

# American Press



**Tailgating territory**  
It's football time at McNeese  
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ALLEN ■ BEAUREGARD ■ CALCASIEU ■ CAMERON ■ JEFF DAVIS ■ VERNON

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H U R R I C A N E G U S T A V A F T E R M A T H

## FEMA omission challenged

### Two parishes added to assistance list, but not Calcasieu

BY JOHN GUIDROZ  
AMERICAN PRESS

Calcasieu Parish was excluded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's revised individual assistance list Thursday, despite the addition of two Southeast Louisiana parishes that suffered damage from

Hurricane Gustav. The revised map — which was released just before 6 p.m. — included Tangipahoa and St. Tammany parishes. The two parishes did not qualify to receive Category A public assistance. FEMA spokesman Bill Plumlee said the preliminary damage assessment teams con-

ducted ground-level inspections of Calcasieu Parish on Thursday. He said that if federal officials included Calcasieu on the individual assistance list, residents may be able to receive financial relief from the storm. But David Garratt, a deputy assistance administrator for FEMA, said the aid won't be

available for short-term evacuees who fled the storm, spent a few nights in a hotel and then returned home. Garratt said the money will cover extended stays in hotels — which includes people still out of their homes as of Wednesday because their homes were uninhabitable. See **FEMA, Page A3**

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## Parishes postpone Saturday elections

No decision on when Allen, Vernon, Beauregard election will be rescheduled

BY DORIS MARICLE  
AMERICAN PRESS

Saturday's congressional elections in Allen, Beauregard and Vernon parishes have been postponed because of statewide damage from Hurricane Gustav. Elections were scheduled in four congressional districts throughout the state, including Allen, Beauregard and Vernon parishes. But Gov. Bobby Jindal has said the elections shouldn't be held so soon after the disruptions caused by Gustav. Secretary of State Jay Dardenne said power outages are too widespread and too many people are absent due to evacuations to hold the elections. No new date has been set, but Dardenne is recommending that balloting be held Sept. 13 with runoffs on Oct. 4, as scheduled. Items on the ballot:

**Allen Parish**  
■ 4th Congressional District U.S. representative (Democratic Party) — Willie Banks, Paul J. Carmouche, Artis "Doc" Cash and John Milkovich.  
■ 4th Congressional District U.S. representative (Republican Party): John Fleming; Chris Gorman and Jeff Thompson.  
Incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim McCreery is not seeking another term in office.  
■ 5th Congressional District U.S. representative (Republican Party only) — Rodney Alexander, incumbent, and Andrew Clack.

**Beauregard Parish**  
■ 4th Congressional District U.S. representative (Democratic Party) — Willie Banks, Paul J. Carmouche, Artis "Doc" Cash and John Milkovich.  
See **ELECTIONS, Page A3**

## REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

# Nomination clinched

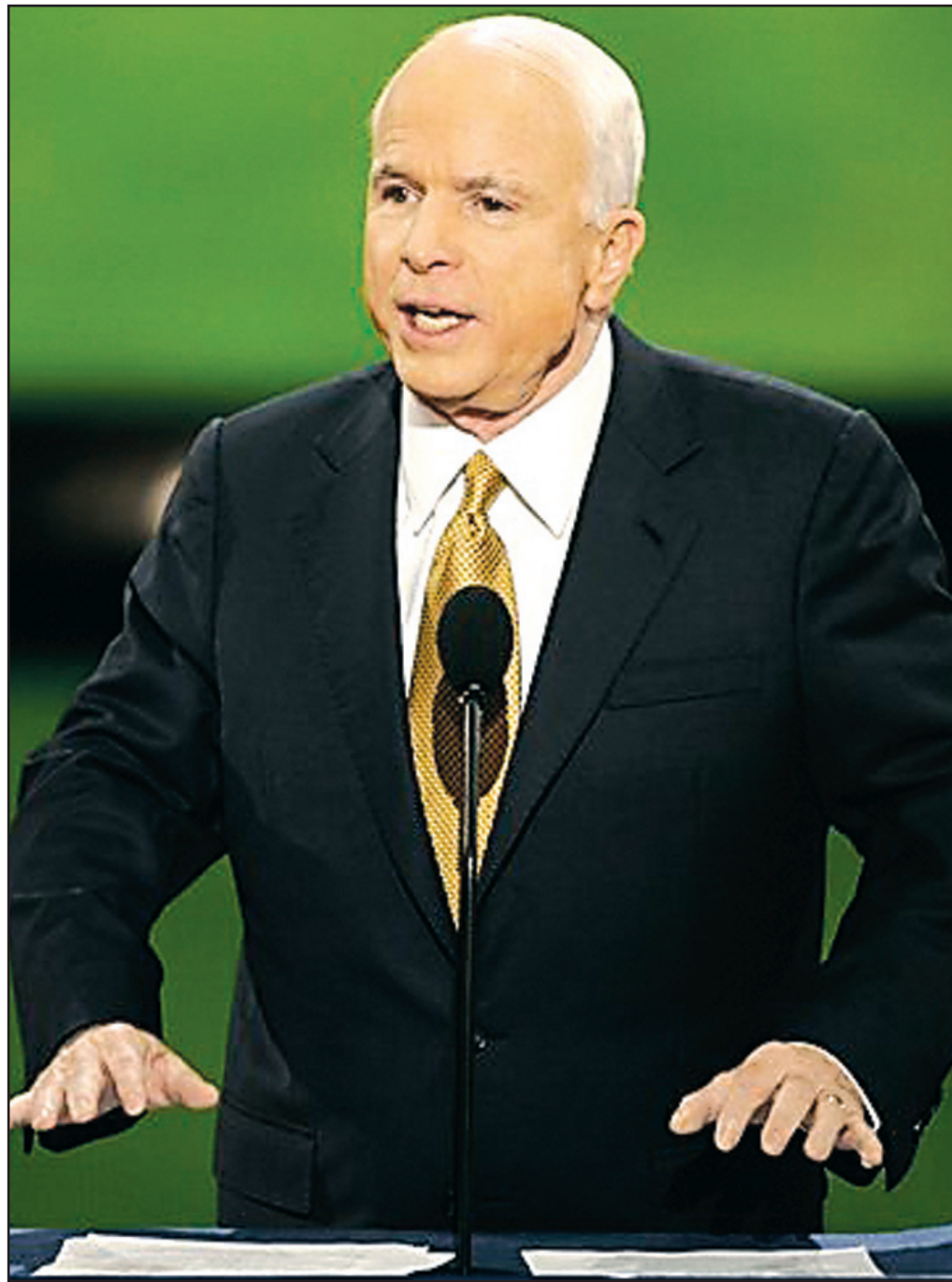
### McCain promises change in Washington

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — 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.

*Analysis: Media hypocritical with questions about Palin*  
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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

See **MCCAIN, Page A7**



Republican presidential candidate John McCain accepts his party's nomination on Thursday at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

## Hundreds of SW La. evacuees back home

BY ERIC CORMIER AND SHAWN MARTIN  
AMERICAN PRESS

Hundreds of Hurricane Gustav evacuees from around Calcasieu Parish arrived Thursday night in Lake Charles, where buses were waiting to take them home. A joint effort between the city of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish Police Jury was responsible for taking the evacuees, who came from Oklahoma City, back to their residences. The bus ride from a warehouse that was converted into an emergency shelter in Oklahoma took about 14 hours. Public works and parish employees and Red Cross volunteers helped usher the 16 busloads of evacuees — more than 2,000 people — to waiting areas, where they would be led to local transportation vehicles. Samantha Pryor of Sulphur was tired but happy to be back in Calcasieu Parish. "They treated us real well up there. I worried if this were well down here," she said. Maria Craft, also of Sulphur, wasn't happy about leaving, no matter how well she was treated at the shelter. "I don't like leaving, and I was more homesick than anything," she said. Local officials coordinated their efforts with Louisiana representatives who were in charge of the evacuation for

See **HOME, Page A7**

## Help is available for Gustav-displaced businesses

BY ANN MCMURRY  
SPECIAL TO THE AMERICAN PRESS

Economic development entities across southern and central Louisiana have been working together to assist businesses that may have been displaced when Hurricane Gustav passed through the state. "Before the storm, we coor-

inated with all of the regional economic development organizations around the state," said George Swift, president and CEO of the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance. "We did not know which areas would be hit, so we pledged to help each other if one area was hit and needed assistance. We were fortunate,

of course, in that our area for the most part was spared any damage." The Baton Rouge region was the hardest hit and is without power. "They are attempting to set up a call center for business assistance, and if there are any businesses that need temporary office space, we have some locations identified in

our area," Swift said. But the damage seen in the Houma and Baton Rouge areas isn't as massive as that seen in the New Orleans and Lake Charles areas after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and it may not be necessary for businesses to relocate, he said. "We are available if anybody needs temporary space, but I don't see a large need at

this time," Swift said. "The big issue is the power. As soon as they get service restored, they will be fine for the most part." Calcasieu businesses fared well, as did Beauregard Parish businesses, Swift said. "But Allen (Parish) is still without power, and they are having some problems in Oakdale and that area," he said.

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