Little stars

Topeka youths part of film about Indians

BY STEVE FRY
The Topeka Capital-Journal

TOPEKA — The American Indian boys, dressed in woolen trousers and collarless muslin shirts, and the girls, wearing long dresses and boots, repeated the alphabet one letter at a time in a one-room schoolhouse.

The year portrayed was 1905, and the children were forced to attend boarding school at Haskell Institute in Lawrence.

Recently, the child actors took part in "The Only Good Indian," a movie being shot in Topeka, Lawrence, Wichita and other sites in Kansas.

"The Only Good Indian" is a fictionalized account detailing the removal of Indian children from their homes and forced attendance at Indian boarding schools. The purpose was to indoctrinate them into a white culture and destroy their Indian heritage.

An Indian child who was removed from his or her home was put in a whole new world, said the film's director, Kevin Willmott, an assistant professor of film at The University of Kansas.

When sent to a boarding school:
A student's Indian name was replaced with a white name.

The child learned English and was forbidden to speak his native language.

He couldn't worship his native religion and was assigned a new religion.

He was shipped far from his home to discourage him from fleeing the school and returning home.

In the scene shot on a recent morning, some students were learning the alphabet, but Charlie, 15, a Kickapoo Indian, the movie's main character, doesn't recite the letters and instead stares at a book. Of the 20 students in the classroom, most were Kickapoo and some were Potawatomi.

The classroom at Stach School on the west grounds of the Kansas State Historical Society doubles for the Haskell Industrial Institute in Lawrence.

About Charlie
Winterfox Frank, Redding, Calif., portrays Charlie. Charlie flees the school to return to his family at their reservation home, Willmott said, and Sam Franklin, a Cherokee bounty hunter, pursues him. Actor Wes Studi, a real-life Cherokee, portrays Franklin.

Movie viewers will recognize Studi from his roles as the Toughest Pawnee in "Dances with Wolves" and as Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans." Studi also plays Joe Leaphorn in the PBS productions of three of Tony Hillerman's Navajo novels. Studi's niece, Delanna Studi, plays Charlie's mother in "The Only Good Indian."

Between takes of the alphabet recitation, a crewman told the 20 child actors, "If you look at the camera, it'll burn a hole in your eyeball."

Frank grinned, but the other students were silent. "Just kidding," the crewman said.

Tom Carmody, screenwriter of "The Only Good Indian," said resistance by the Kickapoos to shedding their customs and adopting white customs is the movie's theme.

Carmody, also a film producer, said the filmmakers are working closely with the Kickapoo tribe in Horton.

"We're just thrilled they're allowing us to use their tribal language and customs in the film," Carmody said. In one scene, Frank and 10-year-old Richard McKinney, who Carmody calls a "natural" actor, speak in Kickapoo.

Willmott is writer and director of "C.S.A.: Confederate States of America," a 2006 satire of what the United States would be like had the South won the Civil War. Willmott also is writer, director and producer of "Bunker Hill," another film shot in Kansas.
Director Kevin Willmott (right) checks the shot that director of photography Matt Jacobson (center) had set for a scene from "The Only Good Indian," at the Stach School on the grounds of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka last month. Producer Rick Cowan stands on the left.
Andersen County Advocate Garnett,KS Circ. 1171 From Page: 6 9/5/2007 32000

Kueser pledges KU sorority

Garnett pledged Alpha Gamma Delta. She is a freshman majoring in Art and is a 2007 graduate of Anderson County High School.

More than 750 women took part in recruitment, and all 13 of KU's Panhellenic Association sororities added new members, said Laura Bauer, program director for Fraternity and Sorority Life. Membership bids were extended to women who completed the recruitment process.

Bauer said this year the Panhellenic Association implemented an on-line recruitment tool, Campus Director, which allowed women to create an account and register on-line for recruitment. The new system also allowed the recruitment counselors and sorority chapters to perform all of their data entry and new member updates online.

In addition to the 13 groups with Panhellenic Association affiliation, two sororities with student chapters at KU, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Zeta Phi Beta, are members of National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Shelby Kueser

LAWRENCE — Sororities at the University of Kansas pledged 567 women during fall formal recruitment, the KU Panhellenic Association has announced.

The number represents an increase from 2006 fall recruitment when 550 students affiliated with sororities.

