

Monterey
County

The Herald

Friday, September 5, 2008

www.montereyherald.com

Herald question of the day
Which presidential candidate will get the biggest boost from his convention?
 McCain Obama
Go to: montereyherald.com to place your vote
Herald surveys are unscientific

Salinas: Officials reaffirm pledge to combat gang violence
Two more shootings rock city

18 Number of homicides in Salinas so far this year.
17 Number of gun-related homicides in Salinas so far this year.
14 Number of homicides in Salinas this time last year.
24 Number of homicides in 1994, a record year.

By **DANIEL LOPEZ**
Herald Staff Writer

As Salinas city officials prepared for a news conference Thursday to assure residents that gang violence is being addressed, two men were being treated at hospitals for gunshot wounds in what police said was a gang-related shooting — the seventh in the city in seven days.

“It’s almost definitely going to be a gang-related shooting.”

Kelly McMillin
police commander

The men wounded in Thursday’s shooting drove to the Salinas Fire Station at 216 W. Alisal St., arriving in a bullet-riddled Honda Accord about 3 p.m. Firefighters at the station

rushed to their aid as the driver lay on the ground next to the car and the passenger stood at the station’s door. Police officers and detectives arrived soon after.

The driver was taken by medical helicopter to a San Francisco Bay Area hospital with life-threatening wounds to his

Please see **Salinas** page A11



Salinas firefighters tend to a shooting victim in the driveway of the fire station on West Alisal Street on Thursday.
ORVILLE MYERS/The Herald

LOCAL ADMIRERS ENERGIZED BY SPEECH

GOP COMMITTEE HOSTS SALINAS VIEWING PARTY

By **LAITH AGHA**
Herald Staff Writer

Character is the first thing Kit Elliott looks for in a presidential candidate.

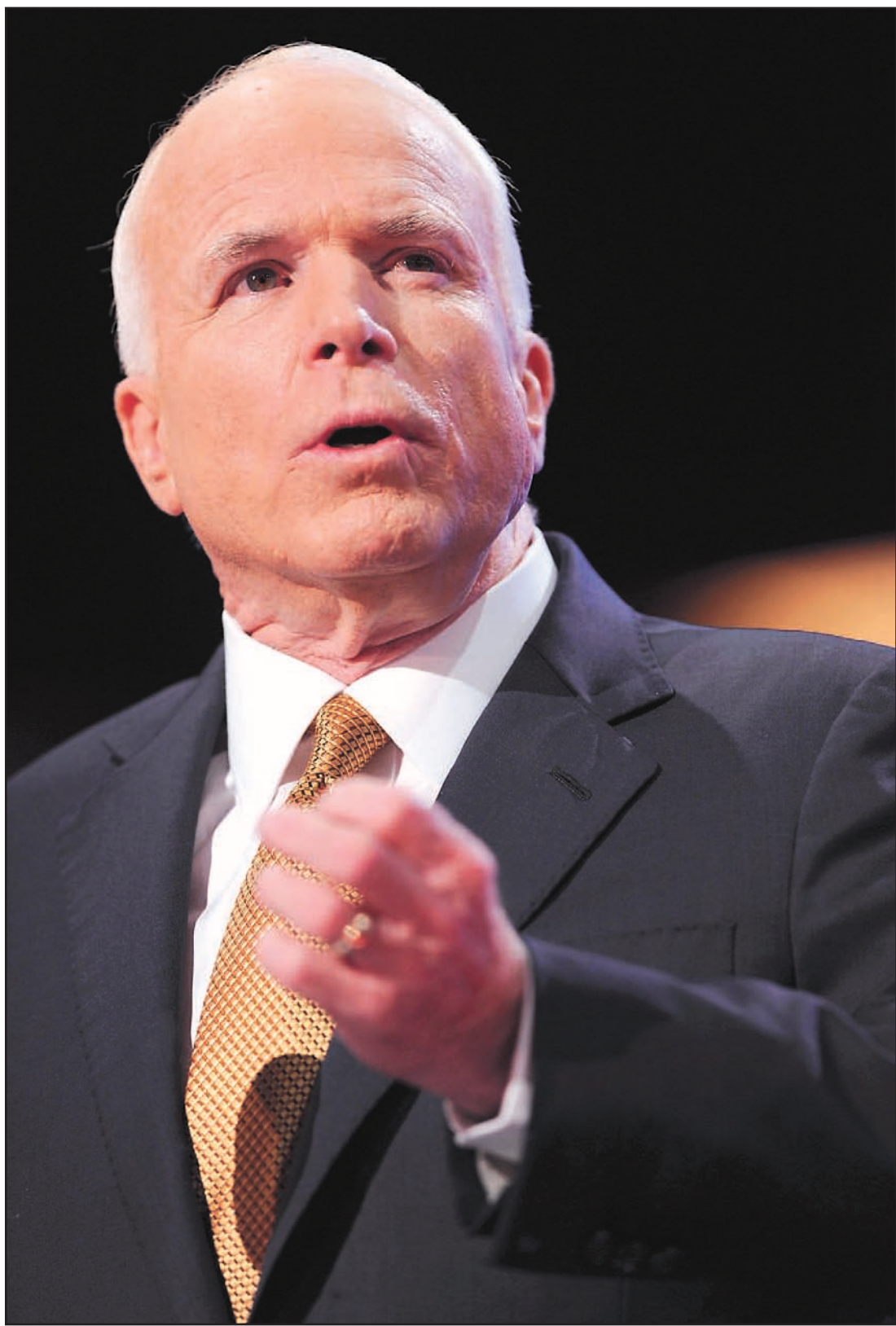
The 23-year-old college student from Marina said Republican presidential candidate John McCain showed plenty of it Thursday in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention.

