

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

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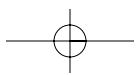
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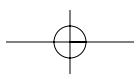
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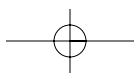
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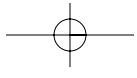


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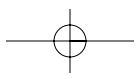
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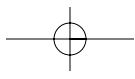
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MANAGER & EDITOR IN CHIEF	tatum l. dutile tdutile@thetowntalk.com
EDITORIAL STAFF	philip timothy ptimothy@thetowntalk.com
	cary r. varnado cvarnado@thetowntalk.com
GRAPHIC DESIGN	tatum l. dutile cary r. varnado
CONTRIBUTORS	susan baker byron marshall jenny seghers
PHOTOGRAPHY	suzette belgard douglas collier tia owens-powers leandro huebner
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR	bill heirtzler bheirtzler@thetowntalk.com
ADVERTISING	bill buschmann bbuschmann@thetowntalk.com
	kenneth g. wood kwood@thetowntalk.com

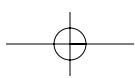
ON THE COVER: Cindy Texada of Alexandria knows nothing enhances her stunning eyes like the sparkle of a few diamonds – except, maybe, this remarkable yellow sapphire and gold ring from John Huffman Fine Jewelry in Alexandria.

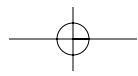
OUR MISTAKE: The Simply Summer feature in the premiere issue of Signature neglected to mention that all fashions were used compliments of Caplan's in Alexandria. Signature regrets the error.

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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

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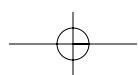
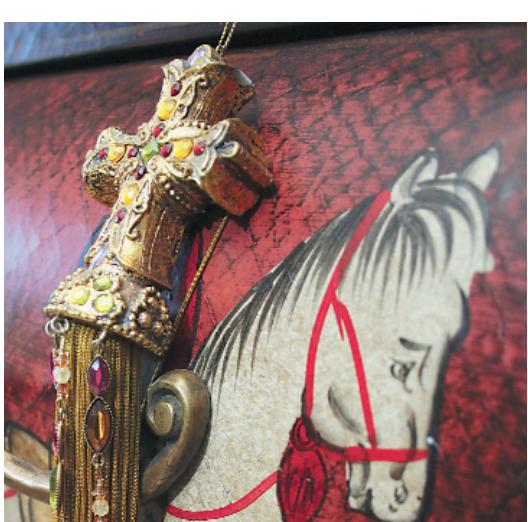


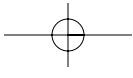
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fit to spin

CARY R. VARNADO

"Get water! ... Get air!" the instructor barks, following the rhythm of the music like an overzealous army drill sergeant.

The six cyclists in the darkened room heed instructor Scott Babin's directive; their pace slows and most reach for nearby sports bottles. A quick retort from a rider draws chuckles from the entire room and what appeared only seconds before to be some obscure form of torture takes on an entirely new form.

What is this intriguing experience and why are so many people across Central Louisiana signing up to be put through such an exhaustive wringer?

Whether you prefer a traditional title, like cycling, or the hip new moniker "spinning," it is one of the fastest-growing fitness trends in the nation.

"It's kind of a visionary workout," says Robyn Schwartz, program director at the Louisiana Athletic Club in Pineville.

"The participant is in control of their own workout. The tempo of the music is going to determine what

PERSONALIZED CYCLING

level of intensity at which you ride. ... You're imagining yourself [climbing a hill or along a straightaway]. You're not worried about the person next to you; you're only worried about your own workout."

K.C. Smith, a certified cycling instructor at The Courtyard in Alexandria, says most classes last about an hour.

"We start with a ... warm-up," she says.

After five minutes or so of riding at a leisurely pace with no resistance, Smith says she increases her classes' pace and resistance, leading in intervals of intense riding broken by more gentle recovery periods. After finishing the on-bike time with a no-resistance cool-down, everyone climbs off his or her stationary bike for some upper-body stretching.

"You burn 200 to 800 calories in a class, depending on how hard you work," Smith says.

And how hard you work is truly up to you. Local cycling classes require no separate attendance fees or long-term commitment. But the real allure of these classes, says Smith, isn't the workout; it's the fun.

"One of the major attractions to the cycling classes is the camaraderie – and the music."

Whether it's the rhythm, the fellowship or simply a good workout, cycling's popularity is on the rise.

"It definitely has been a very strong program for us," Schwartz says. "It reaches people from beginner workouts to those who're doing it for Ironman or triathletes doing this on a cross-training basis."

Her feelings are echoed by Smith.

"Anyone can do it," she says, "from teenagers to senior citizens."

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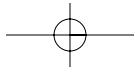
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TATUM L. DUTILE

California might be the place to go for fine wines and sprawling vineyards, but don't let them fool you into thinking there's nowhere else to explore the interesting & unique trade of winemaking.

Louisiana boasts five wineries – and all are close enough to home to enjoy.

At Feliciana Cellars in historic Jackson, you can tour the Spanish-style facility and taste the wine, prepared by winemaker Devin Barringer.

"Spain had a big influence in Louisiana – nearly as much as the French did," Barringer said, explaining the facility's vision to pay homage to that heritage.

Feliciana Cellars uses three varieties of muscadine and two varieties of hybrid bunch grape – Blanc Du Bois and Norton Cynthiana.

Feliciana makes 10 wines, as well as those used for special occasions. The sparkling wine, Esperanza, has received rave reviews and a limited amount of this product is available each year in December.

The 14-year-old vineyard has 13 acres of vines and becomes a hopping tourist site dur-

ing the harvest.

"The best time to really see activity is in late August and early September," he said.

Grapes are harvested with a tractor, brought back to the winery and processed. They harvest 10,000 pounds daily in a process that takes between seven and 10 days.

"Once we have everything harvested and we're ready to start processing, we dump the grapes into a large hopper," he said, explaining that they then pass through the crusher and destemmer as the juice falls into the pan.

