

Hereford BRAND

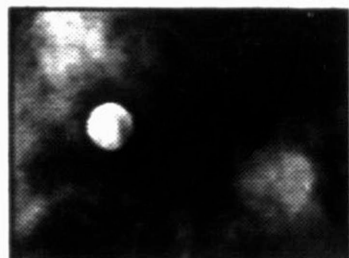
99th Year, Vol. Number 40 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

FRIDAY, August 27, 1999

12 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD
HOME OF
Eddie Lacey

Today's weather OUTLOOK



Mostly clear skies

Tonight, clear with a low in the mid-60s.

Saturday, partly cloudy with a high 90 to 95.

Extended forecast

Sunday through Tuesday, partly cloudy with a slight chance of afternoon and nighttime thunderstorms, lows 60 to 65, highs 85 to 90.

Hereford weather

Thursday's high, 89; low, 67; no precipitation.

Funding sought for repairs

Age and weather take toll on structure

By Julie L. Carlson
Hereford Brand Staff Writer

The effects of age, weather and vandals are showing at the historic E.B. Black House, and the Deaf Smith County commissioners will be asked to help finance repairs.

Because the house was built in the early 1900s, the walls were built with plaster. The hard rains during the spring and early summer leaked through the walls and roof, causing water and plaster damage to the ceilings of the upstairs bedrooms and the ceiling of the downstairs foyer. Deaf Smith County Museum Director Paula Edwards said repairing the damage will be a winter project.

Edwards said she also wants to replace the curtains on the west side of the dining

room, which have faded and shredded by the harsh west sun. The house's exterior was painted about five years ago, but extreme weather conditions have

taken their toll. Also, skateboarders and rollerbladers have caused damage to the porch. Edwards said the entire house needs repainting, along with the front porch and stairs.

Woodwork needs to be done in areas where the wood is bowing. Edwards said the museum is accepting bids and hopes to be able to get the work done during the fall.

Another addition needed is a new "E.B. Black House" sign



Paint is peeling away from under the eaves on the east side of the historic E.B. Black House.

tractor. When a contractor is hired, it normally costs more than the museum budget has available, so the money must be appropriated by the county commissioners.

The

commissioners will consider the request for funding to repair the Black House at the Sept. 20 meeting. The money would have to be provided through the Fiscal 2000 budget.

The Black House, located on West Third Street, was built in 1909 by Hereford pioneers Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Black. The house is Victorian style, with two stories and a basement.

The house was renovated in 1977 when Prudica Prichard

Black, wife of Jim Black and daughter-in-law of the original owners, donated it to Deaf Smith County and the county historical society.

In deeding the house to the county, Prichard's only restriction was that the house be used for community purposes. The house is now used for bridal showers, weddings and receptions, and other social functions throughout the year.

Edwards, who as museum director is responsible for administering the house, said people are shocked when they find out how inexpensive it is to rent it for social functions.

The fees are \$35 for small occasions and \$50 for larger occasions.

However, they are having to raise the prices to compensate for the rising gas and electric prices. After the last of the Blacks to live there, James and Prudica, moved out, it sat empty for several years. As with anything untouched for long, it needed some minor freshening up. Money from the historical society's

See HOUSE, Page A11

Hispanics in Calif. like Gore

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Vice President Al Gore has a 2-1 lead over Texas Gov. George W. Bush among Hispanics in California, but the two candidates split Hispanic support in Texas, a new poll suggests.

The poll found Gore with a 49-24 lead over Bush among Hispanics in California.

The poll was conducted by the William C. Velasquez Institute of San Antonio, Texas, formed in 1985 to promote voting by Hispanics.

In Texas, Bush had 41 percent while Gore had 39 percent. The phone survey of 514 registered Hispanic voters in Texas and 504 in California was taken from July 23 to Aug. 8 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

"While it is still very early in the campaign season, the relative closeness of Gore and Bush within the Latino community indicates there will be greater competition for the Latino vote in 2000 than in 1996," said Antonio Gonzalez, president of the institute.

County slates hearing

Deaf Smith County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing at 9 a.m. Monday on the Fiscal 2000 tax rate.

Incomes up, but spending jumps higher

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' personal income rose in July but their spending climbed much faster, leaving the nation's savings rate near a record low.

Personal income rose a slower-than-expected 0.2 percent last month, the Commerce Department said today. The gain, the smallest this year, followed a strong 0.7 percent increase in June.

Spending went up 0.4 percent in July, slightly less than many analysts had expected. In June, spending rose 0.3 percent.



BRAND/Dianna F. Dandridge

Health fair — Kings Manor offers something for the very young at the in-house child care facility along with the care for the senior adults. Charli Harrison, a child care worker in the infant room visits with Keeli Vessel, 7, who is one of the older children at the day care center.

HISD among rural districts in project

New state program designed to improve math, science teaching

Special to The Brand

Hereford Independent School District has been selected to participate in a statewide project designed to improve math and science education in eligible Texas counties.

The Texas Rural Systemic Initiative (TRSI), which is led by West Texas A&M University of Canyon and which is designed to help improve the way students are taught, learn and assessed in the classroom, will be explained to parents and members of the community at 7 p.m. Monday in the HISD Administration Building, 601 N. 25 Mile Ave.

