Visitors celebrate with a parade through the streets of Arnaudville at last year’s French Week. The parade began at the Arnaudville Town Hall and concluded at NuNu Arts and Culture Collective for an end of week party. FILE PHOTO

French

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tors, as well.
That brief introduction will be followed by a morning of workshops and presentations with a break for lunch at noon.
Jacqueline Cochran, communications director with the NUNU Arts and Culture Collective that is hosting the event said keynote speaker Marco Feliuz will present concepts and processes that shaped two of France’s most successful cultural partnerships. Guy Saez of Université Grenoble, France, will discuss the sociology of public and cultural policies.
“Semaine Francaise d’Arnaudville is not about providing answers, but about providing a platform for exchange and discussion,” Cochran said.
She said the programs will be presented in French and English. Translators will be on hand throughout the day so that everyone may participate.
“It has only taken one year for Semaine Francaise d’Arnaudville to become a very active platform form cultural cooperation between Louisiana and France, especially with Bretagne/Brittany,” said Jean-Claude Brunet, Consul General of France in New Orleans, who is assisting this year.
“Creative projects sharing a common view on the possible role of arts, culture and education in the local economic development are being implemented. The French Consulate is delighted to be a partner of this process of creative placemaking,” Brunet said.
Following Monday’s workshops in Arnaudville, Cochran said the program will move to Baton Rouge on Tuesday and Wednesday and will repeat much of the program.

WANT TO GO?
What: Semaine Francaise d’Arnaudville
When: Today and Monday, program moves to Baton Rouge Tuesday and Wednesday
Where: NUNU Arts & Culture Collective, 1510 Codon Road (I-93), Arnaudville
Information: Call 337-484-9190

“We have a lot of Baton Rouge interest this year, especially from the business community,” Cochran said.
Those programs, including a luncheon with LGT. Gov. Jay Dardenne and a presentation by Brunet, are also open to the public.
Cochran previewed Wednesday’s program, “Art Connections and International Roots,” to be held in the Capital Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.
“It is all about building business connections between our two countries,” Cochran said.
The program returns to Arnaudville on Thursday for a wrap-up session.
“We will be discussing how it went and how we can do it better. The planning for next year will begin immediately,” Cochran said.
Although that will mark the formal end of this year’s celebration, she said many of the Semaine Francaise visitors plan to stay around for Festival International de Louisiane in Lafayette.
The French musicians have also been invited to perform in Shreveport while they are the state.
Although the event is only 1-year-old, she said it is rapidly expanding and next year should be even bigger.
“Other areas of the state want to be part of it. Lake Charles, Monroe, Shreveport, Baton Rouge all want to be a part of it. The conversation is changing; it appears it will become an event that will include all of Louisiana,” Cochran said.

Semaine Francaise kicks off
Arnaudville program seeks to unite French, local business, culture

By William Johnson
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Semaine Française d’Arnaudville — French Week in Arnaudville — is underway and everyone is invited to join in.
Sunday was a family fun day, but the serious work of building bridges between Louisiana and France and creating jobs in the process begins Monday with speakers from France and Acadiana.
All the events are free and open to the public.
The program will get down to business on Monday with dozens of workshops all focused on the theme of “creative placemaking.”
That concept helps to generate jobs by combining the art and culture of a region with its business community.
The day will begin with a formal opening ceremony at 9 a.m., featuring Arnaudville Mayor Kathy Richard and Mavis Pruett, the head of Arnaudville’s Jacques Arnaud Collective. St. Landry Parish President Bill Fontenot will be on hand to welcome visiting French. See FRENCH, Page 5A

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