

# Students shine at high school vocal concert



Clenisha Yarbrough, Kalie Rietcheck, Ashley Wing, Megan Stefan and May Davis (from left above) sang "The Way You Make Me Feel" with a solo by Yarbrough (left) at Monday's high school vocal program. The men's chorale of Craig Mason, Kelly Lewallen, Michael Hall (not pictured), Mike Zimmerman, Daniel Blake, Director Randy Berls and Nancy Shores on the piano, with help from Andrew Shores, sang "Do Wah Diddy Diddy." At the end of the program, Megan McCall was named the Music Student of the Year, and she received a national choral award.

Photos by Liz West  
The Goodland Star-News



# Topic of teen pregnancy usually brings up question of who to blame

Teen pregnancy — who's to blame? The girl for "allowing" it to happen or the guy for not "controlling" himself.

This topic usually brings up blame. The majority of the time, the weight falls on the girl; however, as a society we tend to forget the guy has as much to do with it as the girl — the only difference is he can get himself out of it a lot easier than the girl can!

The following are only a few basics about the responsibility of fatherhood that parents of young males can review with their son(s):

If a guy has sex with a girl, she may become pregnant. If she has a baby, he will have to help support the child.

A guy is responsible for any child the fathers, even if he didn't want to have a baby. It doesn't matter if he used birth control or if he wanted the mother to have an abortion instead of having the baby. The father is responsible for providing the baby with its needs. This means giving love and emotional support. It also means providing food, clothes and shelter.

If the guy and the mother are married, he is assumed the legal father. If he is not married to the mother, and they both agree he is the father, then he can sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity.

If there is disagreement of who



## cris lovington

• prevention center

the father is, he may take a genetic test (paternity test). These tests are simple and very accurate.

If a guy refuses to take a genetic test he may be ordered to take it by the Child Support Enforcement Program or by a court. This test can be ordered at any time until the child is 18 years old. So, don't get too comfortable, it may happen years after he had sex with the mother.

If the mother has custody, he will have to give part of his income for the child. This money is called child support. It helps pay for his child's food, clothes and other needs. He will have to pay child support until the child is at least 18 years old. The guy must pay child support even if the mother receives welfare assistance. He may have to pay even if she marries someone else.

Fathers have to pay child support even if they think they cannot afford it. If a father is not working, he will still owe child support. He must pay child support even if he is a student or joins the military.

If does not pay child support,

money can be taken from his paychecks, income tax refunds and other sources of income. If he does not pay child support, his credit may be damaged.

Money in his bank account and personal property can be taken as payment. His driver's license and professional licenses may be taken

away. He will not be able to get a passport. He may even go to jail.

He cannot avoid paying child support by leaving the state. He will owe child support even if he gets married to someone else and has another family.

If a guy wants to play an active role in his child's life, he has legal rights. Contact a private attorney, a legal aid office or the court system in your area to find out more about these rights.

At the right time, being a father can be a great joy. It means provid-

ing love, support and guidance to a child. But it also takes time, patience and money. If you are not ready to be a father, think before you act.

Wait to have sex until you are ready to support a child emotionally and financially.

If you do have sex, use birth control correctly and every time or do not have sex.

If you have not been using birth control, start now or do not have sex.

Talk with your partner about what you would do if she became preg-

nant.

Remember that birth control greatly lowers the risk of an unplanned pregnancy, but it is not a guarantee. The only guarantee is choosing not to have sexual intercourse.

Are you ready to be a dad? Every child deserves loving, caring parents. Are you ready to be one of them? If it's too soon to be a dad, take steps now to prevent an unplanned pregnancy. For more information call 785-899-3848 or e-mail me at cris1@st-tel.net.

### Timothy Gittinger

Parents: Kendall and Marilyn Gittinger

**Favorite high school memory:** All the fun times with my buds and making memories I will never forget.

**Plans after graduation:** I'm going to attend the Northwest Kansas Technical College in the auto body program and hope to own my own body shop someday.

**Ten years:** I won't be living here.

924 Main  
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(785) 899-2342



### Haylee Mannis

Parents: Troy and Anna Mannis

**Favorite high school memory:** My junior year in Applied Math II with Kayla Rasure and Michelle S.

**Plans after graduation:** To attend Colby Community College majoring in Elementary Education.

**In ten years:** Be far into my career, with my own house, being married and maybe starting a family too.



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