



**FASHION**  
**Jeweler to the stars to appear here**

1D



**FINANCES**  
**Shop around for mortgages**

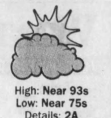
6B



**FUND RAISING**  
**2 years old Museum needs cash to make 3**

1B

**MONDAY**



High: Near 93s  
 Low: Near 75s  
 Details: 7A

# The Times

★ A Gannett newspaper

SHREVEPORT ■ BOSSIER CITY ■ ARK-LA-TEX

AUGUST 18, 1997

## Disclosure mandated for boat vendors

Regulators want to know who recommends whom.

By FRAN DICKEY  
 The Times

State gaming officials want to know more about the connections between riverboat casinos, the businesses that work with them and any politicians who might have brought the two together.

even before riverboat casinos were licensed for business in this state.



Edwards

Gov. Edwin Edwards, himself a high roller, advocated legalized gambling as a way to increase the state's coffers. His children and friends have been among others in Louisiana with political connections who do business with riverboats. It's news about those politi-

cal ties that has reinforced a widespread public perception that some elected officials are taking advantage of their political connections when it comes to doing business with the riverboats.

But a new mandate for riverboat companies to disclose recommendations for vendors is another step in restoring public faith, regulators say. "It's sort of like lobbyist disclosure. ... It's the American way. It just says if you do it, everybody's got to know about it," said John Kennedy, an ex-officio member of the Gaming

Control Board who has long advocated public disclosure of anything having to do with gambling.

"I don't know what reality was, but I know this — there was an appearance (of political favors), and many people believed your competence and qualifications mattered less than your connections," Kennedy said. "Sunlight is a pretty swell antiseptic, and we haven't gotten enough of it."

Even before the first riverboat casinos opened in late 1993, Edwards came under fire when it was revealed his four

children were selling merchandise and entertainment services or providing legal work to riverboat casinos. Now, Edwards' dealings with gambling outlets appear to be at least part of the federal investigation into the former governor.

In the recent federal trial of Billy Broadhurst, Edwards' former law partner hired as a consultant for Grand Palais Casino, a casino lawyer testified he thought Broadhurst's political connections were so strong that he could strip the company of its license if it

didn't treat him fairly.

Also, current Gov. Mike Foster's son works as a lawyer for a company operating a Baton Rouge casino that sought the last riverboat license.

Already deep into a full-scale investigation of riverboats not sailing as required, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board is trying to turn the tides of public acceptance and propriety. They've been taking a hard-line stance in recent months with companies that haven't kept their promises.

And last week, the Board adopted a rule requiring that

**Who they are**

Vendors are individuals or companies who do any kind of business with a casino riverboat, from entertainers to food and office suppliers to consultants.

riverboats name within five days people who recommend an individual or business they may do business with.

The disclosure applies to anyone — even elected officials — who would recommend business. Vendors are

■ See DISCLOSURE 2A

## Regional center makes strides

Facility stands to gain more money under new funding distribution formula.

By LARRY BURTON  
 The Times

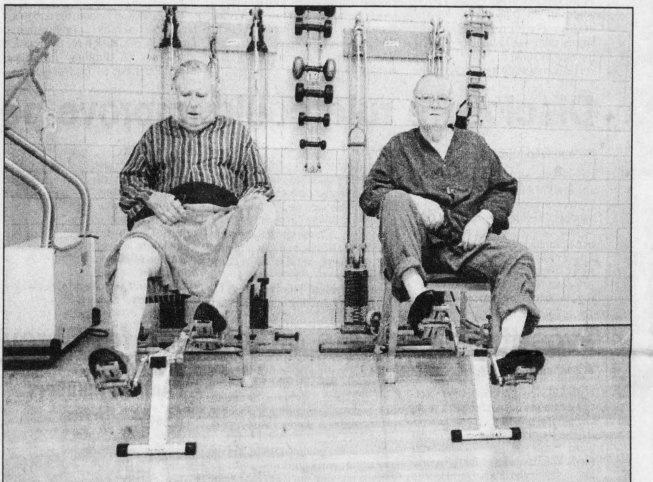
Long lines, crowded clinics, limited accessibility, bureaucratic red tape. Those problems have historically plagued the country's veterans health-care system.

