Boy, girl killed in accident near Peck

Peck — A 10-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy were killed Saturday when a pickup truck ran a stop sign and hit the van they were riding in, authorities said.

Three others in the van, which was en route to a family event, were injured. All the occupants were related, said Lt. Phil Bostian of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Kathrine Tredway, 10, and Thomas Alexander, 11, both of Wellington, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Michaela Alexander, 9, and her mother, Debra Alexander, 37, both of Haughton, La., were taken to Via Christi Regional Medical Center-St. Francis Campus in serious condition.

Linda Terry, 60, of Wellington, was listed in fair condition.

The driver of the pickup, Lanny Carter, 45, of Salina, was not seriously injured. All the passengers in the van were wearing seat belts, Bostian said.

The collision was south of Wichita near Peck.
The Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas recently announced Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year. The following is a list of students from the area who received the award.

Brenna Koch, Auburn, Washburn University; Michael Fonkert, Lawrence, KU; Joanna Wakeman, Lawrence, KU; John Tatum, Manhattan, Kansas State University; LeAnn Meyer, Topeka, Kansas State University; and Stephanie Atwood, Topeka, KU.
Disaster county students can defer tuition

The Capital-Journal

The Kansas Board of Regents is making back to school a little easier for students affected by spring and summer floods and storms.

State university students from any of the 43 Kansas counties affected by natural disasters have the option of deferring their tuition costs and developing an individual payment plan with the college. Under this option, the six state schools will waive late penalties for tuition.

Christine Downey-Schmidt, chairwoman of the Board of Regents, said the decision was made to ease the stress on families dealing with damage from the storms and widespread flooding.

There are 43 counties that qualify for the tuition deferment, including Coffee, Dickinson, Franklin, Lyon, Pottawatomie, Osage, Riley and Shawnee counties in northeast Kansas. According to the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, more counties may be added to the list.

A Board of Regents survey shows about 21,000 students live in the affected counties. Students wishing to use the tuition deferment option are asked to contact their school's financial services department.

The financial service departments can be reached at:

- Emporia State University, (620) 341-5340
- Fort Hays State University, (785) 628-5251
- Kansas State University, (785) 532-6420
- Pittsburg State University, (620) 235-4163
- The University of Kansas, (785) 864-3322
- Wichita State University (316) 976-3070

For more information, visit www.kansasregents.org.
KU students named Rice scholars 155

LAWRENCE — Five incoming law students at The University of Kansas have been selected for the prestigious Rice Scholar Program, which offers full tuition scholarships to Kansas residents who have outstanding academic records and proven leadership ability.

The 2007-08 Rice scholars are Anne Gepford, of Leawood; Lauren M. Marino, of Overland Park; John Francis Murphy, of Prairie Village; Grant Reichert, of Dresden; and Meghan Elisabeth Walsh, of Lawrence.
Wichita Eagle
Wichita, KS
Circ. 103399
From Page: 1
7/28/2007
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THE ONLY GOOD INDIAN

Wanted: Extras for filming at Cowtown

BY DENISE NEIL
The Wichita Eagle

A Kansas moviemaker and his TV star partner are shooting part of their new independent film at Old Cowtown Museum.

And today, their casting directors will audition Wichitans to appear as extras.

Kevin Willmott, a University of Kansas film professor and movie director, will set part of his latest project, "The Only Good Indian," at Old Cowtown. He'll shoot there starting Thursday.

Willmott received national attention for his 2004 movie "C.S.A., The Confederate States of America," a satirical film that imagined modern-day America had the South won the Civil War. The movie debuted at the Sundance Film Festival.

Television star James McDaniel, who starred as Lt. Arthur Fancy on the hit series "NYPD Blue," is the executive producer for "The Only Good Indian." Willmott and McDaniel also teamed up for "Bunker Hill," a movie set in Kansas that will be released next year.

Please see MOVIE, Page 8A
MOVIE
From Page 1A

Wes Studi, a highly regarded American-Indian actor who has starred in such films as "Geronimo," "Last of the Mohicans" and "Dances With Wolves," has signed to star in the film.

