



"Passport to Fun"

passes are now on sale at Crowley ShopRites/Tobacco Plus, and I-10 Crowley Chevron Sale ends Thursday, Oct. 16th @ 5pm

Presented by



only \$54 (timited number available)

"Passport to Fun" passes are good for unlimited rides, all 4 days of the Rice Festival

DAILY BRACELET PRICES: THURSDAY - SATURDAY: \$30 PER DAY SUNDAY SAVER SPECIAL: \$25

Carnival Times:

Thursday 6-10 Friday & Saturday 10-10 Sunday 12-6

Mega Pass Times:

"PLEASE NOTE END TIME FOR MEGA PASS/BRACELET Thursday 6-10 Friday & Saturday 10-10 Sunday 12-6

2025 Official Program | 88th International Rice Festival

"Rice Capital of America" Crowley, Louisiana | October 16-19, 2025

Festival Officers & Board of Directors



Julian LeBlanc
President



Joshua Spell General Chairman



Louis Romero Co-Chair



Shannon Guidry Secretary/Treasurer



Delo Hebert Member at Large



Shanna Monk Festival Coordinator



Jeff Cavell



Romona Credeur



Sean Devillier



Blane Faulk



Ronda Richard

Festival Events

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Annual Queen's Ball / Honoree Social
The annual event will be held at the International Rice
Festival Building. The event includes the
presentation of the 87th International Rice Festival
Queen & the 88th Festival Honoree, International Rice
Festival President, Farmer of the Year, Jr. Farmer of
the Year, Parade Marshals and Festival Queens from
around the state of Louisiana.

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Opening night of the 88th International Rice Festival begins at 6:00 pm with entertainment, carnival rides and most food booths.

Friday, October 17, 2025

The first full day of the 88th International Rice Festival is recognized as "Children's Day." Special events include the official opening of the festival by the 88th IRF President, the crowning of the 2025 Junior King and Queen and the Children's Parade. The Rice & Creole Cookery contest and Rice Eating contest are also exciting events happening during the day on Friday. Make plans to visit the Arts & Crafts Booths at Levy Park and of course, entertainment can be heard on both festival stages following the parade until Midnight.

Saturday, October 18, 2025

The second full day of the festival will begin with the crowning of the 88th International Rice Festival Queen by the 88th IRF Honoree. Special guests during the contest are the beautiful visiting queens from around

the State of Louisiana. The Accordion and Fiddle Contest will take place on Saturday morning. At 3:00 pm, the grandest of all parades will stroll down the streets of downtown Crowley. The Grand Parade, sponsored by Jaguar Energy Services is fun for all ages that you do not want to miss!

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Family Fun Day is held on Sunday from noon until 6:00 p.m. This is an alcohol free day with carnival rides and games ONLY. Vendors only associated with Gold Star Amusements will be open.





elcome

2025 International Rice Festival President

I am honored to welcome everyone to the 88th International Rice Festival and to the home of the oldest, largest and free agricultural festival in the State of Louisiana, our hometown of Crowley.

We come to celebrate the rice harvest, farmers and all involved in getting rice in the hands of cooks and homes of families everywhere.

I invite everyone to come and enjoy everything that the festival offers, from our carnival to the parade to the wonderful music. While visiting with us, don't miss our culture's famous cuisine, topped off with the reigning golden grain, RICE! Favorites like boudin, gumbo, jambalaya, etouffee and much more are what they are because of the crop we all hold so dear.

As an active member of the International Rice Festival since 2000, I have learned and am still learning what it takes to organize and run the festival. The International Rice Festival means so much to me, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the 88th President. This organization comes together as one big family every third full weekend in October to celebrate such a special event, bringing together locals and visitors alike and I am so blessed to be a part of it.

To the Honorees and the 87th International Rice Festival Queen, Alana Abshire, thank you for representing this great Festival. Finally, to the Board of Directors, members, volunteers, sponsors and vendors... I thank you!! It is because of all of you that we will continue the celebration of rice forever.







1988 Robert Istre

Past Rice Festival Presidents

1937	R.E. Schlicher & Justin Wilson
1938	R.E. Schlicher & Justin Wilson
1939	J. Bruce Barousse
1940	W.J. Cleveland
1941	Jerry Ashley
1942-	45 War Years
1946	Jerry Ashley & R.E. Schlicher
1947	W.E. Trimble & W.M. Loving
1948	W.M. Loving
1949	A.B. Dore & W.D. Harmon
1950	Guy Gardiner & Millard Roberts

1951 Clyde Hodges

1952	Harry Redman & B.W. Hoyt	1970	Dr. John Davis
1953	W.J. Cleveland	1971	Bill Williams
1954	J.W. Barnett	1972	Dan Rogers
1955	George Geesey	1973	Mike McBride
1956	Ralph Cowen	1974	Lyle Fogleman, Sr
1957	Edwin Edwards	1975	Julius Meaux
1958	Henry Cowen	1976	Rita Nicholson
1959	Alvin A. Brinker	1977	John E. Broussard
1960	Edmund M. Reggie	1978	L.J. Dailey
1961	Joe Gielen	1979	Macon D. Faulkne
1962	Louis M. Basso	1980	JoAnn Broussard
1963	Marion Edwards	1981	Stephen Stefansk
1964	A.B. Dore	1982	John E. Hains
1965	T. Barrett Harrington	1983	Harry Benoit
1966	J.B. Broussard	1984	Phil Lizotte
1967	Kenneth Faulk	1985	Keith Broussard
1968	Dr. H. Rouse Caffey	1986	Bill Williams
1969	S.L. Wright II	1987	Larry Trahan