Classroom teachers will get a preview of the program at 3:30 p.m. Monday.

At the forum, TRSI staff members will present a summary and conduct a question-and-answer session about the program.

"We are really excited

about this opportunity," HISD deputy superintendent Nena Veazey said. "This program is designed to give our teachers extra training and support in math and science and to improve student test scores. Overall, our students will benefit from the improved curriculum and instruction in math and science that will broaden opportunities for Hereford students."

Some of the benefits of the program include inquiry-based learning for students, building administrators supporting teachers in implementing high quality math and science, technology for teachers and students, and increased parental support.

"We are excited about visiting Hereford and meeting with the staff and local community," TRSI project director Judy Kelley said. "Our program will benefit the district's students. We look forward to collaborating to improve math-

ematics and science for all students."

Veazey urged parents of HISD students, as well as interested community members, to attend the Aug. 30 session.

"One of the ways to you as parents and community members can help facilitate this program is to attend this forum," she said.

State Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, who serves as chairman of the Texas Senate Education Committee, said the state has lacks high school and college graduates with skills in math and science.

"Job opportunities in the technology industries are increasing significantly and this program will help prepare rural students to compete in the global market," Bivins said.

The initiative is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and is led by WTAMU through the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, a state research agency and member of the Texas A&M University System. TRSI involves a partnership among 11 universities, the Texas Education Agency, and Region II Education Service Center.

"I would like for my children to view a police officer as someone who could help preserve their safety, be a role model — someone they could look up to. I don't think my children could look up to a metal detector."

Mary Beth Corvati,
Harford County, Md.

Poll: Americans support posting police in schools

WASHINGTON (AP) — Posting police officers in hallways would help curb school violence, two out of three adults say in an Associated Press poll. But most Americans see dangerous acts as events that happen elsewhere, with more than 80 percent saying they think schools in their own communities are safe.

Even for people who are comfortable with the safety of their own schools, police officers in schools can provide peace of mind.

"I like the idea of a human being, someone the kids could go to" if there was trouble, said Mary Beth Corvati, a mother of two children in Harford County, Md., and one of 1,016 surveyed in the poll conducted by ICR of Media, Pa.

While 65 percent said they thought stationing officers in schools would reduce violence, compared with 33 percent who said it would not, Americans were less certain that metal detectors would help. Fifty percent said they would help, 47 percent said they would not.

"I would like for my children to view a police officer as someone who could help preserve their safety, be a role model — someone they could look up to," said Mrs. Corvati. "I don't think my children could look up to a metal detector."

People have had the summer to assess how they feel about school safety after two students at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., killed a dozen classmates, a teacher and themselves last April. A sheriff's deputy was on duty at the school when the shootings occurred.

Despite the Columbine shootings and other high-profile cases of violence in schools, only 14 percent of Americans say their schools are not safe.

Blacks were more likely than whites — 30 percent to 10 percent — to say schools in their community were either "not too safe" or "not safe at all."

But more than four out of five of all respondents felt their schools were relatively safe.

"After Columbine, we had a little flurry of activity, but for the most part our schools are pretty safe," said Carrie Clark, a mother of two young children from Dover, N.H. "We had one incident in an elementary school — a boy was caught with a gun in his knapsack. He was expelled."

Her efforts to shelter her children include keeping toy guns away from them, but that has met with mixed results.

"I don't let them play with toy guns, but they build Legos into guns," she said. "My daughter's play hairdryer is a gun. When I'm in another room, I hear them (say) 'bang, bang, I'm going to kill you' or (shooting) their stuffed animals."

Reducing violence in TV shows and movies was cited by one-third of those surveyed as the most effective way to stop school violence, with women, Republicans and older Americans most likely to choose that option. Another 22 percent said increased counseling for teenagers would be most effective. Stricter gun laws and putting metal detectors in schools were chosen most effective by 16 percent each.

In May, in another AP poll, 23 percent chose metal detectors as the most effective curb of school violence.

AUG 27 1999

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Friday, August 27, 1999 • A3

Creative family fun

By Donna Erickson
Labor Day weekend traditionally signals the onset of a new school year, but it's also a good time to remind our children that we work, and that work is very important.

Do you ever wonder how our kids perceive our workday? Some of us get up in the morning, grab a quick breakfast, read the comics and vanish, not to be seen again until eight hours later. We are working, but do the kids really know what we do?

Here are ways you can share the idea of work with your children.

—Make a simple booklet for your preschoolers filled with pictures and brochures illustrating what you do during your workday. If you're an at-home parent, the book will show that caring for home and family

is also important work. —Plan an outing to your workplace with your kids. If you work in an office, kids will be excited to see their photographs or their original paintings displayed on your desk or wall.

—Familiarize your children with the work skills of your ancestors. Compile a list of relatives and interview them or gather information from your family tree. Was great-grandfather a farmer? You may enjoy visiting a living-farm museum to see what that job used to be like.

—Talk with your children about their interests and skills and how they might apply to a future vocation.

