

Good Morning, here are today's top stories and the weather forecast for Tuesday September 7, 2010

Albuquerque Weather: High 86

Rio Rancho Weather: High 86

Espanola Weather: High 83

Santa Fe Weather: High 79

Belen/Los Lunas high 88

and now the news:

>>Tropical Storm Hermine Makes Landfall

(Brownsville, TX) -- Tropical Storm Hermine [[ Her-MEEN ]] made landfall near the Texas-Mexico border last night. After roaring ashore with 65-mile-per-hour winds, Hermin crossed the Rio Grande and began lashing parts of south Texas with tropical storm force winds. Forecasters say Hermin could dump as much as a foot of rain over higher elevations, leading to the possibility of mudslides on both sides of the border. Flooding is the main threat with up to seven inches of rain expected in Brownsville and up to four inches in San Antonio today.

>>Obama Unveils Plans For Infrastructure Makeover

(Milwaukee, WI) -- President Obama has unveiled a 50-billion dollar plan for rebuilding and modernizing America's roads, rails and runways. The six-year plan calls for rebuilding 150-thousand miles of road, laying and maintaining four-thousand miles of railway and adding 150 miles of airport runway. Obama said funding would come from cutting waste in Washington, DC. He anticipates that an infrastructure makeover would create jobs immediately and also, quote, "make our economy hum over the long haul."

>>General Petraeus Warns Koran Burning Could Harm U.S. Troops

(Kabul) -- Burning the Koran in Florida could kill U.S. troops on the other side of the world. That's the warning from General David Petraeus to a Gainesville pastor who plans to destroy a copy of the Muslim scriptures on September 11th. The U.S. commander in Afghanistan warned the incendiary action "could endanger troops and it could endanger the overall effort in Afghanistan." The Dove World Outreach Center has said it will burn the Koran on the anniversary of the 9-11 terror attacks as a warning to radical Islamists.

>>Rallies For And Against Ground Zero Mosque Set For September 11th

(New York, NY) -- Rallies for and against the proposed mosque near Ground Zero will be held this Saturday, September 11th in New York City. At 1 p.m. Eastern time, a pro-mosque rally organized by the group "Stop Islamaphobia" will be held a short walk from Ground Zero. An hour later, a rally against the mosque will be held near the proposed site on Park Place. A ceremony to mark nine years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center will begin around 8:15 Saturday morning.

>>Man Climbs San Francisco Skyscraper, Gets Arrested

(San Francisco, CA) -- A man climbed a San Francisco skyscraper yesterday and was arrested for his vertical efforts. Police say Dan Goodwin set out around 2:15 in the afternoon Pacific time and scaled the 60-story Millennium Tower. Officers arrested Goodwin as soon as he finished his three-hour climb on the residential building. Cops cited Goodwin for trespassing and being a public nuisance and then released the guy known "Skyscraper Man." Goodwin uses suction cup style equipment to make his climbs, which he says he does to raise awareness about how vulnerable skyscrapers are to terrorism.

>>Study Says Malpractice Costs Less Than Imagined

(Undated) -- Costs connected to medical malpractice add less than three-percent to U.S. healthcare costs. That's the bottom line from a study published in the September issue of "Health Affairs." The total is much less than was proffered by many during the recent healthcare reform debate. Most of the additional expenses associated with medical malpractice are incurred through tests, procedures and treatments associated with defensive medicine. The study was done by a team of Harvard Medical School researchers.

>>Jerry Lewis Raises 59-Million Dollars With MDA Telethon

(Las Vegas, NV) -- Veteran entertainer Jerry Lewis hosted his annual Labor Day telethon in Las Vegas this weekend and raised nearly 59-million dollars to fund research aimed at finding a cure for muscular dystrophy. The 84-year-old, who is also the Muscular Dystrophy Association's National Chairman, said he was, quote, "heartened by the unique ability of Americans to help others in need, when they themselves are likely struggling financially."

