Session poses test for Foster

Legislature faces ambitious agenda

BY JACK WARDAW
and ED ANDERSON
Capitol Bureau

Baton Rouge — Mike Foster, elected governor in November on a platform of what he calls "conservative policies," faces his first major test in the coming weeks as he tries to maintain an ambitious agenda in the face of an equally unified Legislature.

The Legislature convenes today at 9 a.m. for a 27-day session that will determine Foster's vision for Louisiana's future, less gambling, no business, one woman governor, greater support for higher education, lower car insurance rates and people empowered to carry concealed firearms to protect themselves.

Like all new governors, Foster will be judged on how well he succeeds in persuading the Legislature to approve his agenda.

Taiwanese defy China with vote

Lee wins in landslide

By PATRICIA ROUS
Associated Press writer

TAIPEI, Taiwan — President Lee Teng-hui was a landslide victory Saturday in Taiwan's first direct presidential election and a strong mandate for the policies that have plunged his island into confrontation with China.

With the official count expected to be completed, Lee had 46 percent, well over the 51 percent of his nearest rival, Peng Ming-mao.

Voting went ahead despite a Chinese warning that the election may increase tensions with its neighbor, but the electorate appeared unswayed by China's threat.

Maoying Yang, a senior aide to Peng, said he believed the China threat had helped Lee.

Shuttle links with Russians

NASA astronaut to begin her 'great adventure'

By MARCIA CROON
AP space reporter

Huntington — The shuttle Atlantis linked with Russia's space station 220 miles above Earth Saturday night, setting a NASA astronaut eager to begin her five-month stay and "great adventure."

Astronautsasted and gracefully moved in and docked with the Mir station as the spacecraft soared over Russia.

"Houston, I have contact and capture," reported Atlantis commander, Kevin Chilton.

Warnings from the world: The Gulf is not the only place in trouble. Around the world, fisheries are collapsing. See A-37

Q&A: Can you really kill the ocean? Answers to important questions about the world's fish supply. See A-38

Gulf on the brink. Announced by politicians and environmentalists, overfishing and overdevelopment, the Gulf of Mexico is suffering. Special pullout guide, See A-40, 41

Life on the sea: Whole families have lived off the ocean's bounty for generations. The assault on fishing is an attack on their way of life. Today: A Louisiana fishermen struggles to survive. See A-43

More fishing boats harvest the world's oceans than at any time in history. But their best catch is seven years gone. Besieged by exploding demand, beset by overfishing, devastated by destruction of life-giving coastal wetlands, the world's oceans have reached their limit. Drastic measures might turn the tide. Anything less, and the fishing way of life that is so much a part of south Louisiana almost certainly will not survive.