Shelby Gail Kueser, daughter of Gail and Debra Kueser of

County: Anderson
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Topeka child actors take part in movie being shot in Kansas

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James McDaniel, the actor who played Lt. Arthur Fancy on the TV series “NYPD Blue,” is the executive producer of “The Only Good Indian.”

In “Bunker Hill,” McDaniel plays a former Wall Street executive and ex-convict who returns home to Bunker Hill, Kan., after he is released from prison.

Scott Richardson, a producer, said shooting “The Only Good Indian” will take five or six weeks, then the movie will be released in theaters in 2008.

Haskell Indian Nations University now offers four-year degrees and two-year junior college degrees.
Farm bill founded in days of exodus
92-year-old Stafford County farmer recalls Depression times as teen-ager

Editor’s note: In a weeklong series of stories, the Harris Group of newspapers in Kansas takes a closer look at the federal farm bill now before Congress.

We examine its effects on the Sunflower State’s rural communities and track where its farm payments go. We look at why the legislation was established in 1933 and how it’s changed. One reporter documents a county’s struggle with population loss despite millions in farm payments. Another report reviews arguments of economic development specialists who say rural America’s future lies with a diversified economy, less reliant on farm income.

In our series of interviews with Kansans over this mammoth bill, discussion time and again returned to what to do about farm subsidies.

Amy Bickel
The Hutchinson News

Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family’s Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

“I’d go home broke,” he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period that Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

“Times were tough,” said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment. “You could buy farms at a bargain price.”

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farms went out of business. Drought and dust storms hurt income, with the average farm household making half or less than non-farm households.

Commodity prices plummeted due to a surplus of crops. Some farmers found it more profitable to burn corn for fuel than sell it at 10 cents a bushel.

Hayes said there were two banks in Stafford, and the one his parents had their money in went belly up.

Then, Franklin Roosevelt became president, Hayes said, and his administration’s New Deal programs were aimed at saving America’s farms and rural areas. The plan helped farmers recover from the economic collapse of the nation’s heartland.

“He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important,” Hayes said of Roosevelt. “He brought around some farm action.”

See Farm bill, Page 10
Farm bill: Continued from Page 1

Nearly 75 years later

But when Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure. Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — still is in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure — expected to pass sometime this fall. But it's a different era than Roosevelt's New Deal period, or even a decade ago.

Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms. Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

The top two priorities for Roosevelt's administration were to save “the family farm and help rural America,” said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist.

But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer farmers farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

“That's the million dollar question, you can basically argue both sides of that,” Dumler said. “Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much.”

A new New Deal

The government stepped in when successful farmers started losing their farms during the Great Depression. Programs established target prices for certain commodity crops, such as corn, wheat, cotton and rice. The program included payments for taking land out of production, as well as conservation efforts, said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote “Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s.”

Roosevelt saw the farm bill as a temporary measure to help boost farm income, Worster said.

“But it became quite permanent. Farmers became part of a welfare state. And for some people, it has meant a lot of money.”

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program.

“If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest,” Worster said. “But the subsidies today are going to a relatively small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers.” Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group -- an advocacy group that tracks farm payments -- argue that subsidies aren't helping the rural communities or the small family farmers that the first farm policy intended.

Still, farm bill leaders, such as Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., say the policy means a lot to a state like Kansas that ranks No. 1 for wheat and grain sorghum production, 10th for soybeans and seventh for corn.

“(It is) more than just about Kansas farmers and ranchers,” Moran told reporters in June during a House subcommittee hearing on the farm bill. “This is about whether or not we have people who populate our state, who live in our smaller communities and whether we have kids in our school systems.”

A different era

About a dozen farm bills have been passed since the creation of the first farm policy during the Roosevelt administration.

Every five to seven years, agricultural policies are evaluated and reauthorized through the federal farm bill. The last passed in 2002.

Those bills have added everything from a food stamp program - a move aimed at gaining urban support of farm programs - to a conservation reserve acres program, which pays farmers to turn cropland to grassland, Dumler said. The commodity title of the bill includes 20 different commodities.

The 1996 bill, known as Freedom to Farm and largely authored by Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, was written with an eye to expand agriculture trade and reform U.S. farm policy to comply with the World Trade Organization. The bill offered a program of decreasing income support payments, while giving farmers more planting flexibility and reliance on an open market.

It also removed the last remaining pillar of inventory management - the requirement for farmers to set aside a percentage of their acreage to qualify for government payments.

