Film crew to document Acadiana’s response

Local reaction to Sept. 11 terrorist attacks part of BBC television special.

Marshela Sills
Staff Writer
LAGAYETTE — The world will soon see how Acadiana is dealing with the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks as a BBC World Television crew will film in the area this week.

Acadiana is one of the five areas outside of Washington, DC, that the BBC has chosen for a Sept 11 follow-up visit.

"It’s a very good area to feel the pulse of it said Thomas Will, a correspondent based in Los Angeles. Will said the nation’s capital before heading to the Cajun Heartland.

"Acadiana comes with a strong patriotic flavor and it’s nice to set our of Washington where you need to see only one side of things," he said. "It’s nice being able to show how these tragic events affect us and not just here.

Will also said there were numerous reasons the BBC chose the area out of the rest of the country.

"I think it’s because it’s picture-pretty very beautiful," he said. "It’s an area we haven’t been to for a very long time as an origi- nal destination.

Wills and his production team, including videographer, Jason Ellis, arrived Sunday morning and will begin filming Wednesday. The crew will film for about a week and edit tapes by their deadlines on Friday.

Mary Yettles, area columnist for The Daily Advertiser, said the Times Picayune’s, is serving as their liaison. The group spent their first day in St. Mary’s, where they went to Mass at St. Stephen’s Church in Beau Chais and met with chef Pat Moud at his cooking school.

According to Wills, the group took their first day to do some research about Acadiana, soaking up the local culture and finding a dance floor.

They want to see alligators and eat alligators," said Thomas Wills. "They’re also just wanting to know that we’re not like the Amazons.

"It’s a very different culture, a very different kind of culture," said Wills. "Often the first thing people say is to do something joyful to help with your spirit. We’re still cutoff.

And that’s exactly what these films are doing," he added.

Wills admitted that the trip was making up the corner of their stimulus films as they are known to do when they get into a new location.

"My first impressions are that it’s just a very different place. The people are very lucky to be here."

Where released the film will be announced on this side of the Atlantic on BBC World America’s next in December.