Crowley inaugurates Carnival; Acadia gears up

Sebreana Domingue
Acadia Bureau Writer

CROWLEY — The first Carnival d'Acadie, Mardi Gras in the Rice City, will be held on Tuesday with live music, a parade, food and arts and crafts booths.

"I see this as a very positive step for the community," said Mayor Isabella delaHoussaye. "Everybody is included in all the events."

Performances, food and music are the highlight of the festivities, which will be on North Parkerson Street. Jim DuBose is serving as chairman of the event.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will begin with music from Lee Benoit and the Bayou Stompers at 10 a.m., followed by Damon Troy at noon. The Grand Slam band horn section will lead a second-line parade at 2 p.m.

The day's activities will conclude with a performance by Grand Slam at 4 p.m. on the main stage on the festival grounds.

"Already this is bigger than we ever expected," delaHoussaye said. "We should have at least 10,000 people (attend the event) throughout the day."

Also, on Tuesday, the Krewe de Mardi Gras Creole in Rayne will hold its second annual Mardi Gras celebration on the tennis courts on Reynolds Street across from the city baseball fields.

The opening ceremony is at 10 a.m., said Ann Washington, a councilwoman in Rayne and a festival organizer. On the schedule is the introduction of parade grand marshal Gladys Curtis, she said.

The event will include activities for youngsters such as a coloring contest, shoe-box float-making, best decorated bicycle contest and a creative mask-making contest, Washington said.

Music for the morning activities will be provided by Rooster and the Zydeco Roadrunners.

The highlight of the Rayne events is the parade down The Boulevard featuring Mardi Gras costumes.

The parade will end at the tennis courts and will be followed by a costume contest. Winners will be selected for best dressed and most original costume.

Festivities after the parade will include entertainment by Zydeco Ray and the Creole Nightriders. The activities will end at 6:30 p.m., Washington said.

"We are hoping for more participating this year," Washington said. "We want it to continue to grow each year and expand."

The Church Point Area Chamber of Commerce and the city will hold a Mardi Gras street dance from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the Depot Square in downtown Church Point.

The event will feature Cajun music by J.C. Carrier and Hot Step.

The fête will continue Sunday with the Courir De Mardi Gras. Sign-up for the event starts at 7 a.m. with the courir slated to begin at 8:30 a.m.

A downtown parade is scheduled for 9 a.m. in Church Point.

The courir will end at the Saddle Tramp Riding Club located at 1036 E. Evey St. Live music, dancing, gumbo and drinks will be available at the Saddle Tramp Riding Club.