

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Tuesday August 31, 2010

AAbuquerque Weather: High 88

Rio Rancho Weather: high 88

Espanola Weather: high 85

Santa Fe weather: high 81

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 88

and now the news:

MEXICO CITY - Federal police on Monday captured a long-sought, alleged Texas-born gang kingpin who faces drug trafficking charges in the U.S. and has been blamed for a vicious turf war that has included bodies hung from bridges and shootouts in central Mexico. The announcement came just hours after the government said nearly 10 percent of the federal police force has been fired this year as part of a campaign to root out corruption. The arrest of Edgar Valdez Villarreal, alias "the Barbie," was the culmination of yearlong intelligence operations, said Alejandro Poire, the government's security spokesman. "This capture constitutes a blow of great impact against organized crime," Poire said. President Felipe Calderon also announced the capture on Twitter, calling Valdez "one of the most-wanted criminals in Mexico and abroad." Calderon said operations to bring down this trafficking gang will continue. Valdez, 37, was captured in the state of Mexico, which borders the capital of Mexico City, the Public Safety Department said in a statement. It was accompanied by a photograph of Valdez - whose fair skin and blue eyes earned him his nickname - sporting stubble as he kneels on the ground, a police officer's hand on his shoulder. Poire said the government would release further details Tuesday on the operation that led to the capture.

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>>Forecaster Keeping Eye On Hurricane Earl

(Miami, FL) -- Forecasters are keeping an eye on Hurricane Earl. The National Hurricane Center in Miami says the Category Four storm is packing maximum sustained winds of 135 miles an hour. It could become even stronger before it moves toward the East Coast of the U.S. The storm is predicted to dump heavy rain from North Carolina to New England. Meanwhile, more swimmers in Ocean City, Maryland had to be rescued on Monday as off-shore storms continued to cause dangerous rip currents. Officials also called off the search for a Washington, DC who went missing Saturday evening.

>>Dutch Officials Arrest Suspected Terrorists On United Airlines Flight

(Amsterdam) -- Dutch authorities have reportedly charged two passengers who arrived in Amsterdam on a United Airlines flight from Chicago yesterday with preparing for a terrorist attack. The U.S. Homeland Security Department says the men, who are Yemeni citizens, had suspicious items in their luggage. The suspects are identified as 48-year-old Ahmed Mohamed Nasser al-Soofi and 37-year-old Hezem Abullah Thabi al-Murisi. Both men recently resided in the Detroit area.

>>Man Accused Of Stabbing Muslim Cab Driver Indicted

(New York, NY) -- A college student accused of attacking a New York City cab driver because of his religion has been indicted by a grand jury in Manhattan. Police say 21-year-old Michael Enright slashed Ahmed Sharif inside his yellow cab last Tuesday because Sharif is Muslim. Enright is being held at a psychiatric ward without bail. He will be arraigned next month on charges of attempted murder and assault as hate crimes.

>>Rodents, Flies At Egg Farms Linked To Salmonella Outbreak

(Undated) -- The Food and Drug Administration has come out with reports on two egg producers linked to a nationwide salmonella outbreak. The FDA's Mike Taylor says inspectors found rodents and flies inside some of the poultry houses at Wright County Egg. Inspectors also found unsealed rodent holes at some of the facilities at Hillandale Farms of Iowa. Nearly 15-hundred cases of salmonella linked to eggs from the farms have been reported since May. The FDA has said tainted feed may have contributed to the salmonella outbreak that prompted the recall of 550-million eggs.

