Boucherie features fun, festivities

ST. MARTINVILLE — St. Martinville’s big Boucherie party commonly attracts festival lovers throughout the state and tourists in town for Mardi Gras.

This year, the crowd will be even bigger, with Wayne Toups on the bill and a new promotion on all Polaroid film packages featuring the 22-year-old event.

Le Boucherie, sponsored by the St. Martinville Jaycees, will take place at Northside City Park beginning at 9 a.m. with opening ceremonies. A schedule of events is as follows:

FAIS-DÔ-DÔ: All day from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Acadiana Breakdown plays first; Harold Leger, Rufus Thibodeaux, Rodney Miller & the Musical Kings with special guest Warren Storm perform from noon to 2:30; and Wayne Toups and ZydeCajun will hit the stage at 3 p.m.

BOUCHERIE: Boucherie experts will butcher hogs at 11:30, and demonstrators will make cracklins at noon. The rooster fights will kick off at 1 p.m.

STORYTELLERS' TENT: A new feature at the Boucherie highlights the old-fashioned Cajun tradition of passing on stories from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with Mac Grieg telling the history of family boucheries and past Jaycee Presidents Bob Hardy, Murray Fuselier and Dallas Sonnier remembering old times; from noon to 12:30 p.m., a speaker will tell about children’s games and toys of the early 1900s; Mac Grieg will pass on local legends from 12:45 to 1:15, while Lennis Romero and Orphe Romero will recount the story of Evangeline and Gabriel; Mazie Hardy will tell about her younger days from 1:30 to 2 p.m.; and Christine Word will relate tales of hauntings from 2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

FOOD: Booths will serve up boudin, sausage link po-boys, red beans and rice, pork chop po-boys, Oreilles de Cochon pastry, and the famous pork roast po-boys. Beer, mixed drinks, wine, soft drinks and cracklins will also be available.

ARTS AND CRAFTS: A variety of local artists will sketch local scenery, demonstrate oils and acrylics and other native crafts. Old Country Barn will be on hand to demonstrate how to use dried herbs and preserve food.

There is a charge of $1 to enter grounds. No ice chests or glass bottles will be allowed on the grounds. Out-of-town visitors can exit at St. Martinville at Highway 90 and follow the Boucherie signs.