When farmers were allowed to produce as much as they could, prices collapsed, and the promised export expansion never materialized. Congress responded with a series of $20 billion in “emergency” bailouts over four consecutive years, according to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Today, there is pressure from various groups and individuals, including environmentalists, the World Trade Organization, members of Congress who represent urban areas and specialty-crop producers who don't receive government checks - to uproot current policy, Dumler said.

Some say they need subsidies to boost household income, he said. In Kansas, subsidies make up 60 percent of the farm income. And of those receiving subsidies, much of it gets capitalized into land values.

Opponents make the argument that only 40 percent of the nation’s farms receive subsidies, with only 10 percent receiving a majority of the payments. Still others call for capping payments instead of continuing big handouts to wealthy farmers and landowners.

“A lot of people are pushing for reform,” Dumler said. “We still support the same commodities that we did in 1933, but things are way different now. Is support really justified now?”
CUHS,
SE to KU
Band Day

The Columbus and Southeast high school bands will join more than 30 area high school marching bands in the 60th annual Band Day at the University of Kansas on Saturday, September 8.

Band Day activities include a parade in downtown Lawrence and a performance during halftime of the KU football game that kicks off at 6 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

The events are hosted by the Marching Jayhawks and the Department of Music and Dance in KU’s School of Fine Arts.

The Greensburg High School Band will perform as it has done in recent years, according to director Mike Brummett. Brummett, who directs the Greensburg and the Bucklin High School bands, traditionally brings both groups to Band Day and is doing so again this year.

The tornado in May that destroyed most of the Greensburg community did not level the high school band instrument room.

Brummett said although many instruments needed to be cleaned, only one clarinet could not be salvaged. Brummett travels the 20-mile distance between the two western Kansas communities to teach in two districts.

The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Seventh and Massachusetts streets in Lawrence and progresses to South Park near 11th Street.
Rob Jackson of Hiawatha has been awarded a $2,500 scholarship by the Illinois-based Carpe Diem Foundation.

The scholarship is renewable for four years, which could give Jackson up to $10,000.

Jackson, son of Bill and Nancy Jackson and a May Hiawatha High School graduate, is one of 18 scholarship recipients from the foundation this year. He intends to attend the University of Kansas, majoring in biology and chemistry en route to a medical degree.

The foundation was established from a bequest by the late Mabel E. Greenspon. Her instructions were that following her March 2001 death, a foundation be established to identify and assist students and teachers most likely to improve the quality of human life.
Congratulations

Elizabeth Cattell, Manhattan, received the Howard and Thelma Turtle Journalism Scholarship for the 2007-08 school year at KU where she is double majoring in Journalism and Art History. Elizabeth was also one of the recipients of the Amsden Book Awards for the Art History Department. The Amsden Book Award winners are selected by faculty members and GTAs based on the student's classroom excellence regardless of class level or major. Forty-two students received books on subjects in which they excelled. Elizabeth will be a Junior this fall.
DODGE CITY, Kan. – This is the home of Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, of Boot Hill and the Long Branch Saloon, of cattle drives, buffalo hunters and the romance of the American West. But that’s the Dodge City of yesteryear.

Today, downtown has Mexican restaurants and stores more reminiscent of shops south of the border than Main Street Kansas. The city of 25,176 even has a new nickname: “Little Mexico.”

Signs advertising “Envios a Mexico” — retail outlets where workers send hard-earned wages back home to Mexico and other countries — hang outside many Dodge City stores. Houses occasionally fly Mexican flags, whipped hard by the prairie winds.

Dodge City ... Cactus, Texas ... Fort Morgan, Colo. ... Postville, Iowa: For more than a hundred years, this region provided a bucolic idyll and a ready example of American life and values. Today, iconic farm towns struggle with a new economic model, one that requires a workforce that is poor and overwhelmingly Hispanic.

It’s not easy. The immigrants who have flooded these communities are stretching schools and law enforcement. Still, at a time when other rural towns are slowly dying, Dodge City and meatpacking towns like it boast thriving economies.

“If these people can get past the gauntlet of the border, we welcome them here with open arms,” said Ford County Sheriff Dean Bush, Dodge City’s modern-day counterpart to Wyatt Earp.

But many of his fellow citizens seem lost. Randy Ford and his wife, Betty, have lived in Dodge City for 35 years. They no longer attend the city’s Independence Day events. They can’t understand what the singers — Spanish crooners singing Latin favorites — are saying.