1989	Glynn Mayard		
1990	Ken Goss		
1991	Debbie Doré	2008	Blane Faulk
1992	Gene Williams	2009	Janet Hebert
1993	Esther Trahan	2010	Albert Leleux
1994	Diane E. Miller	2011	JC Webb
1995	Larry G. Broussard	2012	Brady Williams
1996	E. Skip Smith	2013	Romona Credeur
1997	Ronald Levy Jr.	2014	Connie Nutt
1998	J. Elliot Doré	2015	Troy Perry
1999	Mellie W. James	2016	Elisabeth Leleux
2000	Gil Pinac	2017	Suzy B. Webb
2001	Dolores Nutt	2018	Elizabeth Monk
2002	Doris Reiners	2019	Deborah Nutt Whiting
2003	Harry Walker	2021	Gilles Piron
2004	Patty K. Simon	2022	Louis "Buddha" Romero Jr.
2005	Tracy Wirtz	2023	Kevin Spell
2006	Bradley LaCombe	2024	Joshua Spell
2007	Jeremy "Jay" Suire	2025	Julian LeBlanc





87th International

Rice Festival Queen



There is no place like home here in my hometown of Crowley, Louisiana; the Rice Capital of America during rice season. It is the sight of combines working day in and day out to collect their harvest. It is the sight of the rice fields that glow golden. It is a celebration of every farmer, miller, and family who work tirelessly to feed the world.

The International Rice Festival is here, one of the Cajun's favorite holidays where RICE truly REIGNS. It is my honor to welcome you to the 88th International Rice Festival, held annually every third full weekend in October. I have been apart of this festival for many years as I have danced as an International Rice Festival dancer (a Ricette.) I was a part of a group of girls who entertained at Queen's balls and on the very stage that the Queen's pageant will be held. I have watched many young women before me gain the title of Rice Queen as I stood on the sidelines. Dreaming of one day becoming one of those lucky young women who took home the title, 358 days ago that little girl's dream finally became a reality; "and your 87th International Rice Festival Oueen is...".

This year has brought to me many opportunities of a lifetime as I have traveled the country as an advocate for our festival and most importantly, the rice industry. I have also gone to many fairs and festivals sharing my love for all things rice. Some of my favorite travels include traveling to Washington D.C. for the Mystic Krewe of Louisianians Mardi Gras Ball, Little Rock, Arkansas for the USA rice conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado for the Rice Millers Association Conference, and Winnie, Texas for the Texas Rice Festival. I have also had the amazing opportunity of being chosen by this year's festival Honoree, Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, to be apart of the first ever women's group to ride in the Krewe of Bacchus parade in New Orleans, Louisiana as their theme this year was "Louisiana Fairs and Festivals." Along with my many travels, I have made the best memories and even better friends, those of which I have shared nearly every weekend with traveling the state of Louisiana. With only six weekends off the entire year and over 14,500 miles traveled, I proudly say that I have done as much as I possible could have done this past year to be the best advocate I could be. I am proud to be apart of a legacy who honors those who work so hard for you and me.

Now it is time to celebrate our farmers, millers, and the golden grain itself! I walk out of my front door welcomed by the smell of a fresh harvest and combines at work in the field across the highway. We welcome YOU to be apart of our favorite celebration. At our festival, in the heart of Cajun Country, we have not one, but two stages with a toe-tapping lineup you won't forget as you dance each night away. Our festival has something for everyone as we have a Rice and Creole Cookery contest, 5k run, car show, carnival rides, a fiddle and accordion contest, arts and crafts, car show, a children's parade, AND the Grand parade. There are so many opportunities for you in Downtown Crowley on festival weekend!

We hope to see you celebrating with us at the oldest and largest FREE agricultural festival in the state of Louisiana, where you may walk in as a stranger but forever and always leave as family.

