

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Friday September 3, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 85

Rio Rancho Weather: high 83

Espanola Weather: high 81

Santa Fe weather: high 76

Belen/Los Lunas weather high 85

and now the news:

#### >>Earl Drenches Outer Banks

(Undated) -- Hurricane Earl brought heavy rain to North Carolina's Outer Banks as the center of the Category Two storm churns passed just to the east of Cape Hatteras. The National Hurricane Center in Miami says Earl is still packing 105-mile-per-hour sustained winds, with stronger gusts. There are numerous tropical storm and hurricane warnings and watches in effect at this hour and those who did not evacuate the area are urged to take shelter. Hurricane Earl is on track to approach southeastern New England later on tonight.

#### >>Two Concourses At Miami International Evacuated

(Miami, FL) -- Two concourses at Miami International Airport had to be evacuated last night after a suspicious package was discovered. Miami-Dade Police said everyone was cleared from concourses E and F and incoming planes were rerouted to concourse J. Parts of the terminal were cleared starting around 9:00 p.m. Eastern time and the confusion spread into the street where drivers were redirected to other areas of the airport. Most of the air traffic affected was international with only minor delays reported. More details are expected later this morning.

#### >>NY AG Resists Probe Of Mosque Near Ground Zero

(New York, NY) -- New York state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is resisting calls to investigate the financing for the proposed mosque near Ground Zero. A Quinnipiac poll this week found seven out of ten New Yorkers want Cuomo's office to look into where the money behind the planned 100-million dollar development two blocks from the World Trade Center site is coming from. Cuomo did say he will consider an investigation if anyone comes forward with evidence showing a link to terror groups.

#### >>Mariner Spokesman: No Well Blowout At Gulf Rig Explosion

(Undated) -- A well blowout is being ruled out by the owner of the oil rig as the cause of yesterday's explosion in the Gulf of Mexico. Mariner Energy spokesman Patrick Cassidy said initial reports of a blowout were incorrect, stating there were no drilling operations at the facility. The spokesman stated the explosion occurred at a production platform when a fire broke out. He pinpointed the location of the explosion as about 100 miles off the Louisiana coast at a water depth of about 320 feet. Coast Guard sources say the 13 people aboard the rig at the time of the explosion are safe

>>Judge Says Obama Won't Testify In Court Martial

(Undated) -- A judge ruled yesterday that President Obama won't have to testify at a court martial for a U.S. Army surgeon who refused to deploy because he doesn't believe Obama was born in America. Lieutenant Colonel Terrence Lakin, a 17-year military veteran, refused to deploy to Afghanistan in April on the grounds that the President, as commander-in-chief, issued the orders. Judge Denise Lind, an Army Colonel, pointed out that officers in the proper military chain of command actually issued the orders. Lakin is scheduled to face trial in October.

>>Goodell To Meet With Roethlisberger

(Pittsburgh, PA) -- Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger [[ ROTH-lis-ber-ger ]] will meet with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell today to discuss his suspension. Roethlisberger was suspended for the first six games of the regular season for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. Although not charged with a crime, the signal-caller was accused of sexual assault twice over a nine-month period. Goodell has said he would consider reducing the suspension.

>>Report: Sources Say Jennifer Lopez Is Close To An "Idol" Deal

(Undated) -- It looks like Jennifer Lopez is still in the running to join the judges' panel on "American Idol." TMZ.com cites sources close to the negotiations, saying a deal with the 40-year-old pop star/actress is imminent unless unforeseen complications arise. Following the departure of judges Simon Cowell and Ellen DeGeneres, reports have linked a variety of celebrities to the talent competition as possible replacements. "Idol's" 10th season begins in January.

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A seven-person unit in the state's Department of Workforce Solutions faces the annual task of trying to sort through how much the department might have overpaid in unemployment benefits.

This year's task is large. The department potentially overpaid claimants by more than \$97 million in 2009, according to U.S. Department of Labor figures, although a state labor department spokeswoman said a more accurate figure is \$22 million.

The state labor agency says it routinely looks for those who cheat the system, performing such tasks as matching the Social Security numbers of new hires with those of people collecting benefits, spokeswoman Carrie Moritomo said. The state recently received a \$1.2 million grant to help automate the system that sends notices to potential violators.

In a year when money is tight, lawmakers want to know how the state plans to recoup any overpayments.

