NewsBank
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WESTWEGO • AVONDALE • BRIDGE CITY • WAGGAMAN

# Westwego Picayune

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1994

WALKS, TALKS, WEEKENDS — BEST BETS

## Boogie for books

Catch Vince Vance and the Valiants and those great oldies tunes at the Bookworm Boogie Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight, sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Our Lady of Holy Cross College and Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World. You can dine and dance for $30 at Kern's den, 233 Newton St. in Algiers. Dress is casual or '50s. Profits benefit the library.

## Play time

Westbank Centerstage Theatrical Productions is having an encore performance of its first production, "The Mother," Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the West Jefferson High School auditorium. Tickets are $2 for adults, $1 for students and senior citizens. The play, written by J. California Cooper, concerns a mother who leaves her family for many years and then reappears. Ron Castine is the director.

## School fair

Aurora Gardens Academy will have its spring fair Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds, 2200 Hudson Place in Algiers.

Highlights include a Space Walk, video games, prizes, food, bingo and a $500 raffle.

GOOD SPORTS

**LASHAWN CAMESE**

**Community:** Marrero
**Playground:** Nicholson
**Activity:** JPRD 11-year-old all star basketball
**Coach's quote:** "Lashawn is the kind of person and player who makes his teammates better both on and off the court by the example he sets." — Keith Tierney
**Parents:** Raleigh Camese and Linda Hines.

IT'S YOUR CALL

*Charity or traffic hazard — should the Jefferson Parish Council have banned roadside solicitation? Call 826-3778.*
**To respond Yes** Press 1.
**To respond No** Press 2.

**LAST WEEK:** *Will the West Bank benefit from a sports complex?*
**Yes:** 86 percent
**No:** 14 percent

INSIDE

▶*Neighborhood news*
▶*Animal Adviser*
▶*Church activities*
▶*Births*

GETTING IN TOUCH

To report community news, call your West Bank bureau at 363-7717.
**Judi Russell,** community news editor
**Greg Thomas,** bureau chief

# Tour offers peek into Gretna's history

By MARIA GIORDANO
West Bank bureau

In 1889, John Louis Spies handpicked every cypress plank used to build the raised cottage at 621 Lafayette St. in Gretna.

After all, the shotgun home was a gift to his German bride-to-be.

One hundred and five years later, newlyweds Randall and Christina O'Brien feel the home is a wedding gift, too.

Since last April, when they bought the house that had been vacant for five years, the Gretna couple has been restoring it to Victorian splendor.

Faded linoleum gave way to shiny hardwood floors, and foot-high baseboards were hidden under floral wallpaper.

The O'Briens' home is one of six featured in Sunday's spring Tour of Homes sponsored by the Gretna Historical Society.

Others opening their houses for the tour include:

▶ Louis and Adrene Marcotte, 527 Second St.

▶ The office of Louis Marcotte, 221 Derbigny St.

▶ Ashley Barrios, 426 Lafayette St.

▶ Gretna Gun Works, 230 Lafayette St.

▶ Lee Stansberry, 428 Lafayette St.

The tour begins at the Kittie Strehle Home at 201 Lafayette St., where $5 tickets will be sold from 1 to 5 p.m. The tour is not guided.

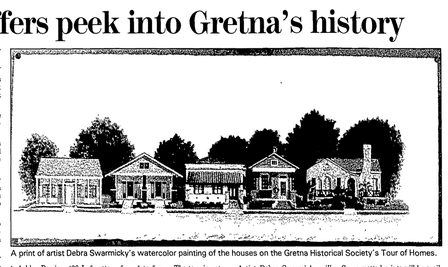
The tour is a fund-raiser for the historical society, said Virgie Ott, spring tour chairwoman.

Refreshments will be jambalaya from Volco's Restaurant and homemade goodies from historical society members.

Artist Debra Swarmicky will have prints of original watercolors of the tour homes on sale. A home tour print featuring all the homes is $30. Prints of the historic complex, the Kittie Strehle home, David Crockett Firehouse and Lily White Ruppel home are $25. Prints of historic St. Joseph's Church in Gretna are $25. Some matted prints will be available.

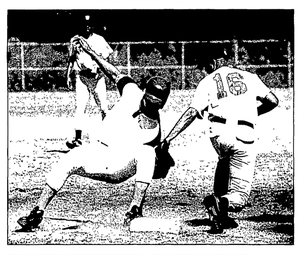
Ott said she considers all the homes in historic Gretna to be unique. There aren't any plantations, but there are doubles, camelbacks and shotguns.