“McCain definitely has that advantage over his opponent, Barack Obama, because he served his country,” Elliott said. “There’s a man who’s willing to put his country first.”

The Monterey Republican Central Committee hosted a viewing party for McCain’s acceptance speech in the conference room of its Salinas office.

Thirty or so people turned out to watch McCain deliver his message to the country on four televisions, stacked two by two, that were tuned to a live broadcast on Fox News. The speech was also projected on an eight-foot-wide pull-down screen at the front of the room.

Throughout the speech, the Republican faithful in Salinas clapped in unison with McCain’s audience at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn.,



Olivier Douliery/MCT

“Change is coming,” presidential candidate Sen. John McCain declared Thursday during his speech at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Please see **Reaction** page A11

McCain asks all to join his fight

VOWS CHANGES, BUT MAINTAINS ALLEGIANCE TO GOP

By **DAVID ESPO** and **ROBERT FURLOW**
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — John McCain, a POW turned political rebel, vowed Thursday night to vanquish the “constant partisan rancor” that grips Washington as he launched his fall campaign for the White House. “Change is coming,” he promised the roaring Republican National Convention and a prime-time television audience.

“Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what’s right for our country.”

— Sen. John McCain

To repeated cheers from his delegates, McCain made only passing reference to an unpopular George W. Bush and criticized fellow Republicans, as well as Democratic rival Barack Obama, in reaching out to independents and swing voters who will pick the next president.

“We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us,” he said of the Republicans who controlled



Congress for a dozen years before they were voted out of office in 2006.

As for Obama, he said, “I will keep taxes low and cut them where I can. My opponent will raise them. I will cut government spending. He will increase it.”

McCain’s wife, Cindy, and ticket-mate Sarah Palin and her husband joined him on stage as tens of thousands red, white and blue balloons cascaded from high above the convention floor. His own measured style

left the hall in cheers, and as his habit in campaign stops around the country, he stepped off the stage to plunge into the crowd after his speech. Palin joined him, embraced by the jubilant throng.

McCain touched only briefly on the Iraq war — a conflict Obama has vowed to end.

“I fought for the right strategy and more troops in Iraq, when it wasn’t a popular thing to do,” the Republican said, adding that in the months since, the

Please see **McCain** page A11

Education standards show big improvement

Percentage of schools meeting all API growth targets

Level	Monterey	State	Monterey	State
Elementary	47%	51%	58%	59%
Middle	50%	35%	57%	46%
High	21%	27%	47%	37%
All schools	44%	45%	56%	53%

Percentage of schools at or above the performance target of 800 on the API

Level	Monterey	State	Monterey	State
Elementary	21%	36%	25%	41%
Middle	25%	25%	29%	29%
High	13%	15%	13%	17%
All schools	20%	31%	23%	36%

Source: State Department of Education

56 PERCENT OF SCHOOLS MEET PERFORMANCE INDEX TARGETS

By **LAITH AGHA**
Herald Staff Writer

Judging by their students’ recent test results, Monterey County’s public schools are getting better at meeting expectations, though there is room for improvement.

The Academic Performance Index and the Adequate Yearly Progress, which monitors progress under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, were released Thursday by the state Department of Education. The API is a state measurement of each school’s performance based, in part, on students’ Standardized

On the Web

montereyherald.com
See the online version of this story to access performance index reports for individual schools.

Testing and Reporting results.

Overall, 56 percent of the county’s schools met performance index growth targets, compared with 53 percent statewide. Local high schools and middle schools exceeded state averages at those levels by 10 percentage points.

Please see **Scores** page A11

Arianna Huffington

Prolific author, political commentator, and co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post.



The Peggy Downes Baskin Series on Ethics
Ethical Dilemmas
on the Campaign Trail

September 8, 2008 at 7pm

Steinbeck Forum, Monterey Conference Center
1 Portola Plaza

General Admission - \$25
Special Friends - \$100
(Includes preferred seating and reception)



Ticket Information
Monterey Peninsula College Foundation
(831) 655-5507



BridgeD5
Business & FinanceC12
Classified AdsD1, E1
ComicsD8

Crossword PuzzleD7
EditorialsA10
GO! CalendarB2
Legal NoticesD5

Local NewsB1
Lottery ResultsB2
NationA3
ObituariesB7

SportsC1
SudokuD1
TV, Dear AbbyD7
Weather, TidesB8

