

# 'Elvis' rocks sixth grade

By Tom Betz  
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"Elvis" signing Heartbreak Hotel was the opening act for the Sixth Grade Rocks North concert Monday evening at the high school auditorium.

Jeremy Mills, dressed as Elvis complete with long, black sideburns, told vocal music teacher Char Avila he needed to practice for an upcoming gig. He sang Elvis' great hit "Heartbreak Hotel," accompanied by Tyler Jones doing backup sounds.

The evening began with music selections performed by the sixth grade band, directed by Melanie Biel and Tremon Kizer.

Changing the stage from the band setup to the risers for the choir was a chore, as the directors and their helpers got a few sections mixed up and had to rearrange them to fit properly.

Avila had a group of the students display hand drum exercises they had learned. She said the only reason more of the kids couldn't participate was lack of drums. There were four groups with different sizes of hand drums to demonstrate the ways they can be played.

Once into the rock 'n roll section, the choir did a medley of television themes, including the Addams Family, Happy Days, I Love Lucy, Mister Ed, Bewitched, Ballad of Jed Clampett and the Brady Bunch. Jimmy Roeder, Kayler Rietcheck and Kaitlyn Lammers were featured in Happy Days, Ryan Fisher and Ashley Archer were Jed and Granny Clampett and the Brady Bunch was Kirsten Toppliff, Tanar Fairchild, Andrea Roeder, David Murray, Christy Snider, Brendan Flodin, Layne Perdew and Victor Diaz.

Michael Pettibone and Nicole Rutherford were the soloists for "You'll Be in My Heart," with the



Milton Sapp saluted his father Bryan Varney, a Goodland Kansas National Guard member, who is serving in Iraq.

help of Brock Wilkens, Dillon Trachsel, Rietcheck, LeRoy Prine and Jimmy Roeder.

"Gloria" was sung by Rutherford, accompanied by a chorus line complete with black hats and ties. Dancers Kirsten Toppliff, Archer, Ashley Martell, Jennifer Hernandez, Caitlyn McGinley, Jade Herl, Andrea Roeder, Samantha Galden and Christy Studer.

A special spoof on "Pizza" featured the choir singing while Erika Fyfe and Kaitlyn Toppliff chewed on pizza and Seth Miller and Hazen Deeds tried to get a slice.

A rocking medley from "Grease" featured Christopher Bustillos, Dayelle Waugh, Bryan Guyer, Herl, Rietcheck, Archer, Dane Frazier and Studer. The songs were "Grease," "Summer Nights," "We Go Together," "Rock 'n Roll Party Queen" and "You're the One That I Want."

Waugh, Herl, Perdew, Andrea

Roeder, Cristina Olave and Lammers were featured in the 70s medley "Close to You." "I'll Be There" was sung by Frazier. "I Feel the Earth Move," featured Frazier and the choir with the show highlight, dancing of Andrew Shores and Hazen Deeds.

The boys of the choir donned pink and green florescent hats as they did "Down to the Bone." Miller read a poem, followed by the choir doing "American Tears."

Dressed in an Army uniform and holding an American flag, Milton Blaine Sapp spoke about his father, Bryan Varney, who is serving in Iraq. "Dad, you are my hero," he said, then he saluted as the choir began singing "You Are Our Heroes."

The final medley was "We got the Beat," "Sweet Dreams," "Pump up the Jam," and "Cold Hearted."

A reprise of "We go Together" closed the program.

Avila thanked the sixth grade teachers Pam Hardy, Judy Hayden, Linda McKee and Jona Neufeld. She thanked Linda Quint for doing the programs, Randy Berls and the high school students for helping with the auditorium and custodians Kenny Grieve and John Cozadd.

Band students were Stephen Buller, Robert Cowan, Nathan Deeds, Fisher, Guyer, Hernandez, Lammers, McGinley, Cory Millam, Murray, Pettibone, Kendra Promise, Sapp, Dillon Sjoerdsma, Jacob Terry, Kirsten Toppliff, Wilkens, Bustillos, Hazen Deeds, Dorn, Frazier, Herl, Jones, Lee, Christopher Millam, Mills, Olave, Prine, Rietcheck, Shores, Bryan Smith, Kaitlyn Toppliff and Waugh.

