



# MARDI GRAS

of  
Southeast  
Texas



## Get in on fantasy, food and fun

By Mary Meaux

There are plenty of reasons to attend Mardi Gras of Southeast Texas — the parades, the beads, carnival, music, food and fun. But longtime Majestic Krewe of Aurora member Peggy Simon shared a few other reasons as to why she thinks the Port Arthur based Mardi Gras is the best. “The number one reason is safety,” she said recently from her appropriately named Mardi

Gras room. “Our Mardi Gras is probably the safest in the area.” The annual event is held along a five to six block, fenced in area on Procter Street and nearby avenues. Patrons are charged admission and uniformed officers and non-uniformed officers are strategically placed throughout the grounds. Patrols are also performed by members of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and local constables as well as other law enforcement agencies.

Laura Childress, captain of the Majestic Krewe of Aurora and vice president of Mardi Gras of Southeast Texas, said the Port Arthur based event is unique in that it’s not just about the parades. “Unlike other Mardi Gras celebrations we do a full carnival, entertainment, children’s activities plus the parades,” she said. “That’s what makes it unique. Some areas in Louisiana have just a parade on Fat Tuesday. We expanded ours many years ago

then added concerts and carnivals.” Each year at the beginning of Mardi Gras season, the Majestic Krewe of Aurora royalty holds a ball and premieres the current year’s costumes — items of clothing that are kept secret until the ball. Elaborate sequined costumes, complete with backpieces and headdresses, are worth upwards of \$5,000 to \$8,000 a couple, Simon said. “The weekend before Mardi Gras we hold our ball,” she said.