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You're holding history

And it might be worth something to collectors of political trinkets, 6A



Nation/World Page 3A

Military conducts terrorism raids abroad under secret order

Local Page 5A

Two family members dead, others in hospital following knife attack

A&E Live Page 1C

Minnesota author's latest book continues her love of the land

PIONEER PRESS

40 high, 23 low > See Page 14B

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MONDAY 11-10-2008

Vikings 28, Packers 27

Point well taken



Vikings running back Adrian Peterson stiff-arms Green Bay defender Atari Bigby at the end of a 29-yard run into the end zone late in the fourth quarter Sunday, giving the Vikings the one-point lead they kept for the game's remaining minutes. Strong play by Peterson was key to the border-battle win, which snapped a five-game losing streak against the Packers. The victory at the Metrodome in Minneapolis also put the Vikings in a tie with the Chicago Bears for first place in the NFC North. For more game photos, go to twincities.com.

Pioneer Press photo by John Doman

In Sports

Tom Powers: Vikings' defense had Aaron Rodgers on the run, saving the error-prone offense.

Bob Sansevere: Thank Adrian Peterson for the win, especially if your name is Gus Ferrotte.

Tension release: The Vikings' sideline erupted as Brad Childress celebrated his first victory over Green Bay.

Fan behavior: From most, it was pretty good. Then there were those others ...

Expecting a break, they got a recount

Senate race isn't over, just redefined for weary staff and voting officials

By Rachel E. Stassen-Berger
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For months, Minnesota's U.S. Senate candidates tried to influence how voters would vote. Now, they'll focus on how they did vote.

After last week's election, neither Republican Sen. Norm Coleman nor Democratic challenger Al Franken was able to claim a decisive victory. Out of 2.9 million ballots cast, Coleman came out ahead by a few hundred votes.

That means the state is headed toward a massive ballot recount.

It also means the campaigns won't be closing up shop, campaign staffers are canceling vacations, and Minnesotans aren't done hearing about the fight between Coleman and Franken for quite a while.

"Instead of cleaning out an office, we are reshaping it into a recount process," said Cullen Sheehan, Coleman's campaign manager. "It's just kind of like the campaign hasn't ended."

And it won't end for a while: The recount may not conclude with a winner until late December.

The campaigns' focus has changed, however. Now the focus is on the internal mechanics of the recount process, rather than the external focus of wooing the electorate. The recount may take just as many staffers and volunteers and nearly as much fundraising as the campaign did, but there will be a difference.

Volunteers now are watching ballot boxes, not knocking on doors. The Minnesota airwaves are free of political ads

SENATE RACE, 4A >

'This day, this moment, we have begun to overcome'

At Rondo church, local leaders share how Obama's win has inspired them

By Nick Ferraro
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Teresa Mardenborough shook as she walked to the booth Tuesday to cast her vote for Sen. Barack Obama. And when she saw his name on the ballot, the tears started. "I stood there and I cried ... for the many times that I stood there — that we stood there — and there was not an African-American name on the front or the back," Mardenborough, 69, told parishioners during Sunday's 10 a.m. Mass at St. Peter Claver in St. Paul. "I thank God for the grace to have lived for the time when I could fill that bubble."

Sunday was a time of reflection at the mostly African-American Roman Catholic Church in the city's old Rondo neighborhood. It was a day for Mardenbor-



PIONEER PRESS: BEN GARVIN
Teresa Mardenborough talks Sunday at St. Peter Claver Church in St. Paul about what Barack Obama's election means to her. To see video from the Sunday Masses in St. Paul's old Rondo neighborhood, go to twincities.com.

Obama's influence on young voters could alter politics, 3A

ough and Josie Johnson, both of whom marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963, to share — in the context of their faith — what Obama's election as the first black president means to them and their community, the Rev. Kevin McDonough said. McDonough said he decided Tuesday night that he wanted

to invite community and parish leaders to tell their stories prior to his weekend sermons. The speaker Saturday was Yusef Mgeni, who was raised in the Rondo neighborhood and is director of educational equity for St. Paul Public Schools.

