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SHREVEPORT BOSSIER CITY ARK-LA-TEX

AUGUST 18, 1997

Disclosure mandated for boat vendors

Regulators want to know who

recommends whom.

By FRAN DICKEY

State gaming officials want to know more about the con-nections between riverboat casinos, the businesses that work with them and any politi-cians who might have brought the two together. Ties between politicians and gambling companies existed

licensed for business in this state.

Gov. Edwin E dwards, 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. 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 exofficio member of the Gaming

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 connections, the control of the contr

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 our competence and governor.

yestigator mogovernor.

In the recent federal trial of Billy Broadhurst, Edwards' former law partner hired as a consultant for Grand Palais Casino, a casino lawyer testi-fied 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 riverboal ticense.

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

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

Regional center makes strides

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

By LARRY BURTON

Long lines, crowded clinics, limited accessibility, bureaucratic red dape.
Those problems have historically plagued the country's veterans healthcare system.
Shreveport's Overton Brooks Veterans Administration Medical Center is helping write a new, different chapter.

helping write a new, dutter en-chapter. Veterans there are finding faster service, more person-alized care and other im-provements. In addition, satellate chinics 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 hos-nital.

miles to the Sillipital.

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

Town's head law

enforcement officer faces 21 federal

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 dur-

ing the initial appearance hear-ing, which is scheduled for

charges.

By DON WALKER



The Times/TIM LOBHING

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

Now a major boost in fund-ing may be in store for Over-ton Brooks due to its grow-ing patient load.

The Department of Veter-ans Affairs has completely rewritten its formula for dis-tributing \$17 billion to its na-tibuting \$17 billion to its na-tibuting \$17 billion to its na-tionwide system of medical facilities.

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

Logansport police chief to appear in court

pital region that includes Overton Brooks over the pnext 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

against Clark include two counts of receiving a stolen firearm; one count of pawning a stolen firearm; four counts of

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

charge; a \$1,000 fine and a y

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

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,

and the company said Sunday there was movement at the bargaining table. "This strike is beginning to hur no only the company but its ownlowees and the people 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 Service CEO James Kelly said on 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

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 rifeve over-rowding.

The sent of the s

Taylor Johnson said she sup-ports the transfers nonethe-less. They will ease over-crowding, and moving out old-er, more-hardened offenders will make juvenile prisons safer for younger inmates, she said. Juvenile Judge Kathleen Richey said she is still con-cerned about safety and the fact that juvenile judges will no longer be able to move the in-mates from one program to an-other.

mates from one program to another.

The new law lets wardens move immates 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 transfer, but only about half that number would need to be moved out.

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 allegark voluntarily agreed to go on admistrative leawe 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 \$255.000 from the town of Logansport. The federal indictments 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 white 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 grand jury last month returned nearly two dozen indictments against Clark, who is in his sec-ond term as chief of police in Logansport. The indictments stem from a February raid of Town Hall and the Police De-partment by FBI and ATF agents and Louisiana state po-lice. The raid, authorities said, Prostitution persists in Shreveport-Bossier

Local law officials record few arrests.

By KACEE HARGRAVE

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 sheriffs deputies, with four of those occurring July 30

CRIME

A federal grand jury last month returned

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."

to continue."

Prostitution made local headlines a few weeks ago, when a monthlong joint effort

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 Shreeveport numbers. Some popped up for Bossier, and that's when we looked at it," Halphen said.

The ads have been run in ewspapers for years, Halphen aid. While some of them are egitimate businesses, most of em are not. "It may say massage. It may

"It may say massage. It may say therapy. It may say escort, or '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.



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WEATHER FOUR-DAY FORECAST Shreveport/Bossier City area

Today High 93 Wednesday High 93 Thursday 95 Low 75 95 Low 75 73

Regional

Low 71

New Orleans Hot and steamy. High 93, low 76. Breezy, hot. High 98: low 76. Hot and muggy. High 93, low 74.