"The Only Good Indian" is a drama about the Native American boarding school experience set in the early 1900s. Children of that era were often forcibly taken from their families and put in government-run schools designed to assimilate them into white society. They were not allowed to see their loved ones, speak their native languages or observe their native cultures.

"This is something people should really know more about, and it's also great drama," Willmott said. "We found a way to tell the story in an entertaining way, and at the same time, we'll reveal this kind of hidden history."

Cowtown is the perfect venue for many of the movie's scenes, Willmott said. He chose it for its Old West look and also because he likes to shoot his movies in-state.

"We're Kansas filmmakers, so we really try to take advantage of all the beautiful things in Kansas," he said.

Other parts of the movie will be filmed in Cottonwood Falls and in northeast Kansas. The crew hopes to have filming completed by Labor Day and the movie ready for the festival circuit in late 2008 or early 2009.

Today, the film's casting directors will audition Wichitans to appear as paid extras in the film. The directors are particularly in need of American Indian children.

In two separate casting sessions today, they'll audition American Indians, then those who could portray townspeople circa 1905. Shooting at Old Cowtown is scheduled for Thursday through Aug. 11.

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If you go
CASTING CALL

Casting directors for "The Only Good Indian" are looking for people to play extras during two casting sessions today.

- 2 p.m., Wichita Art Museum, 619 Stackman Drive: Directors will audition American Indians and are particularly in need of school-age children.
- 5 p.m., Old Cowtown Museum, 1871 Sim Park

Drive: Directors will audition people to portray townsfolk circa 1905.
Extras are asked to know their clothing sizes. They will be asked to fill out paperwork and pose for a photo.
Production assistants and interns also are needed. They won't be paid, but college credit can be arranged.
Hoping for a part
Dozens answer film crew’s casting call

BY HURST LAVIANA
The Wichita Eagle

John Simpson, 16, was happy to oblige when the movie makers asked him for some biographical information and a chance to take his picture.

He was one of more than 100 people who went to the Wichita Art Museum on Saturday to audition for a part in the movie "The Only Good Indian."

He was one of a handful who were asked for more than a picture.

"Have you ever done any acting?" asked Kevin Willmott, a University of Kansas film professor who is directing the movie. "In school plays," Simpson said.

"Can we have you come back and read something?" Willmott asked.

Simpson left the room to study his script as others waited their turn in a 2 p.m. casting call designed for American Indians like Simpson.

A second round of auditions was held at 5 p.m. at Old Cowtown Museum, where the filmmakers were looking for extras to portray townsfolk living in the early 1900s.

Willmott plans to start filming the movie next week at Cowtown.
Charlie May, 13, who is Ojibwe, reads the part of “Fred” in preparation for his audition for “The Only Good Indian.”
Grant effort targets children of migrants

Associated Press

LAWRENCE — A group of universities and community colleges has been collaborating in an effort to obtain federal funding for a program to help college-bound children of migrant workers.

Kansas State University will lead the effort, which will also include the University of Kansas, Emporia State University, Garden City Community College and Kansas City, Kan., Community College.

The $2.1 million grant request Kansas State submitted would be for five years, reach 148 students and provide tuition for 12 credit hours per semester and a living stipend.

The collaboration began after the U.S. Department of Education denied the University of Kansas' grant request to continue its College Assistance Migrant Program. The program had paid tuition for six credit hours and $750 in living expenses per semester for up to 24 students a year.

When the grant renewal was denied, a group of college officials started discussing how to collaborate and provide services throughout the state, Kansas State's Bob Fanning said. Fanning is director of a program that helps children of migrant workers finish high school and assistant director of Kansas State's English as a Second Language program.

Under the proposal submitted in the spring to the Education Department, Kansas State would house the migrant program and contract the service out to other schools with eligible students.

Fanning said at the same time the Education Department denied Kansas' grant, it renewed a five-year grant for a Kansas State program that targets high school students.

Lynn Bretz, the University of Kansas' director of university communications, said the university wanted to have a strategic plan to continue its program for migrant workers' children, especially as federal funding declines.

Fanning said if the grant was approved, the program would give students more choices.