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>>Report: Iran Obstructing UN Nuclear Inspectors

(Vienna) -- A new report says Iran is obstructing the U.N.'s nuclear watchdogs and digging in its heels in the face of tough international sanctions. The confidential report by the International

Atomic Energy Agency portrays an Islamic Republic at an impasse with the United Nations. Iran barred two inspectors from entering the country in June and has objected to others in the past. White House spokesman Tommy Vietor said the report indicates Tehran is still bent on building nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, Iran's envoy to the IAEA said the agency's new chief was "not balanced" in his dealings with Tehran. Iran has long insisted its nuclear ambitions are peaceful in intent.

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#### >>Poll Shows Increasing GOP Midterm Advantage

(Undated) -- A new national poll suggests Republicans are gaining support in the battle for control of Congress less than two months before the midterm elections. According to a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation survey, the GOP leads the Democrats on the "generic ballot" question 52 percent to 45 percent. The seven point advantage is more than double last month's margin. Pollsters say it shows that independents and voters who dislike both parties are now leaning toward the GOP. The poll also found the two parties are equally unpopular. As far as the "Obama" factor goes, the poll indicates that most Americans don't intend their vote for Congress to send any particular message to the President.

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#### >>Wildfires Prompt Evacuations In Oklahoma, Colorado

(Boulder, CO) -- Wildfires have forced more than a thousand people to evacuate homes and campsites in Oklahoma and Colorado. Fire officials have evacuated around a thousand homes in Boulder County, Colorado due to a 35-hundred-acre wildfire in the Four Mile Canyon area. Wind gusts up to 45 miles per hour helped the blaze that began early Monday spread quickly through the highly populated area. Officials say some structures have been lost in the fire, though the exact number has not been confirmed. The wind kept air tankers on the ground for much of the day Monday. Crews are hoping for better conditions Tuesday so the tankers can help more than 100 firefighters staged on the ground.

Meanwhile, as many as five blazes have popped up in Woodward County, Oklahoma since Sunday evening, fueled by wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour. One wildfire near Fort Supply Lake that was likely started by stray embers from a campfire has charred at least 300 acres and destroyed at least one home since it began late Monday morning. That blaze prompted about 30 homes and 120 campsites to be evacuated. It was 90 percent contained by Monday afternoon. Firefighters are also working to contain a 12-hundred-acre wildfire on the east side of Woodward County.

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#### >>Rio Grande HS Schedule Saga To Be Fixed Today

(Albuquerque, NM) -- For the first time since school started three weeks ago, students at Rio Grande High are expected to have permanent class schedules beginning today. Over 16-hundred students will pick up schedules starting at 7:35 a.m. this morning. About 100 Albuquerque Public Schools officials are expected to be on hand to help manage the process which should take a few hours to complete. If all goes well, it will put to rest the school's ongoing saga over class schedules that began when first-year principal Cynthia Challberg-Hale decided to change the schedules just before opening day. The conflict has caused students to miss classtime while parents have called for Challberg-Hale's resignation.

#### >>DWI Enforcement Program Successfully Winds To Close

(Albuquerque, NM) -- The state's program to limit drunk driving this summer ends Friday and preliminary estimates indicate it has been a success. Estimates from the "100 Days and Nights of Summer DWI Enforcement Program" showed fewer people were caught drinking and driving this year as opposed to the same period one year ago. Bernalillo County Metro Court saw a 25-percent drop in reported drunk driving cases. The program has yielded one-thousand-297 arrests this year compared with one-thousand-738 arrests last year.

#### >>Police Need Help Stopping Thief In NE Albuquerque

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Officials from the Albuquerque Police Department are looking for a burglar responsible for a series of early-morning car break-ins throughout the northeast section of the city. Authorities say the thief pinpointed vehicles with tinted windows since people believe their items are hidden. Police have found at least six cars with broken windows along Prairie Road in northeast Albuquerque. A radio, some tools and small amounts of cash were among the stolen property.

#### >>Kitchen Fire Damages Popular Plaza Cafe In Santa Fe

(Santa Fe, NM) -- A popular Santa Fe eatery will close after a fire heavily damaged its kitchen over the weekend. Flames were seen shooting from the roof of the Plaza Cafe early Sunday morning due to a fire that allegedly started when a gas pilot ignited a pan of grease. The chef of the restaurant said the closure comes at the busiest time of the year for the establishment. The owners said they hope to recover some lost income from business at a soup and sandwich shop that just opened recently at the New Mexico History Museum.

