By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

Garrett Smith, 32, a 1995 graduate of Chase County High School, is seen in several segments of the film, “All Roads Lead Home,” which will be out on DVD Jan. 13.

Much of the movie was shot on the grounds of Stonecrest Farm in Kansas City, Mo., which Smith has managed the last four years.

Stonecrest Farm raises thoroughbred horses, and Smith gets to work with the racehorses, breaking the two-year-olds and galloping the racehorses when they are home on breaks.

Their most prized racehorse, Perfect Drift, finished third in the 2002 Kentucky Derby and made $4.7 million in his career. He was retired last fall.

Because Stonecrest required all their horses to be used if the film was to be shot there, it required Smith to be involved. He’s seen in the opening segment of the film, galloping a grey horse, and in several other scenes leading or working with the horses.

Stars in the movie include Peter Coyote and Peter Boyle, both who Smith got to talk and spend time with.

“They are both great guys,” Smith said by phone Monday.

He added that working on the film was a “great experience” with lots of stories to tell.

Shot in 2006, “All Roads Lead Home” is inspired by a true story.

Twelve-year-old Belle, played by Vivien Cardone, loses her mother in an automobile accident. Her father, Cody, played by Jason London, struggles to raise his daughter, and her rebellious behavior forces him to send Belle to her grandfather’s (Peter Coyote) farm to live.

On the farm, she learns it is the survival of the fittest, but cannot handle the thought of an animal not being worth saving unless it’s useful. Belle soon becomes the savior of all things.

An old thoroughbred horse and Atticus the dog change Belle’s life, and in turn, she changes the lives of those who love her.

Smith said all the exterior shots in the film are at Stonecrest Farm. Another set was used for the interior of the home, however.

The film was released in limited markets on the big screen last September. Smith and his wife, Lynn, went to the premiere in Kansas City, where they took part in everything, including the “Red Carpet.”

Smith said it’s a good, family movie with “no drugs, violence or bad language.” It runs an hour and 52 minutes.

After his 1995 CCHS graduation, Smith attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln, and also started working with the training of racehorses. He eventually went into the business full-time, spending some time working for a trainer in South Carolina, before taking his current job.

He and his wife have a four-year-old son Jaxson, and a three-year-old daughter Kaelee. His parents are former residents Stan and Vicky Smith.

Steve Smith, owner of Steve’s Video in Imperial, said he has three copies of the “All Roads Lead Home” DVD on order and hopes they will be here by the Jan. 13 release date. If not, it will be a few days later, he said.