Wishing you a Rice and Easy time International Rice Festival Queen LXXXVII



Past Rice Festival Queens

1937 Mrs. Estelle Bonin Fleming

Mrs. Cecile Trahan Larcade

Mrs. Lucille Jones Brodbeck

Mrs. Melba Keller Hoffpauir

1941 Mrs. Ann Meridith Van Ness

1942-45 War Years

1946 Carolyn Breaux Martin

Mary Alice Tosso

Mrs. loycelyn Aube Heming

1949 Mary Barbara Rodriguez

1950 Jackie Hoffnauir

1951 Lorraine Lott

1952 Angie Branch

Mrs. Betty David Billiard

1954 Mrs. Cady Gardiner Privot

Carolyn Leonards replaced 1955 by Wanda Peterson

1956 Mrs. Margie Moore Hanisee

1957 Patricia Lormand

Mrs. Carolyn Cherry Moore

Judith Ann Haydell 1959

1960 Virginia O'Brien

1961 Marilyn Ann Adams

Vickie Lee Nutting replaced by Sharon Elliott

Brenda Daigle

1964 Valerie Oustalet

1965 Dianne Everett Miller

1966 Linda Leoty

Mrs. Debbie Carpenter Noble 1967

Susan Garcia

1969 Deborah Elizabeth Jones

replaced by Lydia Breaux

1970 Paula Bergeron

1971 **Bridget Parsley** 1972

1973 Mrs. Renee Duplechin Tauzin

Karen Bollich 1974

1975 Patricia Cran

1976 Tara Ann Hargrove

1977 Betty Aliee

1978 Cynthia Gossen

1979 Beth Meaux

1980 Donna Pousson Hebert

1981 Danette Trahan

1982 Gwendolyn Dugas

Michelle Meche

1984 Camille Bourgeois

1985 Anna Christine Arceneaux

1986 Tonva Stoute

1987 Catherine Arceneaux

Dana Randolph

Jean Marie LeJeune

1990 Tonii Ann Adock

Tiffany Shannon McDaniel 1991

1992 Christine Lawson Gil

Heather Hedrick 1993

Yvonne Gilder Anderson

Keisha Benoit Rue

1996 Jennifer Broadus

Angela Marie Abate Fav 1997

1998 Courtney Terrell

Amy Catherine Pastor Bergeron

Elizabeth Jane Lawson Monk

2001 Melanie Rene Falcon Daigle

2002 Lauren Elise Barry Naquin

2003 Aleigha Evan Trahan Singer

Joelle Elisabeth Benoit Guidry

Krystle Lynn Todd Blue

2006 Marissa Champagne

2007 Amber Thibodeaux Hargrove

2008 Devin Angelle Babineaux

2009 Amber Comeaux Landry

2010 André Elizabeth Lyons Bruce

2011 Macy LeBlanc

2012 Sarah Mouton 2013 Hailey Claire Hensgens

2014

Allison Hoffpauir

2015 Camille Elise Quebodeaux

AnnaLisa Meredith 2017 Kathryn Shea Duncan

2018 Victoria Marie Callahan

2019 Jimi Madison Joubert

2021 Caroline Elizabeth Hardy Sadie Renee Zaunbrecher

Isabella Hardy

2024 Alana Abshire



The 88th International Rice Festival has selected Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser as the Honoree for the 2025 festivities. The annual event is the oldest and largest agricultural festival in Louisiana.

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser is an outspoken voice for all of Louisiana.

Billy Nungesser is the 54th Lieutenant Governor. Since taking office in 2016, he and his team have guided the state to record-breaking tourism numbers of 53 million visitors prior to the pandemic, cut wasteful spending, and revitalized the State Park system in which several are self-sustaining and profitable.

Under his leadership, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has worked non-stop to revive Louisiana's 4th largest industry – hospitality industry - welcoming tens of millions of visitors annually to enjoy Louisiana's variety of cultural experiences, history, music, celebrations and culinary excellence.

In October 2023, Lt. Governor Nungesser was re-elected to a third term and, for the second time, with more votes than any other elected official. He is the longest- serving Republican lieutenant governor in Louisiana's history. He truly is a Lieutenant Governor for ALL of Louisiana.





Past Rice Festival Honorees

		1958	Nelson Jodon
		1959	Harry G. Chalkley
		1960	William Hinkle
		1961	Leonard B. Ellis
		1962	R.E. Schlicher & Just
1946	J.M. Jenkins	1963	Joseph Doré
1947	Frank Godchaux	1964	Mrs. Salmon Wright I
1948	C.J. Freeland, Sr.	1965	August A. Busch
1949	W.M. Reid	1966	Makota Saito
1950	J.E. Broussard	1967	George Luthke
1951	W.M. Hoyt	1968	Gov. Edwin Edwards
1952	Mrs. May Hayes	1969	Howard Alderson
1953	Dr. J.N. Efferson	1970	Henry M. Beachell
1954	Alonzo E. Udell	1971	Cong. Otto E. Passm
1955	Cong. T.A. Thompson	1972	Gordon E. Doré
1956	W.D. Smith	1973	William J. Cleveland

1957 C.A. Brewer

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1975	J.P. Gains
1976	Cong. John Breaux
1977	Dr. T.H. (Ted) Johnston
1978	Jack M. Kaplan
1979	Wayne G. Robinson
1980	Winston Atteberry
1981	J.B. Broussard
1982	Lewis C. Hill
1983	Ben A. Baldwin
1984	Macon D. Faulkner
1985	Steve Gabbert
1986	Charles R. Godchaux
1987	Dr. Charles Bollich
1988	Marcel J. Damiens
1989	Jean Royby Vincent
1990	Harold "Rod" Rodriguez
1991	Raymond Hensgens
1992	Bill Goldsmith

1974 H. Rouse Caffery

1993	Charles Miia
1994	Leonard Hensgens
1995	Linda G. Zaunbrecher
1996	William A Doré
1997	Nolan J. Guillot
1998	Curtis E. Wolf
1999	Cong. Chris John
2000	Joseph A. Musick
2001	John Denison
2002	John Creed
	Al Doré
2004	Mary Reid
2005	Charles & Mona Falcon Traha
2006	James William Warshaw
2007	Jimmy Hoppe
	Jackie Paul Loewer, Jr.
2009	Dr. Steven Linscombe
2010	Robert "Bobby" Hanks

2011 Drs. Sue & Tim Croughan

		Randy Jemison
	2013	Wayne & Michael Hensgens
	2014	Congressman
		Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D.
	2015	Herbert E. Schilling II
	2016	Charles William Abell, Jr.
	2017	Dr. Rustum
		Ernest "Ernie" Girouard, Jr.
ı	2018	John E. Broussard
	2019	Thibodeaux Ag Group
	2021	Adrianne Vidrine
	2022	Ronnie Levy
	2023	Joseph "Bubba" Morgan
	2024	Bradley Reed

2025 Lt. Governor Billy Nungessor



Farmer of the Year

A lifelong advocate for agriculture and a respected leader in the rice industry, Eric's story is one rooted in family, faith, and a deep love for farming. Eric, 54, is the youngest of five sons born to Charles "Buddy" Unkel and Ruth Kuntz. Alongside his brothers Hine, Kurt, Pete, and David, all of whom are involved in the family farm in some form or fashion, Eric has helped continue a proud agricultural legacy in southwest Louisiana.

His passion for farming began early. As a child, Eric could often be found in his father's back pocket—sometimes literally—as he would sleep on the floorboard of the tractor or combine until he was big enough to drive one himself. His interest in rice farming was evident even as a youth, growing four to five acres of rice in a 4-H project in 1982. In high school, he remained active in 4-H and FFA, where he earned the Star Greenhand Chapter Award.

