Delcambre hosts 39th Shrimp Fete

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DELCAMBRE — On the 20th anniversary of the Woodstock Festival, the small town of Delcambre opened its 39th annual Shrimp Festival with a potpourri of events.

Hours before the festival officially opened, carnival rides, entertainment areas and concession stands were busily readied for festival-goers.

The bingo game area, which later in the festival will be the setting for dancing, was set up in a pavilion bedecked with colorful pennants advertising liquid refreshments.

The carnival midway was lighted in a brilliant multi-color mixture of rides, games, posters and T-shirt vending stands. Several hundred people were caught up in the sights and sounds around them.

Overhead, a total eclipse of the moon added to the opening evening's festivities.

Inside the festival building itself, hundreds of parents, many from the baby-boom era, which led to the Woodstock generation, gathered to see a new generation of tiny tots participate in the Baby Shrimp King and Queen contest, featuring boys and girls, ages 2-4.

Fifty-two children entered the contest, but the final six-person court was selected from a narrowed field of 14 — six boys and eight girls.

The final court consists of Baby Shrimp King Randy Leleux, 4-year-old son of Ralph and Marla Leleux of Delcambre. First Duke was Phillip Meaux, 3½-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Meaux of Maurice. Second Duke is Donald Dewane Henry Jr., 3, son of Donald and Matti Henry of New Iberia.

Baby Shrimp Queen is Keisha Renee Barras, 3-year-old daughter of Tony and Ginger Barras of Delcambre. Her court includes First Maid Sharelle Derise, 4 years old, daughter of Louis and Marilyn Derise of Delcambre; Second Maid Hollie Landry, 3, daughter of Drake and Hope Landry of Delcambre.

Two area dance schools provided entertainment during breaks in the contest, and while the judges made their final decisions.

Other events scheduled for the shrimp festival are the coronation of the shrimp junior queen tonight, followed by a dance. Friday evening highlights include the coronation of the 1989 Shrimp Queen and a dance, and a fais-do-do later in the evening.

Saturday, an arts and crafts show is scheduled, two fais-do-dos, water fights and bingo, and another late night dance.

Sunday, a 5K, and 1-mile run, and a 1-mile walk, followed by the traditional Fisherman's Mass and the blessing of the shrimp boat fleet along the Delcambre Canal. The festival closes that evening.

King candidate Jason Legnon, 2½, 'listens' to judges.