Acadian Memorial Festival scheduled

From staff reports

A re-enactment of the arrival of the Acadians on the Bayou Teche is part of the Acadian Memorial Festival today and Saturday on Main Street in St. Martinville. This museum-style festival also includes live music, arts and crafts, lectures, demonstrations and more.

Set for 1 p.m. Saturday, the re-enactment will honor the Bourque and Landry families.

Darrell Bourque, the first Louisiana Poet Laureate and professor emeritus of English at UL, will be induced as an honorary Acadian and member of the Acadian Memorial L’Ordre du Bon Temps.

Later in the Acadian Memorial Hall, Bourque will read Acadian poems and host a discussion.

The festival kicks off from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. today with La Promenade on Historic Main Street.

This will be a showcase of businesses and attractions that includes tours, food, live Cajun music, children’s art show and more. A crawfish boil fundraiser for the festival will be held at Maison de Tours on Main Street.

The Teche Theatre will host a Renovation Open House featuring live Cajun music and display a collection of French history posters. The St. Martin du Tours Catholic Church, Museums of the Acadian, African American and Petite Paris and Acadian Memorial will be open and free to the public.

The festival continues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Christy Maraist, past president of the Acadian Memorial Foundation will expand on the festival theme, “A Tribute to the Spirit of the Acadian Women” and the Renaissance Cadetine dance troupe will perform.

Other highlights include a wooden boat lecture by UL professor Ray Brassier, Cajun music, genealogy workshops and children’s activities. Demonstrations include quilt making and stitch lessons, okra history and cooking lessons, Cajun men cooking game and fish, boudin, jambalaya, gratins and more.