The white wine is fermented after the skins are removed. Red wine begins the fermenting process with the skins on, which gives it the red color. There's even more to the process, so head to Jackson and watch it happen right before your eyes.



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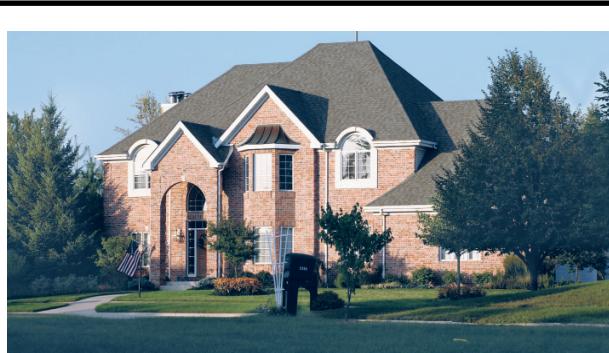
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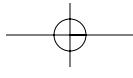
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a delectable journey

JENNY SEGHERS

You may be familiar with the restaurant, but have you ever paused to think about the chef who prepared the meal? Denise Wood, owner and chef of Portabella restaurant in Alexandria, has many years of culinary experience behind her. Before the restaurant located behind Calvary Baptist Church was even conceived, Wood worked in the catering business at the Bentley Hotel. But that position occupied her time with more planning than actually preparing the food, she said.

With larger ideas in mind, Wood left Alexandria for the Los Angeles Epicurean School of Culinary Arts in 1987.

"There were really no culinary schools available in the South," Wood said.

Alongside her status as a student, she also served as the food and beverage director for both the Hyatt and Holiday Inn, and as a personal chef.

After spending five years in Los Angeles, she returned to take the role of facilitator at the John Folse Culinary Institute satellite office on the Northwestern campus in Natchitoches. Around the time the institute closed, Wood received a call from Calvary's pastor, David Brooks, about opening a restaurant behind the church. She agreed, and construction began.

According to Wood, life at Portabella was slightly different from the regular restaurant business she was accustomed to in the past.

"Being open only during lunch hours Monday through Friday is much more pleasant," she said.

Their menu lists entrees such as grilled tilapia, stuffed chicken breast, and quiche of the day. A specials board is also displayed daily to incorporate a few additional meals and desserts.

The restaurant did not cater initially, Wood said, but the idea gradually evolved as time passed.

Since then, she has done numerous personal parties, and events involving more than 800 guests where she provides food and decorations. Portabella even delivers if the order is large enough.

Wood not only enjoys creating appetizing entrees in her Portabella kitchen, but takes pleasure in whipping up tasty desserts as well. The triple chocolate mousse bars remain among her favorites.

CHEF FINDS THE ROAD
TO GREAT TASTES LEADS ... HOME

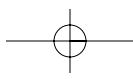


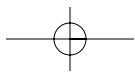
triple chocolate mousse bars

from Denise Wood of Portabella

1 stick butter	2 cups chocolate chips
¾ cup powdered sugar	1 ½ cup heavy cream
1 egg yolk	2/3 cup sugar
½ tsp vanilla extract	2 tsp vanilla extract
½ unsweetened baking cocoa	4 eggs
1 cup flour	8 oz. white chocolate
	2 tsp shortening

Cover a 9x13-inch baking pan with foil and coat with non-stick cooking spray. Beat butter, powdered sugar, egg yolk, and ½ tsp vanilla extract until light and fluffy. Beat in the baking cocoa and flour until crumbly. Press over bottom of prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Place chocolate chips in a bowl. Bring the cream to a simmer in a saucepan, and then pour it over the chocolate chips. Stir until the chips are melted. Whisk in the sugar, 2 tsp of vanilla extract, and eggs. Pour over prepared crust. Bake for 32 minutes. Heat white chocolate and shortening in a saucepan, melt, and stir. Spread evenly over baked layers. Chill for 2 hours or longer. Dust lightly with additional baking cocoa and cut into triangles.





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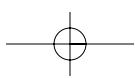
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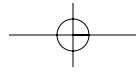
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) is an organization of 294 Junior Leagues in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom whose work centers around education and charity. The leagues' goal is to help their communities and improve their members through volunteerism.

Recently, Junior League provisional members enjoyed a casual meeting at Copeland's in Alexandria. They are (top row, from left) Donna LaCaze, Christy Gallman, Courtney Landry, Heather Dubroc, (bottom row, from left) Tami Banick, Missy Rubin, Sunny Gulley, Amye Brasher and Kellie Saccaro.

Do you know a person or group who deserves a moment in the spotlight? Call Signature at 487-6420 and you might see them in a future issue.

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TATUM L. DUTILE

Home fragrance lamps are all the rage these days, but with so many choices of scented oil, decorative lamps and brands, how do you decide which one to purchase? There are many styles available and it can be difficult to choose just one, but here are some delectable designs from Sandra's Hill-Harris Gifts.

NeQwa – (top left) This exquisite scented oil lamp boasts beautiful colored apples, hand-painted on the inside surface of the lamp to prevent chipping.

La Tee Da – (top center) This unique scented-oil lamp glows in the dark, while emitting its decadent fragrances.

Scentier – (top right) This company also makes Crystalique, so you can use the same oils for both.

Other brands include Crystalique, which offers colored oils for their unique clear lamps, Lamper Berger, the company that pioneered the scented-oil lamp market and Lampe Aire, known for its essential oils used in aromatherapy.

Different companies have different scents, but popular fragrances include New Orleans and Ocean Breeze through Lamper Berger; Sheer Paradise and Stay Awhile through La Tee Da; and Brazillian Spice and Vinalla through Scentier.



