Crawfish Festival Opens With French Music, Beer

BREAUX BRIDGE — Rain or shine, strains of Cajun music will herald the official opening of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival at 10 a.m. tomorrow on the riverfront grounds north of town.

Robert Les Dominguez, festival association president, said the rainy weather will not change the plans to have all of the festival’s events, except the coronation of the queen, at the Breaux Bridge Civic Center, although the pageant is set for 10:30 a.m. tomorrow and the coronation will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Other Events

Some of the other events to be staged at the festival grounds include the crawfish eating contest, the parade, and the annual crawfish eating contest, one of the most exciting and enjoyable athletic events since Roman Times. Of course, good Cajun music will keep feet hopping throughout the two-day celebration. And there will be plenty of ice-cold beer.


Queen’s Parade

The Queen’s Parade will be the highlight of Sunday’s activities. The parade will begin at the southeast end of town and, led by Gov.-Elect Edwin Edwards, will proceed along Main Street to the northwest end of town. The parade will feature floats, music and entertainment from other Louisiana centers. It will be followed by a horse and buggy parade.

In between parades and contest, there will be plenty of entertainment. A carnival will be in operation at the festival grounds. There will be a variety of food stands serving specialties of the season. A special event Friday night will be the “Festival of the Stars,” featuring entertainers. The parade will be followed by a fireworks display. All of these events will be held Saturday. The coronation will take place on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. The winner will be crowned by the queen who was selected in the 1972 Crawfish Festival.

Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals captured the hearts and minds of every crawfish lover across the state. Organizers of the event hope to have another successful year.

Crawfish Festival Organizers

The Crawfish Festival will be a big success this year, according to Dominguez. "The festival will bring a lot of people together and there will be plenty of fun for everyone," he said.

Crawfish Festival Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with the festival. Those interested in volunteering should contact the festival association at (337) 566-2233.

Crawfish Festival Schedule

Friday, April 29:
- 6 p.m.: Crawfish Festival opens with a parade.
- 7 p.m.: Crawfish Festival Pageant.
- 8 p.m.: Crawfish Festival Queen Coronation.

Saturday, April 30:
- 10 a.m.: Crawfish Festival opens with an early morning parade.
- 11 a.m.: Crawfish Festival Queen Coronation.
- 1 p.m.: Crawfish Festival Parade.

Sunday, May 1:
- 10 a.m.: Crawfish Festival opens with a parade.
- 1 p.m.: Crawfish Festival Parade.

More information about the Crawfish Festival can be found at www.crawfishfestival.org.
CRAWFISH FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
9:00 a.m.—Jaycee shuttle bus service begins (between Northgate Mall and Festival Park)
10:00 a.m.—Crawfish trail rides (buggy and wagon rides for children and adults)
10:15 a.m.—Baby contest
10:30 a.m.—Preliminary crawfish races
11:00 a.m.—Special forces (rappelling from helicopter)
12:00 Noon—Boiled crawfish sold on grounds
1:00 p.m.—Ladies crawfish peeling contest
         (The record of 33 lbs. is held by Andrew Thevenet of Breaux Bridge)
2:00 p.m.—Crawfish eating contest starts
2:05 p.m.—Dancing (French music)
3:00 p.m.—Special forces (rappelling from helicopter)
4:00 p.m.—Completion of crawfish eating contest (winner presented awards)
7:00 p.m.—Dancing (French music)
7:30 p.m.—Queen’s coronation (National Guard Armory)
11:00 p.m.—Festival ground closed
11:00 p.m.—Last shuttle bus run

SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.—Jaycee shuttle bus service begins
10:00 a.m.—Dancing (French music)
10:30 a.m.—Crawfish races final
11:00 a.m.—Special forces (rappelling from helicopter)
12:00 Noon—Boiled crawfish sold on grounds
2:00 p.m.—Queen’s parade starts at veterans home followed by horse and buggy parade
6:00 p.m.—Festival grounds closed
8:00 p.m.—Last shuttle bus run