"I thought it would make sense for us all to hear a perspective from a community leader who has been following

RONDO CHURCH, 4A >

Reluctant firms, job scarcity complicate a retirement delay

As assets fail, seniors brace for a few more years at work

By Jeremy Olson
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The gold and red pin shines brightly on Sybil Lancman's black shirt. It signifies more than 25 years of retail work for Dayton's and now Macy's in downtown St. Paul. The only question, at age 69, is how much longer she will have to wear it.

Not that she is looking to quit, but the option has been all but taken away by the rising cost of her health care and the declining value of her retirement account.

"I thought I would have been out of here sooner," Lancman said, leaning against a counter in the children's clothing department. "I think now it's going to be later."

Many seniors have confronted similar trouble this year. While the values of their homes and retirement funds have declined, prices on food, clothes, gas and everyday necessities have risen. For many seniors, the only solution has been to delay retire-



PIONEER PRESS: RICHARD MARSHALL

"It's not the situation I thought I'd be in," said Sybil Lancman, 69, who continues to work part time at Macy's because she needs the income to make ends meet and because the benefits are better than those Medicare offers.

ment for a year or two, or to return to the work force.

It's a trend that caught business leaders and senior advocates a bit off guard. While they expected aging Americans to affect the economy — especially when the baby boomers retire and leave some professions shorthanded — they weren't expecting the

economy to have such an effect on today's aging Americans.

The Minnesota Senior Federation has received numerous calls and letters from seniors whose retirement plans have been swept away. The organization plans to assemble business and community leaders

SENIORS WORK, 4A >

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CONTINUED FROM 1A

> Senate race

but filled with pre-recount news. The candidates' words no longer are top priority — their lawyers have taken over.

For Franken, the change means he's got a little more time on his hands. Before the vote, he worked about 18 hours a day. Now?

"You know, I have nothing to do," Franken said with a laugh Thursday on Minnesota Public Radio.

And Minnesota political junkies are trying to figure out if they can spare the time to track every detail of the recount as they tracked every detail of the political campaigns.

Brian Kennett, a conservative Coleman supporter from Cottage Grove, said he believes the recount is necessary given the closeness of the vote, but that doesn't mean the "24-7 information junkie" welcomes the continuation.

"I've been on this junkie status since before the convention, so I definitely would like to be done with it," Kennett said. But he'll be watching the details as they unfold.

Erik Hare, a self-described "hard-core Democrat" who voted for the Independence Party's Dean Barkley, said he's going to try not to get sucked into watching the minutia of the recount process.

"I can't watch it from day to day ... I don't see any reason to torture myself," he said. "I am only going to pay so much attention to it."

He said he made that decision last week after spending hours glued to his computer screen, watching the changing vote count in the Senate race.

Jay Gustafson, a Minneapolis supporter of Democratic President-elect Obama, said he is not surprised by the need for a recount and probably will spare more of his time for the Senate race than he did when the presidential race garnered much of his attention.

"I will definitely be paying a little bit closer attention to it," he said.

The recount comes at a time when everyone involved in the Senate race — from county election officials to campaign staffers to politically inclined Minnesotans — still is tired from the pre-vote craziness.

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie feels badly in particular for the county election officials who are recounting the ballots.

They conducted the primary vote in September, immediately had to conduct a recount of the votes cast in a Supreme Court race because of the small margin between the second- and third-place

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finishers and headed into preparations for the general election.

Since last week, those county officials have been rechecking the vote tallies of the Tuesday election. Today, county officials across the state are slated to certify their results. Next week, the local election officials will have to start re-examining each of the 2.9 million ballots cast in the Senate election.

"This is unbelievable, and, for most county people, they also have end-of-the-year auditor jobs and all kinds of other things. It isn't like they have nothing to do ... so the demands that we've made and their willingness — that part's terrific," said Ritchie, a Democrat who has found himself in the eye of the storm as partisans around the state and country scrutinize the conduct of the election and its outcome. "It would have been nice to have one night of sleep."

