

A LOOK AT
CARPINTERIA, SANTA
YNEZ FOOTBALL
AHEAD OF TONIGHT'S
SEASON OPENER



EX-BEACH BOY TO PLAY LOBERO THEATRE

AMERICAN MUSIC LEGEND BRIAN WILSON COMES TO LOBERO THEATRE, TOURING BEHIND HIS SWEET ODE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, A NEW ALBUM CALLED "THAT LUCKY OLD SUN." BACKING HIM AND THE CONCEPT ALBUM ON WEDNESDAY IS A 12-PIECE BAND

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

50¢

McCain: 'Change is coming'

Candidate accepts nomination, calls for supporters to 'fight with me'

By DAVID ESPO
and ROBERT FURLOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

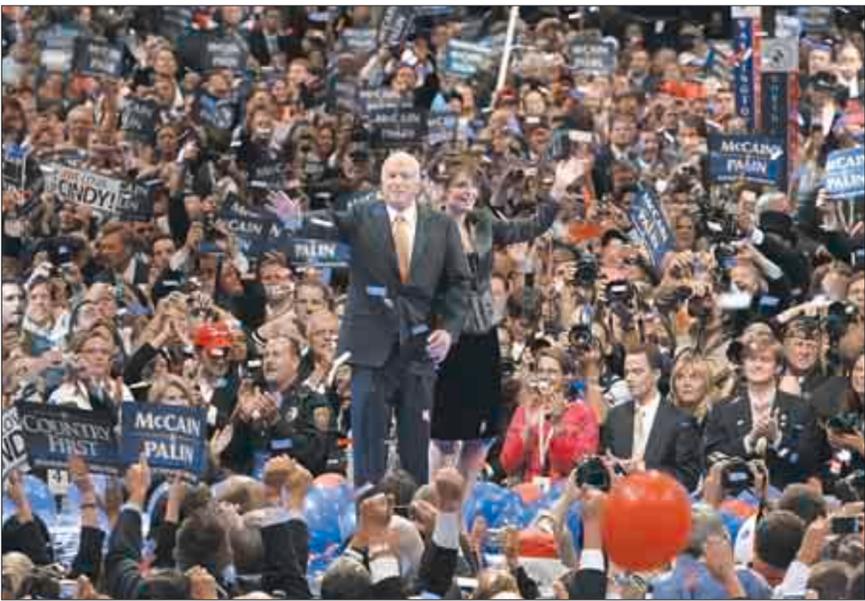
ST. PAUL, Minn. — John McCain, a POW turned political rebel, vowed Thursday night to vanquish the "constant partisan rancor" that grips Washington as he launched his fall campaign for the White House. "Change is coming," he promised the roaring Republican National Convention and a prime-time television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

"Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country," he urged in a convention crescendo.

To repeated cheers from his delegates, Mr. 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 Mr. Obama, he said, "I will keep taxes low and cut them where I can. My opponent will raise them. I



John McCain waves to the crowd as he is joined by his running mate, Sarah Palin, at the end of his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., on Thursday.

will cut government spending. He will increase it."

Mr. McCain's wife, Cindy, and ticketmate 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 Mr. Obama's speech a week ago, Mr. McCain offered no soaring oratory until his speech-ending summons to fight for the country's future. And he seemed to receive a milder audience response than Mrs.

Palin had a night earlier, as well.

But his own measured style left the hall in cheers, and as is his habit in campaign stops around the country, he stepped off the stage to plunge into

Please see **CONVENTION** on A8



Patricia Payne is comforted at the scene of her daughter's death Thursday.

STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

A mother's anguish

Goleta teen who was focus of search died in freeway hit and run

By SCOTT STEEPLTON
NEWS-PRESS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Two days after she was reported missing, a Goleta teenager was found dead on the side of Highway 101 on Thursday, the apparent victim of a hit and run that took place as she crossed Highway 101.

The body of Christina Veloz-Payne, 14, was found by a landscaping contractor working for Caltrans about 11 a.m., in the bushes between a guardrail and fence at Calle Real and Plumas Avenue, according to the California Highway Patrol.

"The victim had apparently crossed the freeway illegally at this location on past occasions according to friends," CHP Sgt. Matthew Dawson said in a statement.

It's not known who struck Christina or when, but friends reported seeing her last about 8 p.m. Monday at Girsh Park, where the city of Goleta was throwing a fireworks show that was pushed from Independence Day to Labor Day because of the Gap Fire.

Her mother, Patricia Payne, reported the girl missing to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department the next day. And she launched a search involving sheriff's deputies, CHP officers, friends and family.

Some of those closest to the mother and her daughter made their way to the scene Thursday as word of the possible fate of the girl who called

herself Tina spread.

Ms. Payne happened upon the scene, a mix of officers and deputies in uniform, detectives in street clothes, and countless marked and unmarked vehicles, shortly after noon while driving west on Calle Real.

"That isn't my daughter they found, is it?" she cried out as a deputy directed traffic onto northbound Mendocino Drive, one block east of Plumas.

She eventually parked on Plumas, and was met by authorities not far from where the body was found.

At about 12:30 p.m., a detective approached from the scene, perhaps bearing the tragic news.

Ms. Payne responded with a stomp on the ground and a loud, "Oh, no!"

