

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Thursday September 2, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 94

Rio Rancho Weather: high 92

Espanola Weather: high 88

Santa Fe weather: high 85

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 94

and now the news:

>>Hurricane Earl Closing In On East Coast

(Miami, FL) -- A monster storm is headed toward the East Coast. Hurricane Earl remains a major, Category Four storm as it continues its dangerous march this morning with 145-mile-an-hour sustained winds and higher gusts. The center of Hurricane Earl is expected to pass near or over North Carolina's Outer Banks tonight, then move toward the Delmarva Peninsula on Friday. That's prompted mandatory evacuations and an emergency declaration for the state from President Obama. The declaration authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to coordinate disaster relief efforts related to the hurricane.

>>Discovery Channel Hostage Taker Dead, Hostages Safe

(Silver Spring, MD) -- A man who took people hostage yesterday at the Discovery Channel headquarters is dead. Police confirmed the three male hostages held by James J. Lee at the Silver Spring, Maryland, facility were safely evacuated. One of the hostages is a security officer. At a news conference, Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger [[MANGE-ur]] said it appeared the hostages were chosen at random. Police used the telephone to negotiate with Lee during a tense four-hour standoff, then shot him.

>>Muslim Leaders Rally In NYC

(New York, NY) -- New York City Muslims rallied yesterday in response to the opposition to a proposed mosque near Ground Zero. Leaders from more than 50 New York Islamic organizations and mosques gathered on the steps of City Hall in a show of solidarity. Several speakers talked about a rising tide of intolerance against Muslims in the U.S. At the same time,

a new Quinnipiac University poll indicates that 71-percent of New Yorkers think the mosque should be built further away from the former site of the Twin Towers.

>>One-Time Terror Suspects Released By Dutch Police

(Amsterdam) -- Two former Michigan residents arrested this week in Amsterdam on suspicion of planning a terror attack have been released. Ahmed al Soofi and Hezem al Murisi were arrested when their Chicago to Amsterdam flight landed Monday after authorities discovered some suspicious items in their checked luggage. Investigators say they found no evidence to link the pair to a terror plot, and released them without filing charges.

>>Allergan To Pay Millions To Settle Federal Botox Probe

(Chicago, IL) -- Allergan has agreed to pay more than 600-million dollars to settle a Justice Department probe related to off-label uses of Botox, the company's injectable wrinkle smoother. The federal probe focused on Allergan's marketing of Botox for treatment of conditions like pain and juvenile cerebral palsy, which were not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The company pled guilty to a misbranding charge covering the period of 2000 through 2005.

>>Resort Bans Paris Hilton, "Separates" From Her Manager Boyfriend

(Las Vegas, NV) -- Paris Hilton is no longer welcome at one Nevada resort. A spokesman for the Wynn and Encore resorts tells People.com that the celebrity heiress has been banned from the Las Vegas properties. The move follows Hilton's arrest Friday for cocaine possession. Wynn Las Vegas also announced in a statement that Paris' boyfriend, Cy Waits, who was also arrested Friday, has been, quote, "separated from the company and is free to pursue other interests." Waits was promoted to Co-Chief of Nightlife Operations at Wynn Las Vegas and Encore just days before his arrest.

>>NFL Wraps Up Exhibition Schedule Tonight

(Undated) -- The National Football League exhibition schedule comes to an end tonight, with each team seeing its final action ahead of Week One of the regular season. In Pittsburgh, Byron Leftwich and Dennis Dixon are battling to claim the starting quarterback spot while Ben Roethlisberger [[ROTH-lis-ber-ger]] serves his suspension. Roethlisberger will miss the start of the season for violating the league's personal conduct policy. The NFL regular season opens on September 9th, when the New Orleans Saints host the Minnesota Vikings in a rematch of last year's NFC title game.

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>>Governor Uses Fed Funds To Prevent Layoffs, Furloughs

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Governor Bill Richardson said yesterday he would use one-point-four million dollars in federal funds to prevent unpaid furloughs and layoffs within the state's executive and judicial branches. Richardson made the announcement despite a three-point-two percent cut in

the budget to counter a predicted revenue shortfall of more than 200-million dollars. Divisions within several state departments including corrections and human services told Richardson they wouldn't be able to comply with the cuts without enacting furloughs. Furloughs would have also been needed at judicial offices statewide.

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State gets about \$65 million in education funds

New Mexico will receive \$64.9 million in federal money to support education jobs in the state, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced Wednesday. The money, distributed to states based on their funding formula or their district's share of federal Title 1 funds, will save the jobs of 1,000 teachers in classrooms around the state, according to U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman.

Beverly Friedman, public information officer for the Public Education Department in New Mexico, said the state is awaiting federal guidance on when and how it can use the money. She expects the money will be available by mid-October.

