Crawfish festival tradition changes

Beverly Corbell
bcorbell@theadvanceroom.com

BREAUX BRIDGE
Unlike in years past, Breaux Bridge will only have one crawfish festival this year, but another celebration is planned in nearby Pare Hardy.

The Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival begins today and goes through Sunday in Pare Hardy on La. 328.

"We'll have the crawfish festival in Breaux Bridge like we always do, and everyone is invited," Mayor Jack Delhomme said. "Black, white, tall, short and thin, we never refuse anyone. We welcome everyone to come to our festival."

The Afro-American Crawfish Festival, which was held annually on the same Saturday weekend, was canceled last month. But True Friends, a Pare benevolent society, is holding the True Friends Crawfish Festival from Friday through Sunday, said True Friends President Clyde Joseph.

Joseph said that he has "plans in the works" to restart the Afro-American Crawfish Festival again in 2005 and supports the True Friends Festival and expects a big crowd.

"A lot of people have relatives from out of town who had reservations (for the canceled festival) and couldn't get their deposit back," Thibodeaux said.

In March, the City Council voted not to put up money for the Afro-American Crawfish Festival, which has been held for years at the National Guard Armory, while the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, which receives money from the city, is held at Pare Hardy. Delhomme cited upfront fees to the predominantly black-run festival that had not been repaid as a reason for the unanimous vote to suspend support for one year.

President Dave Thibodeaux expects a big crowd.

"We'll have the crawfish festival in Breaux Bridge like we always do, and everyone is invited. Black, white, tall, short and thin, we never refuse anyone. We welcome everyone to come to our festival."

-- Jack Delhomme
Breaux Bridge mayor

Armory, which receives money from the city, is held at Pare Hardy.

Delhomme cited upfront fees to the predominantly black-run festival that had not been repaid as a reason for the unanimous vote to suspend support for one year.

President Dave Thibodeaux expects a big crowd.

"We'll have the crawfish festival in Breaux Bridge like we always do, and everyone is invited. Black, white, tall, short and thin, we never refuse anyone. We welcome everyone to come to our festival."

-- Jack Delhomme
Breaux Bridge mayor

"We'll have the crawfish festival in Breaux Bridge like we always do, and everyone is invited. Black, white, tall, short and thin, we never refuse anyone. We welcome everyone to come to our festival."

-- Beverly Corbell
bcorbell@theadvanceroom.com

Acadiana deaths

Phyllis H. Allen, 63, Houston
Louis J. Breaux Jr., 72, New Iberia
Harvey Briere, Lafayette
Gertrude A. Carroll, 85, Lafayette
Joseph Charles, 75, Lafayette
Beauregard Duguay, 83, Crowley
Wills F. Dumont, 93, Lafayette
Lester D. Foles, 96, New Iberia
Elizah H. Fontenot, 88, New Iberia
Agnes D. Gaspers, 96, Lafayette
Jane Eileen G. Gitz, 52, Lafayette
Joseph E. Legarde, 69, Lafayette
Scarlett A. Robin, 34, Port Barre
Lou B. Romane, 76, Abbeville
Annie B. Steene, 85, Lafayette
Ophelia E. Trahan, 50, Opelousas
Calvin Weems, 44, Lafayette

For Obituaries, please see page 7C.

---

Crawfish

Zydeco music from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Master Gee will start at noon Sunday and the festival ends at 6 p.m.

Joseph said that he expects that the Afro-American Festival will be held next year, and in that case, True Friends will go back to just having an event on Friday.

Afro-American Association President Dave Thibodeaux said that he has "plans in the works" to restart the Afro-American Crawfish Festival again in 2005 and supports the True Friends Festival and expects a big crowd.

"A lot of people have relatives from out of town who had reservations (for the canceled festival) and couldn't get their deposit back," Thibodeaux said.

In March, the City Council voted not to put up money for the Afro-American Crawfish Festival, which has been held for years at the National Guard Armory.

The festival in Pare Hardy will run today from 4:30 p.m. to midnight; 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Continued from Page 1A