THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

TO FALL **MOVIES**



Check out offerings that range from Coen Brothers' parody to Bush biopic to CIA thriller **Ticket**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

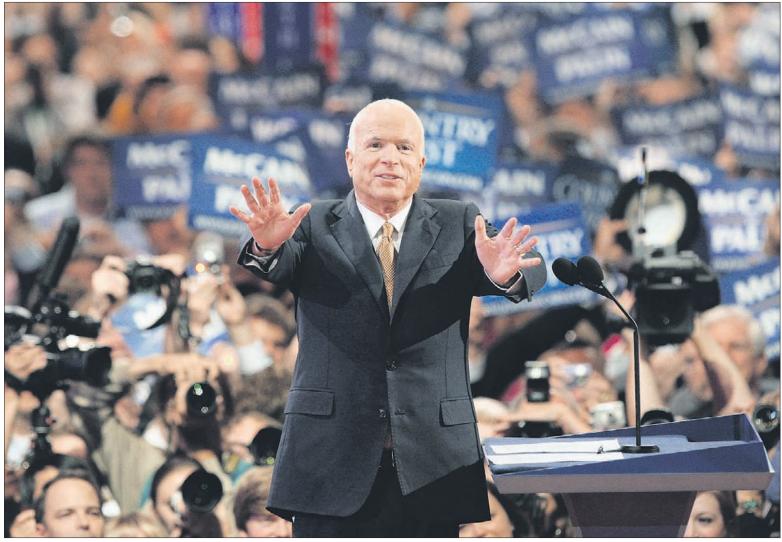
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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

'Change is coming'

McCAIN RIPS 'PARTISAN RANCOR,' VOWS TO SHAKE UP WASHINGTON



Republican presidential candidate John McCain acknowledges the crowd as he begins his speech accepting his party's presidential nomination Thursday at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. McCain urged fellow Republicans to "Fight for what's right for our country."



FROM McCAIN'S SPEECH

On role of Americans: "Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country." On politics: "We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us.

On taxes: "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."

On change: "After we've won, we're going to reach out our hand to any willing patriot, make this government start working for you again."

On his image: "I've been called a maverick. Sometimes it's meant as a compliment and sometimes it's not. What it really means is I understand who I work for. I don't work for a party. I don't work for a special interest. I don't work for myself. I work

for you.' **On Washington:** "And let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd: Change is coming."

New drama, new dynamics in race

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.

"Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country," he told thousands of cheering Republicans in a convention crescendo.

McCain made only passing reference to an unpopular President 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

As for Obama, McCain 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 running 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.

Unlike Obama's speech a week ago, McCain offered no soaring oratory until his speechending summons to fight for the country's future.

But his own measured style TURN TO **McCAIN**, PAGE A5

INSIDE

GOP DIVIDED ON FOREIGN POLICY

McCain advisers weigh confrontation vs. negotiation A3

MEDIA DEFEND PALIN COVERAGE Executives object to accusations of sexist,

slanted stories A3 **OBAMA ENLISTS WOMEN'S AID**

Prominent Demos hit campaign trail in response to Palin A4

29 COUNTY SCHOOLS MISS U.S. **STANDARDS**

Low state test scores could leave 16 more campuses facing sanctions next year

By KERRY BENEFIELD

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Despite overall gains in state test scores, more Sonoma County schools than ever have failed to meet federal accountability standards set out in the No Child Left Behind law.

The county now has 29 schools in program improvement status for failing to meet annual federal progress targets — there were 27 last year.

Mendocino and Lake counties have 19 and four schools in program improvement, respec-Because this year marks the beginning of steadily increasing requirements in the federal $% \left(\mathbf{r}\right) =\mathbf{r}^{\prime }$

program, educators said schools that missed the mark will struggle to avoid sanctions in coming years. And they likely will be joined by more and more schools deemed underperform-'We know that if you are not over the bar

now, it's going to be very, very difficult for schools to get over that bar," state schools Superintendent Jack O'Connell said when he released the scores Thursday. Both the state Academic Performance Index

and federal Adequate Yearly Progress status are derived from the Standardized Testing and Reporting, or STAR, program that tests students in the spring.

Schools that miss federal targets in any one of about 20 categories — the precise number depending on the grade level — for two consecutive years enter program improvement and face

TURN TO **SCORES**, PAGE A6

Pentagon officials ask Bush to delay Iraq troop withdrawals

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush's top defense advisers have recommended he keep 15 combat brigades in Iraq until the end of the year, contrary to expectations that Iraq's improved security would allow 2 U.S. TROOPS for quicker cuts.

Military leaders said the DIE IN BLAST plan would send a small Ma- First American rine contingent to Afghani- combat casualities stan in November to replace in Baghdad since one of two Marine units ex- Aug. 28 A11 pected to head home then.

If Bush follows the recommendations by the Pentagon's top officials, he would delay any additional buildup in Afghanistan until early next year, when another brigade would be deployed there instead of to Iraq. That move would cut the number of brigades

in Iraq to 14 in February.

TURN TO IRAQ, PAGE A5

as it enters

Palin changes the story line for campaign final phase

ANALYSIS:

By CHRISTI PARSONS

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — New characters are on stage. Scripts have been revised with a fall audience in mind.

And now that the back-to-back political conventions are over, the longest-running presidential campaign in memory enters its home stretch — finally — with the promise of new dra-

The dynamics are notably different today from just a couple of weeks ago.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as Republican John

McCain's running mate changes the story line significantly, a decided curve for a Democratic team unprepared for the hockey-mom-as-attackdog scenario.

McCain is signaling a shift in his "we're more experienced" theme by naming a vice presidential candidate who still features the PTA on her resume.

And there's no accounting for how Democratic Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware could shake things up as Barack Obama's recently added sidekick, a smart and quirky character with as

TURN TO **ANALYSIS**, PAGE A5

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HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW PREP FOOTBALL KICKS OFF TONIGHT

A look at tonight's top games, including Montgomery's new offense and Analy's new head coach **Sports**

Coverage online at pdpreps.com



COMING SATURDAY THE RACES FOR **SUPERVISOR**

Sonoma County voting patterns in June reveal a lot about the prospects for November's runoff.