“We don’t go anymore because we don’t want to be Mexican,” he said. “We want to be American.”

In Washington, the debate over immigration sometimes seems to be a clash of extremes. But here, in the wide-open spaces where one-dimensional economies stoke small towns, there is plenty of room for ambivalence.

HOW IT GOT THIS WAY

Just as the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad here in 1872 brought white settlers to populate the dusty towns and farms of a fledgling country, the relocation and consolidation of the meatpacking industry has transformed
these icons of the American West. The result: diverse, multicultural communities that challenge breadbasket notions of wheat fields, white fences and even whiter demographics.

The transformation of the nation's meatpacking industry began in 1960 when plants began moving out of cities in favor of their livestock sources in right-to-work states like Kansas. The first big slaughterhouse came to Emporia in the 1960s, followed by plants near Garden City and in Dodge City in the 1980s.

For Dodge City — famed as the "Queen of the Cowtowns" during its cowboy heyday — the advent of the slaughter plants seemed a natural fit. Locals have long recognized that the odor of manure here is the smell of money.

"They are a major hub of business and economic activity and a huge employer," said Ted Schroeder, agricultural economist at Kansas State University. "You can't go into those communities without sensing the presence and importance of those large economic facilities. Everything around there is either working with, complementing or part of that industry."

Eventually, mom-and-pop meatpackers were swallowed up by giants like Tyson Foods Inc., Cargill Meat Solutions Corp., Swift & Co. and National Beef Packing Co.

Their massive slaughter plants today routinely sit on the outskirts of rural towns. Huge feedlots stretching at times beyond the horizon now dot the windswept prairie where buffalo once grazed.

When the wind blows just so, the stench can be overpowering.

WEIRD ECONOMICS

Arturo Ponce is a U.S. citizen now — coordinator of the HIV/AIDS prevention program run by the United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries. But it wasn't so long ago that he lived in a dilapidated trailer, just down the street from the Cargill plant in Dodge City.

This, he recently told his 14-year-old son, was where your parents got their start in Kansas. Here, he said, we crowded with 13 other people, four families, into three bedrooms.

"The beef industry is hard work," he said. He would come home to the trailer after each shift drenched in sweat from trying to keep up with the production line. He and his brother-in-law each lost 25 pounds those first three months on the job.

Now, almost 20 years later, the same trailer remains crammed with meatpacking workers coming to and from their shifts.

"It is a cycle that continues to repeat itself," Ponce said. "It is the same story."

The same story: Decent wages are a magnet for poor immigrants. And the wages paid by the meatpackers are decent, though far from extravagant.

The poverty rate in Dodge City plunged from 28 percent in 1980 to 14 percent in 2000. The poverty rate also was halved in Guymon, Okla., where there are an estimated 600,000 head of cattle on farms within 25 miles of the Seaboard Foods plant.

But no one is living high on the hog, or cow. Dodge City's per capita income of $15,538 in 2000 may be an improvement, but it still remains far below the $21,567 national average.

In Cactus, the average per capita income has increased, but only to $8,340. Many who work at the Swift plant in Cactus live in former military barracks or in dilapidated rental trailer homes where yards contain little more than dirt, weeds and rocks.

"A lot of people are working, but working at jobs that don't pay well," said Don Stull, a University of Kansas anthropology professor and industry expert.

It's a hard life. In Cactus, the population is more than 90 percent Latino. There are no doctors or banks. Most plant workers deal only in cash, making them easy targets for theft. As much as 70 percent of offenses in town relate to alcohol use, especially on weekend nights when cars cruise up and down the main drag for hours.

Dodge City grapples with drug trafficking as narcotics flow in across the Mexican border through the Hispanic community. Gangs are a problem, too. But there is some equanimity in a town infamous for its lawless Wild West history.

"Dodge City has always been a pretty wild Western town," said Bush, the sheriff, "and there are days when it still lives up to its name."

GOING TO SCHOOL

Alfredo Villegas was clearly frustrated as he struggled to read an English-language book in a small newcomer class in the Dodge City high school. Villegas, 15, has been in the U.S. for five months and his father works at Cargill.