Shreveport's Overton Brooks Veterans Administration Medical Center is helping write a new, different chapter.

Veterans there are finding faster service, more personalized care and other improvements. In addition, satellite clinics launched in Texarkana (in 1994) and Monroe (last year) have eliminated the need for some outpatients to drive up to 150 miles to the Shreveport hospital.

"I feel I've always gotten good medical care here," said Edwin Henderson, 79, at Overton Brooks for treatment of an unexplained fever.

**VETERANS' HEALTH CARE**



James Parker (left) and Edwin Henderson work out at the Overton Brooks Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Now a major boost in funding may be in store for Overton Brooks due to its growing patient load.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has completely rewritten its formula for distributing \$17 billion to its nationwide system of medical facilities.

The new method, based on patient use, would pour \$123 million more into the 10-hos-

pital region that includes Overton Brooks over the next three years.

Directors of regions getting more money — some regions would see decreased funding — are to decide allocations for individual hospitals.

"We haven't been told how much money we will get," said Overton Brooks Director Michael E. Hamilton, the

creative force behind many of the medical center's improvements since 1994.

He'd like to use the windfall to buy additional high-tech medical equipment to serve more Ark-La-Tex veterans and to finish computerizing patient records, among other things.

The medical center here already has made several strides. They include:

■ Reducing excessive waiting times and delays for patients seeking care.

■ Assigning patients to primary care teams. That ensures patients see the same doctor, nurses and other health-care professionals with each visit.

■ Creating more outpatient space, both within the

■ See VA 2A

## Progress reported in UPS strike

Clinton pushes negotiations as he leaves on vacation.

By KEVIN GALVIN  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As President Bill Clinton urged them to "redouble their efforts" to settle the two-week-long UPS strike, the Teamsters union and the company said Sunday there was movement at the bargaining table.



Clinton

"This strike is beginning to hurt not only the company but its employees and the people who depend on it," Clinton said at the White House moments before leaving on his summer vacation. "I think they ought to redouble their efforts and settle this strike and they ought to do it today."

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman continued to play an ac-

■ Effects of strike, 6B

tive role in keeping both sides at the table before a new work week began. Negotiators spent more than 60 hours in mediation between Thursday and Sunday.

"There has been movement," Teamsters President Ron Carey said on NBC's *Meet the Press*. United Parcel Services CEO James Kirby said the same show. "The fact that we're continuing to talk is encouraging."

Clinton, standing on the South Lawn, said he had talked with Herman about the talks, adding, "I'm pleased for the progress that's been made and I hope they'll just stay there and settle it today."

Neither the Teamsters nor UPS suggested an agreement was a sure thing, and the union dampened enthusiasm further with a statement.

"No agreement has been made on any area of the contract, and it is unclear if any progress will be made," the union said.

## New law allows juveniles to be moved to adult prisons

The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — More than 300 convicts aged 17 through 20 may be sent from juvenile detention to adult prisons under a new law designed to relieve overcrowding.

Officials are identifying inmates and working out the procedure to be used for the transfers, said George White, deputy assistant secretary of the youth development office in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

No date has been set, but the moves definitely won't be this week, he said.

Two juvenile court judges said the new law raises a new question: Is it legal to put people in prison if there was no way they could have a jury trial? Judges handle nearly all juvenile cases, Juvenile Court Judge Pamela

Taylor Johnson said she supports the transfers nonetheless. They will ease overcrowding, and moving out older, more-hardened offenders will make juvenile prisoners safer for younger inmates, she said.

Juvenile Judge Kathleen Richey said she is still concerned about safety and the fact that juvenile judges will no longer be able to move the inmates from one program to another.

The new law lets wardens move inmates convicted of felonies as juveniles to adult prisons once they reach the age of 17 — the age for trial as an adult under Louisiana law.

More than 700 of the 1,700 juveniles in Louisiana's four state detention centers may be eligible for transfers, but only about half that number would need to be moved out.

