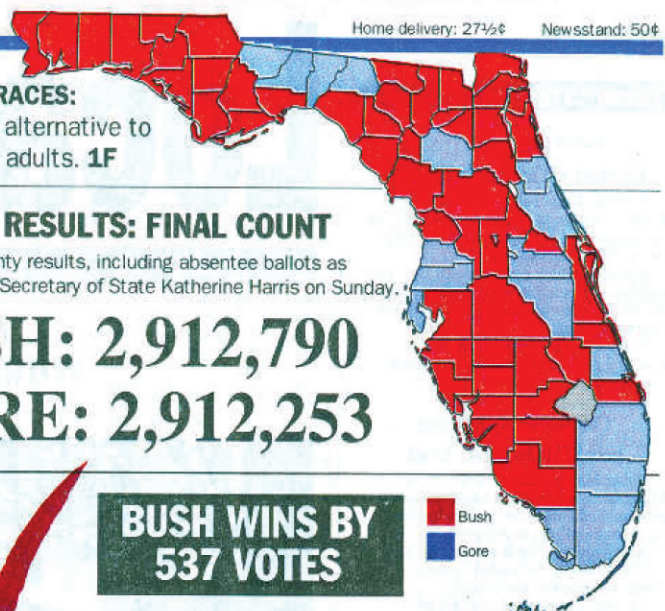


This is a reproduction of a historic page to commemorate The News-Sentinel's 175th anniversary.

ALSO INSIDE: EAST NOBLE WINS STATE: Beats undefeated Plainfield 28-7 at RCA Dome. 1S



SEE-THROUGH BRACES: Invisalign is a clear alternative to standard braces for adults. 1F



November 27, 2000 MON Election 2000

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA The News SENTINEL

FLORIDA RESULTS: FINAL COUNT County-by-county results, including absentee ballots as announced by Secretary of State Katherine Harris on Sunday. BUSH: 2,912,790 GORE: 2,912,253

BUSH WINS BY 537 VOTES

# IT'S CERTIFIED BUSH WINS FLORIDA

## Now back to the courts...

By David Espo of The Associated Press George W. Bush is designing a transition to the White House, describing himself as "honored and humbled" after being certified the winner in Florida's razor-thin presidential election. Al Gore turned anew to the courts today to press his fight.

*"This has been a hard-fought election, but now that the votes are counted, it's time for the votes to count."* - George W. Bush

"If the vice president chooses to go forward, he is filing a contest to the outcome of the election," the Republican governor of Texas said Sunday night. "And that is not the best route for America." Not surprisingly, that is not how the Democrats saw it, even after Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a Bush partisan, certified him the winner with a 537-vote margin over Gore out of some 6 million votes cast. "Vice President Gore and I have no choice but to contest these actions," said running mate Joseph Lieberman, reflecting Democratic objections over the manual recounts in Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Nassau counties. "The integrity of our self-government is too important to cast into doubt because votes that have been counted or others that have not yet been counted and clearly should (have) been, have unjustifiably been cast aside," Lieberman said. Gore's lawyers were going to court today in Tallahassee, the Florida capital, to object formally to the certification, a step known as a "contest" under state law. Republicans said Bush aides will aggressively fight Gore's contests, but won't file any of their own outside the counties targeted by

the vice president: Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Nassau. "This is something that's too important to be decided in a partisan environment," David Boies, a Gore lawyer, said today on NBC's "Today" show. "This is something that ought to be decided by impartial judges." One Democrat said today that Gore should probably give up. "I have great doubts about whether it is wise ... for the vice president to continue to pursue and to contest the results in Florida," Robert Reich, former labor secretary, said on ABC's "Good Morning America." Reich had endorsed Gore's rival in the primaries, Bill Bradley. But Democrats in large measure were putting up a united front. To lend support to Gore's continuing challenge, the top Democratic congressional leaders, Sen. Tom Daschle and Rep. Dick Gephardt, arranged to fly to Florida to speak on the vice president's behalf. See BUSH, Page 12A

### MORE INSIDE

- Daily poll: Is it time for Al Gore to concede? 4A
- Analysts say Gore faces an uphill battle in courts. 9A
- Palm Beach County's mammoth recount wiped out. 9A
- An election Q&A. 9A
- Gore may lose public support of attempts to change count. 12A
- Supreme Court to make unique ruling on election. 12A
- Election-night 'Ratherisms' confound, enlighten viewers. 4F



Republican presidential candidate Texas Gov. George W. Bush begins a televised address from his offices in Austin, Texas, on Sunday.

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## FWCS superintendent talks about South Side student's drowning

School plans to hire a new director for the natatorium. From staff reports A certified instructor was in charge Tuesday when 15-year-old freshman Lawrence Norwood accidentally drowned in the South Side High School natatorium, Fort Wayne Community Schools Superintendent Thomas Fowler-Finn said today, discussing the death publicly for the first time.

Declining to discuss details of how the instructor lost sight of the beginning swimmer, Fowler-Finn said the district will hire a new director of the natatorium to replace William Close, who will return to physical education. In addition, the school district has hired pool certification consultants Ellis & Associates to review pool operations, make recommendations and provide in-service training.

The South Side pool is certified, he said. The Texas-based consultants, who certify the YWCA pool, also will review and make recommendations for the North Side High School pool. Norwood was one of eight students in the freshman beginning swimming class instructed by Todd Waikel, assistant pool director and an instructor certified in first aid, CPR and lifeguarding, Fowler-Finn said. Investigators said the teen was at the bottom of the pool at least an hour before he was discovered by a staff member.

Waikel's employment status with FWCS has not been decided. "Mr. Waikel is not involved with the pool now," the superintendent said. "The pool is closed." The pool will remain closed at least two weeks, he said.

The teen was found in 12 feet of water in the diving area, where swimmers went after class for recreational swimming. When asked why beginning swimmers were in the deep end of the pool, Fowler-Finn replied: "I don't know. It only makes sense to me that beginning swimmers not be allowed in the deep end. That's the way the pool is operated, but it's going to change." The daily beginners class began Nov. 20; Norwood was in his second day of the two-week class when he drowned. "The investigation revealed an orderly class took place, with no horseplay and no sign of anything occurring out of the ordinary," Fowler-Finn said.

After the 12:45-1:20 p.m. class, students went to the locker room, dressed and returned to classes at South Side across the parking lot. No additional classes were scheduled for the deep end of the pool at See DROWNING, Page 12A

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Just Go Nothing to do?

NEWS TO GO Download stories from today's News-Sentinel



IN THE SPOTLIGHT ROBERT DOWNEY JR., arrested actor The 35-year-old actor was arrested for alleged drug possession less than four months after being released from prison and restarting his career on "Ally McBeal," police said. See story, 8A

INDEX	
Business	1B
Classified	10-14S
Comics	6F
Crossword	5F
Cryptogram	5F
Daily poll	4A
Dear Abby	5F
Editorials	4A
Essentials	2F
Headlines	8A
Horoscopes	5F
Just Go	2F
Letters	4A
Movies	2F
Television	7F
Tributes	11-12A