

## 2008 ★ REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

**“Let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd: Change is coming.”**

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE JOHN McCAIN

Republican presidential nominee John McCain, accompanied by running mate Sarah Palin, acknowledges supporters following his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., Thursday night.

PAUL SANCYA/AP



# McCain to America: ‘I won’t let you down’

GOP nominee tells convention that he’ll bring change to nation

By DAVID ESPINO and ROBERT FURLLOW  
Associated Press Writers

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.

To repeated cheers from his delegates, McCain criticized fellow Republicans as well as Democratic rival Barack Obama as he reached out

to independents and disaffected Democrats.

“We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us,” he said of the Republicans who controlled Congress for most of the past 15 years.

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.”

Before McCain’s speech, the climax of the final night of the party convention, delegates awarded the vice presidential nomination to Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the first female ticketmate in Republican history.

“She stands up for what’s right and she doesn’t let anyone tell her to sit down,” McCain said of the woman who has faced intense scrutiny in the week since she was picked.

“And let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd: Change is coming,” McCain declared.

He and Palin were departing their convention city immediately after the Arizona senator’s acceptance speech, bound for Wisconsin and an early start on the final weeks of the White House campaign.

McCain, at 72 bidding to become the oldest first-term president, drew a roar from the convention crowd when he walked out onto the stage lit by a single spotlight. He was introduced by a video that dwelt heavily on his time spent as a prisoner of war in

SEE MCCAIN PAGE A3

Go to [www.theday.com](http://www.theday.com) to view a photo gallery from the Republican National Convention.

## They’re taking no chances with Hanna

State officials are playing it safe in case tropical storm flares up

By JENNIFER GROGAN and AMY RENCZKOWSKI  
Day Staff Writers

State officials are preparing for a hurricane this weekend in the event that Tropical Storm Hanna intensifies on its expected journey up the Atlantic coast.

Residents of southeastern Connecticut can expect 3 to 6 inches of rain and winds reaching 10 to 20 mph, with gusts of 30 mph, by Saturday night, predicted Gary Lessor, assistant director of the weather center at Western Connecticut State University.

Hanna is losing strength from earlier in the week, when it initially hit the Caribbean  
SEE STATE PAGE A5

Yardworker Glen Piscatelli washes the hull of a sailboat at Noank Shipyard on Thursday. With Tropical Storm Hanna threatening the eastern U.S., many boat owners in the region are securing their vessels, just in case.

SEAN D. ELLIOT/THE DAY



Local volunteer on a dramatic journey

By KATIE WARCHUT  
Day Staff Writer

What lingered in Joe Apicelli’s mind, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, was the despair in so many people’s eyes.

But with Hurricane Gustav, he will never forget the panic on people’s faces — and at times in his own chest as he experienced for himself the angry winds and pelting rain that lashed the Gulf Coast this week.

Apicelli, of Groton, found his services were needed again this week as part of the American Red Cross’s response to Gustav, just a little more than three years after Katrina’s devastation.  
SEE LOCAL PAGE A5

## Foxwoods figures it’s got just the ticket for foiling scaplers

For Miley Cyrus’ Sept. 27 show, middlemen are out

By RICK KOSTER  
Day Staff Writer

If you scour eBay or craigslist, you might be able to find a few errant tickets to see Miley Cyrus when she performs a sold-out show Sept. 27 at the MGM Grand Theater at Foxwoods.

But thanks to a new online registration process designed by the casino’s ticket department to minimize scalping activity, you won’t have much luck going through typical broker outlets.

“If you look on StubHub as of (Thursday) morning, you can see 200 to 300 tickets for sale for Miley’s show in California, and none for our show,” said Bruce Flax, director of tickets for Foxwoods and MGM Grand.  
SEE FOXWOODS PAGE A8

Day Arts Editor Kristina Dorsey weighs in on the ticket prices and purchasing process. See B1



### HOT TICKETS

- From Aug. 23-29, potential ticket buyers had to register online.
- About 3,000 people registered.
- Purchase codes were e-mailed to them Aug. 30.
- Tickets went on sale at 9 a.m. Wednesday.
- By 3 p.m., only a few single seats remained.

### WEATHER

Today, mostly sunny and humid. High 77. Saturday, showers and thunderstorms. High 73. **Page C8**

### INDEX

Business/D7  
Classified/B6  
Comics/B2  
Daybreak/B1  
Editorials/A6  
Movies/B4  
Nation/A4  
Obituaries/C4

Police Logs/C2  
Puzzles/B7  
Region/C1  
Sports/D1  
State/C5  
Television/B3  
World/A2



### DESPERATION IN HAITI

Floodwaters frustrated efforts by Argentine peacekeepers in Gonaives, Haiti, to distribute food at orphanages marooned by Tropical Storm Hanna on Thursday. They hunkered down in their base as desperate people begged for food and water outside the gates. Half the homes in the low-lying city of 160,000 remain flooded in Hanna’s wake, estimated Lt. Sergio Hoj, spokesman for the Argentine battalion. Some 250,000 people are affected in the Gonaives region, including 70,000 in 150 shelters across the city, according to international officials. The official death toll rose to 61 Thursday as Hanna finally moved north toward the southeastern U.S. coast. But there was no way of knowing how many people might be dead in the chaos, or how many had been driven from their homes. See A2

### Game face



Don’t let the suit and tie fool you. When Mohegan Sun CEO Mitchell Etes watches a Connecticut Sun basketball game, he holds nothing back. Etes has seats at every game, but he prefers standing courtside, where he knows the referees will hear him. See **DAYBREAK**

### ABRAMOFF GETS 4 YEARS

Jack Abramoff, the once powerful lobbyist at the heart of a far-reaching political corruption scandal, was sentenced to four years in prison Thursday by a judge in Washington who said the case had shattered the public’s confidence in government.

Over the past three years, Abramoff has come to symbolize corruption and the secret deals cut between lobbyists and politicians in back rooms or on golf courses or private jets. The scandal shook Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House to Capitol Hill and contributed to the Republicans’ loss of Congress in 2006.

Already two years into a prison term from a separate case in Florida, Abramoff, 49, will have spent about six years in prison by the time he is released, far longer than he and his attorneys expected for a man who became the key FBI witness in his own corruption case. See A4