Adapted from Donna Erickson's book "More Prime Time Activities with Kids" (Augsburg Publishing, 1991).



Camp meeting set at Amarillo 1st Assembly

Amarillo First Assembly of God, 6101 S. Bell, will hold Camp Meeting '99 beginning Sunday and continuing until Sept. 5.

The schedule of services includes 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. services with LaVerne Tripp on Sunday and again at 7 p.m. Monday.

Services continue daily at 7 p.m. with Alvin Slaughter on Tuesday, Jerry Savelle on Wednesday, Rich Wilkerson on Thursday and Friday, and

Monty Price on Saturday.

Pastor Stan Fortenberry will hold the final service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 5.

All are invited to come share in the dynamic music and anointed Bible teaching.



1999
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School Menus

HEREFORD I.S.D.

Breakfast

MONDAY-French toast sticks with syrup; or cereal, buttered toast, mixed fruit, milk choice.

TUESDAY-Breakfast pizza; or cereal, buttered toast, orange pineapple juice, milk choice.

WEDNESDAY-Scrambled eggs with Canadian bacon, flour tortilla; or cereal, buttered toast, rosey applesauce, milk choice.

THURSDAY-Sausage patty,

biscuit and jelly; or cereal, buttered toast, orange smiles, milk choice.

FRIDAY-Cheese toast; or cereal, buttered toast, banana, milk choice.

Lunch

MONDAY-Burritos with mustard, creamy coleslaw, mini corn on cob, "candied" apple half, milk choice.

TUESDAY-chicken nuggets with gravy, fluffy potatoes, black-eyed peas, whole wheat roll, cherry crisp, milk choice.

WEDNESDAY-Sloppy joe on bun, border beans, tater tots with catsup, strawberry banana bar, milk choice.

THURSDAY-Soft tacos with picante sauce, lettuce and tomatoes, Spanish rice, refried beans, pear delite, cowboy bread, milk choice.

FRIDAY-Hamburger, burger fixings, curly fries with catsup, cantaloupe, peanut butter bar, milk choice.

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

MONDAY-Ham and cheese

melt, tater tots, black-eyed peas, apple cobbler, milk.

TUESDAY-Baked chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, hot rolls, apricots, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Turkey sandwich, French fries, pork and beans, pineapple cake, milk.

THURSDAY-Macaroni casserole, corn on the cob, sweet peas, hot rolls, applesauce, milk.

FRIDAY-Chicken fajitas, pinto beans, tossed salad, cherry cobbler, milk.

Creators Syndicate

Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers:

Several years ago, you printed a list called "Golden Rules for Living." I thought it was wonderfully wise, and clipped the column. Well, now I need it and can't find it. We have a "blended family" with four children, and there seems to be a mistaken notion in our household that these basic laws of courtesy don't apply to everyone. We need some guidelines. Will you please reprint the piece? — Frustrated in Kansas

Dear Frustrated: With pleasure. It's as good today as when I first printed it. Here it is: Golden Rules for Living by Miriam Hamilton Keare

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it up.
4. If you break it, admit it.
5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you value it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.

12. If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.

Dear Ann Landers: I had to respond to the father whose son refused an athletic scholarship to play on a team called "The Fighting Irish." The son felt the name was phony because he wasn't Irish. What kind of reasoning is that?

Would he accept a scholarship for a team called the "Wolverines" or "Tigers"? If he plays for the "Wildcats," does he have to grow fur? I wonder how many athletes have turned down scholarships to play at Ohio State because the team name is "Buckeyes," and they aren't that type of nut.

Teams often select names that express strength, tenacity, determination, honor and courage. I think the son has other reasons for not wanting to attend that college, and they have nothing to do with the team name. — A Cynic in Columbus, Ohio

Dear Cynic: I agree with you. I suspect the fact that his parents are eager for him to go to this school may have something to do with his reluctance to attend.

Dear Ann Landers: I am engaged to a musician who travels a great deal. He knows women in every state and several foreign countries. Some of these women are former girlfriends, and others are just acquaintances.

Here's my problem: Whenever "Rick" has a concert in another city, he calls these

women and invites them for lunch, dinner, cocktails, or to see the show. He says his friends are important to him but he loves only me. If this is true, why must he keep in touch with all those former girlfriends?

Am I being unreasonably jealous? I don't want to marry Rick if I am not sure that he will be faithful. I don't trust these situations and am uncomfortable when he is out of town. Any advice? — Nervous in Atlanta

Dear Nervous: Rick has told you that he's going to continue to invite his former girlfriends to lunch, dinner, and so on. At least he's honest. If you don't trust him, end the relationship, because you'll never be comfortable

when he's out of town, and he's going to be out of town a lot. A marriage without trust is doomed.

Drugs are everywhere. They're easy to get, easy to use and even easier to get hooked on. If you have questions about drugs, you need Ann Landers' booklet, "The Lowdown on Dope." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562.