"We had a number of migrant students that just completed high school and had jobs in the local community. They couldn't leave because they needed the employment," Fanning said. "Now they can attend university while continuing to work."

He expects to hear in the next few weeks whether the Kansas proposal was approved.

Kansas ranks seventh in the nation for the number of migrant and seasonal farm workers.
More public colleges basing tuition on major

BY JONATHAN D. GLATER
New York Times

Should an undergraduate studying business pay more than one studying psychology? Should a journalism degree cost more than one in literature? More and more public universities, confronted with rising costs and lagging state support, have decided that the answers may be yes and yes.

Starting this fall, juniors and seniors pursuing an undergraduate major in the business school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will pay $500 more each semester than classmates. The University of Nebraska last year began charging engineering students a $40 premium for each hour of class credit.

And Arizona State University this fall will phase in for upper-classmen in the journalism school a $250-per-semester charge above the basic $2,411 tuition for in-state students.

Such moves are being driven by the high salaries commanded by professors in certain fields, the expense of specialized equipment and the difficulties of getting state legislatures to approve general tuition increases, university officials say.

Even as they embrace such pricing, many officials acknowledge they are queasy about a practice that appears to value one discipline over another or that could result in lower-income students clustering in less-expensive fields.

"This is not the preferred way to do this," said Patrick Farrell, provost at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. "If we were able to raise resources uniformly across the campus, that would be a preferred move. But with our current situation, it doesn't seem to us that that's possible."

At the University of Kansas, which started charging different prices in the early 1990s, there are signs that the higher cost of majoring in certain subjects is affecting the choices of poorer students.

"We are seeing at this point purely anecdotal evidence," said Richard Lariviere, provost and executive vice chancellor at the university. "The price sensitivity of poor students is causing them to forgo majoring, for example, in business or engineering, and rather sticking with something like history."

Some public university officials say they worry that students who are charged more for their major will stick to the courses in their field to feel that they are getting their money's worth.

"I want students in the College of Engineering at Iowa State to take courses in the humanities and to take courses in the social sciences," said Mark Kushner, the dean of that college. "To address problems like climate change, Kushner said, graduates will need to understand much more than technology. "That's sociology, that's economics, that's politics, that's public policy."

Kushner said he thought society was no longer looking at higher education as a common good but rather as a way for individuals to increase their earning power. "There was a time, not that long ago, 10 to 15 years ago, that the vast majority of the cost of education at public universities was borne by the state, and that was why tuition was so low," he said. "That was based on the premise that the education of an individual is a public good, that individuals go out and become schoolteachers and businessmen and doctors and lawyers, that makes society better. That's no longer the perception."

In engineering programs, the additional money often goes toward costly laboratory equipment, because students and the companies that will employ them expect graduates to be able to go to work immediately using state-of-the-art tools, Lariviere said.

"In many instances," he said, "industry itself is demanding this."

While several university officials said students in majors that carried higher costs could bear the burden because they would be better paid after graduation, Lariviere said he was skeptical of that rationale. He pointed out that many people change jobs several times over a career and that a major is a poor predictor of lifetime income.

"Where we have gone astray culturally," he said, "is that we have focused almost exclusively on starting salary as an indicator of life earnings and also of the value of the particular major."
KU increases penalty for illegal downloading

LAWRENCE — In an attempt to deter students from illegally downloading music or movies in University of Kansas' student housing, the school has adopted a zero-tolerance policy.

Beginning this fall, university officials said they will deactivate ResNet Network access for students in residence halls if they are notified of a copyright violation and an appeal is denied.

— Associated Press
KU questioner annoyed by responses

The University of Kansas student who posed a video question during the Democratic debate Monday was annoyed that the candidates mostly laughed off his question. Jordan Williams, a junior from Coffeyville, asked via a YouTube video about complaints that Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., isn’t black enough and Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., isn’t feminine enough.

“I wanted them to indict the American public for having these preconceived notions,” Williams told the Lawrence Journal-World. “It’s sad that we live in a country that puts people in such specific boxes of how they are supposed to act.”

Welcome to politics.