"I don't know what I want to be," he
Students move between classes at Dodge City High School in Dodge City, Wednesday, April 4, 2007. Seventy per cent of the students at the school are Hispanic.
Changing Prairie towns: Facts and figures

DODGE CITY, KAN.
Demographics: Whites still hold the majority of population, but Hispanics are fast closing the gap. Nearly 40 percent of town residents spoke a language other than English at home, according to the 2000 census, compared to less than 14 percent in 1980.
Economics: $13,538 median per capita income reported in the 2000 Census, compared with $21,957 for the nation.
Large employers: Cargill Meat Solutions and National Beef.
Education: About 70 percent of the 5,800 students who now attend Dodge City schools are Hispanic, with English-speaking whites now comprising nearly 25 percent. That compares to 10 years ago when about 70 percent of the students were white.
Quote: “We don’t go anymore because we don’t want to be Mexican. We want to be American.”
—Randy Ford, who with wife Betty have lived in Dodge City, Kan., for 35 years but have stopped attending the city’s Independence Day events because they can’t understand what the Spanish singers are singing.

POSTVILLE, IOWA
Demographics: The town has a large number of Hispanics, but Postville isn’t your typical meat packing town. A sizable Eastern European population — from Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere — is prominent.
Economics: $14,264 per capita income reported in the last census, versus the $21,957 national average.
Large employer: Agriprocessors Inc., the biggest kosher slaughterhouse in the world.
Education: Postville has a 72.4 percent high school graduation rate compared with the national average of 80.4 percent.
Quote: “You’ll have a hard time finding that kind of diversity in a larger metropolitan area.”
—David Strudthoff, superintendent of schools in Postville, a town that barely covers two square miles but is home to people of 24 nationalities speaking 17 languages.

MORGAN COUNTY, COLO.
Demographics: The county on Colorado’s northern high plains saw its Hispanic population double in the 1990s — jumping from 4,034 in 1990 to 8,473 in the 2000 U.S. Census.
Economics: $15,492 median per capita income.
Large employer: Cargill Inc.
Education: The area has a 71.4 percent high school graduation rate.
Quote: “This is my adopted country and I love it.”
—Eduardo Patino, who emigrated from Argentina to the U.S. about 20 years ago and plans to retire in Fort Morgan.

GUYNON, OKLA.
Demographics: Hispanics make up nearly 40 percent of the population.
Economics: $15,682 median per capita income.
Large employer: Seaboard Foods.
Education: The high school graduation rate is 67.6 percent.
Quote: “A nut’s not even it. We were down at the bottom of the creek.”
—Guymon city manager Michael Shannon, describing the state of his town before the arrival of the Seaboard plant.

CACTUS, TEXAS
Population: The Moore County population, including Cactus, was 14,863 in 1980, compared to 20,591 in 2005.
Demographics: Predominantly Hispanic.
Economics: $8,340 per capita median income.
Large employer: Swift & Co.
Education: The Dumas school district, which serves one elementary school in Cactus, is nearly 70 percent Hispanic. A 15-1 student-teacher ratio in the kindergarten through fourth grades has helped the schools do well, and all elementary teachers are certified to teach English as a second language.
Quote: “Without this plant I don’t know what would happen.”
—Cactus Mayor Luis Aguilar, describing the Swift & Co. plant in Cactus. Aguilar entered the U.S. illegally from Mexico 30 years ago and now owns the town’s only grocery store, numerous rental properties and a nearby 575-acre ranch. Under an amnesty program, he gained citizenship about 10 years after arriving.
Wild West’s big boom

from C1 feature

Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Israel, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico and other nations. Each designates the home country to some of the school’s 370 students.

“The biggest population coming in right now are from Guatemala,” Postville principal Charlotte Tammel said. “The challenge for us is finding teachers who speak all these languages.”

Earlier this year, Dodge City teacher Debby Chipman gathered a small group of her second and third graders for an English lesson. Three of them speak Spanish, one boy speaks Vietnamese, the other boy speaks only Quiche, a Guatemalan dialect.

Even as the schools spread American culture to newcomers, the immigrants reciprocate, infusing their schools with their own cultures.

Everyone on the high school soccer roster in Liberal, Kan. — players, coaches, trainers and managers — is Hispanic, and during soccer season in the fall, the ambience around a Liberal game takes aim at the American stereotype of sweater-clad soccer moms in SUVs.

Though Friday night football still matters in the heartland, soccer clearly has a home here. Shouts of “Aquí, aquí!” blend easily with “Here, here!”