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1999

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YMCA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

YMCA Girls Volleyball League for girls K-5 thru 6th grade. K-5 thru 3rd grade will play modified volleyball. (This is basically like volleyball but played on a modified court. 4th thru 6th grade will play regular volleyball. All are eligible to play regardless of athletic ability. Teams are coached by volunteers. Every game is supervised and referees are provided. The league specializes in wholesome competition while

teaching the fundamentals of volleyball, team play and sportsmanship. Every girl plays in every game. We will have two divisions: K-5 thru 3rd grade and 4th thru 6th grade. The teams will be drawn at the YMCA office. PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST PLAYERS TO BE ON CERTAIN TEAMS.

COACHES MEETING: Saturday, Sept. 11th (to pick teams, discuss rules and practice times)

DATES: Registration is NOW THRU SEPT. 9TH. **GAMES:** will be played on Saturday mornings. First games start Saturday, Sept. 18th. **PRACTICE:** Starts Sept. 13th.

LEAGUE FEE: \$20.00 - additional family members will be \$15.00. Participants must be YMCA members - which also includes use of the facility throughout the year.

COACHES: Volunteers are needed to help coach and referee. If you are interested please come by and fill out a form. THANKS!

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Girls supply their own shoes and knee pads.

Parents are welcome to attend all games - Help us to teach your daughter the value of good sportsmanship!

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR FOR FORMS PLEASE COME BY THE YMCA OR CALL 364-6990.

Announce your wedding in the
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Call Becky Thorn at 364-2030 to place your wedding or engagement announcement at no cost!

SINCE 1901
Hereford BRAND

SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Friday, August 27, 1999 • A5

Sparks slow down Comets

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Sparks put the Houston Comets' championship reign in danger Thursday night.

Lisa Leslie scored 15 of her 23 points in the first half in a 75-60 victory in the opening game of the Western Conference finals.

Houston holds the championships from both previous seasons of the Women's National Basketball Association. The loss was only the team's second in eight playoff games.

"We looked at this game as the most important game of the year," Sparks coach Orlando Woolridge said. "If we would have lost this game, it would have been very difficult going into Houston."

Game Two of the best-of-three series will be played Sunday at Houston's Compaq Center, where the Comets were 15-1 in the regular season, including victories in their final 12 games, a WNBA record. A third game, if necessary, would be played Monday in Houston. The winner will face the victor of the Eastern Conference finals between New York and Charlotte, which start Friday night in Charlotte.

The Sparks opened the game by missing their first seven shots and allowing the first eight points. But then, Los Angeles began chipping away at the deficit. The Sparks took their first lead, 24-23, at 7:18 before halftime. They went ahead for good at 29-27 on Leslie's three-point basket with 4:24 left in the half.

"It was a great team effort," Leslie said. "We came out and played — for the first, I believe, this whole season — two 20-minute halves."

Houston guard Cynthia Cooper, the WNBA's scoring champion in all three of its seasons, was held to 12 points. She missed eight of her first nine shots, 12 of 16 overall and six of seven three-point shots.

"She didn't shoot the ball that well," Comets coach Van Chancellor said. "I thought she got some great looks."

DeLisha Milton added 16 points and LaKeshia Frett had 11 for Los Angeles before a Forum crowd of 10,099. Sheryl Swoopes had 17 points and Tina Thompson contributed 13 for the Comets.

The Sparks led 33-29 at halftime. After an exchange of baskets to start the second half, Los Angeles scored nine consecutive points to lead 44-31.

Cooper ended the streak with a driving layup but the

See SPARKS, Page A6

Western Domination

Big plays give Hereford upper edge on Lubbock High

By Yuri Soto

Hereford Brand Sports Editor

It was just a scrimmage, plain and simple.

But the Hereford Whitefaces came into Thursday's scrimmage against Lubbock High ready to take some names.

How ready were they?

On the opening offensive series for the Herd, tailback L.J. Vallejo took an option pass from quarterback Eddie Lacey and raced 70 yards to the end zone, launching what would be a very impressive offensive show by the Whitefaces against the Lubbock High Westerners.

"The offensive line had them and there was no one out there in the defense to get me," Vallejo said. "I just ran. The line had their blocks."

The Herd looked very much in mid-season form.

"In a game situation, this would have been a tremendous situation for us," Herd coach Craig Yenzler said. "I am just tickled to death. We did much better running with our two-back set. We had a lot better protection. The offensive line won the game for us."

The offensive line did pave the way for the offense. Vallejo would score once more on a 28-yard run. He could have had a third one but as he neared the end zone, he was stripped of the ball by a Lubbock High defender. But receiver Tony Lopez recovered the ball and got the third score for the Whitefaces.

"We pretty much shut them down most of the time," Vallejo said. "I think we cut down the big plays on them."

Which meant more big play opportunities for the



Brand/Rick Castaneda

The Whiteface defense converges toward a Lubbock High running back, stopping the play dead in the scrimmage Thursday.

Whitefaces.

The Whitefaces would have more big plays on offense. A 70-yard touchdown run by Juan Santiago and a 23-yard run in the quartered part of the scrimmage by Bobby Law showed the big play is part of the Hereford repertoire.

The big play through the air also worked for the Whitefaces.

A 48-yard touchdown pass to George Castillo and

a 70-yarder to Slade Hodges featured how dangerous the passing game can be, even without the services of Cody Hodges.