On Saturday and Sunday, Franken's and Coleman's campaigns were at work prepping for the recount.

After an emergency hearing Saturday morning, a Ramsey County judge denied the Coleman campaign's request to stop the counting of 32 absentee ballots found in a Minneapolis elections worker's car. Franken's campaign called the move a "sneak attack." Attorneys from both campaigns met with reporters to discuss the situation.

On Sunday, Coleman released an order obtained from a Stearns County judge by Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer Randy Shreifels governing ballot security and limiting the number of campaign ballot monitors sent to sit watch over the ballots. The Coleman campaign called on Franken to agree to similar rules for all of Minnesota's 87 counties.

It was the third straight day that Coleman has raised issues surrounding the process, after declaring himself the winner Wednesday morning and calling on Franken to waive a recount.

On Friday, Coleman announced a Minnesota Government Data Practices request sent to all counties, seeking information on election-night vote tallies.

Jason Hoppin and Dave Orrick contributed to this report.



Sybil Lancman, of St. Paul, rings up a sale for Pat Gamnis, of St. Paul Park, on Friday at the downtown St. Paul Macy's. Lancman has worked at Dayton's/Macy's for 27 years but had expected to be retired by now.

PIONEER PRESS: RICHARD MARSHALL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

> Seniors work

to discuss ways to keep seniors in the work force.

It's an uphill battle in some ways, said the federation's executive director, Lee Graczyk, because unemployment is rising and jobs are harder to find. Some companies don't want to hire seniors, either, because they typically increase the cost of health plans and other benefits.

"What bothers me is that we didn't jump on this before," Graczyk said. "It's frustrating, because the need is there now."

"People are saying to us, 'I can't make it. I don't know what I'm going to do,'" he said.

An AARP study released last month showed that 70 percent of older workers planned to extend their careers. A need for more money was the top reason, motivating 27 percent of older workers. The enjoyment of work also was a common reason, though the survey shows fewer older adults offering that as a reason than they did six years ago.

Lancman started working part time at Dayton's 27 years

ago because she was growing restless. Her children were in school, and her husband operated his own service station. The interaction with customers appealed to her and has kept her energized. She likes the role of veteran sales clerk.

"A lot of customers come looking for those of us with white hair," she chuckled.

She had envisioned retirement by now, but her paycheck has become too important. While her retired husband's Social Security covers the rent for their St. Paul apartment, her income covers groceries and gas. And her employment gives them both a health insurance plan that seems far more attractive than the federal Medicare program's benefits.

Graczyk said the issue of high benefit costs for older employees will be key as the senior federation encourages companies to employ seniors. There have been many cases in which older workers lost their jobs but were rehired as consultants, because the companies then didn't have to pay their benefits.

The plight of older workers clinging to their jobs has not been a focus for business and community leaders until recently. They've been more

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alarmed by the inevitable retirement of the massive baby boomer generation over the next two decades, which will leave some professions severely short-staffed. The loss of productivity from the boomers combined with their eventual need for health care and long-term care services could overwhelm the economy and state budgets.

AARP has encouraged companies to use recruiting strategies such as flexible benefits, retraining programs and technological accommodations for older adults with hearing problems or other disabilities. Such strategies would help companies prevent a shortage of staffing in the future and also might improve the climate for today's seniors.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the Citizens League are studying solutions as well. In a forum this summer, the Citizens League pro-

posed creating a social service agency to recruit seniors and connect them with jobs that offer flexible hours and options. Another idea was to alter Social Security rules to remove disincentives and create rewards for working through age 67.

Lancman, for one, could use some fresh options. She wisecracks about whether a new president is suddenly going to provide all of the answers.

The cost of a recent cataract surgery dented the family budget, and such health care needs are likely to increase. Her 401(k) savings have crumbled in the current market.

Her adult children have the same problems with their retirement savings, she said, but they still have time for the market to recover.

"I don't have that kind of time to regroup," she said. So for her, it's back to work — a labor of love and necessity.