>>Education Department Employees Told To Attend Sharpton Rally

(Washington, DC) -- Education Secretary Arne Duncan sent an e-mail urging government employees to attend last weekend's Washington, DC rally organized by the Reverend Al Sharpton. The "Washington Examiner" reports the e-mail went out to more than four-thousand employees of the Department of Education. Sharpton organized Saturday's "Reclaim the Dream" rally as a rebuttal to conservative TV commentator Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" event. Both fell on the anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

>>Roddick Celebrates Birthday With Day One U.S. Open Win

(Flushing Meadows, NY) -- Ninth-seeded American Andy Roddick celebrated his 28th birthday with an opening-day win at the U.S. Open yesterday. Roddick was a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 winner over Frenchman Stephane Robert at Flushing Meadows on Day One of the final Grand Slam of the season. Five-time U.S. Open champ Roger Federer dispatched Argentina's Brian Dabul 6-1, 6-4, 6-2. For the women, Belgian Kim Clijsters [[CLY-sters]] opened her defense run at Flushing Meadows with a 6-0, 7-5 win over Greta Arn of Hungary. Third-seeded Venus Williams was a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Roberta Vinci.

>>Heavy Drinkers Live Longer Than Nondrinkers

(Austin, TX) -- There may be a surprising upside to drinking a lot of alcohol. A two-decade study involving more than 18-hundred participants between the ages of 55 and 65 found higher mortality rates among nondrinkers than among heavy drinkers. The University of Texas at Austin researchers who conducted the study said its not clear why abstaining from alcohol increases the risk of dying prematurely. Moderate drinkers had the lowest overall mortality rates. The findings are published in the journal "Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research."

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(Washington, DC) -- The U.S. Secretary of Education asked government employees to attend last weekend's Washington, DC rally organized by the Reverend Al Sharpton. The "Washington Examiner" reports Secretary Arne Duncan sent an e-mail to more than four-thousand employees of the Department of Education, encouraging them to attend the event. The "Examiner" found out about the e-mail from a Department of Education employee who didn't feel comfortable with Duncan's request. Sharpton organized Saturday's "Reclaim the Dream" rally as a rebuttal to conservative TV commentator Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" event. Both events fell on the 47th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

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>>Mexican Officials Fire Hundreds Of Police Officers

(Mexico City) -- In a move to curb widespread corruption, Mexican officials fire nearly ten-percent of its federal police force. The country's deputy police chief says hundreds of officers were fired because they didn't do what's expected of them by federal police law. A police spokesman stated that failed drug, lie detector or vision tests were the reasons behind some of the firings. However, the spokesman would not say if any of the officers who were let go were suspected of corruption. Before the massive firings Monday, there were 34-thousand-500 federal police officers in Mexico. About 32-hundred of them were fired.

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(Washington, DC) -- A lawsuit seeks to stop the Obama administration from assassinating U.S. citizens who have ties to terror groups. The American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a federal lawsuit Monday seeking an injunction against so-called targeted killings. The civil rights groups also want the administration to reveal what criteria it uses to pick its targets. They allege the program violates both the U.S. Constitution and international law.

The two groups are suing on behalf of Nasser al-Awlaki, the father of a Muslim cleric who fled the U.S. for Yemen in 2001. Anwar al-Maliki has been linked to the attempted bombing of a commercial jetliner on Christmas Day and the shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas last November. The Central Intelligence Agency received the go-ahead to assassinate the younger al-Maliki earlier this year. A CIA spokesman said that all the agency's operations "comply with applicable laws."

>>Man Calls 911, Threatens To Kill Judge

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Authorities have arrested a man they say threatened to kill a Santa Fe judge yesterday. Investigators said Steven Anthony Martinez called 9-1-1 yesterday for a second time and claimed he was going to kill a judge. Police then surrounded the Santa Fe District Courthouse and forced the building's evacuation and a lockdown of a nearby school. Police say they have evidence that Martinez actually showed up at the courthouse after making the calls but authorities already had the building closed down.