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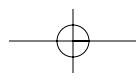
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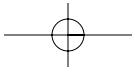
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STORY BY TATUM L. DUTILE

PHOTOS BY TIA OWENS-POWERS

Ask any woman and she'll tell you. There's nothing quite like a beautiful, dazzling piece of jewelry. It's enticing, it's flirty – and it's fun to show off.

This fall, choose pieces that sparkle – pieces that mix class and style with a dash of sophistication. Just remember, while it is a classic, all that glitters isn't necessarily gold.

With so many colorful options to choose from, don't limit yourself. The ravishing ring above, for example, is the pride and joy of John Huffman Fine Jewelry in Alexandria. This stunning yel-

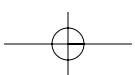
low sapphire is set off by yellow gold and sparkling diamonds – perfect for welcoming the colors of autumn.

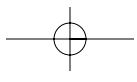
Cindy Texada of Alexandria (at right) enjoys these exotic Tahitian black pearls trimmed with black diamonds and yellow gold. Grown in the waters of French Polynesia, black pearls are renowned for their beauty. They'll give any outfit a look of prestige and distinction.

To view these and other mesmerizing baubles, log on to www.lifewithdistinction.com today and fall into fashion the *Signature* way.

*Jewelry from John Huffman Fine Jewelry in Alexandria.
Flowers compliments of Alexandria House of Flowers on Rapides Avenue.*

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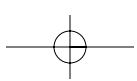


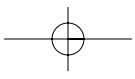


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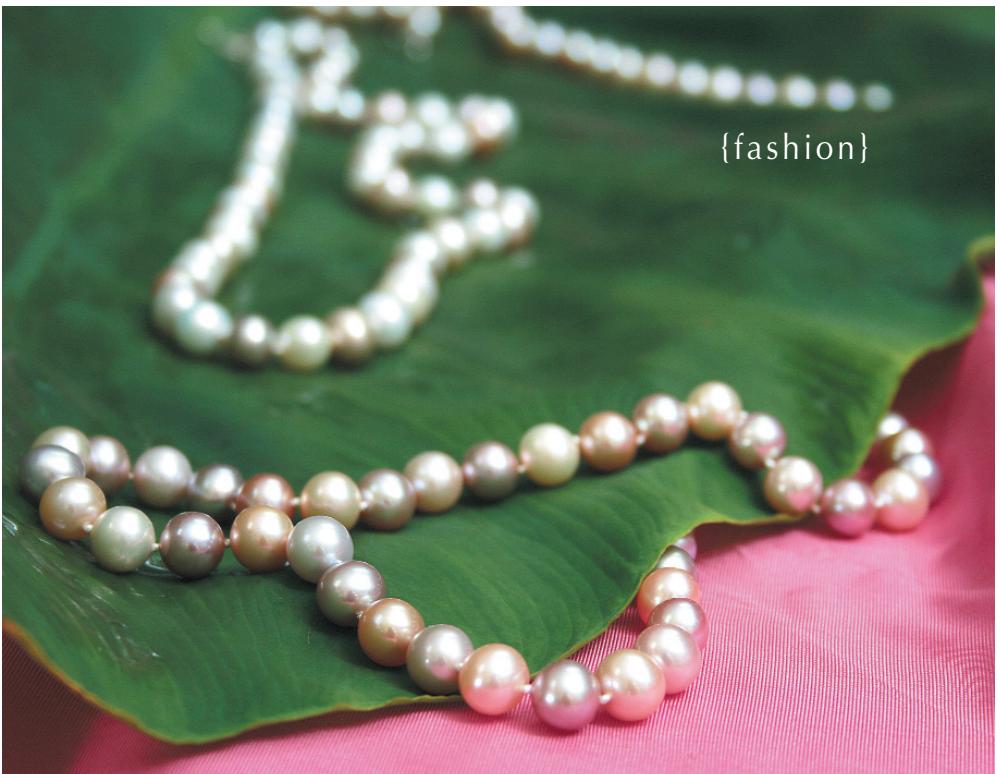
All her friends will be green with envy when they spy Kristi Ferguson of Alexandria adorned with this 10-carat diamond necklace and 1.65-carat emerald ring, surrounded by a full carat of diamonds, with matching diamond and emerald earrings.





The vibrance of these 8-millimeter natural multicolored pearls (at right) will compliment any woman's skin tone.

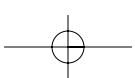
If your tastes in fine jewelry lean more toward the exotic, try on these breathtaking Tahitian black pearls (at right) trimmed with black diamonds and yellow gold accents.