## Logansport police chief to appear in court

Town's head law enforcement officer faces 21 federal charges.

By DON WALKER  
 The Times

LOGANSPORT — Police Chief Gary Clark, facing a 21-count indictment on extortion, drug and civil-rights violations, will appear in court Tuesday before U.S. Magistrate Roy Payne.

Clark could enter a plea during the initial appearance hearing, which is scheduled for

1:30 p.m. at the federal courthouse in Shreveport. Only not guilty pleas are heard by the U.S. magistrate.



Clark

A federal grand jury last month returned nearly two dozen indictments against Clark, who is in his second term as chief of police in Logansport. The indictments stem from a February raid of Town Hall and the Police Department by FBI and ATF agents and Louisiana state police. The raid, authorities said,

was based on citizen complaints over a five-year period against the chief.

Clark was seldom seen working after the raid, drawing complaints from town aldermen like Donny Campbell, who suggested Clark should step down amid the allegations. Earlier this month, Clark voluntarily agreed to go on administrative leave with pay. Under state law, an elected official cannot be forced to take leave or step down from office unless convicted of a crime. Clark continues to draw an annual salary of \$25,000 from the town of Logansport.

The federal indictments

against Clark include two counts of receiving a stolen firearm; one count of pawning a stolen firearm; four counts of extortion; four counts of deprivation of civil rights; and 10 counts of possession of drugs. The alleged offenses occurred between 1992 and 1997.

Most of the indictments stem from routine traffic stops or arrests made by Clark while in uniform. The drug seizures were made the same day the FBI search warrants were issued at the Police Department.

If convicted, Clark faces fines of \$250,000 and 20 years in prison for each extortion

charge; a \$1,000 fine and a year in prison for each deprivation of civil rights charge, and \$100,000 or more in fines and up to 20 years in prison on the drug charges.

Clark's telephone in Logansport has been temporarily disconnected, according to a recorded phone company message. His attorney, Shreveport lawyer Marty Stroud, did not return phone calls to his office.

In Clark's absence, the Logansport Police Department is being run by Assistant Chief Michael Davis. He would not comment on the indictments against Clark.

## Prostitution persists in Shreveport-Bossier

Local law officials record few arrests.

By KACEE HARGRAVE  
 The Times

The "world's oldest profession" is practiced frequently in Shreveport-Bossier City, police say. But it's hard to tell by the number of arrests.

In 1996, 30 arrests were made for prostitution by police and sheriff's deputies, with four of those occurring July 30

**CRIME**

at a Bossier City motel. "Just as drugs are being sold in the community, women are going to sell themselves, as well as men. It is a very profitable business," said Bossier City Police Department spokesman Mike Halphen. "It's the oldest business in the world. It is true, and it's going to continue."

by law enforcement agencies busted a drug and sex ring at a Bossier City motel. Four people were arrested and charged with prostitution or promoting prostitution.

Officers were tipped off to the ring by a classified advertisement offering in-home back rubs.

"Most of the numbers in the paper for massages are Shreveport numbers. Some popped up for Bossier, and that's when we looked at it," Halphen said.

The ads have been run in newspapers for years, Halphen said. While some of them are legitimate businesses, most of them are not.

"It may say massage. It may say therapy. It may say escort. 'Do you need a date?' And 99 percent of them are going to be some type of prostitution ring," he said.

While the arrest rates for prostitution are somewhat low, Shreveport Police Cpl. B.K.

■ See PROSTITUTION 2A



**Dream win — 1B**  
 Jimmy Morrison (right), winner of the St. Jude Dream Home, talks with granddaughter Demi Marie Morrison, 3, who is ready to stay in the new home.

INSIDE			
Classified	SC	Living	1D
Comics	4D	Local/State	1B
Crossword	5D	Lottery	2A
Deaths	4B	Money	6B
Editorials	6A	Scoreboard	2C
Family	2D	Sports	1C
Graham	5D	Television	6D
Landers	5D	Traffic	3B

Price: 50¢



© 1997 The Times

