Magician Ken Veaux was on hand Sunday for the first Renaissance Fair at Acadian Village.

Festival attendees travel back into past

Ananda Harris

Magicians, fortune-tellers, belly dancers, jesters and veins moved through Acadiana Village on Sunday. The first Renaissance Fair in Acadiana drew between 500 and 700 attendees, according to organizer John Damo.

Proceeds of the event, which included you-know-what and Renaissance-history lessons, will go to the Louisiana Radio Information and Reading Service (LARISS).

"It's all about culture," John Dupuis with LARISS said. He said the Renaissance Fair sprung from the need for the Acadiana that contained many of music and love with happy memories about the reign of certain women and the history of Acadian society.

"We expect just over a few hundred," Dupuis said of the three-day event.

Julie Broussard, with LARISS said she hopes it will be an annual occurrence for the group, which is working toward a radio reading service for Acadians.

When implemented, the radio reading service will be a daily broadcast of local media, including newspapers and magazines for those who are unable to read, including the visually impaired.

Broussard said there is an 80 percent membership rate in the blind community and "that's just不可思议."

She said the reading service is "absolutely imperative" for the area because people need access to information.

Information is powers; Broussard said. The reading service should be able to serve people by mid-2009.

Broussard said.

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