Temper ... 0.00 Sunday: ... 2.99 Normal: 47.26 Last Yea

. 94/77 High Temperature 106 in 1951 . 93/71 Low Temperature 53 in 1992 . 91/69 Records from 1872 to date SUNSET SUNRISE

RIVER A 31 24 25 27 30 33 32 Melville Butte LaRose Morgan City GLOVER Glover Coushatta
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Index
Fultron
Shreveport
Grand Ecore
Alexandria
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SABINE RIVER
Logarsport
Longyfew
MISSISPPI
Memphis
Hellena
Ark. City
Vicksburg
Natchez
B.R.
N.O. ARKANSAS Little Book 5.2 13.5 3.4 14.4 0.2 24.6 34 44 37 43 48 35 17



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VA system appears to have problems

■ Lawmaker drafts measure to fund facilities based on population.

By LARRY WHEELER

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Reacting to instructions from Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs completely rewrote its formula for distributing \$17 billion to its nationwide system of hospitals, nursing homes and outpatient clinics this year.

By focusing on historic usage patterns at existing medical facilities, VA officials determined veterans in states such as Texas, Florida, Arizona, and Washington were getting short-changed.

washington were getting short-changed.

The result: More money is now flowing to the Sun Belt and Northwest at the expense of states in the Northeast and Midwest. But there seems to be a problem

in the ivortneast and minwest. But there seems to be a problem with the fix. The VA administrative region that includes all of Pennsylvania, Delaware and part of West Virginia has the third-largest population of eighle veterans in the country, yet its health-care budget will be cut by \$15 million during the next three years, VA documents show. Conversely, the VA network serving Arizona, New Mexico and part of Texas has one of the smallest populations of veterans eligible for free health care, yet it will receive the largest gain – \$75 million — under the new formula. The incongruity has attracted the

Officials look toward more funding

■ Continued from 1A medical center and with the satelite clinics.
■ Establishing an automated system for patients to call in prescription refill requests.
■ Moving patient parking closer to the hospital.
A much-needed second story will be built onto the medical center's outpatient area starting in mid-1998. Overton Brooks had 42270 outpatent visits in 1996—up about 20 percent from just

veterans,
Hamilton said,
Meanwhite,
Veterans Affairs Hamilton
has already begun to implement the new funding
distribution formula for VA medical facilities. But the formula usis
still weather concerns — and outright opposition — from some cor-

ners to survive.
The region that covers
Louisana and all or part of seven
other states would fare well under
either formula.
The American Legion has
formed a task force to study the
new VA formula.
Some predict the subject will receive a full airing after Labor Day
when Hershe Gober, the VA secretary nominee, appears before
Sen. Arlen Specter's Veterans
Affairs Committee for his confirmation hearing.

attention of Sen. Arlen Specter, Re. Pa., who chairs the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee. Specter has floated adrath bill that would force the VA to adopt a new allocation system based on total veteran population by region. Specter's state and several others—losers under the current VA formula — would move into the win column. "Senator Specter has a real argument with the usage base on this thing," said Charles Battaglia, Veterans Committee staff director. Veterans Affairs officials are strongly opposed to Specter's suggestion. "We believe the resource allocation methodology that we have implemented is at this time the best and most appropriate way to allocate resources throughout the nation to ensure that veterans with similar eligibility priority who rely on VA for health care have equitable access to VA care," said Thomas Garthwaite, VA Deputy Undersecretary for Health.

In the House, Rep. Gerald Solomon and Rep. Sue Kelly, both New York Republicans, inserted language into an appropriations bill calling for the V4 to freeze its new allocation system until after a General Accounting Office analysis was completed.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato. R.N.Y..

pleted.
Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y.,
added a provision to a matching
Senate bill that does not call for a formula freeze but insists on a GAO re-

mula freeze but insists on a Gava report.

The result, said William Teator, a spokesman for Solomon, is that sometime this fall the GAO will report back about whether the VA's allocation system is equitable.

"Hopefully we can find the correct balance between regions," Teator said.