6.5-magnitude quake hits China

BEIJING — A magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck remote northwestern China today, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The quake struck the Qinghai province at a depth of 6.2 miles this morning, the agency said. It said the quake's epicenter was 1,120 miles west of Beijing.

China's Earthquake Admin-

istration confirmed the earthquake but said it had a magnitude of 6.3 on its scale. "We contacted the local authorities, but we are still investigating the situation for any damage or injuries," said Zhang, a spokesman for the earthquake administration in Qinghai, who gave only his surname, as is common with Chinese officials.

— Associated Press

CONTINUED FROM 1A

> Rondo church

these things for a long, long time," McDonough told parishioners during Sunday's 8 a.m. Mass.

Johnson, 78, witnessed King's "I Have a Dream" speech during his march on Washington. She was in Denver, as a Democratic National Convention delegate, when Obama received his party's nomination.

At the 8 a.m. Mass, she told her fellow parishioners she believes "major life-changing events happen at critical moments in history."

"The event of the march on Washington and the speech of Dr. Martin King Jr. was at a time when our society needed to have a dream of morality, justice and opportunity," she said. "The election on Nov. 4, 2008, happened at a time when the country and the world needed an example of leadership that offered faith, hope, courage, fairness, justice and solutions to serious challenges."

Johnson, a retired associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of Minnesota, then offered a challenge to her spiritual community. "We must seize this moment of a life-changing opportunity to help us achieve the ideals we voted for," she said.

Paye Flomo was sitting in the third pew with his wife, Sonya,

as Johnson spoke. On Tuesday, voters in Hampton, a rural, mostly white community in southern Dakota County, elected Flomo, a native of Liberia, as their mayor.

After Mass, Flomo, 49, called his election "a dream come true." Flomo said people have told him he might be the first Liberian immigrant to be a mayor in the United States.

Flomo, who came to the U.S. in 1985, said he would carry Johnson's challenge of making the most of an opportunity back to Hampton.

"I will stand up for America," he said.

Mardenborough, St. Peter Claver principal, told the parish this is a time for America to rejoice: "It does not matter the color or culture."

"We came together Nov. 4 ... and we decided enough is enough," she said. "Let us try to begin what this man — this senator — has been saying to us, 'Yes we can. Yes we can,' and that it's time for change."

Mardenborough, who came to the U.S. from Cuba at age 16, talked about the pain of enduring racism and her hope for the future.

"I am not so naive that I am to believe that everything is going to be as it ought to be," she said. "But we have begun, and we have enough people ... that were willing roll up their sleeves and work."

"This day, this moment, we have begun to overcome."

Nick Ferraro can be reached at 651-228-2173.

Administration quietly delivers windfall for banks

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The financial world was fixated on Capitol Hill as Congress battled over the Bush administration's request for a \$700 billion bailout of the banking indus-

try. In the midst of this late-September drama, the Treasury Department issued a five-sentence notice that attracted almost no public attention.

But corporate tax lawyers quickly realized the enormous implications of the document:

Administration officials had just given American banks a windfall of as much as \$140 billion.

The sweeping change to two decades of tax policy escaped the notice of lawmakers for several days, as they remained consumed with the controversial bailout bill. When they found out, some legislators were furious. Some congressional staff members have privately concluded the notice was illegal. But they have worried that saying so publicly could unravel several recent bank mergers made possible by the change and send the economy into an even deeper tailspin.

Lawmakers now are looking at whether the new notice was introduced to benefit specific banks, as well as whether it inappropriately accelerated bank takeovers.

Andrew DeSouza, a Treasury spokesman, described the Sept. 30 notice, which allows some banks to keep more money by lowering their taxes, as a way to help financial institutions during a time of economic crisis.

"This is part of our overall effort to provide relief," he said.

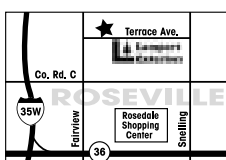
The Treasury did not estimate how much the tax change would cost, DeSouza said.

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