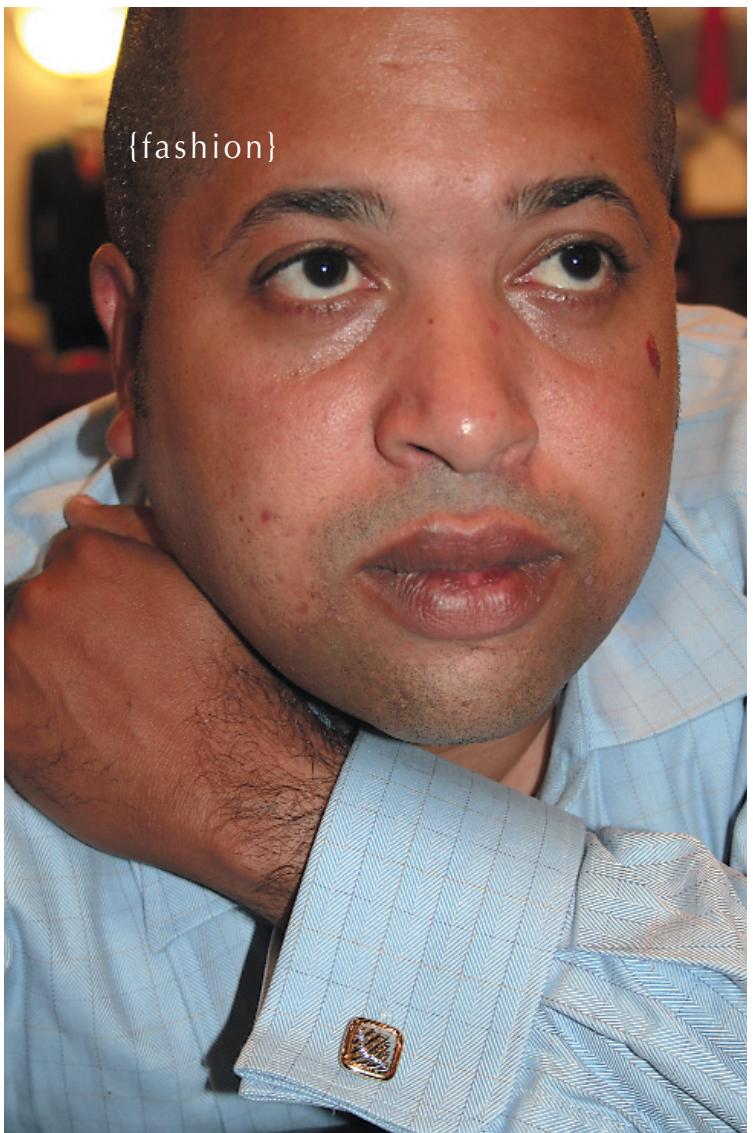


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Mounts of yellow or white gold are perfect for Huffman's loose diamonds.





off the cuff

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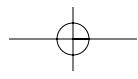
CARY R. VARNADO

Numa Metoyer of Alexandria sits back on the cozy brown leather sofa in Caplan's in Alexandria. Metoyer exudes a quiet confidence. The clothes really *do* make the man, and the fine garments here, like this light blue pinstripe French-cuff shirt – part of Caplan's exclusive 1891 Collection – along with these classic silver square cufflinks set within a gold inlay, tell everyone this is a man who knows how to look good.

In addition to the examples seen here, Caplan's offers cufflinks in styles and sizes for all tastes – from the elegant Antique British coin by Ian Flaherty to the mesmerizing pink cat eye. Prices range from \$59.50 to \$125 per pair.

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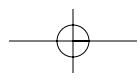
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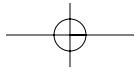
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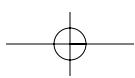
If you were going to call a hotel home, it would have to be ParcEngland – A Boutique Hotel. You would probably also want to claim the adjacent Bistro on the Bayou as your kitchen.

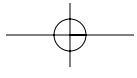
With a full service cocktail lounge, private dining, reception and meeting rooms for parties and in close proximity to OakWing Golf Course, it's a great place for a meeting, wedding or luxurious retreat.

The rooms are adorned with upscale decor by interior designer Kyle Downs. Fred Rosenfeld, owner of the Bistro and hotel, also worked with local architect Alliance Design, local general contractor Ratcliff Construction and with local designer Barbara Downs.

The hotel and its rooms are furnished with antiques and antique reproductions and guests commonly refer to the accommodations as some of the finest in the state of Louisiana.

There are 48 rooms, four with regular-size parlors and two with extra-large parlors. Rooms showcase pristine views of the the bayou or the golf course. They also are known for their





whirlpool tubs and much loved Tarocco bath products.

Bistro on the Bayou is known for its fresh Gulf seafood, prime steaks and pasta.

"In my own case, when I walked in the Bistro from the beautiful wedding, I was struck by an overwhelming sense of awe of the crowd and their reaction to the reception," said E. Lansing Kolb. "If forced to give a title to what followed, it would be 'The Bistro and the Band' because your facility joined with the band to create a close to perfect evening. The setting, food and service were as fine as could be achieved."

Bistro on the Bayou and Parc England: A Boutique Hotel are located at 321

Chappie James Avenue in Alexandria. Log on to the Web site at www.parcenglandhotel.com or call 445-7574 for more information.



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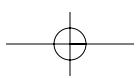
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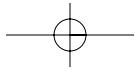
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{fine arts}



fall into something fun

AUTUMN'S ARRIVAL HERALDS
EXCITING ACTIVITIES

BYRON MARSHALL

With the approach of the fall equinox, there is a subtle change in the weather, a slight difference in temperature – except in Louisiana, where it gets as hot as it gets. The new truism is: there is something to do in Central Louisiana!

For example, catch up with the Kent Plantation House Yellow Fever Tours. On August 6 drop in at Sylvan Woodland Presbyterian Church for the 14th Louisiana Poetry Bee: You can stand up and read your favorite poem of all time. Kids and family are welcome.

Starting August 3, try the Complete Works of Shakespeare, all in one show: it's a bargain, and very funny, presented by LSUA downtown at the Hearn Stage of the Kress Theater. Of course Shakespeare didn't have the savvy of the writers for the Carol Burnett Show, so by all means sample the Carol Burnett Skits presented by Family Playhouse's Teen Company. Speaking of television, Alexandria's version of American Idol will be at the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center Saturday evening, August 12.

The winner will definitely be going places, and so can you when the Cenla Travel Club takes you to comedy in Kentucky, or to go roar

with the Lion King in Houston (call 443-9038).

With the approaching fall, can winter be far behind, perhaps snowflakes drifting down? Not really, but there will be snowflakes aplenty in the annual Thanksgiving production by Red River Dance of The Nutcracker. August 5 is when aspiring dancers (with parents in tow) should show up at the Art Annex at Lee and Sylvester.

The end of August brings a Celtic note to the music at Finnegans Wake in downtown Alexandria. All our area clubs offer great music. Late August also brings the September Competition Exhibit at the Alexandria Museum of Art. The Arts Council of Central Louisiana will hold its new fundraiser on August 27, when you can bid on a splendid print. On September 1 drop in on a reception at River Oaks Square. On September 15 the Arts Council will offer a gala evening "celebrating our own." September brings City Park's A Lovesong for Miss Lydia, the first of Alexandria's Brown Bag Music Series and the first Downtown Rocks. September 23 is the opening of the Morrison Institute for the Arts in Natchitoches and, in Alexandria, the Gospel Explosion at Coughlin-Saunders.

