



NATION

Celebrating LBJ's 100th birthday

Lynda Johnson Robb stands at her father's grave marker during ceremonies to commemorate the 100th birthday of her father, former President Lyndon Baines Johnson, Wednesday at the LBJ Ranch near Stonewall, Texas. Johnson assumed the presidency in 1963 after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. He won election on his own the following year and served until 1969. Johnson died in 1973.

—Associated Press



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Obama nominated

Democrat delegates choose candidate in historic acclamation

By David Espo
AP Special Correspondent

DENVER (AP) — Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, what do you think," called out the Democrats' man of the hour in a surprise late-night visit to the hall. The crowd thundered its approval, and he and running mate Joe Biden basked in the cheers.

Obama implored the delegates to help him "take back America" in the fall campaign against

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Earlier, former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked the convention to interrupt its roll call of the states and make its verdict unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory." And they did, with a roar.

Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" surged up from

the convention floor as the outcome was announced.

Obama, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother, is now one victory from becoming president of a nation where, just decades ago, many blacks were denied the vote.

Obama: See Page 6

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Schwarzrock receives BEA honor

By Michelle Bedard
Pioneer Staff Writer

As a Bemidji Middle School teacher for 23 years, Rod Schwarzrock has brought physical and health education into the lives of students, including those with special needs.

The Bemidji Education Association named Schwarzrock its 2008 Teacher of the Year during the Bemidji School District's all-employee gathering Wednesday at Bemidji High School.

Schwarzrock teaches physical education, health and developmental adapted physical education at the Middle School. He will retire next month.

"It's a great honor to the end of my career," he said.

On Wednesday, the BEA also named Laurie Dokken as Support Professional of the Year and Jennifer Bode as Lay Educator of the Year. Dokken is a secretary at Horace May Elementary School and Bode is a volunteer in the library at Solway Elementary School.

The BEA collects nominations for the annual awards from district employees in

Teacher: See Page 6



Dokken



Bode



Pioneer Photo/Monte Draper

Kate Pearson congratulates Rod Schwarzrock on being named the Bemidji Education Association's 2008 Teacher of the Year during the Bemidji School District's all-employee gathering Wednesday at Bemidji High School. Schwarzrock teaches physical education, health and developmental adapted physical education at Bemidji Middle School. Pearson is the chairwoman of the BEA Awards Committee. Schwarzrock was presented a basketball to be signed by district employees.

SPORTS

Beavers kick-off 2008 season tonight

The Bemidji State football team travels to Minot (N.D) State tonight for the season opener. Game time is 7 p.m.

—Game preview on Page 8



ART

Duluth's 'Minnehaha' window to be sold

The Duluth City Council has agreed to sell a Tiffany stained glass window that could bring the city up to \$3 million. The "Minnehaha" window is currently housed at the Depot in Duluth. Mayor Don Ness has favored selling it to help the city repair its budget deficit and build up its reserve fund. The window, which is portrait of an American Indian woman standing at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis, was donated to the city in 1902.

—Duluth News Tribune

CHECK PRESENTED TO SCHOOL



Pioneer Photo/Monte Draper

Chip Emery, chairman of the Minnesota Business Partnership's Education Policy Committee, presents MBP's Minnesota's Future Award to Patricia Welte, principal of J.W. Smith Elementary School, during the Bemidji School District's all-employee gathering Wednesday at Bemidji High School.

Minnesota Business Partnership honors J.W. Smith Elementary

By Brad Swenson
Pioneer Political Editor

Minnesota businesses, seeking a well-prepared 21st century workforce, want to recognize leadership which they hope will rub off across Minnesota.

The Minnesota Business Partnership, comprised of more than 110 chief executives of Minnesota's largest employers, wanted to recognize "those elementary schools with a large proportion of disadvantaged students ... whose results of that student population has beaten statewide averages in math and reading in third and fifth grades," says Chip Emery, one of those CEOs.

Wednesday, the Minnesota Business Partnership was in

Bemidji to so honor J.W. Smith Elementary Principal Pat Welte for that school's success in closing the achievement gap between white, minority and low-income students.

The award, MBP's Minnesota's Future Award, comes with a \$10,000 check for the school to use as it sees best, said Emery, chairman of Minnesota-based MTS Systems, and chairman of MBP's Education Policy Committee.

"We call this the Minnesota's Future Award, because, as everyone knows, today's students are Minnesota's future," Emery told more than 600 educators at Bemidji High School during an all-employee gathering Wednesday morning, where

he presented Welte with a large-size check.

"But not everyone understands that Minnesota's future will be more diverse than it is today," Emery said. "For Minnesota to compete and grow jobs, we need to recognize, encourage and learn from schools like J.W. Smith that are closing the achievement gap — and making Minnesota's future brighter."

The three-year-old program recognizes two public elementary schools a year, typically one rural and one metro area, Emery said in an interview. Kelliher Elementary School was a 2007 recipient.

Honor: See Page 6

LEECH LAKE

Health care concerns voiced

By Laurie Swenson
Pioneer Staff Writer

There is a "crisis of health care" in Indian country, Leech Lake Tribal Secretary-Treasurer Mike Bongo said at a public hearing Tuesday night.

The tribal council hosted the hearing, which included a dinner, at the Palace Casino in Cass Lake to hear concerns about issues relating to health care and powwows on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Over the past eight-12 years, funding for Indian Health Services has been dramatically reduced from one year to the next, Bongo said.

"We need to call it what it really is — a crisis of health care," he said. "If it happened anywhere else in America, it would not be tolerated."

Bongo said the council will be lobbying in Washington for more money for IHS. He also challenged reservation members to send letters to their congressional delegates, noting that the tribal council will provide stamps, pencil and paper "if that's what it takes."

"Your voice, I can assure you, will be heard," he said. "Together we can make progress, but only together can we make progress."

"IHS is the tail of the problem — the head of the problem is

Leech Lake: See Page 5

DID YOU KNOW?

Not always St. Paul

The original name of the settlement that became St. Paul was Pig's Eye. Named for the French-Canadian whiskey trader, Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant, who had led squatters to the settlement.



Good Morning,
Leland Sande of Bemidji
Thank you
for subscribing

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