State Rep. Lucky Varela, D-Santa Fe, said this week he wasn't aware of the overpayments but plans to bring the topic up with department leaders who are scheduled to testify late this month before the Legislative Finance Committee, which he chairs.

"We can use every penny we can get," he said.

The money in question is part of more than \$7.1 billion in potential overpayments made in 2009 nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

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An anonymous group of local residents, calling themselves Santa Feans for Truth and Reconciliation, is asking Roman Catholic officials, Mayor David Coss and Gov. Bill Richardson to reconsider their support for Santa Fe Fiesta.

"Santa Fe may well be the only city in the U.S. that allows one culture to openly and arrogantly celebrate its military conquest and subjugation of another culture whose descendants still make up a significant part of the local population," says a news release the group e-mailed to local media Thursday.

The release calls upon church officials to stop the "barbaric display" of La Conquistadora — the Marian statue associated with the annual celebration of the Spanish reconquest of New Mexico after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. "The Catholic Church does not parade a version of the Virgin Mary with whips and shackles through the streets of Mobile, Alabama to celebrate the history of slavery," it says.

The release says the Fiesta, beginning next week, creates "such a climate of fear and retribution that we are counseled not to reveal our names." A spokesman for the group said its seven members, including one Native American, fear they or their children would be harassed if their names were made public.

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Fiesta is upon us, which means a large puppet will be burned, people will get rowdy over at Magers Field at Fort Marcy Ballpark, and the Santa Fe Fiesta Council will re-create the famous ride of Paul Revere — er, uh, that is, Don Diego de Vargas.

If you want to get the facts straight, take in Andrew Leo Lovato's lecture "The Santa Fe Fiesta: Reflecting the Changing Face of Santa Fe Culture." It takes place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, in the auditorium of the New Mexico History Museum, 113 Lincoln Ave.

The lecture, which costs \$5 (members of the Palace Guard and Fiesta Council get in free), covers the way in which this celebration has changed over the past three centuries or so.

The annual fiesta, which commemorates the 1692 reconquest of Santa Fe by Spanish conquistadors, officially begins on Thursday, Sept. 9 and runs through Sunday, Sept. 12 at various sites around town. Call 476-5200 for information.

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#### >>Carbon Monoxide Testing Ordered At Apartments

(Albuquerque, NM) -- An Albuquerque apartment complex has been ordered by the city to inspect for carbon monoxide in each of its 220 units in the wake of a family that fell ill this week. When inspectors made a visit last month at the Mountain Vista Apartment on Tramway Boulevard 13 units tested positive for the gas. But when a fifth poisoning was reported this week forcing a family to be hospitalized, city officials said they had seen enough and ordered every unit be tested.

#### >>State: Always Wear Lifejacket On Water

(Albuquerque, NM) -- State officials want to warn the public to use their head when on the water this Labor Day holiday weekend. New Mexico's State Parks Department said an average of one or two boating-related deaths occur during the holiday weekend every year. There were six deaths combined from 2006 to 2009. They say the easiest way to prevent a water or boating-related fatality is to wear a lifejacket.

#### >>Police Investigating Device Found In Los Lunas

(Los Lunas, NM) -- An apparent explosive device found yesterday in Los Lunas, New Mexico has led authorities into an intense investigation. Authorities say the device discovered in the Walmart Distribution Center's parking lot was a plastic bottle wrapped in duct tape and had a match jabbed into the top. An X-Ray of the device later revealed a substance inside the bottle which authorities believe is gunpowder. The device will now be sent to a lab for further analysis.

#### >>Man Arrested For Breaking Into Cars

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Officials out of Bernalillo County have arrested a man they say robbed parked vehicles throughout the Albuquerque area. Detectives arrested 29-year-old Gary Mares after he allegedly broke into a woman's car outside of Navajo Elementary School and stole a credit card from inside. Mares has allegedly lurked outside schools and community centers in the Albuquerque area lately. Police say he waited for women to park their cars and then he'd break into them and steal its contents. Mares may have also committed a similar robbery at Ernie Pyle Middle School.

#### >>Explosion Forces Early Closure Of Downtown Restaurant

(Albuquerque, NM) -- A well-known Albuquerque eatery was forced to close last night after an explosion at a nearby garage. The explosion in a parking garage on Yale Boulevard Southeast

which shares a wall with the Quarters Restaurant was reported around six last night. Crews quickly put out the ensuing fire. The restaurant closed early because of the threat to the building.

