Canada gets a taste of Cajun Country life

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Carole Guidry
A local coordinator of the visit

CHURCH POINT — A week of immersion in the Cajun culture is in store for a group of Canadian high school theater students due here Saturday.

Church Point High School and the town of Church Point will host the delegation of 28 students and 10 chaperones from L'Academie Antoine-Manseau in the province of Quebec through May 15.

Taking an active role in the week-long program will be FrancoFête Chairman Curtis Joubert and his assistant, Jane Vidrine.

In exchange for the town’s hospitality, the group from this Canadian school for the arts will stage a pair of performances of the play “Les Sorcières de Salem” (the Salem Witches), according to Debbie Siebert and Carole Guidry, local coordinators of the visit. Both performances will be in French.

“The first exhibition of the play will be performed for high school students and the general public Monday morning at Church Point High,” Siebert said. “After the play, students in the French Immersion program at Church Point Elementary School will visit with the Canadian students.”

Guidry added that an evening performance of the play is being planned with the assistance of Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco at LSU at Eunice.

“This May 11 performance at 7 p.m. will be staged in the new Health Technology Theatre,” Guidry said. “Following the show, a reception will be hosted by the town of Church Point in the lobby of the building.”

As guests of CPHS and the town, the Canadian students can expect a number of activities and excursions.

“With the goal of sharing our unique way of life, this urban group will be treated to uniquely Cajun experiences,” Guidry said. “Plans include a swamp tour, crawfishing, dairy farm tour, Native American exhibition, Cajun instrument-making, crawfish boil, Cajun music, zydeco and many other activities.”

Mayor Roger Boudreaux said various families in the Church Point area have opened their homes to the visitors.