Eric graduated from McNeese State University in 1993 with a degree in Agricultural Business. After college, he began his professional career with the Federal Grain Inspection Service, but soon returned to pursue his true calling—farming. He started with 300 acres of rice and 100 acres of soybeans. Today, he farms 1,200 to 1,500 acres on his own, and a total of 2,800 acres in partnership with his family. In addition to rice and soybeans, he also produces crawfish and raises cattle.

Eric's commitment to conservation and sustainable agriculture is evident through his participation in numerous programs. He completed the Louisiana Master Farmer Program in 2007, was a member of the USA Rice Leadership Development Program (Class of 2007), and participated in the USA Rice International Leadership Class in 2009, 2016, 2022, and is participating in 2025. His dedication to land stewardship includes the installation of over 125 drop pipes, five miles of underground irrigation, and active participation in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) with Ducks Unlimited and USDA NRCS.

In addition to his farming achievements, Eric has served his community and industry in numerous leadership roles. Locally, he served 10 years on the Parish County Committee and 11 years on the Allen Parish Soil and Water Conservation District Board. He currently serves on the Allen Parish Rice Growers Association and has held leadership roles at both the state and national levels. He was elected to the Louisiana Rice Council in 2010 and has served as Chairman since 2014. In 2024, he was appointed to the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board. Nationally, Eric serves on the USA Rice Council Board of Directors and was past chair 2021 - 2023. Additionally, he is an active member of both the Domestic and International Promotion Committees of USA Rice and USA Rice Federation Board of Directors as well as serves on the USA Rice Farmers Board of Directors.

Eric is also deeply rooted in his Catholic faith, and he credits all of his success to the family and friends who have supported him along the way. He and his wife, Cathy Yantis Unkel, have built a life centered on faith, family, and hard work. They are proud parents of three children and six grandchildren, and Eric continues to inspire future generations with his example of leadership, humility, and dedication to agriculture.

Past Rice Farmers of the Year

1960 W.M. Bill Prather

1961 A.M. Moore

William W. Walton 1962

1963 Robert E. Harrington Paul R. Langlinais

1965 M.W. Mickey Scanlan

1966 Al Reiners

Ashton Petitjean 1967

1968 Leonard Hensgens

1969 Thomas Mayes

1970 Chester Faulk

1971 Rustum E. Girouard

1972 Ralph Cowen

1973 Grant Link

1974 Weston P. Monceaux

1975 Lyle O. Fogleman, Jr.

1976 Paul E. Wild

1977 Francis Duplachan Jr.

1978 Furic "Bill" Savant Jr.

1979 Edwin J. Leonards

1980 Larry Sarver 1981 Vincent J. Berken

1982 Glenn Zaunbrecher

1983 Jake Ardoin

Austin W. Bollich 1984

1985 Leonard L. "Buck" Leonards

Kern Ardoin

1987 **Buford Perry** 1988 Errol Lounsberry

1989 C.A. Fabacher

1990

Herman L. Berken 1991 James Hoppe

1992 Edward H. Wild

1993 John Denison

1994 Glen Ray Trahan

1995 **Dennis Leonards**

1996 **Dwight Hardee**

1997 Chester Boudreaux

1998 Paul Jackie Loewer

1999 Dr. Ernest Girouard

2000 Kim Frey

2001 Davis Lacour

2002 Randy Thibodeaux

2003 Neil Lejeune

2004 Wavne Smith

2005 John Aaron Duhon

2006 Fred Zaunbrecher

2007 Richard B. Fontenot 2008 Jeff Durand

2009 Clarence Berken

2010 Glenn Simon

2011 Kevin Berken

2012 Gerald "Jerry" Leonards, Jr.

2013 Donald Berken

2014 John "Bubba" Leonards

2015 Jeffery Sylvester

2016 Donald Leonards

2017 Kent Brown

2018 Gerard Frey

2019 Alan Lawson

Philip Lamartiniere 2021

2022 Reece Guillot

Christian & Julie Richard 2023

2024 Troy Fruge

2025 Eric Unkel





SOUNDSTAGE

SCHEDULE OF BANDS

Friday, October 17, 2025

3:00-4:15pm

PHILLIP HEBERT

Sponsored by The Wright Group

4:30-6:00pm ADAM LEGER

Sponsored by Coca-Cola 6:30-8:00pm

SWAMPLAND REVIVAL

Sponsored by The Bank 8:30-10:00pm

WAYNE TOUPS

Sponsored by Jaguar Energy Services 10:30-MIDNIGHT

BAG OF DONUTS

Sponsored by Shop Rite

Saturday, October 18, 2025

5:00-6:15pm

RYAN BRASHER

Sponsored by Step-Ko Products 6:30-8:00pm

LEIF MECHE BAND

Sponsored by Jaguar Energy Services 8:30-10:00pm

CATEGORY 6

Sponsored by EL Habetz Builders 10:30-MIDNIGHT

AARON TIPPIN

Sponsored by Supreme Rice



Thursday, October 16, 2025 6:00-7:30pm

KALEB OLIVIER

Sponsored by Jaguar Energy Services

8:00-9:30pm

DUSTN SONNIER

Sponsored by The Bank

10:00pm-MIDNIGHT

80's EXPERIENCE

Sponsored by The Wright Group





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 17, 2025

10:00am... OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RICE FESTIVAL

Supreme Rice Soundstage

10:15am... 2025 JR. KING AND QUEEN CONTEST Supreme Rice Soundstage

11:30am... CROWNING OF THE 88th INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL JR. KING AND QUEEN Supreme Rice Soundstage

12:00pm... INTERNATIONAL RICE EATING CONTEST

Supreme Rice Soundstage Lions Club

1:15pm... AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Supreme Rice Soundstage Rice and Creole Cooking Contest Awards