Veterans groups also are watching.

ing.
The American Legion, the nation's Ine American Legan, and a largest veterans organization, formed its own task force to investigate the VA funding formula. Members have so far traveled to

four of the VA's 22 regional net-works searching for answers.
Ironically, some of the big gainers are in worse shape than the losers, said Phil Budahn, a spokesman for the America Legion who also serves on the resource allocation task force.
"The Phoenix region really sticks out," Budahn said. "That region is coming out better than anybody else, but look at all the money (that region) has not been getting for decades. When its looked at as an in-crease to target long-standing un-derfunding, it's not peanuts."
The same is true in Florida, he said.
"On paper, Florida's a sgainer, but

The same is true in rioritad, ne said.

"On paper, Florida is a gainer, but for many years Florida has been underfunded," Budahn said.

Battaglia predicted the subject will likely receive a full airing after Labor Day when Hershel Gober, the VA secretary nominee, appears before Specter's committee for his confirmation hearing.

The GAO report is due in September.

Disclosure rule could improve perceptions

Continued from 1A

individuals or companies who do any kind of business with the boat, from entertainers to food and office suppliers to consultants. Juris Basens, vice president and general manager of Casino Magic's Bossier City site, said the new the work adversely affect the boat. "I don't see any affecting us at all." Basens said. We have no problem

with that I know locally. I've always got people recommending. We're always being asked to make sure we hire locally, to hire parish people and to make sure we consider local reades and things like that. Kennedy, who proposed the new rule, said it's not a reflection of any one company, vendor or recommendation.

mendation.
Sen. President Randy Ewing, D-Quitman, a gambling opponent, said

it's a good rule.

"I think that probably because of some indications and some true situations that people in positions in the Legislature are in positions of po

Kennedy said the rule — which doesn't mean to imply that "it's wrong or immoral or illegal to recommend somebody" — is a significant step forward in busting negative perceptions held by the public on how riverboats operate.

"I think the gambling industry will be better off for this kind of disclo-sure, and the board, and most of all, the people will be better off."

Prostitution arrests on low side for Shreveport-Bossier

Continued from 1A

Hall said vice officers devote a por-

Hall said vice officers devote a portion of their time each month to investigating prostitution.

The toughest thing is the actual word game you have to play with them. You have to wait for the prostitute to solicity you. It's no hard for the prostitute to figure it out. 'Hall said.' We've had them come mot a room before and actually recognize an agent. Sometimes they Il walk out.' Like the recent Bossier Parish arrests, many prostitution cases are related to drug activity, said Gregg Trusty Sr., the Caddo Parish sheriff's office's public information adviser.

viser. "Prostitution per se is not a prob-lem in the area served by the Caddo Parish sheriff's office," he said. "We have not had a prostitution (arrest) in three years at least." While advertising has become a more common avenue for prosti-

tutes, they still are known to roam the streets, officers said.

In the past, Sprague Street in Street past, Sprague Street in Streetport of the streets, officers said.

In they are street past, Sprague Street in Streetport as as id. Shreetport Assistant City Attorney Ed Jones.

"You could go down there and on any night, you could find 10 to 40 women hanging out there," he said. The laws have changed a little bit to stop that, so they have gone back to truly a call girl system.

The penalties for prostitution increase with each offense committed. The first few offenses amount to a fine, probation and community service, Jones said. However, frequent offenders can be sentenced to jail. "We have one girl here in town how as in jail for six months, and she was pregnant while she was in jail." Jones said.

While jail time is reserved for more frequent offenders, Sister Margaret McCaffrey of Christian Services believes putting prostitutes

Annual numbers

1996 — 28 1997 — 10

Bossier City Police Department 1995 — 2 1996 — 2 1997 — 1

behind bars isn't the solution to the

behind bars isn't the solution to the problem.
"I really think we need to look at it from a preventive standpoint, rather than arrests," she said.
"Women are victims in the sense that many times the women are des-perate for funds. They sacrifice themselves for their children. I think we need to do more to create

jobs for people on the very bottom."
Still, law enforcement officials, in-cluding Bossier Parish sheriff's spokesman Julian Whittington, said the public can expect to see more busts like the one July 30.
"Certainly with Bossier Parish and the city growing like it is, this is something we're going to continue doing, "Whittington said.

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