



### SUN WILL PREVAIL

Castroville  
High 71 Low: 45  
Santa Rosa  
High 68 Low: 41  
Redding Bay  
High 57 Low: 48  
Details, Page B8

# The Press

DEMOCRAT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006 • \$4

## Room out back



Homeowners carve extra living space  
for garages, sheds, barns D1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

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near Salmon  
Creek Beach B1

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## PS3 fans' wait pays off in fun or profit

After days in line, some PlayStation buyers savor consoles, others plan to sell

By NATHAN HALVERSON  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Donald Allen has not been this happy since the birth of his two children.

After waiting in line for days and suffering through cold nights and boring afternoons, Allen finally got his hands on the season's hottest item: a PlayStation 3 video game console.

Allen, 37, a manager at Fresh Choice restaurant in Santa Rosa, was among a horde of people who for several days camped out in makeshift encampments outside big box retailers in Sonoma County.

While violence broke out at some stores across the nation, including several cases of armed robbery on the East Coast and a shooting in Fresno, the scene in Sonoma County appeared to have remained peaceful — if not completely civil.

And Friday, those who waited so long reaped the rewards, which ranged from a new gaming experience to a significant creative profit.

## SR seek

Proposed property tax surcharge could affect up to 14,000 homes

By MIKE MCCOY  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

People buying new homes in Santa Rosa could be charged hundreds of dollars in extra property taxes every year to help pay for city services, such as police and fire protection. The proposed surcharge, which wouldn't be

assessments on existing homes, and the council is being asked to extend it to all new housing built through 2010. As many as 14,000 new homes could be affected.

## on new homes

Klein said a surcharge is one way to ensure "we are able to maintain the current level of services for all residents of the city."

Property tax rates are fixed by Proposition 13, which was passed by voters in 1978. State lawmakers have shifted a larger share of property tax revenue to schools, leaving cities to rely increasingly on sales tax revenue.

Klein's proposal would create a special assessment district covering the entire city. A property tax surcharge would be assessed on

### TAX PLAN

**What:** An annual surcharge on all new Santa Rosa homes.

**How much:** \$154 for homes; \$289 for multiple-family units.

**Purpose:** To help pay for city services, such as police and fire protection.

## HIGH SCHOOL VICTORS: Montgomery, Cardinal Newman C1

# FOOTBALL GETS SERIOUS



## Allies search for U.S. hostages

Troops comb southern Iraq as soldiers battle gunmen

By EDWARD WONG  
NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. and



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