1:30pm... CHILDREN'S PARADE Sponsored by The Bank

Saturday, October 18, 2025

9:00am... OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RICE FESTIVAL Supreme Rice Soundstage

9:15am... AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Supreme Rice Soundstage Millworkers of the Year

10:00am... ACCORDIAN & FIDDLE CONTEST

Cajun Country Rice Soundstage

10:15am... 2025 INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL QUEEN'S CONTEST Supreme Rice Soundstage

10:30am... PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD

Supreme Rice Soundstage 10:45am... CROWNING OF THE 88th INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL QUEEN

Supreme Rice Soundstage

11:00am... FROG DERBY

Supreme Rice Soundstage

3:00pm... GRAND PARADESponsored by Jaguar Energy Services



CAJUN COUNTRY RICE

4TH STREET SOUNDSTAGE

SCHEDULE OF BANDS

Thursday, October 16, 2025

6:00-8:00pm

TJ GAUTREAUX

Sponsored by Shop Rite 8:30-10:00pm

MAIS QUI!

Sponsored by Coca-Cola

10:30pm-MIDNIGHT GENO DELAFOSSE

Sponsored by The Wright Group

Friday, October 17, 2025

3:00-5:00pm

DAMON TROY

Sponsored by Coca-Cola 5:30-7:30pm

COLBY LATIOLAIS

Sponsored by The Bank 8:00-9:30pm

THAT 90's SHOW

Sponsored by Jaguar Energy Services 10:00-MIDNIGHT

KEITH FRANK

Sponsored by Cajun Country Rice

Saturday, October 18, 2025

12:30-2:00pm

CHUBBY CARRIER

Sponsored by The Wright Group 5:30-7:30pm

THE VERMILLIONAIRES

Sponsored by Coca-Cola

8:00-9:30pm

SPARE PARTS

Sponsored by Air Evac/Med Express

10:00-MIDNIGHT

JAMIE BERGERON

Sponsored by Thib's Auto Titles & Tags







OTHER LOCATIONS

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

7:00pm... SENIOR CITIZENS BALL Rice Festival Building 717 West Mill Street

Friday, October 17, 2025

9:00am-6:00pm... OPENING OF OUTDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS Levy Park between 3rd & 4th Street

> 9:30am... RICE & CREOLE COOKING CONTEST LSU AG Center, 157 Cherokee Dr., Crowley

Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:00am... RICE FESTIVAL 5K RUN

Crowley Court House, 505 Court Circle Sponsored by Northside Christian School

9:00am-6:00pm... OPENING OF OUTDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS
Levy Park between 3rd & 4th Street

1:00pm... RICE THRESHING DEMONSTRATION First Baptist Church, 4th Street & Avenue G

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Noon-6:00pm... FAMILY FUN DAY Alcohol Free



Tr. Farmer of the Year

Joseph William Dore

The 88th International Rice Festival will recognize Joseph William Dore as the 2025 Junior Farmer of the Year. This award is given to a young rice farmer actively contributing to the industry, selected from a pool of nominees put forth by FFA and Ag teachers from local schools.

Joseph's selection highlights his deep-rooted family legacy in rice farming. At just 18 years old, Joseph hails from Egan and is the son of Jake Dore and Gretchen Francois Dore. He shares his family lineage with two brothers, Jacob and Michael, and is the grandson of Bill and Debbie Dore of Crowley, as well as Allen and Jackie François of Mowata.

The Dore family operates a substantial farm that encompasses 750 acres dedicated to rice and another 750 acres for crawfish. Currently a senior at Iota High School, Joseph is actively engaged with the basketball team, Beta Club, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He will be graduating in May 2026.

Rice farming is more than a profession for Joseph; it is a cherished family tradition that has flourished for generations. His great-great-grandfather, also named Joseph Dore, founded the Supreme Rice Mill in 1936, with significant contributions from his great-grandfather Gordon Dore and grandfather Bill Dore. For the past 34 years, Joseph's father, Jake, has devoted himself to farming and

supplying rice to the family mill. As part of this legacy, Joseph has taken on vital roles in the family business, with aspirations to continue the tradition after graduation.

Beyond his agricultural pursuits, Joseph enjoys hunting, fishing, playing golf, and spending quality time with family and friends. Family is central to his life, and he actively strives to be a positive role model for his younger cousins and members of his community.

> 1974 Trent Fogleman 1975 Bradley Leger



Past Rice Festival Jr. Farmers of the Year

		1976	Randall K. Johns
		1977	Danny L. Richar
		1978	Zachary Cart
		1979	Jeffrey C. Faulk
1962	Wavey Martin	1980	Wade P. Richard
1963	Kenneth Colligan	1981	Michael W. Faull
1964	Girard Hoffpauir III	1982	Richard Heinen
1965	Jack A. Hoffpauir	1983	Troy A. Frugé
1966	Freddy LeDoux	1984	Charles B. Reine
1967	Edmund Regan	1985	Spencer G. Smit
1968	Renae Trumps	1986	Patrick L. Reiner
1969	James Habetz, Jr.	1987	Travis J. Pellerin
1970	Katry Martin	1988	Barrett P. Lyons
1971	Kim Frey	1989	James P. Leonar
1972	Elliott Wimberly	1990	Robert Leonards
1973	Lyle Fogleman, Jr.	1991	Steven Theriot

1992	Thomas Kim Frey
1993	Chris Humble
1994	Kristie Janee Pellerin
1995	Monica Lyons
1996	Seth L. Zaunbrecher
1997	Blaine T. Walton
1998	Ashley C. Frugé
1999	Bridget Lyons
2000	Andrew Richard
2001	Jeffery Michael Regan
2002	Benjamin Laurence Le
2003	Chester Faulk
2004	Jason Lorenz Zaunbre

