

# SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

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## Right man, right time, Missourians say



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**"Change is coming."** Republican presidential candidate John McCain proclaimed in his acceptance speech Thursday night. He firmly promised to do away with "big-spending," "me-first" governing.

### State's delegates hail McCain's call for return to basics in government.

By Chad Livengood  
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ST. PAUL, Minn. — Noting he's a maverick who sometimes "marches to the beat of his own drum," Republican John McCain pledged to get government working again for people and steer the country toward prosperity and peace.

In accepting the GOP nomination for president, the Arizona senator humbly admitted the Congress he's been part of has let down American voters.

"We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us," McCain said. "We lost the trust of the American people when some Republicans gave in to the temptations of corruption. We lost their trust when rather than reform government, both parties made it bigger."

Under President George W. Bush, a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative, federal spending has grown by 60 percent.

McCain promised to change the current course of printing more money to finance the national deficit.

"The party of Lincoln, Roosevelt and Reagan is going to get back to basics," McCain proclaimed to cheering delegates.

McCain's message of putting country before one's personal in-



RON EDMONDS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cindy McCain** praised her husband Thursday night as a father who by example passed his love for his country on to his children.

**Political blog:** You can review reporter Chad Livengood's blog for insider stories on the Missouri delegations at the Republican and Democratic conventions. Read about them at [News-Leader.com/MOPolitics](http://News-Leader.com/MOPolitics)

**Election coverage:** See more images and streaming video from the convention online at [News-Leader.com/election](http://News-Leader.com/election)

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terests resonated with southwest Missouri Republicans. "Sooner or later somebody has to do something about the animosity of politics," state Rep.

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### Candidate ends heady week with bipartisan appeal

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ST. PAUL, Minn. — Not merely a Republican. Not merely a candidate. John McCain cast himself as a leader for all Americans, regardless of party or status.

After several days of Democratic bashing by his supporters, the Arizona senator struck a nonpartisan stance and promised that he wouldn't be bound by political party in the White House as he accepted his party presidential nomination.

"We are fellow Americans, an association that means more to me than any other," McCain told the Republican Convention, deriding "constant partisan rancor" that causes Washington gridlock. He rejected those in Washington who he said "work for themselves and not you."

Even as he preached bipartisanship, McCain served up Republican dogma to the willing crowd — on abortion, taxes, national security, oil drilling, education.

And he expressed satisfaction with his choice of running mate, Sarah Palin, who the night before took highly charged swipes at their opponent, Democrat Barack Obama.

"I'm very proud to have introduced our next vice president to the country," McCain said. "But I can't wait until I introduce her to Washington."

### Authorities addressing rise in local shootings

Violence blamed on drug dealer clashes.

By Amos Bridges  
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As they have in the past when confronted with increased violence or gang-related crime, Springfield police and local prosecutors are devoting extra resources to combat a recent rash of shootings.

Police logged 17 reported shootings in August. Many, authorities said, appear to be related to conflicts between rival drug dealers.

Not all the incidents have resulted in injuries, but the apparent rise in gun violence is a worrisome trend that requires a swift and severe response, said Greene County Prosecutor Darrell Moore.

"Right now it's one group of bad guys shooting at another. But they don't usually hit each other and there's a danger that they'll hit some innocent person," Moore said.

Police spokesman Officer Grant Story said many recent incidents appear to be drug deals gone bad or are otherwise related to the sale of crack cocaine.

Other clashes appear to have been prompted by long-standing rivalries or grudges, Story said. In at least one shooting, the conflict dated back to a disagreement a year earlier.

Moore said some suspects are from the Springfield area, but many are from Kansas City or St. Louis.

"They're here selling crack because there's a demand for crack," he said. "Some of the suspects have told police they do it because they can make more money selling it here than they can in Kansas City or St. Louis."

Even with that sellers' market, competition appears to have sparked some of the violence, he said.

"Some of these home invasions have been these drug dealers," Moore said. "Apparently they're kicking in each other's doors and stealing dope from each other."

As a result, witnesses and victims often are uncooperative, Story said, making the cases more difficult for investigators.

"What does seem to be a common theme is when we get there and try to get information from people, they are unwilling or they will feign ignorance about the incident," Story said.

The fatal shooting of Raymond Khalid on Aug. 28 — allegedly retaliation for an earlier

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### Men can accessorize, too

Even guys who have to wear suits and ties can break out of the mold with a well-chosen accessory or two. **1C**

**Also in Style:**  
• The weekly roundup of gadgetry includes a tiny sound system that delivers big sound. **1C**

• A record number of shows are planned for New York Fashion Week. **2C**

### ONLINE NOW

### Remix your social playlist

It's 6 p.m. on a Friday night — do you know where your next drink is? You need not wonder any longer, because Metromix Ozarks has arrived. This restaurant, nightlife and event Web site breaks down options for the young and the partying-about-town. Go to [ozarks.metromix.com](http://ozarks.metromix.com) to see what's happening tonight and every night. Never be bored again.

### Join your school's team page

The News-Leader is teaming up this season with HighSchoolSports.net to offer area teams an online home for scores, stats, rosters, videos and more. Check out our High School Sports section at [News-Leader.com/HSS](http://News-Leader.com/HSS)

### YOUR COMMUNITY

#### Table Rock Dam's levels up

This week's rain has raised lake levels. Table Rock Dam will begin releasing excess water today, and the lake is expected to crest at 923 feet Saturday. **3A**

#### Clayton Jones gains Purple Heart office

Clayton Jones of Nixa has been elected to a national office in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. **2A** Jones

#### Long-brewing crisis to worsen

A long-brewing crisis in the state public-defender system will boil over Oct. 1 in Greene, Christian and Taney counties. What is to be done? Our Voice, **1B**

#### Cool victory for Kickapoo

Kickapoo's football victory over Camdenton was no surprise to tailback Austin Adams. **1D**

### RAINFALL UPDATE

Latest rainfall totals, in inches, for this especially wet year:

**24-hr. total** at 5 p.m. Thursday: .053

**Year to date:** 49.43

**Normal year to date:** 29.65

**Normal annual rainfall:** 44.97

**Mold:** High; 42,681 spores per cubic meter

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### Weather

**78°** Clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight with cooler temperatures. **9A**

**Precipitation:** 10%

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### Public receives early look at new art museum wing

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The new wing of the Springfield Art Museum won't have its official unveiling until Oct. 10, but some art enthusiasts just couldn't wait.

On Thursday, the public had a chance to get a sneak peek at the new additions sans exhibits. For about the past year, the museum has been a construction site, growing from 35,000 square feet to almost 45,000.

"People have been wanting to see the space," said museum Director Jerry Berger. "They've been knocking on the door and calling, or I'll run into them at the grocery store asking, 'When can we see the museum?' So the construction

**Photo gallery:** View additional images of the new wing at the Springfield Art Museum.

company allowed us a day. It's not completely finished, but done enough."

The \$3.35 million addition — paid for through private donations raised over the last 14 years — includes four new gallery spaces, space for a larger library (which could be converted to a gallery in the future) and a foyer that will include exhibits. It also includes a reception area that opens into the



Berger



**The new 10,000 square foot wing** at the Springfield Art Museum will formally open on Oct. 10, but a sneak peak was offered Thursday.

JEROME T. NAKAGAWA  
NEWS-LEADER

courtyard, a larger gift shop, new restrooms, a coat check area, an office for the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates, an entry area with benches and a parking lot expansion. "It's just gotten better and bet-

ter," said Nancy Pate, a former museum board member who said she's been involved with the museum for 26 years.

The new space means pieces that

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