>>Woman Changes Stabbing Story

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A woman who claimed she stabbed a man in self defense yesterday later recanted her story to police. Police officials said 25-year-old Tasia Paz reported that a man named Ben Heartleigh showed up at her home in South Valley, New Mexico and attempted to attack her. Authorities said Paz admitted she had been drinking with Heartleigh and an unidentified male and that she stabbed Heartleigh to protect her boyfriend who is on probation. Paz has been charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

>>Ever Ready Oil Stations Re-Open In New Mexico

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Twenty-nine Ever Ready Oil gas stations in New Mexico have reopened after they were shut down in May. A family that owns about ten of the former Ever Ready stations in Albuquerque has signed contracts to take over most of the stations. According to television station KOAT, the stations were being liquidated after former owner Charles Ochs filed for bankruptcy.

>>Help Sought In Finding Hit-And-Run Suspect

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The family of a 17-year-old who was killed in a weekend hit-and-run has asked the public for help in finding the person responsible. Kenneth Rutherford died early Sunday morning when he was knocked off the scooter he was riding on Eubank Boulevard in Albuquerque. The driver who hit him remains at-large. Rutherford was a student at El Dorado High School and was working on his GED.

>>Rio Grande Classrooms Overcrowded

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Rio Grande High School may have another problem to fix in addition to its students going without class schedules. The city's fire marshal reported last week overcrowding and unsafe classrooms at Rio Grande during its second visit there. Authorities had already informed school officials it had to move some students to the auditorium because classes were overcrowded. The Public Education Department said in a statement that Albuquerque Public Schools must provide a plan to address the ongoing issues at Rio Grande High School.

SANTA FE, N.M. - New Mexico has reported 57 cases of whooping cough so far this year, 13 more than last year at this time. The total cases of whooping cough, also known as pertussis, include confirmed and probable cases. Pertussis is a highly infectious respiratory-tract illness that is more likely to kill children under 4 months of age.

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>>Chilean Miners Remembered By The Pope

(Vatican City) -- Pope Benedict has promised to remember the 33 Chilean miners trapped for weeks in his prayers. The Pope used Spanish-language greetings to crowds gathered at Castel Gandolfo to pray the midday "Angelus" to remember the miners. Benedict expressed "particular affection" for the men trapped in the mine and commends them and their families to the intercession of St. Lawrence, patron of miners.

>>Faith-Based Hospitals Provide Better Care

(Undated) -- Catholic and other church-owned hospital systems are significantly more likely to provide higher quality care. A Thomson-Reuters analysis of the quality performance of more than 250 health systems in the U.S. studied both faith-based systems and investor-owned systems. The study also discovered Catholic health systems are significantly more likely to give higher quality performance than other mainstream not-for-profit health systems.

>>Becket Fund Threatens Suit Against HHS Over Abortion Issue

(Undated) -- The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty has threatened to sue the Department of Health & Human Services over abortions. The Becket Fund says it would sue if HHS tried to force religiously affiliated hospitals to perform abortions against the conscientious objections of their doctors and nurses. The Becket Fund wrote a letter to HHS following an ACLU letter pressuring HHS into forcing religiously affiliated hospitals across the country to perform abortions. A statement from the Becket Fund says it will represent, pro bono, any religious hospital or its personnel that HHS threatens over their conscientious objection to abortion.

>>Teen Church Involvement Still Flat

(Undated) -- The number of teens involved in church youth groups have been dropping since 1999. According to "USA Today," the Barna Group says approximately 25 percent of teens are involved in religion, including prayer, Bible reading and going to church. David Kinnaman, president of Barna, says, quote, "Talking to God may be losing out to Facebook."

>>Belgian Catholic Cardinal Urges Sexual Abuse Victim To Keep Quiet

(Paris) -- Another damaging blow for the Roman Catholic Church after tapes surfaced of a high-ranking church official in Belgium urging a victim of sexual abuse to keep quiet. Transcripts of the tapes were published in two Belgian newspapers. On the tapes, Belgium's Cardinal Godfried Danneels can be heard urging a victim not to reveal he had been sexually abused by a bishop. Danneels asked the victim to accept a private apology from the bishop in question or wait one year before the bishop retired to go public. A spokesman for Danneels denied he wanted to cover up the case.

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