2005 Michael Charles Hundley J

2006 John Raymond Leonards

2007 John Edward Hundley 2008 Bryant Matthew Gossen

2009 Jack Thomas Hundley

	2010	Officiophici Garrett i
	2014	Matthew Paul Doré
	2015	Tyler Joseph Breaux
	2016	Jacob Zaunbrecher
	2017	Michael Paul Zaunbr
	2018	Benjamin Joseph Far
	2019	Jake John Reiners
rds	2021	Ethan Anthony Zauni
	2022	Hudson Charles LeB
-	2023	Kynlee Fruge
r.	2024	Christian Leonards
	2025	Joseph William Dore

2010	Phillip John Reiners
2011	Philip James Leonards
2012	Clint Daniel Faul
2013	Christopher Garrett Klumpp
2014	Matthew Paul Doré
2015	Tyler Joseph Breaux
2016	Jacob Zaunbrecher
2017	Michael Paul Zaunbrecher
2018	Benjamin Joseph Faulk
2019	Jake John Reiners
2021	Ethan Anthony Zaunbrecher
2022	Hudson Charles LeBlanc
0000	IZ TO THE TAXABLE PROPERTY.

Past Young Farmers of the Year

Philip J. Habetz Robert A. Gossen



Parade Marshal

Shanna Comeaux Monk

Shanna is the daughter of Wendell Comeaux and Ramona Ogima. She was born and raised in Crowley where she is a proud alumni of the Crowley High School Class of 2000. After high school, she attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Public Relations with a minor in Business Marketing. Shanna is happily married to Jared Monk and is the proud mother of two sons, Maddox and Jace.

Shanna's love for the International Rice Festival began at an early age, not only as a visitor to the festival, but as an International Rice Festival Ricette, the official dance troupe of the International Rice Festival for many years. Under the direction of Mrs. Delores Nutt, the Ricettes offered her a "backstage view" of the festival providing entertainment during festival activities throughout the weekend. Shanna's fondest memories of the festival are those from the parades she participated in beginning at early age. Even now, she looks forward to Saturday afternoon at three o'clock when the sirens begin and parade rolls down her hometown.

Attending the festival since she can remember, in 2015, her role changed and Shanna began volunteering, serving as co-chair of the Queen's Contest Committee alongside her close friend, Tessa. She enjoyed spending time with the young ladies vying to become the next Rice Festival Queen. But, in April of 2018, then festival chairman, Chad Monceaux, offered Shanna the position of Festival Coordinator, a position that would forever change her life and her outlook on the festival she held so close to her heart. She gladly accepted as a volunteer, working with the board to learn about all facets of the festival. On October 21, 2018, Shanna completed her first festival as coordinator but there was a long road of work ahead to improve the festival for all involved, especially the volunteers and festival goers.

In 2020, the Board of Directors were faced with the decision to cancel the festival but promised it would be back in 2021, better than before. And that they did. With the hard work of the Board and Coordinator, along with the support of the community, they grew the sponsorships from \$150,000 to over \$300,000. More importantly, solid relationships were built with volunteers, vendors, sponsors and festival goers. These relationships are still going strong today and although the members of the board have changed, the end goal still remains the same...a celebration to honor our farmers and the rice industry as a whole.

Shanna's community involvement is certainly not limited to the IRF. She stays very active in the community. She is a member of the Acadia Parish Chamber Board of Directors, president of the Crowley Professional Women's Club, an associate member and past president of the Crowley Solitic Club, member and past president of the Crowley Town Club and a member of the Krewe des les Dames. She is also active with the Krewe de Joi Vie of Acadiana where she was honored as Queen Anna VII, is the current President of the St. Michael Saints Parent Club, a member of the Notre Dame Pio Parent Club and a member of the Mystik Krewe of Louisianians.

"I am humbled to have been selected as Grand Marshal of the grand parade and I look forward to celebrating the third weekend in October", says Shanna. "I cannot fully accept this honor without thanking those who are the backbone of this festival...our board of directors, our volunteers and our community who continue to support this long-standing tradition." "Thank you, Julian for this honor and thank you to those who work tirelessly in the rice industry, especially our farmers, because without you, there would be no celebration."