"The quarterbacks did a nice job of reading the hot reads," Yenzler said. "We just had a great effort by everybody involved."

The defense was also tough to stop. Safety Chayse Rives intercepted two passes, one that would have been returned for a touch-

down. But interception returns for touchdowns in controlled scrimmages do not count.

"Coach (Yenzler) told us to come out with intensity and he said that was going to be our main focus," Rives said. "That's what we need to be a state championship-caliber team."

"They got an excellent football team," Lubbock High coach Joe Loudermilk said. "Coach Yenzler has done a

great job with them. The kids are exciting to watch and that's what football is all about."

The Hereford defense showed some progress, but had some trouble stopping the Westerners' offensive schemes.

"We really didn't prepare this week for them because they told us they were going to be in a two-back set."

See HERD, Page A6

Spurs sign former Dallas Maverick Walker

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Free agent Samaki Walker is moving to the San Antonio Spurs from Dallas after accepting a two-year, \$5.6 million contract, according to a published report.

The San Antonio Express-News said the power forward will fill a void in the Spurs left by another free agent, Will Perdue.

"I'm very excited about

joining the Spurs," Walker told the Express-News in a telephone interview. "I don't think my role has been defined yet. The coaches will watch me play and see my abilities."

The Mavericks had been trying to sign Walker, whose three NBA seasons have been spent in Dallas.

But Walker, who was the team's No. 1 pick in the 1996 draft (ninth overall), was in-

jured most of last season.

"They are all class players in San Antonio, a reflection of what good players can be," Walker told the newspaper. "I expect to learn a lot. I'm a hungry player, I'm looking forward to my first playoffs."

Walker, 23, averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds through one month of the 1997-98 season. Dallas head coach and general manager

Don Nelson said the forward was the second-best player on his team, behind Michael Finley.

"Without Will Perdue, Samaki will have a great chance to work a lot of time in the rotation," said Norm Nixon, Walker's agent.

Perdue on Wednesday resigned with the Chicago Bulls, the team that traded him to San Antonio four years ago.

His new two-year deal was worth about \$3.5 million, according to the Express-News.

Walker had decided to leave the Mavericks after turning down a multimillion-dollar Mavericks offer, the newspaper said, when he and the Nelson failed to get along last season. Walker suffered a stress fracture and missed the last 40 games of the season.

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The Little Champs



Above are the winners of the Major League category at Kids Inc. in June, who compiled a record of 8-1. The team, sponsored by Hagar and Associates, consists of (Front row, from left) Braden West, A.J. Munguia, Garrett Pickens, Joshua Schroeter, Cody Matsler and Hayden West. (Middle row, from left) Harley Davis, Aaron Ramirez, Miguel Mendoza, R.J. Flores, Justin Armendariz and Randall Berryman. (Top row, from left) Coaches Anselmo Munguia, Doug Schroeter and Thomas Cargill.

Johnson breaks 400 record

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — Michael Johnson smashed the longest-standing men's track record tonight, winning his fourth straight 400-meter gold medal at the World Championships with a clocking of 43.18 seconds.

Johnson destroyed the field at Seville's Estadio Olimpico to shave 0.11 seconds off the 11-year-old mark of fellow American Butch Reynolds, who ran 43.29 in Zurich on Aug. 17, 1988.

Johnson blazed down the final stretch, legs churning in his upright style, accelerating more than 10 meters ahead of the field. As soon as he crossed the line and saw his time, he threw up his arms in triumph.

Johnson posed for photos next to the scoreboard flashing his time. Then he sprawled on his back on the track before grabbing an

American flag and taking a victory lap, slapping hands with fans.

Johnson was handed a hand-painted sign saying, "Record — 43.18, Johnson," and he held it up to the crowd as he jogged around the track.

Johnson, who set the 200-meter record of 19.32 seconds at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, had been chasing Reynolds' 400 title throughout the 1990s.

He had come close three times, with clockings of 43.39, 43.44 and 43.49.

Johnson has dominated the 400 for a full decade and had an undefeated streak from 1989 to 1997. But over the past few years, he has been troubled by injuries in the hip and pelvis areas.

But the 31-year-old Texan had declared that he planned to go for the record in Seville,

and he proved true to his word.

A hush fell over the crowd as Johnson, wearing black and gold shoes, settled into the starting blocks on a clear, warm evening that offered perfect conditions for his record attempt.

The near capacity crowd in the 60,000-seat stadium roared throughout the one-lap race, with the noise getting louder as Johnson surged further in front and was clearly poised to smash the record.

It was the first world record broken at these championships, coming on the sixth day of the nine-day event.

Earlier, Cathy Freeman of Australia surged ahead in the final 50 meters to retain her title in the women's 400. She clocked 49.67 seconds, the second fastest time of the year.

Earlier, Marion Jones with-

drew from the World Championships, a day after pulling up with a back injury in the semifinals of the 200 meters.

Asked whether Jones would be out the rest of the season, Wells said, "We still need a couple of days to make that decision."

Jones, the sport's top female star, came to the championships seeking a record four gold medals.