CULTURE CLASHES

On the high plains of northern Colorado, the latest wave of settlers to hit Morgan County has some wondered that the character of its largest city — Fort Morgan, with its neat lawns decorated with gnomes or holiday ornaments — would be altered beyond recognition.

Cargill operates a slaughterhouse here, employing about 20 percent of the town’s population and processing 4,300 head of cattle per day. Morgan County saw its Hispanic population double in the 1990s — jumping to 8,473 by the 2000 U.S. Census.

More than a century before the meatpackers consolidated and Cargill Inc. set up shop in Morgan County, Germans who had settled the Volga region of Russia arrived here after Czar

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RCPD still searching for 7-time rapist

Associated Press

Police are on the hunt for a man they say has raped seven college-age women near Kansas State University over the past seven years, the latest attack coming last month.

The man, they say, always wears long-sleeve shirts and dark-colored gloves and covers all but his eyes with a mask. Because of the mask, police don’t have a composite sketch of the suspect and few leads to track down.

That uncertainty has ratcheted up the fear in the college community with parents pressing law enforcement for more information and professors scheduling crime prevention presentations.

"Whenever there is an attack by this guy, we get lots of calls," said Mary Todd, director of the university’s Women’s Center. "Calls from people concerned about their safety."

Police have continued to provide female students with tips on how to stay safe, such as never walking alone and keeping doors and windows locked. They say they want students to avoid becoming the victim of all sorts of criminals.

"If someone is able to protect them--"

Wildcats Against Rape (WAR)

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"I think it’s really sad that it has to happen again for people to pay attention to it... This has gone on for years."

— Abby Heraud, president of the group

SEE NO. 1, BACK PAGE
RCPD still searching

NO. 1, FROM PAGE A1

selves from the opportunist rapist, you can protect yourself against the serial rapist," said Capt. John Doehling of the Riley County Police Department, which covers Manhattan. "Yes, we believe there is one guy doing this. But if it was seven different persons committing these crimes over the course of seven years, people would still need to be concerned."

Studies show the bulk of rapes in a college setting are committed by people who know their victims, either as acquaintances or as a date. But two University of Kansas doctoral students said their research showed women were more afraid of rapes committed by strangers, even though they believed they were more likely to be raped by an acquaintance.

Officials are urging parents to talk to their daughters and make sure they keep the doors and windows to their apartments closed and locked, even during the day.

Female students are also using Wildcat Walk, a service that provides escorts across campus at night. Wildcats Against Rape signed up a record number of new members this semester, about 100 people, compared to the usual 40.

"I think it's great people are concerned and it's great people want to get involved," said Abby Heraud, a senior from Pratt and president of the group. "But I think it's really bad that it has to happen again for people to pay attention to it...This has gone on for years."

Investigators said they believe the rapist got his start in October 2000 when he tried to rape a woman but ran off after a struggle.

His first successful attack came a year later in August 2001, but it wasn't until 2004 or 2005, after at least a fourth rape, that police determined they may be related.

The attacker is described as a man 5 feet 10 inches tall, about 200 to 220 pounds and wears long-sleeve shirts, pants and boots.

Investigators said the man tended to do and say the same things during the attacks, better proof of a single assailant, but they aren't saying what those actions are.

"Those are details that are known to him, the victims and a few of us," said Doehling. "Those are things we need to keep under our hats...If you have information that he's a one-armed man, we'd be putting that out there. That's a pretty good clue. That's something to look for."

"But here, we're talking about methods and tactics."

The victims range in age from 18 to 25 and have lived within a mile or two of each other in the small town. Five of them were attacked between May and September, although one attack was in March and another in December.

At least five victims lived in apartments while another lived in a single-family home. Police won't say how to gains entry.

"We don't want to say for sure," said Riley County Police Lt. Kurt Moldrup. "But in some instances, the victims are not real sure (how the assailant got inside)."

Investigators are also mum on whether they have DNA or other evidence collected at the crime scenes.

They have brought in the FBI to help profile the attacker, although they avoid calling him a serial rapist. Without an arrest, police said they won't know for certain if one man is committing all the assaults.

"We can't say definitively how this person is casing the victims," Doehling said. "We don't know how much time's spent on that."

While investigators have few details to share, some in town feel the incidents need to be discussed more to raise awareness and make sure students are protecting themselves.