Past Rice Grand Marshals

1974 P.J. "Rex" Mills

1975 Pierre Le Rat & Winston Wolf,

Astroworld Characters

1976 Harve A Tabary

1977 Henson Moore (Congressman)

1978 Lottie J. Faulk

1979 Sen. Russell Long

1980 Laurent Boudreaux

1981 Robert Istre

1982 Shel Kanter

1983 Walt Garrison

1984 Charles Miia

1985 Norris Breaux

1986 Estelle Bonin Fleming

1st Festival Queen No record of one

1988 Grady Primeaux & Marcel Suire

1989 Lawson Primeaux &

Rogers Christman

1990 Herbert Lee Guillory

& Norris Dronet 1991 Abbie Baronet &

Donald Lee Robinson

Donaid Lee Robinson

1992 Shel Kanter & Bill Williams

1993 B.C. Delahoussaye

1994 Donald Shetler

1995 Joseph Musick, Jr.1996 Robin Mattson

1997 Dr. Thomas H. Casanova III

1998 Lonnie Doré

1999 Cecil Picard

2000 Judges Don Aaron, John Trahan,

and Glennon Everett

2001 Patty Simon

2002 Mike McBride

2003 Ken Goss

2004 Gil Pinac

2005 Renee Revett 2006 Jo Cart

2006 JO Carl

2007 Dave Petitjean

2008 David & Peter John 2009 Thomas Carver Voinche, Jr.

2010 Randy E. Falcon

2011 Governor Edwin W. Edwards

2012 Gene Williams

2013 Jack Montoucet

2014 Judges Melise & John Trahan

2015 Ernest Palmer Shreve

Michael James Pastor

2016 Jason Monk

Jared William Monk 2017 Sheriff K.P. Gibson

Chief Jimmy Broussard

Chief Jody Viator

2018 Mayor Greg Jones

19 LJ & Chee Chee Gielen

Kim Gielen Gattle

2021 Ryan Trahan

2022 H. "Butch" Browning

2023 Dwayne & Christine Fulton

2024 Pat Bordes II and Phillip J. Faul

2025 Shanna Comeaux Monk





Children's Parade Grand Marshal

Antoinette Pete

Antoinette Chaffers Pete, "Ms. Pete" addressed by many, is a lifelong resident of Crowley, Louisiana and the daughter of the late Alvin and Odelia Clement Chaffers. She married and was blessed with thirty-eight years of marital bliss to the late Leonard Pete, which to this union, they became proud parents of Leonard Demond Pete of Oakland, California and Bethani (Eric) Pete Collins of Kenner, Louisiana. Ms. Pete's absolute joy comes from the love of her grandchild, Nova Arielle!

Ms. Pete is a graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she received a Bachelor's, Master's and Educational Specialist Degree, all in the fields of Education and Educational Leadership. She taught and served as an administrator in the Acadia Parish School System for 48 years and presently serves as the District's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator. At the school and district level, Ms. Pete has always exhibited an untiring purpose and passion for Learning and Education, which was valued by her Family and instilled at an early age. The empathy, compassion, outreach and love for Education and Family are hallmarks of her personality. She has developed a strong value system of working with children and their parents. which is a guiding force of her belief that children benefit academically when parents, educators and community work together. Yes, without a doubt, "Families Matter"! She believes that all families and communities have something great to offer, doing whatever it takes to work closely together to make sure that every single student succeeds!

Ms. Pete is a faithful, lifelong member of St. Theresa Catholic Church where she serves as Director of Music and Pastoral Council Chairperson. Her faith along with her work ethics align with the ideals, values and public mission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., holding Golden Life membership. She has been vigorously involved in numerous religious, educational, civic, and community outreach concerns: Crowley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.; St. Theresa Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court #51; Crowley Rotarian; International Rice Festival Active Member; IRF Jr. King & Queen Emcee; United Way of Acadiana; and the Louisiana Department of Health Outreach, just to name a few.



Past Rice Festival Grand Marshal of Children's Parade

		1996	Dr. Marietta "Mellie" James
		1997	Joey Webb Jr.
		1998	Teachers of the Year
983	World's Fair Mascot Pelican		Tammie McGuidry, Ray O. Blum and Genita Domingue
984		1999	Donna S. Corley
985		2000	Tim and Tony Robichaux
986	Justin Wilson	2001	(Coach Piz) Richard Pizzolatto
987	Joseph Baronet	2002	Doug Daigle
988	Oscar Johnson	2003	Marlene LeBoeuf
989	Dr. James M. Griffin	2004	Kira O. Viator
990	Barton W. Freeland, Sr.	2005	Stella Abshire Guidry
991	Mary Alice Fontenot	2006	Scott Brazda
992	Maria Placer	2007	Chad Monceau
993	Virginia Ruddock	2008	Lewis Cook

1994 Alyson Habetz1995 Helen M. Zaunbrecher

2009	Louis Cramer
2010	Edward "Ed" Dartez
2011	Steve Fontenot
2012	Ann Mire
2013	Dolores Nutt
2014	William Bryan Pinac
2015	Clarence Lee Woodard III
2016	Kelly Cart Leonards
2017	Michael Christian Doughty
2018	Ruthie Piron
2019	Sandra Bourgeois Doré
2021	Sullivan Reese Rue
2022	Peter Kirsch
2023	Audry Spencer
2024	Letha Vincent

2025 Antoinette Pete







ast	Rice Festival Jr. King	Pa
960	Paul C. Hannagrif, Jr.	193
961	John Guidry	194
962	Tim Robinson	19
963	John Copeland Reed	194
964	Dwayne Brasseaux	194
965	Norman Oliver	194
966	Girard Leger	194
967	Keith Bieber	194
968	Scot Anthony Guidry	19
969	John Walter Gardiner	19

