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Republican National Convention

“FIGHT WITH ME”

McCain challenges party, nation to change politics — not be changed by it



John McCain took some soft shots at Democrat Barack Obama. But he also told delegates where he thought their own party had gone off the track. *Andy Cross, The Denver Post*

ANALYSIS

Palin lights fire under GOP base

By Allison Sherry and Chuck Plunkett
The Denver Post

ST. PAUL, MINN.» For all the enthusiasm pulsing through the Republican National Convention over the debut of Sarah Palin, a more telling sign of success is a ringing cellphone.

When Castle Rock delegate and former Christian Coalition board member Kendal Unruh returned to her hotel room after Palin's speech Wednesday, the so-called values voters had already packed her voice mail. They were ready to get to work for John McCain.

Republicans searching for the motivation to push McCain to victory in November have found it in the form of the tough-talking vice presidential nominee.

PALIN » 16A



Vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, at the convention Thursday, has sparked excitement among conservatives. *Andy Cross, The Denver Post*

By Karen E. Crummy *The Denver Post*

ST. PAUL, MINN.» Sen. John McCain, casting himself as an independent consensus-builder, took on Washington and his own party Thursday, promising Americans that “change is coming.”

“I fight to restore the pride and principles of our party. We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us,” he said, receiving a standing ovation from cheering delegates on the last night of the Republican National Convention. “And let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd: Change is coming.”

Weaving his military background, public-service record and maverick style throughout his presidential nomination acceptance speech, the Arizona senator sought to portray himself as the candidate best prepared to take on the challenges facing the country.

And while he stressed national-security issues, the backbone of his campaign, he also reached out to middle-class voters of all political persuasions, promising job training for a changing economy and strides in public education.

“These are tough times for many of you. You’re worried about keeping your job or finding a new one, and are struggling to put food on the table and stay in your home,” he said.

“All you ever asked of government is to stand on your side, not in your way. And that’s just what I intend to do: stand on your side and fight for your future.”

McCain, who at 72 would be the oldest

MCCAIN » 18A

dp ONLINE» VIDEO, PHOTOS OF MCCAIN’S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH. »denverpost.com/extras // CONVENTION COVERAGE »16-19A

Ex-lobbyist Abramoff, “a broken man,” gets four years in prison

By *The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON» Jack Abramoff, the powerhouse Washington lobbyist who admitted running a wide-ranging corruption scheme that ensnared lawmakers, Capitol Hill aides and government officials, received a reduced sentence of four years in prison Thursday because of his cooperation with federal investigators.

Abramoff, 49, already has served nearly two years for his conviction in

a related Florida fraud case. The sentence Thursday by U.S. District Judge Ellen Huvelle means that the former Republican lobbyist will probably remain in prison until 2012.

More than a dozen people, including an Ohio congressman and a deputy interior secretary, have been convicted in the Abramoff lobbying scandal, and Justice Department officials said the investigation is continuing. Still under scrutiny are former House

ABRAMOFF » 22A



DETROIT MAYOR RESIGNS

Kwame Kilpatrick pleads guilty to felony charges in a sex scandal, forcing him out of office after months of defiantly holding on to his job. »23A

FINAL OIL-SHALE PLAN RELEASED

Environmental statement draws fire from Ritter, Salazar.
»DENVER AND THE WEST, 1B

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CU COACHES’ WISH LIST

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»COLLEGE FOOTBALL, 1C

Rockies disappointing»
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PUPPETS, SURE, BUT NOT FOR KIDS

“Avenue Q” not your typical Broadway musical.
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