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One of the world's largest cheese manufacturers announced Thursday it will expand operations at its Roswell facility. Leprino Foods will invest \$1 million at its plant in Roswell. Officials say new equipment will increase production capabilities and as many as 25 full-time employees will be needed to handle the extra workload. "We know this will be a manufacturing opportunity. This is food processing so by it being a food processing operation they will be good jobs and they will be long term jobs, that's what's great," said Bob Donnell, executive director of the Roswell-Chaves County Economic Development Corporation. Leprino Foods is already one of Roswell's largest employers with 550 workers. The company plans to start hiring immediately.

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>>InterVarsity Fellowship Concerned Court Ruling Will Impact Their  
>>Ministry

(Undated) -- A well-known college ministry says a June ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court will make it difficult, but not impossible, to minister on some campuses. CitizenLink says InterVarsity Christian Fellowship pointed to the case involving a California chapter of the Christian Legal Society that was denied group recognition by a university based on their adherence to the society's Statement of Faith. ICF president Alec Hill says they do not anticipate pulling out, but they may see some chapters "de-recognized" on certain campuses. Hill promises InterVarsity will pursue truth prayerfully with civility, humility and biblical integrity.

>>Retired College Coach Shared Faith With His Team

(Undated) -- As college football fans focus on their favorite teams, the legendary former coach of Florida State University talks of sharing his faith with his players. Bobby Bowden told a Baptist newspaper it was his duty as coach to share his Christian faith with all his players. Bowden compares coaching to a preacher's call to the ministry in his new book. He told the "Florida Baptist Witness" that he would share a devotional with the team before every game.

>>Organizations Calls On Church Groups To Hold Voter Registration Drives

(Undated) -- An organization is encouraging faith-based organizations to sponsor Voter Registration Drives for three consecutive Sundays beginning September 5th. RestoreAmerica.net has gathered everything needed to help mobilize Christians to register and vote. RestoreAmerica says in a statement that the Internal Revenue Service has specifically stated that, quote, "activities intended to encourage people to participate in the elections..."

would not be prohibited if conducted in a nonpartisan manner." For step-by-step instructions, log on to [www.RestoreAmerica.net](http://www.RestoreAmerica.net).

#### >>British Man Re-Tells The Bible On Twitter

(Britain) -- The worship leader of King's Church in Durham City, England is in the process of re-telling the Bible a chapter at a time on Twitter. Britain's "The Telegraph" says Chris Juby is condensing one chapter a day into the fewer than 140 characters allowed for a single entry on Twitter. Juby is working his way through the almost 12-hundred chapters of the Bible. His first entry read, quote, "God created the heavens, the earth and everything that lives. He made humankind in his image, and gave them charge over the earth." The last entry is due on November 8th in the year 2013.

#### >>"Masked Saint" Character Created By Former Wrestler, Preacher

(Winter Park, FL) -- Chris Whaley was a young minister in the late 80's when he supplemented his income by wrestling under the name of "The Saint." Now, he is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Longwood, Florida and has created a fictional superhero for a book called "The Masked Saint" published by Tate Publishing. According to Associated Baptist Press, Whaley says the idea for a character -- who is a preacher by day and changes to wrestling tights and a mask to defend the defenseless by night -- was inspired by Michael Landon TV shows like "Little House on the Prairie" and "Highway to Heaven." Whaley's interest in wrestling began during a sickly childhood, when he would be awake late at night and all there was to watch on TV was wrestling.

#### >>Abercrombie & Fitch Sued Over Muslim Scarf

(San Francisco, CA) -- A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of an 18-year-old Muslim woman who claims she was rejected while applying for a job because she was wearing a religious headscarf. The incident allegedly occurred in 2008 at an Abercrombie & Fitch store in Milpitas [[ mill-PEE-tus ]], California. The young woman claims the manager asked her if she was Muslim, then scrawled "not Abercrombie look" on her paperwork. Abercrombie & Fitch's dress code explicitly forbids head coverings. The suit, filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, accuses Abercrombie & Fitch of discriminating on the basis of religion. Representatives for the Ohio-based company did not comment on the suit.

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