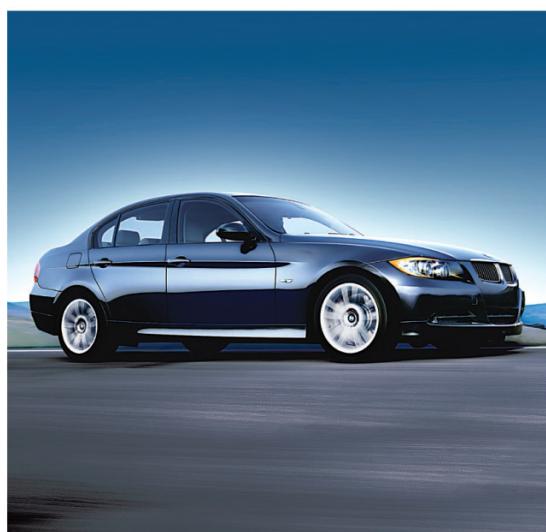
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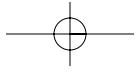
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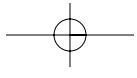


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{people}

NATCHITOCHES' TOM WHITEHEAD REFLECTS

on life&art

CARY R. VARNADO

A successful career. Prominent in the community. World traveler. Personal friends with celebrities. It reads like a list of qualities most people can only dream of achieving. But for Natchitoches resident Tom Whitehead, this dream is a reality.

Retired from Northwestern University, where he taught journalism and public relations for 30 years, Whitehead remains passionate about getting the most out of life.

Whitehead has spent time working for historic preservation, touring the Australian outback, even rubbing elbows with celebrities as diverse as Clementine Hunter and the Hollywood elite.

An amiable gentleman of the Old South, Whitehead remains humble about his accomplishments.

SIG: How do you feel about the part you've played in the lives of your students?

WHITEHEAD: One of the things I thought important to teach a student was the ability to believe in themselves. It became important to instill in our students the idea that you can hold your own – even in the face of cutthroat employers. You can teach skills, but the utilization of those skills has a lot to do with the person's ability to believe in themselves. If a kid has ambitions to go somewhere else, you should do that, so we really push internships.

SIG: You made teaching journalism a career, but you have a passion for art. Is there a connection between the two?

WHITEHEAD: You can be the absolute finest writer or artist, but if no one knows about you, you're not going to be great – well-known. The ability to promote or market ... well, this is where Clementine Hunter comes in. She could've been out there for years and no one would've known about it if someone hadn't come along to get the word out.

SIG: What are your other interests?

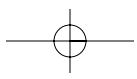
WHITEHEAD: One of the things ... is historic preservation. Natchitoches is a very historic community and the importance of preservation is obvious. ... I have developed my life here and a lot of the things [in my house] have interesting stories behind them. I live in a house made up of interesting items.

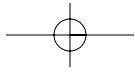
SIG: You assisted with making the film "Steel Magnolias." Describe your involvement with that project.

WHITEHEAD: When the company bought the rights to make the film, they had two locations under consideration. One was Wilmington, N.C., and the other was Dallas. As a favor to Bobby Harling [who authored the original play], they agreed to look at Natchitoches ... So they called me to ... pick [producer Ray Stark] up in Baton Rouge. So he flew into New Orleans and rented a car and I met him in Baton Rouge. ...

I became Ray's assistant. ... Ray decided to give me an expense account that came out of post-production. So I suddenly became everyone's best friend, because I could spend money and it didn't come out of the budget! There was lots of interaction, from the stars to the production assistants ...

Filming in the South, it was hot and sticky. We decided the leading ladies needed misting bottles of Evian. Of course, you can't get that in Natchitoches, so I called up Neiman Marcus and had it FedExed; we had it the next morning!





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from left to right

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having a good time?

AUTHOR SEES STORIES IN OLD POSTCARDS

SUSAN BAKER

Robert Olen Butler won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for "A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain," a collection of short stories about life in America for Vietnamese immigrants.

Fans of this St. Louis native – who now lives in South Louisiana – are taken on another trip through America in Butler's new collection, "Had a Good Time: Stories from American Postcards."

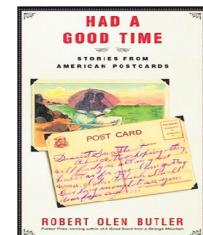
Butler begins each story with a view of the front and back of an old postcard. He then tells a story based on the image and message found on the postcard. The 15 short stories are unique and range from humorous to soulful.

Remember how awkward a first date could be? You'll recall that in the Ironworker's Hayride, a great tale of a tongue-tied young man on a blind date with a woman with a wooden leg. Prepare to be moved by the story of Uncle Andrew, an 87-year-old man who was born into slavery. Butler has the ability to bring to life ordinary people and tell their stories in ways that not only entertain, but inspire as well.

Impressive, too, is the clear picture Butler paints of what life was like in the early years of the past century. "Carl and I" is a story of a newlywed couple coping with the husband's terminal case of tuberculosis.

Butler brings into sharp focus life in the big city, on a South Dakota ranch, a dairy farm or in the mountains of Tennessee.

Butler has created another great collection of stories that you will take pleasure in reading over and over again.