She won the 100 meters Sunday in a season's best 10.70 seconds but settled for bronze Monday in the long jump. In addition to the 200, she had planned to run in one of the relays.

But Jones' championships ended in agony Wednesday night when she crumbled onto the track during her 200 semifinal and was carried off on a gurney.

SPARKS

From Page A5

Sparks went on a 6-0 run for a 50-33 advantage with 14:48 left.

Thompson and Janeth Arcain hit consecutive 3-point-

ers to pull Houston to 11 points with 11:41 remaining. A 9-2 run helped cut the lead to 61-54 with 5:05 to play, but Los Angeles scored the next six points and led by at least 12 the rest of the game.

It was the third game and second loss for the Comets since Aug. 19, when Kim Perrot, the starting point guard on their two championship teams, died of cancer at age 32.

The series matches teams with the WNBA's best regular-season records. Houston (26-6) and the Sparks (20-12) split four regular-season games, each winning twice at home.

HERD

From Page A5

Yenzer said, "We prepared for it and they didn't run a lot of two-back sets."

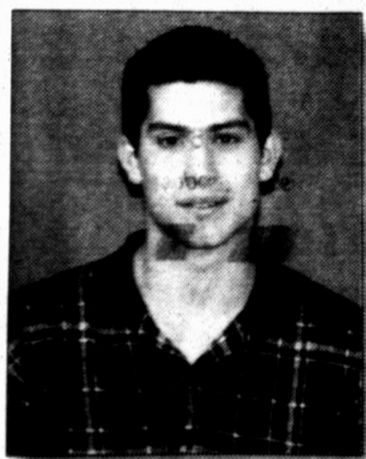
But the struggles on defense all had to do with the shuffling of players. Yenzer pointed out the coaches wanted to give their second- and third-team players time to play.

"They played about three-fourths of the quarter and

that's good for them and for us," Yenzer said.

But with the performance they had Thursday night, the squad is ready to take on the real game experience. It all starts a week from today, when the Whitefaces host the Amarillo Tascosa Rebels.

"Next week we play for keeps," Vallejo said. "Scrimmaging got old for us and we're ready for the season to start."



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DATES: FINAL DAY TO REGISTER IS NOW THRU SEPT. 9TH. All divisions will play on Saturdays. Teams play & practice once a week after the season starts. Practice starts the week of Sept. 13th & games will begin on Sept. 18th. (Coaches will be notified of game location)

LEAGUE FEE: League fee will be \$20.00. All participants must be YMCA members. Y-memberships are \$29,000 a year & include the use of the facility throughout the year. If membership expires during the season it must be renewed at the time of registration. Entry fee for a 2nd child in the same family will be \$15.00. ENTRY & MEMBERSHIP FEES MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY FORM!

COACHES: There will be a coaches meeting on Saturday, Sept. 11th. Rules and practice sessions will be discussed and team assignments made. Time of meeting will be announced. Plan to attend if you wish to coach.

For more information please come by the YMCA office and pick up a registration form. Scholarships are available for those who need and qualify for assistance. Contact Weldon or Norma Jean at 364-6990. **YMCA FLAG FOOTBALL IS FUN! DON'T WAIT TO SIGN-UP NOW!!**

Sprewell to pay for arguing lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge ordered Latrell Sprewell's lawyers to pay \$153,000 for arguing a lawsuit that challenged the basketball star's 68-game suspension for choking his coach. U.S. District Judge Vaughn

Walker first dismissed the suit in July 1998, gave Sprewell another chance to remedy its defects, then dismissed it again last March. He said the suit was virtually identical to the previous, meritless case.

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CAMPAIGN 2000

Bush woos voters

■ GOP front-runner says he'd consider Dole as running mate

RALEIGH (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush wooed North Carolina voters at a public housing project and a \$1,000-a-plate dinner, adding \$350,000 to his Republican presidential campaign chest.

During his first campaign swing to North Carolina, Bush said Thursday he would consider Elizabeth Dole as a vice presidential running mate, oppose further increases in cigarette taxes and support the federal tobacco program.

He also touched on the recent controversy over whether he had used drugs as a young man, but didn't say whether he had.

"I made the decision to say that when I was younger I made some mistakes," Bush said. "I have learned from the mistakes. I think it's important for someone to stand up and say enough is enough of rumors and gossip and the politics of personal destruction."

Bush also told business executives and state GOP leaders at the fund-raising dinner at Research Triangle Park that he supports lower taxes, free trade and more restrictions on lawsuits that can be filed against companies.

"Preach it, brother," one member of the crowd yelled.

But Bush tempered his pro-business remarks with a call for an inclusive society that leaves no one behind, a frequent Democratic slogan.

"There must be a purpose to prosperity," Bush said. "Prosperity cannot be simple materialism alone. While the American dream shines so



GOV. GEORGE W. BUSH
Opposes additional boosts in cigarette taxes

brightly for many of us, some of us say, 'It's not for me.'

"Our next president must work tirelessly to close the gap of opportunity."

That gap was apparent earlier Thursday when Bush stopped at the Children's Learning Center in the Heritage Park public housing complex near downtown Raleigh.