Soon she was met by friends, some of whom carried flyers that they said were intended for the search.

Because Christina was reported missing, the investigation was initially being handled by the Sheriff's Department — and at one point Thursday, Sheriff Bill Brown was at the scene talking with Ms. Payne.

The CHP took over once it became clear that foul play was not a factor in the teenager's death.

Sgt. Dawson said the driver may not even know what happened — and authorities say they don't know whether the person involved returned

Please see **TEEN** on A7



Christina Veloz-Payne

Locals share reactions to Palin

By ANGEL PACHECO
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

It wasn't long after Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin addressed the nation Wednesday as Republican presidential candidate John McCain's running mate that South Coast political pundits started chiming in.

The News-Press hit the campaign trail Thursday to find out what people think about the speech delivered by the first female vice presidential candidate in the party's history.

"I personally thought it was a fantastic speech," said Ross Nolan, the president of the UCSB College Republicans, as he took a seat along State Street.

"(There) were a couple of things

she needed to do, and one of them was to introduce herself to the country and tell the country who she is and where she comes from," he said. "And she did that very, very eloquently."

With criticism from Democrats that focused on Mrs. Palin coming from "out of the blue" and having little experience, Mr. Nolan also thought she had to establish herself as a credible candidate.

"She did that by talking about her experience as a governor, her experience as a mayor and what not."

Of Mrs. Palin's jabs toward Democratic candidate Barack Obama and his running mate Joe Biden, Mr. Nolan said she delivered these very

Please see **PALIN** on A8

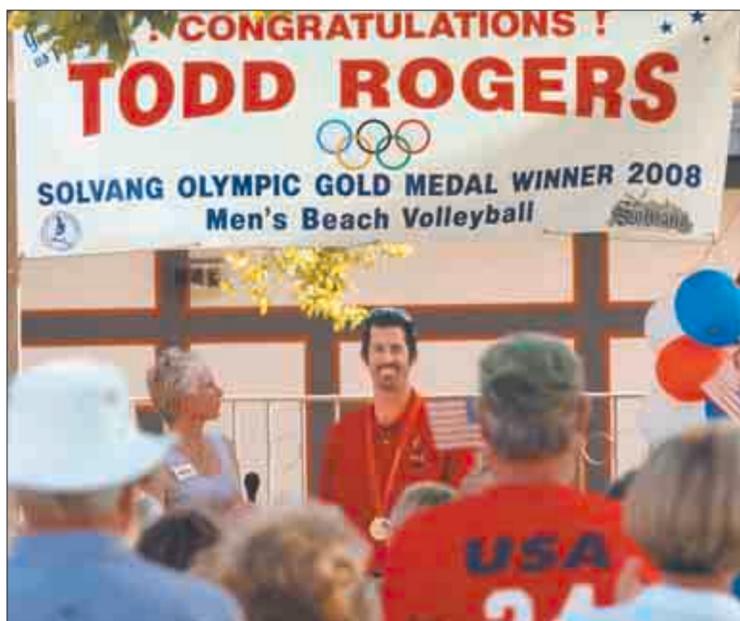


Diane Dodds, volunteer at the Santa Barbara Republican Headquarters, relaxes in the office, which is being renovated.

MICHAEL MORIATIS / NEWS-PRESS

ROYAL TREATMENT

Olympic men's beach volleyball gold medalist Todd Rogers accepted a city proclamation from his hometown of Solvang on Thursday. He will be honored at San Marcos High School, his alma mater, today and on Saturday by the city of Santa Barbara, where the AVP pro volleyball tour is making a stop this weekend. See the full story on page A3.



MIKE ELJASON / NEWS-PRESS

No ruling yet on motion to nix death penalty in Hollywood trial

Judge says response papers were filed too late for proper review

By JAMES ZOLTAK
NEWS-PRESS ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A judge said Thursday that it was premature to hear oral arguments or rule on a motion filed by Jesse James Hollywood's attorney seeking to have the death penalty taken off the table as he faces trial for the 2000 killing of 15-year-old Nicholas Markowitz.

Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Brian Hill also said he was unable to rule on a motion filed by defense attorney James Blatt to have some or all of the charges against Mr. Hollywood dismissed because the motion and the prosecution's response were filed just days before Thursday's hearing, at which Mr. Hollywood was present.

Judge Hill said the so called 995 motion was filed by Mr. Blatt on Aug. 21 and that Santa Barbara

County Deputy District Attorney Josh Lynn filed his response on Tuesday, giving the judge virtually no time to review the papers before Thursday's hearing.

A hearing on the matter has been scheduled for Oct. 29, by which time Mr. Blatt is also expected to have filed a motion for a change of venue in the case due to pretrial publicity that has included widespread press coverage, a book — "Stolen Boy" by Michael Mehas — and a feature film called "Alpha Dog" that starred Justin Timberlake.

Deputy District Attorney Ron Zonen, who served as a consultant to the filmmakers, has since been removed from the case by Santa Barbara County District Attorney Christie Stanley. His participation in

Please see **HOLLYWOOD** on A7



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

Jesse James Hollywood, accused of directing the 2000 kidnapping and eventual killing of 15-year-old Nicholas Markowitz, is escorted into Santa Barbara County Superior Court by heavily armed sheriff's deputies on Thursday.

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