for four hours and amazingly, only seven people required hospital transport and two are reported in serious condition. As cleanup continues this morning, the National Weather Service says today's high should only reach 97-degrees with little chance of rain.

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>>AZ Governor Angry Over State's Mention In UN Report

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Once again, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has taken issue with the Obama Administration. This time, Brewer calls a reference to Arizona's illegal immigration law in a State Department report to the United Nations on human rights "downright offensive." The report cites the Justice Department's challenge to SB 1070 as a way the U.S. government is protecting human rights. Brewer sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton late Friday demanding the reference to Arizona's law be stricken, claiming that human rights are quote, "defended vigorously by my administration."

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>>Chile Works To Speed Rescue Of Trapped Miners

(Copiapo, Chile) -- Officials in Chile are hoping 33 miners who've been trapped deep in a collapsed mine since August 5th can be pulled out earlier than expected. Rescue workers have predicted it could be up to four months before the men see the light of day again. Mining Minister Laurence Golborne doesn't think that's acceptable and is looking at other options. Among them, digging a second escape shaft. Golborne told reporters Saturday "Obviously we are looking into other options and we will welcome any option that speeds up the rescue." Drilling of a rescue shaft about two feet in diameter is expected to get underway soon, although even that could take several months to reach the miners.

The men were found alive a week ago, 23-hundred feet underground. They'd survived for two weeks on tinned tuna, cookies and milk. NASA has been called in to offer tips on how the miners might deal with lengthy confinement. So far they've received card games, video projectors and MP3 players to fight boredom inside the hot, humid tunnel.

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>>Arizona Man Goes On Deadly Rampage

(Lake Havasu City, AZ) -- An Arizona man shot five people to death late Saturday night, including his estranged girlfriend, before killing himself in California. Authorities say 26-year-old Brian Diez kidnapped his two children and fled after the initial shootings. He was later found dead in a house in Rancho Cucamonga, California, the victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The children, a 13-month-old boy and a four-year-old girl, were unharmed. Police in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, say a sixth person who was shot by Diez is expected to survive. They're calling this the "worst shooting" in the city's history.

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>>Fewer Approve Of Governor Richardson

(Undated) -- Democratic Governor Bill Richardson has fallen out of favor with the people of New Mexico. According to a survey just released by the "Albuquerque Journal," 33-percent of likely voters disapproved of the job Richardson is doing as he nears completion of his second term. Sixty-one percent of voters gave him a thumbs up in an October 2008 poll, and last year 51-percent approved of his performance. Richardson has been hampered by the recession, budget cuts and accusations his administration used pay-to-play tactics.

>>Opinions Heard On Bear Limit Proposal

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Hundreds of people attended a Saturday meeting to discuss the state's proposal to raise the annual bear-kill limit. The state's Game and Fish Department recently announced plans to raise the limit by 80-percent over the next four years. People from both sides of the issue voiced their concerns. The commission will make a final decision at its meeting in Ruidoso September 30th.

>>Year's First Cases Of West Nile Virus Found

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The New Mexico Department of Health said it has discovered this year's first human cases of West Nile Virus. Officials confirmed Friday a 67-year-old woman from San Juan County was hospitalized with a severe case of the disease. And a 47-year-old woman from Dona Ana County tested positive for West Nile while donating blood. Her case is considered mild.

>>State Highway Should Get Red Light Camera

(Rio Rancho, NM) -- At least one more Rio Rancho road will get a red-light camera if a city council member gets his way. City Councilor Michael Williams actually voted against the red light cameras at a meeting last week in Rio Rancho, but he believes NM 528 should not be off-limits. Williams said the city owns a third of the state highway because of an extension of the road about five years ago. He said the city manager should take up the matter with the Department of Transportation before passing on installation there.

>>Police Put End To Packed Party

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A party that packed more than 70 people inside a tiny building was shut down over the weekend in Albuquerque. About 40 more party-goers were trying to get inside

before fire and law enforcement officials stopped the get-together located near Tingly Coliseum. They said there were no fire alarms or fire extinguishers inside. The building was red-tagged, and the tenant was ticketed.

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FARMINGTON, N.M. - Investigators were trying to identify a woman who fired a pistol at a motorcycle rider whom she had difficulty passing Friday amid heavy traffic. Wayne Munson of Durango tells authorities that he was struck in the hand by a metal fragment after a bullet was fired at his motorcycle by the driver of a white Cadillac on U.S. 64 between Farmington and Bloomfield. The victim says the driver tailgated him and attempted to pass him. When the victim changed lanes to allow the woman to pass, the Cadillac's driver sped up and fired a single shot. The driver is described as a middle-aged woman with dark blond hair and tattoos on her left arm and the left side of her neck. She was reported to be wearing large sunglasses.

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>>Some Wondering If Glenn Beck New Leader Of Christian Conservatives

(Washington, DC) -- Observers claim Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally over the weekend has positioned him as the new leader for Christian conservatives. According to CNN, Beck said at the rally, quote, "America today begins to turn back to God." Among those surprised at the positioning is Southern Baptist leader Dr. Richard Land. Land says he is "stunned" at the change, saying about Beck that his shows on FOX sound like you're listening to the Trinity Broadcasting Network, only its more orthodox and there is no appeal for money.

>>Presbyterian Minister Rebuked Over Same-Sex Marriages

(Undated) -- The Presbyterian Church USA has censured the Reverend Jane Spar over same-sex marriages. The "Bay Citizen" reports the 68-year-old Spar stood trial by the PCUSA after being accused of failing to "further the peace, unity and purity of the church." The trial followed the 16 marriages she performed for gay and lesbian couples in 2008 when same-sex marriage was legal in California. Ms. Spahr has been a Presbyterian minister since the 1970s and now lives in San Francisco. She has worked for years to bring gay men and lesbians into the denomination.

>>Thieves Use Internet To Steal From Catholic Church In Iowa

(Des Moines, IA) -- The Catholic Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, is the victim of electronic theft from an account at Bankers Trust. The "Des Moines Register" says more than \$600-thousand was stolen and transferred by internet thieves to "numerous recipients across the U.S." The diocese says in a statement that the thieves are believed to be "a highly sophisticated operation most likely based overseas." Des Moines Diocese Bishop Richard Pates says they have been told this type of theft is "rampant."

>>Poll: Obama Approval Highest Among Muslims, Lowest Among Mormons

(Princeton, NJ) -- A new poll shows that among religious groups, Muslims give President Obama the highest job approval rating. Mormons give Obama the lowest rating. The Gallup poll shows 78-percent of Muslims polled approve of the commander-in-chief, while only 24-percent of Mormons do the same. Obama's job approval ratings have fallen consistently since he took office. The group with the second-highest approval rating for Obama is described as "other non-Christian religion." The third-highest approval rating is among atheists and agnostics.

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