"Had a Good
Time: Stories
from American
Postcards"

Author: Robert Olen Butler

Publisher: Grove

Press

Format:

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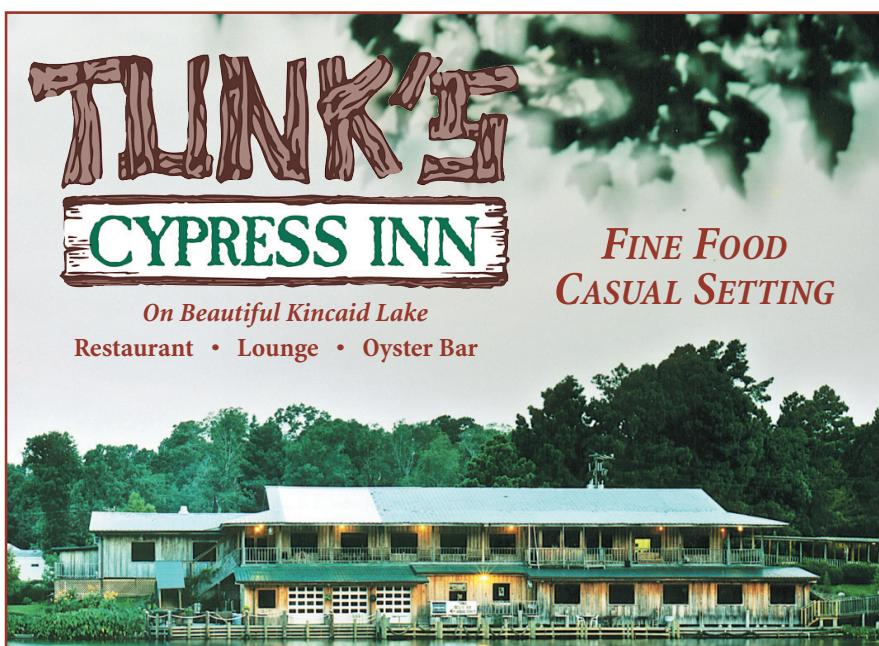
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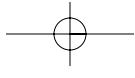
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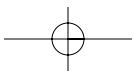
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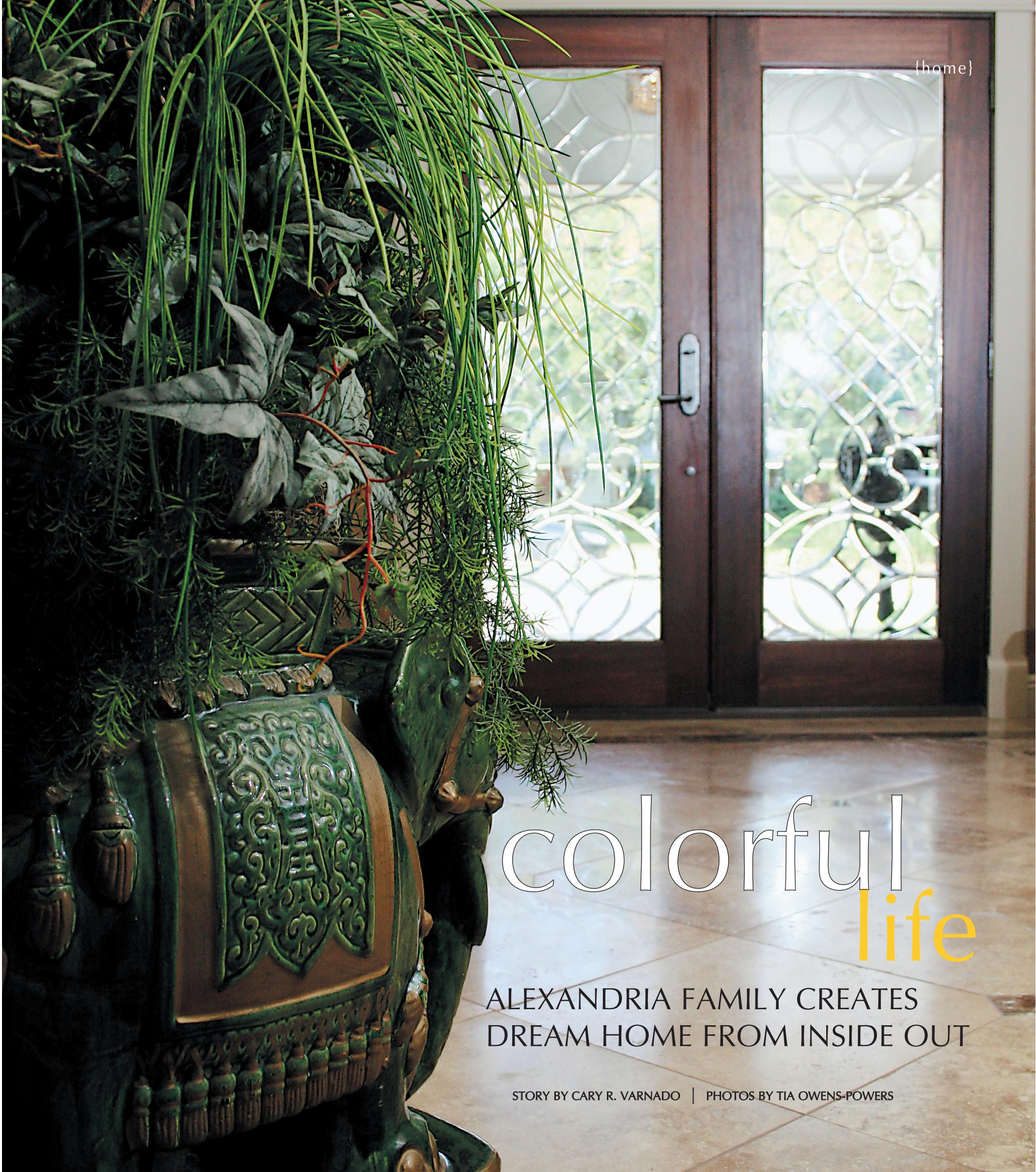
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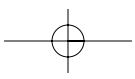
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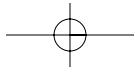


colorful life

ALEXANDRIA FAMILY CREATES
DREAM HOME FROM INSIDE OUT

STORY BY CARY R. VARNADO | PHOTOS BY TIA OWENS-POWERS





{home}



When Jay and Jennifer Badeaux decided to pack up their four children and move from their Alexandria home in Charles Park in 2004, they had no idea the incredible adventure that awaited them.