The center gets 95 percent of its funding from private sources, including IBM, which donated a computer lab.

That kind of partnership between public agencies and private supporters can help children more than federal regulations can, Bush said.

"I don't believe that Washington has the answer to the education needs of America," he said.

Many in the housing project were unfamiliar with Bush, and none who was interviewed admitted to being a Republican.

But resident Karen Hinton, a Democrat, said she was ready for a change from President Clinton.

"I don't know what it is about that man," Hinton said Clinton. "But, ooh honey, I voted for him twice and sure wished I hadn't."

Bush's appearance was his first in North Carolina since he began his bid for the GOP nomination, but he already has reported raising more than \$400,000 in the state.

Letting Gore be Gore

Team retools message

By Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON — Al Gore and his retooled presidential campaign team are putting the finishing touches on a fall strategy designed to sharpen his muddled message and reassure jittery Democrats with raw displays of political force.

Advisers say the next two months are critical to the vice president, who stumbled out of the gates, struggled with overcoaching from his staff and now faces a stronger than expected challenge for the 2000 Democratic nomination.

"What we're trying to do now is show that Al has broad-based support and that he's ready for a general (election) campaign," campaign chairman Tony Coelho said.

To put it more simply, Gore and his advisers are trying to show that they've finally got their act together.

In the campaign's opening months, the Gore team underestimated Democratic rival Bill Bradley, bickered with the vice president's White House staff and couldn't get Gore's abortion record straight. The vice president became the butt of jokes, claiming he created the Internet and taking a canoe ride on an artificially raised river in New Hampshire.

Even President Clinton said he had concerns about the campaign.

The Gore team spent the summer polling voters — and rounding them up into focus groups — to devise better language and tactics to get his message across. They also laid out plans for a flurry of endorsements in September and October to highlight Gore's advantage in the battle

for the party's core voters: blacks, Hispanics, labor and elected officials.

Coelho, hired in May to bring discipline to the effort, made several staff changes and drew clear lines of authority — all of which pass through his office. Gore, who had been micromanaging the campaign, gave Coelho the keys to his faltering political machine.

The former California lawmaker likes to tell the story about one of the first trips he took with Gore. Minutes before a speech, Coelho noticed an aide scribbling a long list of VIPs that Gore would acknowledge in his remarks.

Recognizing a recipe for another dull speech, Coelho ripped the paper out of the startled aide's hands and tore it into shreds. He pulled the vice president aside and told him to forget about the notes.

"Just tell the people thank you," Coelho told Gore. "Then tell them a few stories. And tell them what you believe."

He uses the anecdote to illustrate what he thinks has been Gore's biggest problem: Overcoaching. Too many aides giving him too many instructions — putting too much clutter between the vice president and his audience.

"I don't think Al Gore needs crutches to communicate. And I think the crutches have hurt him," Coelho said.

He has ordered staff to put Gore in cozier settings with fewer people. No note cards. Fewer lecterns.

"At times he needs a podium, obviously. At times he needs to be — Whoop! —



Al Gore and his advisers are trying to show that they've finally got their act together.

our job to put him in venues for him to be able to do that."

Bradley's campaign was unimpressed. "Sounds like they're trying to do the Bradley campaign," spokeswoman Anita Dunn said.

The polling also developed specific language — phrases and potential slogans — that will help Gore drive home his central campaign pledge: He will keep the economy strong and help American families cope with the challenges of rapidly changing times.

About 70 Democrats in Congress already have announced their support for Gore, but campaign aides are rounding up more for a big wave of fall endorsements. They want to show that — despite Bradley's challenge — the party apparatus is firmly behind Gore.

A senior Democrat on Capitol Hill said Gore could expect up to 120 House members to endorse him in time for a fall announcement, though there are still pockets of lawmakers anxious about Gore's campaign.

Elected officials amount to about 20 percent of the Democratic delegates who will determine the nomination at next summer's Democratic convention in Los Angeles. Though Bradley has few so-called "super delegates" in his camp, Dunn said, "We have always believed that people would decide the nomination at the polls and understand fully that the bulk of the institutional support would be with the vice president."

GOP hopes rulings to become an issue

The Associated Press

Far-flung court rulings on school vouchers and abortion are stirring anger in the Republican presidential campaign over what one candidate calls "judicial activism run amok."

Both Texas Gov. George Bush and rival Steve Forbes on Thursday attacked a judge's suspension of Cleveland's voucher program, a decision that affects a prime education reform favored by the GOP presidential field and many governors.

Bush called the ruling a "judicial overreach with serious casualties — Cleveland's disadvantaged school children."

Republicans see a potential wedge issue against Democrats in the voucher flap because the program is designed in part to help poor inner city children attend private schools offering superior education.

Democrats argue that vouchers would destroy the public school system and there are better ways to give parents a choice, such as charter schools, experimental institutions that receive public support but can operate independently of local school district rules. Critics of vouchers also say such programs unfairly favor religious schools with tax money.

"This case is not about the state imposing religion," Bush argued. "This is about parents having the right to choose an appropriate school for their children."