"When we have a heinous crime happening, let's talk about it," said Todd, of the Women's Center. "I know there's a line. Police want a good investigation so the guy is caught as soon as possible and there's good prosecution afterward. But that's one side of the line. Public safety is on the other."

Todd said she's talked with at least two of the victims and they have voiced their concerns that there's been little news about the attacks.

Heraud said she and other members of Wildcats Against Rape have tried to raise awareness that sexual assaults happen to women all the time, as well as the string of attacks over the past seven years.
"A lot of incoming freshmen don't know there's a serial rapist," she said. "I feel there should be more information."

Doehling said the goal of law enforcement is prevention, making sure students know how to keep themselves safe.

Information from: The Kansas City Star
Child actors take part in Kansas movie

Associated Press

TOPEKA — The American Indian boys, dressed in woolen trousers and collarless muslin shirts, and the girls, wearing long dresses and boots, repeated the alphabet one letter at a time in a one-room schoolhouse.

The year portrayed was 1905, and the children were forced to attend boarding school at Haskell Institute in Lawrence.

Recently the child actors took part in "The Only Good Indian," a movie being shot in Topeka, Lawrence, Wichita and other sites in Kansas.

"The Only Good Indian" is a fictionalized account detailing the removal of Indian children from their homes and forced attendance at Indian boarding schools. The purpose was to indoctrinate them into a white culture and destroy their Indian heritage.

An Indian child who was removed from his or her home was put in a whole new world, said the film's director, Kevin Willmott, an assistant professor of film at the University of Kansas.

When sent to a boarding school:
A student's Indian name was replaced with a white name.

The child learned English and was forbidden to speak his native language.

He couldn't worship his native religion and was assigned a new religion.

He was shipped far from his home to discourage him from fleeing the school and returning home.

In the scene shot on a recent morning, some students were learning the alphabet, but Charlie, 15, a Kickapoo Indian, the movie's main character, doesn't recite the letters and instead stares at a book. Of the 20 students in the classroom, most were Kickapoos and some were Potawatomis.

The classroom at Stach School on the west grounds of the Kansas State Historical Society doubles for the Haskell Industrial Institute in Lawrence.

Winterfox Frank, of Redding, Calif., portrays Charlie.

Charlie flees the school to return to his family at their reservation home, Willmott said, and Sam Franklin, a Cherokee bounty hunter, pursues him. Actor Wes Studi, a real-life Cherokee, portrays Franklin.

Movie viewers will recognize Studi from his roles as the Toughest Pawnee in "Dances with Wolves" and as Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans." Studi also plays Joe Leaphorn in the PBS productions of three of Tony Hillerman's Navajo novels. Studi's niece, Delanna Studi, plays Charlie's mother in "The Only Good Indian."

Between takes of the alphabet recitation, a crewman told the 20 child actors, "If you look at the camera, it'll burn a hole in your eyeball."

Frank grinned, but the other students were silent.

"Just kidding," the crewman said.

Tom Carmody, screenwriter of "The Only Good Indian," said resistance by the Kickapoos to shedding their customs and adopting white customs is the movie's theme.

Carmody, also a film producer, said the filmmakers are working closely with the Kickapoo tribe in Horton.

"We're just thrilled they're allowing us to use their tribal language and customs in the film," Carmody said. In one scene, Frank and 10-year-old Richard McKinney, who Carmody calls a "natural" actor, speak in Kickapoo.

Willmott is writer and director of "C.S.A.: Confederate States of America," a 2005 satire of what the United States would be like had the South won the Civil War. Willmott also is writer, director and producer of "Bunker Hill," another film shot in Kansas. "Bunker Hill" is in post-production work.

James McDaniel, the actor who played Lt. Arthur Fancy on the TV series "NYPD Blue," is the executive producer of "The Only Good Indian."

In "Bunker Hill," McDaniel plays a former Wall Street executive and ex-convict who returns home to Bunker Hill, Kan., after he is released from prison.

Scott Richardson, a producer, said shooting "The Only Good Indian" would take five or six weeks, then the movie will be released in theaters in 2008.

In some cases, the child actors on this day loosely portrayed events from the life of a grandparent.

Bertha Hill, mother of Raven Hill, 12, an extra, and aunt of two other extras, said her father, now 80, was forced to attend Haskell Industrial Institute, where he learned carpentry and vehicle mechanics.

"He just said he had to go," Hill said.

Haskell Indian Nations University now offers four-year degrees and two-year junior college degrees.