

Law to Combat Child Obesity

Obama calls bill vital to children's future

(AP)-- Thousands more children would eat lunches and dinners at school and all school food would become more nutritious under a bill President Barack Obama signed into law Monday, part of an administration-wide effort to combat childhood obesity.

"At a very basic level, this act is about doing what's right for our children," Obama said before signing the bill. The ceremony was moved from the White House, where most signings are held, to an elementary school in the District of Columbia to underscore the point.

Besides Obama, the bill also was a priority for his wife, Michelle, who launched a national campaign this year against childhood obesity.

"We can all agree that in the wealthiest nation on earth all children should have the basic nutrition they need to learn and grow and to pursue



President Barack Obama shakes hands with third grader, Luis Avilar-Turcios, 8, after signing the Healthy, Hunger-Free Act Monday. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., is left, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. is second from left. (AP photo)

their dreams," said Mrs. Obama. "Because in the end, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our children. Nothing."

The \$4.5 billion measure increases the federal reimbursement for free school lunches by 6 cents a meal at a time when many school officials say they can't afford to provide the meals. The bill will also expand access to free lunch pro-

grams and allow 20 million additional after-school meals to be served annually in all 50 states. Most states now only provide money for after-school snacks.

Many Republicans, including former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, have criticized the effort and the fundraiser limits in particular, saying the bill is too expensive and an example of government overreach.

Supporters say the law is needed to stem rising health care costs due to expanding American waistlines and to feed hungry children in tough economic times. Mrs. Obama cited a group of former generals and military officials who have said unhealthy school lunches are a national security threat because weight problems are now the leading medical reason that recruits are rejected

Week in The Review

Tornado Hits Aumsville

A rare tornado struck Aumsville, a small town just southeast of Salem on Tuesday, tearing roofs off buildings, hurling objects into vehicles and homes and uprooting trees. No injuries were reported.



F rigid Cold in Northeast

A storm that plagued the Midwest for days plodded eastward Tuesday with knifing winds and blowing snow, stranding dozens of motorists and giving much of the northeastern U.S. its first real taste of winter. The storm brought bone-chilling cold, and more snow was expected.

Tax Package Gains Speed

The tax package negotiated by President Barack Obama and GOP lawmakers was headed toward passage in the Senate Tuesday even as House Democrats consider changes to the estate tax.

GOP Chair Runs Again

Embattled GOP Republican Party chairman Michael Steele announced Monday that he will seek a second term despite a rocky two years marked by allegations of financial mismanagement and frequent verbal gaffes.



School Facilities Bond

A property tax measure to pay for upgrading Portland Public Schools will go to voters in May. The school board voted Tuesday to approve the \$548 million bond.

Boundary Changes

The Portland School Board approved a plan Monday on how to allocate students in the Marshall High School attendance area after the school closes this spring. The students will be divided between Cleveland, Franklin and Madison high schools based on their elementary school boundaries.

Stopped at Airport

Boxing promoter Don King was stopped by security Sunday at Cleveland's Hopkins International Airport for having ammunition in his carry-on luggage. The ammunition was taken, and King, 79, was released to continue his trip.



MAX Hits Pedestrian

A man survived with minor injuries Sunday after being struck by a TriMet MAX train near the North Prescott Street Station. Officials said the train was likely slowing down while pulling into the station.

shop online

NEW SEASONS MARKET

NOW DELIVERING

Your favorite neighborhood grocery store now delivers groceries right to your home or office.



www.newseasonsmarket.com
you click. we deliver. (or pull up for pick up)