Forbes was first to attack the voucher ruling and he went beyond that to decry a county judge's decision in Ari-

zona forcing officials to provide for an abortion for a 14-year-old girl who was 23 weeks pregnant.

"These cases are just the latest offensive examples of judicial activism run amok," Forbes said. He said they underscore the need to appoint judges who will respect the rights of parents and the unborn.

U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver Jr., who made the voucher ruling, was appointed by President Clinton. Judge William Sargeant of Maricopa County Superior Court, who made the abortion decision, is a Republican and not a presidential appointee.

Forbes, whose anti-abortion views have hardened since he ran for the GOP nomination in 1996, has said that as president he would appoint judges opposed to abortion rights. Among rivals for the GOP nomination, Bush has said he would not make abortion views a test for his judicial appointments.

GOP candidate John McCain, recently accused by some conservatives of softening his anti-abortion stance, declined immediate comment on the abortion matter in his own state.

"It sounds like a tragic case," the senator said when asked about it while campaigning in San Diego. But he said he wanted to study the matter further before saying more.

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U.S., others to go down to wire on Y2K

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and at least five other countries do not expect to finish fixing their Year 2000 computer bugs until just weeks before the new year, an international survey reported Thursday.

Two other countries, Slovakia and Bolivia, do not believe they will finish until next year, meaning problems

could occur after midnight strikes on New Year's Eve.

Bruce McConnell, director of the International Y2K Co-operation Center, said the late completion dates are not necessarily reason to expect catastrophe. Rather, he said, the survey points to areas in which to intensify contingency planning.

Y2K readiness is of great-

est concern in developed countries such as the United States because they are the most dependent on information technology, Y2K planners say.

Many computers were originally programmed to recognize only the last two digits of the year, so some might not be able to differentiate between 2000 and 1900. Un-

less they are reprogrammed in time, computers could malfunction.

The United States listed a December completion date for computers in the health care industry. Health care has been particularly troublesome because doctors, hospitals and payment systems are so decentralized.

"The health sector is the

one that everyone is further behind in, so it's not surprising that the U.S. is also getting finished in health later," McConnell said.

U.S. health care industry leaders have insisted that they will be ready for Jan. 1, although a recent congressional study said that assurances from industry groups have been based on surveys

that may be unreliable because of low response rates.

Other countries not expected to finish until December are: Pakistan and Macedonia, for air transportation; Bulgaria, for health; Bolivia, for government services; Colombia, for customs, and Angola, for sea and land transportation, customs and health.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
People

Clapton, Crow set free show

NEW YORK — Eric Clapton and Sheryl Crow will perform a free concert in Central Park next month that will be broadcast live on TV, radio and the Internet.

The Sept. 14 concert will take place in the park's East Meadow, where the Dalai Lama spoke earlier this month. Concert sponsor American Express will distribute some 25,000 tickets in New York in the week preceding the concert, Parks Department spokesman Robert Lawson said.

Those interested in attending would have to play a free lottery-like instant game, with winners receiving two tickets each.

The concert is billed as "Sheryl Crow and friends, including Eric Clapton." Lawson did not know who the additional "friends" would be.

Martin Lawrence
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Actor Martin Lawrence was alert and able to write but remained on a ventilator two days after emerging from a coma brought on by a jog in 104-degree weather.

Lawrence, 34, was in critical but stable condition Thursday at Los Robles Regional Medical Center.

"He was alert. He was following commands," spokeswoman Kris Carraway-Bowman said. "His eyes were focusing, so neurologically that's very encouraging."

Lawrence was able to write, but he could not speak because doctors were keeping him on a ventilator as a precaution, Ms. Carraway-Bowman said.

He slipped into a coma Sunday, when he was hospitalized with a body temperature of 107 degrees. He was jogging in heavy clothes trying to lose weight for an upcoming role, hospital officials said.

Eric Clapton
ERIC CLAPTON

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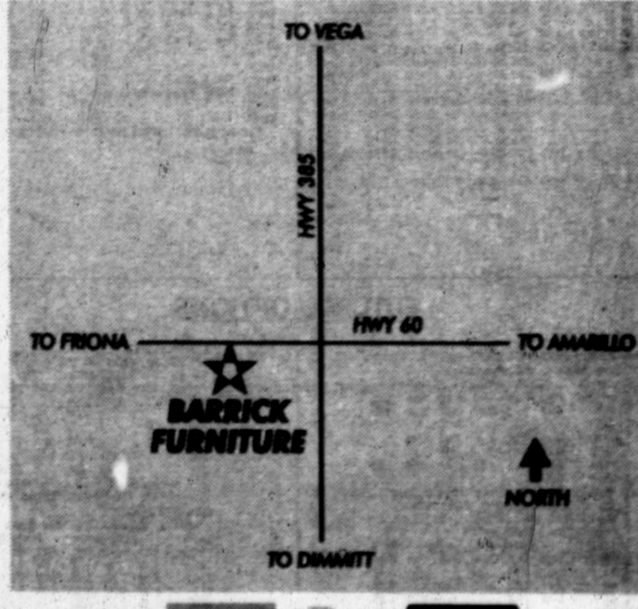
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