

FINAL FOUR BOUND



MINUTEMEN OVERPOWERING

KENTUCKY
83
WAKE FOREST
63

UMASS
86
GEORGETOWN
62

Details, more scores,
in Sports



WILDCATS STILL CRUISING

MONEY

SERIOUS BUSINESS

High-rolling and cash-rich, Caesars World parent ITT Corp. usually gets what it wants — and it wants the New Orleans casino. See F-1



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WEATHER

Partly cloudy
High: 76
Low: 62
Complete details: C-20



The Times-Picayune

SUNDAY METRO

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\$1.50

Session poses test for Foster

Legislature faces ambitious agenda

THE SPECIAL SESSION



By JACK WARDLAW
and ED ANDERSON
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Mike Foster, elected governor in November on a platform of what he calls "conservative populism," faces his first major test in the coming weeks as he tries to maneuver an ambitious program through an equally untried Legislature.

The Legislature convenes today at 5 p.m. for a 27-day session that embodies Foster's vision for Louisiana: voter initiatives, less gambling, fewer lawsuits, ethical government, greater support for higher education, lower car insurance rates and citizens empowered to carry concealed firearms to protect themselves.

Like all new governors, Foster will be judged to a large extent by success or failure in persuading

See SESSION, A-4

Taiwanese defy China with vote

Lee wins in landslide

By PATRICIA KUO
Associated Press writer

TAIPEI, Taiwan — President Lee Teng-hui won 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 complete, Lee had 54 percent, well over double the 21 percent of his nearest rival, Peng Ming-min.

Voting went ahead even as China waged a sixth day of war games dangerously close to Taiwanese islets, but the electorate appeared unswayed by China's hatred for Lee.

Maysing Yang, a senior aide to Peng, said she believed the China tensions helped Lee.

See LEE, A-8

Shuttle links with Russians

NASA astronaut to begin her 'great adventure'

By MARCIA DUNN
AP aerospace writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The shuttle Atlantis linked with Russia's space station 245 miles above Earth Saturday night, ferrying a NASA astronaut eager to begin her five-month stay and "great adventure."

Atlantis slowly 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.

See SHUTTLE, A-8



OCEANS of TROUBLE

ARE THE WORLD'S FISHERIES DOOMED?



Its nets tucked away and booms rigged in, the Lucky Lady heads through Barataria Bay from the Gulf of Mexico near Grand Isle. The uncontrolled growth of the world's fishing fleets is one of many development pressures resculpting the fishing industry. STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON



The huge Japanese demand for tuna, which pushed prices up to \$68,000 for a single fish recently, is felt in the Gulf of Mexico a world away. Above, frozen yellowfin tuna are ready to be sold after auction in Tokyo's Tsujiki market.

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.

Stories start on A-37

AN EIGHT-DAY SPECIAL REPORT: STORIES BY JOHN MCQUAID, MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN AND BOB MARSHALL; PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON; GRAPHICS BY ANGELA HILL, KENNETH HARRISON, ERICA BYNUM AND EMMETT MAYER III

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. Assailed by pollution, erosion, 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 fisherman struggles to survive. See A-43