It didn't take long, however, to find a home that seemed perfectly suited to their needs – a single-story home in Alexandria with over 5,000 square feet of living space.

"Also, all the bedrooms were on one end of the house," notes Jennifer, with motherly concern.

But this Southampton home had still more to offer.

From the enclosed swimming pool to the lighted tennis courts and large master suite – even a sauna, the house fit the Badeauxs' desires to the letter.

But one problem stood out.

"Everything was pink," chuckles Badeaux. "Pink countertops, pink ceiling, pink walls. The [previous owner] loved pink."

Further, says Badeaux, the house had very small doorways and eight-foot flat ceilings.

And so, the metamorphosis began.

"We spent the first two months on demolition," Badeaux explains. "The reconstruction began in July and we moved in the week before Halloween 2004."

While much of the home's interior was gutted, Badeaux spent a great deal of time consulting with

interior designer Missy Gauthier, planning not just the look of the remodeled house, but the function of its many rooms as well.

Badeaux says that by planning how each room would be used before construction began allowed her to organize each space in ways that simplify daily life.

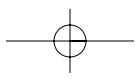
For example, a small door off the kitchen accesses the children's "locker room." Here each child, from their four-year-old to oldest daughter, Heather, has a place to store everything from book bags and tennis rackets to cleats and softball gear.

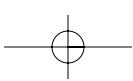
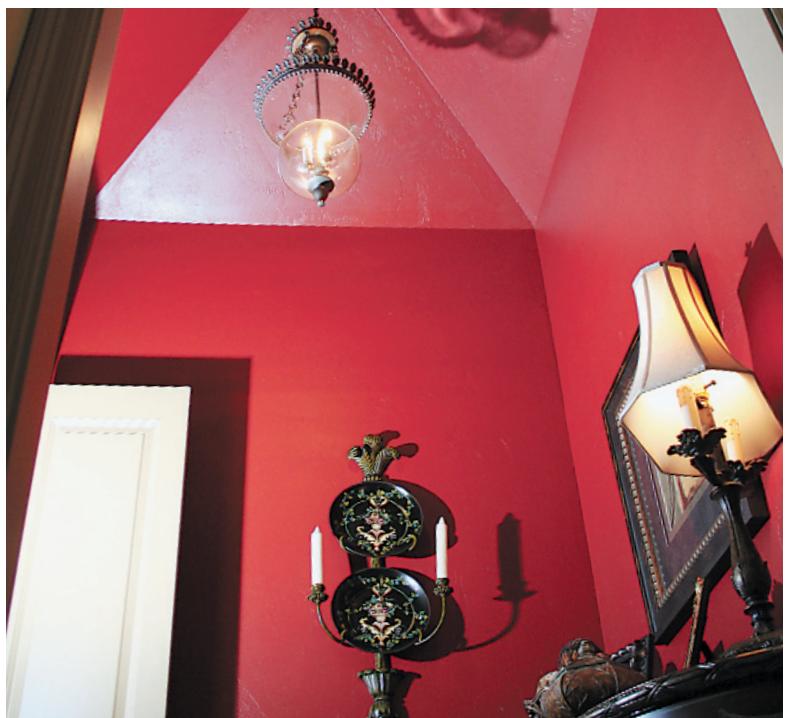
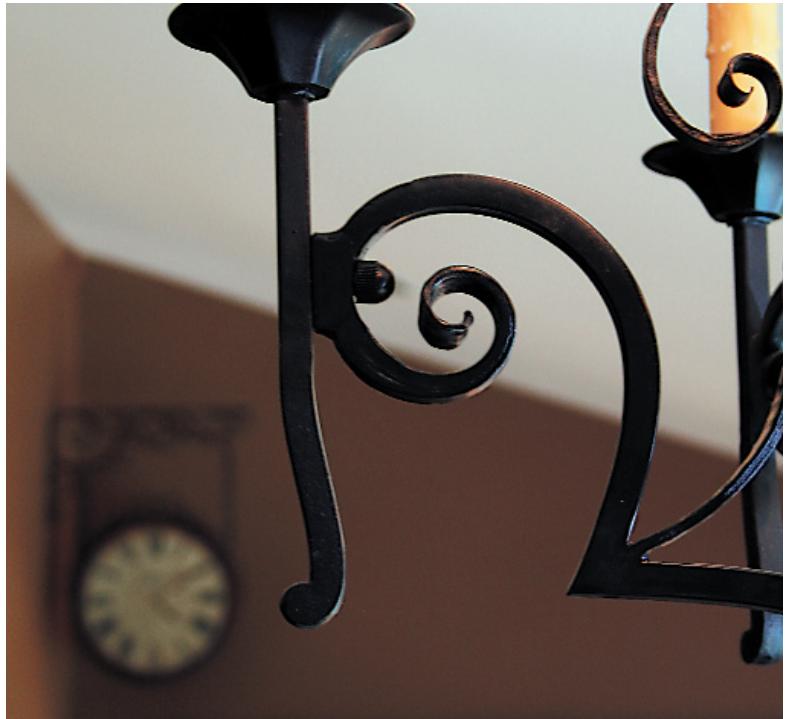
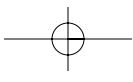
Additionally, the home's utility room incorporates a series of vertical shelves, each one bearing the name of a family member. Here each person can find freshly laundered clothes, folded and waiting to be put away.

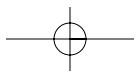
But working with Gauthier helped Badeaux and her husband do more than create an organized home. The Badeauxs and Gauthier used common, often inexpensive, items to create an intriguing blend of visual styles – like the upside-down plant holders which now serve to hold up the curtains in

EVERYTHING
WAS PINK.
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jennifer badeaux







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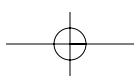
jennifer badeaux

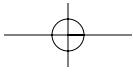


**Building Historic
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their youngest daughter's bedroom.

With their daughters separated in age by more than a decade, decorating their shared bathroom posed another interesting challenge. Here Gauthier found a solution each girl could appreciate.

