Forty-seventh International Rice Festival, Crowley, “Rice Capital of America.” Through Saturday.

“The International Rice Festival continues to be Louisiana’s oldest, largest and most exciting festival, as is signified by the large attendance. Last year over 150,000 people attended the affair. The festival boasts two entertainment platforms. The Main Platform is located in front of the Courthouse and the second, at the intersection of 4th and Parkerson Avenue. Special highlights of the day include a Cowchip Throwing Contest, Acadian Accordion Contest, Fiddler’s Contest, the Rayne Lions Club Frog Derby, a street dance that night, and in the afternoon, the grandest of them all, the Grand Parade.”

Many, many events are planned, including hot air balloon races.