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>>Poll: New Mexico Opposes Health Care Legislation

(Albuquerque, NM) -- According to a new poll by the "Albuquerque Journal," more than half of likely voters statewide oppose health care legislation. The poll surveyed 403 people likely to vote in the November elections. It found that 51-percent oppose the legislation while 38-percent are in favor of it. Five-percent had mixed feelings and six-percent said they don't know. The poll has a margin of error of five-percent.

>>Survey: UNM Faculty Losing Faith

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A survey released yesterday revealed the staff and faculty from the University of Mexico do not trust the school's administration. The survey was released by the independent firm Research and Polling Incorporated. It found that 85-percent of the faculty believe trust between them and the administration has broken down, while 80-percent say collaborative decision-making does not exist at the university. Only seven-percent believes the school's budget decisions are guided by academic interests.

>>Parents Of Rio Grande Students Voice Concerns

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Parents of Rio Grande High students spoke-out yesterday about the school's controversy surrounding class schedules. First-year principal Cynthia Challberg-Hale made a late-summer decision to change the schedules of all 16-hundred students and most are still attending the wrong classes three weeks into the academic year. Some parents have already called for Challberg-Hale's removal and have threatened to transfer their kids somewhere else. Parents have wondered if the problem will cause their child to miss graduating this year.

>>Albuquerque Named Worst For Speed Traps

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Slow down speeders, because Albuquerque has been crowned the state's worst city for speed traps. The National Motorist Association bestowed that dubious honor in its updated rankings released yesterday. The association says red light cameras and speed cameras combined with data compiled by a group called the National Speed Trap Exchange are used to determine rankings. Las Cruces was ranked the state's worst among cities with a population of 100-thousand or less.

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Unlike state, city to grant Fiesta leave

(Santa Fe) As in previous years, Santa Fe municipal employees will get their Friday afternoon off for the start of the Fiesta de Santa Fe as paid leave.

Due to budget constraints, state government managers recently decided that state employees will have to tap into their own personal leave if they want to have the afternoon off on Sept. 10 to attend the state fair or Fiesta gatherings.

However, Mayor David Coss said Wednesday that the city is not changing its plan to grant four hours of administrative leave to hundreds of employees that afternoon. City Hall and other city government buildings will close early that day.

Santa Fe County officials said last week that they will grant the traditional paid leave that afternoon to non emergency employees who work during the morning of Sept. 10.

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(Santa Fe) An investigation into recent gang drive-by shootings in Santa Fe turns up an apartment full of guns and stolen property.

On Wednesday, several thousand dollars worth of electronic equipment seized in the last week was revealed to the public. Among the items were four rifles, a shotgun, two pellet guns, two revolvers, a semi-automatic handgun, as well as cocaine and a large coin collection. Santa Fe Police Chief Aric Wheeler said it was an effort to be proactive in preventing more violence.

Police arrested eight men during their sweep and said most have ties to Mexican gangs. Arturo Lugo, Jaime Aguero-Lozano, and Jesus Juarez were taken into custody by the Department of Homeland Security. Two of those men had previously been convicted of felonies and deported. The Santa Fe Police Department is in process of contacting the owners of the stolen property.

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>>Al-Qaeda Leader Calls For Killing Christians

(Dubai) -- Al-Qaeda sympathizers in the Saudi security forces have been urged to kill Christians by an al-Qaeda leader. AFP reports al-Shihri is the number-two man of al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia and is a former inmate of the U.S. military detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

>>New North American Lutheran Church Launched

(Undated) -- Lutherans from across North America have voted to launch a new Lutheran denomination. The Convocation adopted a constitution and elected provisional leaders for the new North American Lutheran Church. Lutheran leader Reverend Mark Chavez says the NALC will uphold confessional principles dear to Lutherans, including a commitment to the authority of the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.

>>Some Christians Returning To "Primitive" Roots

(New York, NY) -- Some apartment dwellers are making decisions on where to live based on their faith. "The New York Times" says Jason and Vonetta Storbakken wanted to share their lives with other Christ followers and started a Christian collective called Radical Living in a brownstone in Brooklyn. Radical Living is home to 20 adults and there are several satellite apartments within a block of the brownstone. The group's website says their goal is "to return to primitive Christianity and to share their lives with others in a spirit of love and service." Storbakken says the Christian life is not just for an hour on Sunday, but should play "out in every area of your life, from the food you eat to your housing."

>>Muslim 9-11 First Responders To Launch PSA Campaign

(Washington, DC) -- Featuring the theme "9-11 happened to us all," a group of Muslim first responders is launching a national public service announcement campaign. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, unveiled details of the campaign at a news conference in Washington, DC. CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad says the public service announcements were created to counteract growing anti-Muslim bigotry enflamed by opposition to the planned mosque and Islamic cultural center two blocks from Ground Zero.

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