"The shower curtain is made of ribbons," Badeaux explains.

"Behind is just a standard liner, but the girls just love all the colored ribbons."

"She was very good," says Badeaux of Gauthier, "at working with us and giving us ideas."

While the result of their relentless pursuit of the perfect family home is a house with an unspeakably elegant feel, the Badeauxs are quick to point out that with four children, theirs is not a hands-off domicile.

"It's a *house*," stresses Badeaux. "You're supposed to be able to be comfortable."

She continues, "My husband has a rule. No matter where you sit, you have to be able to put your feet up."

In addition to creature comforts, the couple took great pains to create a home that was livable for their children as well.

A nook just outside the utility room serves as the art room. The area's side walls are covered in magnetic paint and the other in cork-board, to ease display of their little artists' latest masterpieces. Further, the old home's formal sitting room now serves as a playroom for their daughter. From the neon green paint on the walls to the custom-built pink loft, with its closet for play clothes, this room truly is a young girl's wonderland.

At one end of the spacious master suite, the couple created a cozy retreat, with comfortable chairs gathered around the central fireplace and a nearby television. It provides a welcome refuge for the Badeauxs at the end of a long day.

Indeed, their labors have given the couple a home that is not just the envy of all those who come to call, it is the measuring rod by which Badeaux says she judges all other places she stays.

"You don't want to stay anyplace else," she says, "because there's no hotel as nice as my house."



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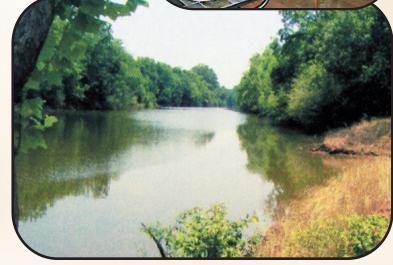
BLIND FAITH RANCH & CABINS



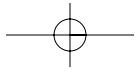
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{leisure}



through rose-colored glasses

ROSEDOWN
PLANTATION
EMBODIES
ESSENCE OF
OLD SOUTH

STORY & PHOTOS BY TATUM L. DUTILE

Historic, beautiful Rosedown Plantation, constructed in 1835, makes for a wonderful excursion. Located in St. Francisville, it's amazing to realize just how close this Louisiana jewel is, as well as how popular it is as a travel destination.

Rosedown was purchased by the Office of State Parks in late 2000 and boasts 371 acres, including "28 acres of the earliest 19th century gardens in the nation." In April of 2005 Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site was added to the National Listing of Historic Landmarks, which at that time contained less than 2,500 other sites.

"The historic presence of the River created deep soil deposits to form uplands that became, in the days of the cotton boom, extremely productive and valuable," states the Louisiana State Park site.

The historic home on the site is amazing. From its balcony view with beautiful, established oaks lining the drive, to its sprawling gardens,

fountains and gazebos, its beauty is never-ending. It's easy to imagine the homes first owners, the Turnbells, sitting on the porch, sipping tea and enjoying the plants and water features.

The Turnbells named the plantation for a play they saw on their honeymoon.

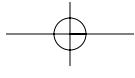
Rosedown Plantation SHS was purchased by the Office of State Parks in November of 2000. It is comprised of 371 acres dating back as far as 1834.

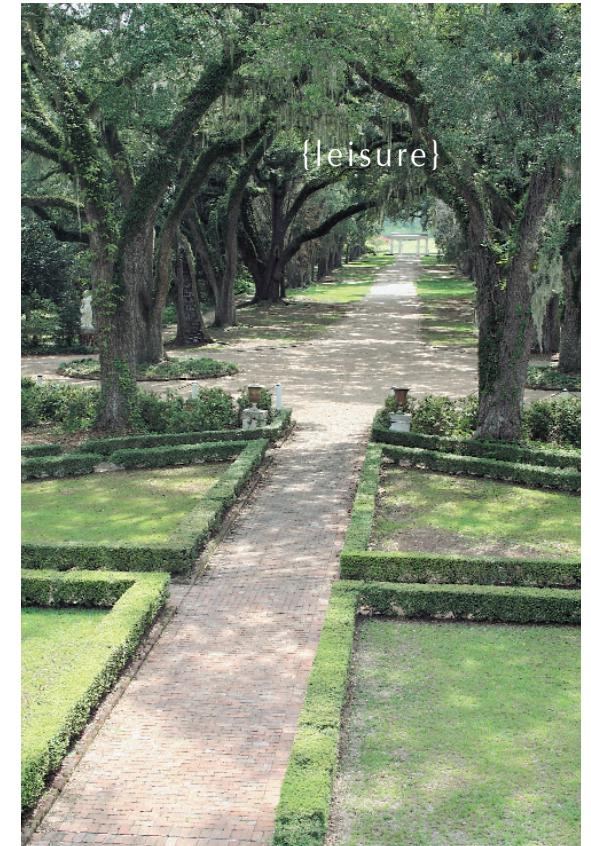
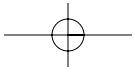
"At its largest, Rosedown Plantation comprised approximately 3,455 acres, the majority of which was planted in cotton," states the site.

It includes a main house, a 660-foot drive lined with oak trees and formal gardens.

Many of the furnishings from the original owners are still in the home, some of which were imported from the North and Europe. This makes it a great destination for antique lovers and history buffs.

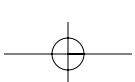
Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site is located at 12501 Highway 10 in St. Francisville. Call (225) 635-3332 or (888) 376-1867 or log on to www.lastateparks.com for more information.

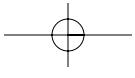




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