

## Renaissance Faire Coming To Valley

By **KAREN KELLY**  
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If candy flying through the air, minstrels serenading you and a dog the size of a pony tailing a gypsy is your idea of a good time, this weekend's Renaissance Faire is the place for you.

Today and Sunday, National Chimneys Regional Park in Mount Solon will be taken over by knights in full armor on horseback and belly dancers performing the ancient gypsy dances.

The faire will explore many of the aspects of the 15th century. It will provide "an extremely family oriented, relaxed environment," said event spokeswoman Mia Watts, otherwise known as Lady Dawn.

Watts said the faire features activities suited for all ages, from face painting to an archery contest. People will be able to compete in human chess games, archery competi-

tions, and costume contests. Toward the end of the faire there will be a maypole dance, in which children take a ribbon attached to a pole and dance around, twining the ribbons in a pattern to the bottom of the pole.

The faire is meant to replicate the Renaissance time period, although, says Chris Pugh, owner of the Medieval Fantasies Company, organizers "are not doing historical reproduction as far as striving for total authenticity," but they are "having fun with the time period."

Midday on Saturday magician Penn Russell will perform "doing magic in that era — rope, coin, silk magic." Russell specializes in period magic and tries to be as authentic as possible. For example, torture illusions, such as cutting people's heads off and running swords through them were

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common during the Renaissance time period.

"The best thing about this faire is that besides educating we have a lot of fun," said Deborah Rice, performing coordinator for the faire.

Rice added that a "beast-master" will be leading around an iguana and introducing him as a dragon, while educating people about reptiles and rep-

tile rescue. Reptile rescue takes in any reptiles found in trouble or being abused and finds good homes for them.

Organizers admit the faire may not be a completely accurate representation of the time period, but it is a source of family entertainment and a way to make history fun for kids.

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