#### >>Boeing Officials Converge On Roswell For Dreamliner Tests

(Roswell, NM) -- More than 100 Boeing employees have arrived in Roswell to take part in the company's test flights for the 787 Dreamliner. The Roswell Air Center is one of several locations nationwide where the plane is being tested. Company officials said the crew will be in town for at least two weeks as they try to get the Dreamliner certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Air Center is a popular testing facility because of its long runways.

>>National Council Of Churches Repeats Condemnation Of Proposed Qu'ran  
>>Burning

(New York, NY) -- The National Council of Churches again condemned plans by a church in Florida to burn the Qur'an on September 11. The original condemnation came on August 11 from the NCC and its Interfaith Relations commission and called for Christians and persons of other faiths to express respect for Muslims and Islam. General secretary of the National Council of Churches, the Reverend Dr. Michael Kinnamon, says the council chose to repeat its statement in response to "many requests from persons of good will who wish to make it abundantly clear to the international community that millions of Americans reject the anti-Muslim expressions of some communities...."

>>Pastor, Wife Murdered In China

(China) -- A Chinese pastor and his wife were killed in the office of Penglai Christian Church in Penglai, China. Baptist Press says the church is where the icon of Southern Baptist mission work, Lottie Moon, served in the early 20th century. Pastor Qin Jia Ye and his wife Hong En He worked to reopen the church closed for 49 years in 1988 with only 20 people. The church's membership is now up to 36-hundred members. The murder suspect is a former member of the church.

>>Liberty Counsel Files Response To Fed's Request To Dismiss Healthcare  
>>Suit

(Undated) -- A public policy law group filed a brief arguing that the government's motion to dismiss their lawsuit challenging the new healthcare bill be denied. A statement from Liberty Counsel says their lawsuit was filed hours after it was signed into law by President Obama and asked the Court to declare the healthcare law unconstitutional. Liberty Counsel's Mathew Staver says the Department of Justice argues that Congress can force everyone to buy insurance in order to make it affordable for all. Staver describes it as a Socialist mentality that would allow Congress to nationalize anything.

>>Rutherford Institute Warns Virginia Middle School Over Religious  
>>Intimidation

(Fishersville, VA) -- The Rutherford Institute warned the principal of Wilson Middle School in Fishersville, Virginia against creating a hostile workplace environment against religion. The letter to Don Curtis came after members in the community expressed concern that the administrator emailed teachers advising them that they could be subject to termination if they assist students forming a Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization at their school. John W. Whitehead is president of The Rutherford Institute and says Principal Curtis has pitted himself against the spirit of the First Amendment by intimidating teachers into refusing to provide the same types of administrative assistance to a Christian group.

>>The Sistine Chapel Gets Routine Dusting - Takes 30 Days

(Vatican City) -- It took a month of working at night for 30 specialists to remove dust and sediment from the Sistine Chapel at The Vatican. According to Zenit, the director of the Vatican Museums told "L'Osservatore Romano" that it had been four years since the last routine

dusting. Workers dealt with "an unimaginable amount of dust and sediment." Antonio Paolucci also says that an inadequate climate control system must be dealt with in order to preserve the Sistine for the next generations.

>>Florida Pastor Wants Christian Center To Counter Mosque

(New York, NY) -- A Florida Internet evangelist has relocated to the Big Apple to fight plans to build a mosque near Ground Zero. Dozens of people turned out to see Bill Keller give an anti-Islam sermon Sunday at his temporary new headquarters at the New York Marriot by Ground Zero. In the sermon, he said, quote, "Muslims are going to hell, we need to save them." Keller, who runs the website LivePrayer.com, says his goal is to build a permanent 9-11 Christian Center at Ground Zero to counter the controversial mosque. For now, he says he'll continue delivering sermons against the mosque every Sunday at the Marriott until he can move to a permanent location at the beginning of next year.

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