1970 Douglas Steen David Myers

1971 1972 **Emmett Parsley** 1973 Lonnie Regan Larry James Daigle 1974

1975 **Douglas Mitchell Cormier** 1976 Shane Thomas Schexnider

1977 Paul Jacob Koury 1978 Scott Patin Erin Scott Thomas 1979

Seth Adam Myers 1980 1981 Casey Blair Foreman

Nakia Lantz 1983 Joshua McGee Chad Sensat 1984

1985 **Bradley Arabie** 1986 Michael Garret Ruppert

Paul Maichael Stakes Derrick Antoine Credeur 1988

1989 Joshua Clinton Viator 1990 Josh Melancon

1991 Shaun Ortego 1992 Jonah Benoit

1993 Cade Andrew Lejeune

1994 Trevor Thibodeaux 1995 William Lucas Breaux

1996 Andrew Randall Besse 1997

Caleb Jayce Steen 1998 Brent Joseph Cormier

1999 Eric John Miller 2000 Jerry Scott Menard

Timothy Geerts 2001 2002 Tyler Hayes

2003 Michael Anthony Herpin Jordon McDaniel Owens

2005 Kyle Adam Hebert Logan Jude Marks 2006

2007 Luke Toepler 2008 Clay Benoit 2009 Gavin Vidrine

Kyler Wingate 2010 2011 Carson Armentor

2012 Ian Joseph Lyons 2013 Rusty Fulton

2014 Cameron Stelly 2015 Charlie Hensgens

2016 Cory Frugé 2017 Jackson Prevost

2018 Daxton Glen Broussard

2019 Nicolas Shaw Credeur 2021 Layne Oestriecher

2022 Jax Cormier 2023 Henry Siebert

2024 Parker Nero

ast Rice Festival Jr. Queen 39 Thelma Goss Janelle Plattsmier 41 Ella V. Ortego 42-45 War Years 146 ClaudeC Lyons 47 Bernice Guillot Marjorie Devillier Mary Ann Gielen 950 Mary Jeanne Perres 951 Laura Ruth Baker 1952 Alura Kay Miller 1953 Barbara Gail Bellard 1954 Barbara Jean Antis 1955 Stephanie Abshire Julie Ann Prejean 1956 1957 Jerrie Lynn Premeaux 1958 Susan Elaine Jabusch 1959 Beverly Jane Hebert 1960 Cynthia Comeaux 1961 Sharon Ann LeJeune Carolyn Elizabeth Mooney 1962 1963 Jelaine Frey 1964 Lola Frances Perry 1965 Robin Danette Rea Denise Gossen 1966 Frances Marie Regan 1967 1968 Cynthia Ann Hebert 1969

Catherine Christine Simon 1970 Angela Dawn Wilson 1971 Sharon Bouillion

1972 Monique Broussard 1973 Dee Ann Chappell 1974 Lisa Monica Boudreaux

Katherine Maureen Menard 1975 Tia Lynne Cormier 1976

Ladonna Richard 1977 Shelly Lynn Pousson 1978 1979 Nina Ann Melancon 1980 Jillane Annette Gotte 1981 Julie Allison Broussard

1982 Janee Romero Anne Louise Broussard 1983 1984 Suzanne Herpin

1985 Alyne Nicole Richard Angelina Marie Miller 1987 Candice Rachelle Navarre Chrystal Nicole Vincent 1988

1989 Courtney Lyn Rupport 1990 Dolly Jean LeBlue 1991 Gretchen LaCombe

Bonnie Wirtz 1992 1993 Amber Nicole Thibodeaux

Amy Michelle McClelland 1994 Anna Brittany Zaunbrecher 1995 1996 Lindsey Paige Richard

1997 Leah Katelyn Johnson 1998 Leah Elizabeth Gossen 1999 Amelia Faul

Chasity Nicole Hayes 2000 2001 Erin Page Richard

2002 Chelsea Sattler Caroline Arysse Nugier 2004 Adrianna Hudson

Hannah Kimble Doucet 2005 2006 Brandi Abate

2007 Lily Claire Hoffpauir Bethani Chesterman 2009 Mary Katherine Lavergne

2010 Alaina Claire Miller

2011 Mary Ellen Hebert 2012 Elise Anne Gossen

2013 Phoebe Lynn Henry 2014 Vivian Barousse 2015 Emmy Claire Navarre

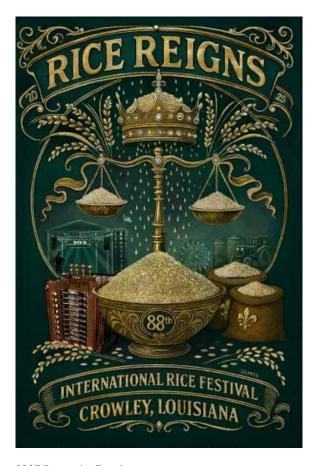
Malari Navarre 2016

Noelle Gatte 2017

2018 Blair Elizabeth Wallace Vivian Elaine Siebert 2019

2021 Audrey Lasch

Adilynn Simar 2022 2023 Emma Bruce 2024 Kavery Hanks





88th IRF Poster Shirt Long Sleeve...
88th IRF Poster Sweatshirt...
88th IRF Breast Cancer Shirt Short Sleeve...
88th IRF Breast Cancer Shirt Long Sleeve...
IRF Generic Shirt...

prices start at \$20 prices start at \$20 prices start at \$50 prices start at \$20 prices start at \$25 prices start at \$25

Order online @ www.ricefestival.com Order in person @ Rice City Designs *Flat rate shipping for \$10

88th IRF Poster... \$25 Caps... start at \$25 Koozies... \$5 Festival Pins... \$10 RICE CITY
DESIGNS

310 N. Parkerson | 337.250.4490 | M-F 8am-5pm





Your dedication to this festival is what makes it a success!

Thank you to the following for their time and dedication to make the International Rice Festival a success:

Mayor Chad Monceaux and the City of Crowley
Beau Petitjean, Acadia Parish Police Jury President
and the Acadia Parish Police Jurors and staff

The Acadia Parish County Agent's Office Louisiana Department of Agriculture LSU Rice Research Station

Chief Louis "Buddha" Romero and the Crowley Fire Department
Chief Troy Hebert and the Crowley Police Department
Cheriff I/ D. Cibera and the Crowley Police Department

Sheriff K.P. Gibson and the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Department **Chief Carroll Stelly** and the Rayne Police Department

Laura Faul, Clerk of Court and Staff

Carol Tall, Acadia Parish School Board Superintendent and Staff

NO ICE CHESTS PLEASE

Please visit the Festival Beer Booth & help keep the Festival FREE! Please drink responsibly... Designate a driver!



Louisiana Association of Fairs & Festival Awards

Festival of the Year

2007, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

Best Program

Award Winning Program by Frugé & Frugé Graphic Design 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Best Poster

1999, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2021

Roet Di

2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015

Best Brochure

Award Winning Brochure by Frugé & Frugé Graphic Design 2008, 2011, 2014, 2019

Best T-Shirt

1999, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017

Best Cap

2006, 2018

Marketing Items Award

2008, 2018

Best Website

Award Winning Website by DSS Computers, Inc. 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019

















































































ACADIA PARISH



























































































HENRY





































Super Foods











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