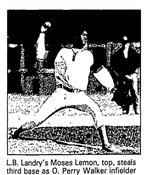
"These are simple homes that people live in," Ott said. "They are not showplaces."



A print of artist Debra Swarmicky's watercolor painting of the houses on the Gretna Historical Society's Tour of Homes.

## Safe at third





L.B. Landry's Moses Lemon, top, steals third base as O. Perry Walker infielder Juan Gabriel gets the ball last Thursday at Skelly Park in Algiers. Showing their pitching forms are Landry's Ivan Manuel, left, and Walker's Mike Felgoust. Walker won 12-4. STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN POAG

# West Bankers' input is sought

A community news section works best when it reflects the wishes and experiences of the community. Here are a couple of ways West Bank residents can participate in the Algiers, Gretna, Marrero and Westwego Picayunes.

**Letters to the editor**

Do you have praise for, or a complaint about, West Bank happenings? Feel free to let us know by writing a letter to the editor.

Letters should be brief. To be considered for publication, each letter must bear the writer's handwritten signature, address and daytime phone number for verification. Initials and pen names are not acceptable.

All letters are subject to editing for correctness and length. Address letters to:

Westside Story

*Judi Russell*

The Times-Picayune
West Bank bureau
Letters to the editor
2520 Belle Chasse Highway
Gretna, La. 70053

Letters also can be faxed to 363-7731.

**Mother's Day**

Few holidays evoke more

See WESTSIDE, next page

## Calendar

### Today

**Algiers**

**Kiwanis Club of Algiers — Morning Edition,** 7 a.m., Aurora Country Club, 5244 Gen. Meyer Ave.

**American Business Women's Association, La Belle West Chapter,** social, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m., Steak and Ale restaurant, 4300 Gen. de Gaulle Drive. For reservations, call Joyce Ruettger at 361-7000, Ext. 301.

**Belle Chasse**

**Busy Belles Homemakers Club,** 10 a.m., home of Lois Seibert.

**Gretna**

**Gretna Historical Society,** 7 p.m., White House, 209 Lafayette St.

**Harvey**

**La Femme de Maison Extension Homemakers Club,** 9:30 a.m., West Bank Regional Library, 2751 Manhattan Blvd.

**Concerned Women for Louisiana,** 7 p.m., West Bank Regional Library, 2751 Manhattan Blvd.

**Woodmere Civic Association,** 7 p.m., Marrero Estelle Fire Station, 2700 Destrehan Ave.

**Marrero**

**West Jefferson Levee Board,** Finance Committee, 6 p.m., Levee Board Office, 7001 River Road.

**Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas More Council 7226 and Auxiliary,** recitation of the rosary and social for residents of Heritage Manor Nursing Home, 7 p.m., 5301 August Ave.

**Knights of Columbus, Immaculata Council 4222,** 7:30 p.m., 566 Avenue D.

**Pointe a la Hache**

**Plaquemines Parish Council,** 10 a.m., Plaquemines Parish Council.

See CALENDAR, Page 3

# Group wouldn't mind extending CCC tolls

West Bank bureau

Members of the Harvey Canal Industrial Association said they wouldn't mind paying Crescent City Connection tolls for longer if certain conditions are met.

HCIA Executive Vice President James Rongvillo asked for a show of hands during the organization's April 7 meeting. About 20 members said they would vote to continue tolls, while only one person voted against doing so.

But HCIA members set certain conditions:

▶ The tolls will be extended for only five years.

▶ A cap will be placed on the operating budget of the Crescent City Connection division.

▶ Any money collected after that cap is met must be used for West Bank roadway projects, including upgrading Peters Road in Harvey.

Tolls on the span expire June 30, unless the Legislature reimposes them.

## Post office open late on Friday

It's April 14; do you know where your tax return is?

If it's in your desk drawer, you might be one of those people making a last-minute dash to the mailbox to get that coveted April 15 postmark.

To make it easier for West Bank procrastinators, the Gretna Post Office at 406 Gretna Blvd. will remain open until midnight. Postmaster Peter Carriere said Gretna will be the only West Bank post office open late Friday night. Your alternative is to get in line at the main post office on Loyola Avenue.

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