Other members of the choir were Joseph Eddleman, Kody Eli, Tyler Freeman, Nicholas Thomas, Garth Helton, Bobby Ray, Steven Zupko, Dalton Lange, Thomas McCurry, Nolan Ray and Chase Sawatzky.

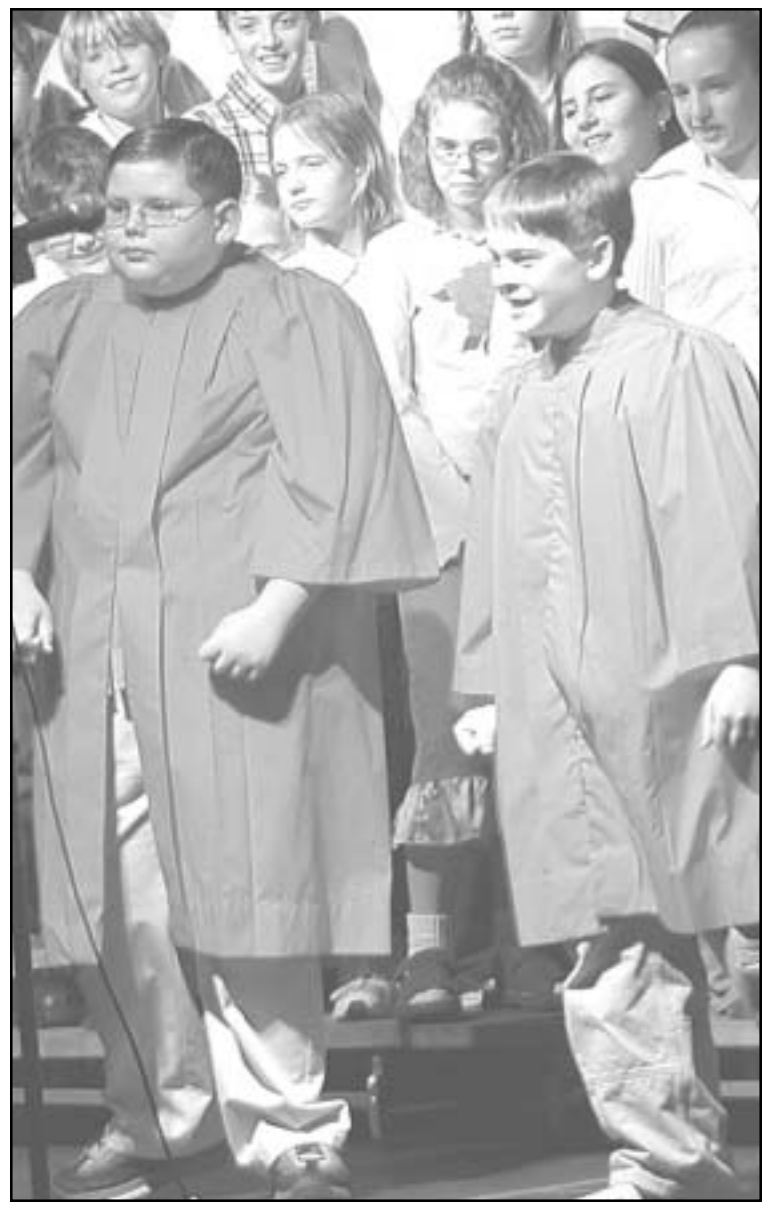


Jeremy Mills sang Elvis' "Heartbreak Hotel" with backup from Tyler Jones.



Jade Herl and Bryan Guyer were one of the couples dancing to the song "You're the one that I want."

Andrew Shores and Hazen Deeds (right photo) broke up the audience with their dance routine as Dane Frazier and the choir sang "I Feel the Earth Move."



Ashley Archer, Cristy Studer, Jade Herl and Kirsten Toppliff were part of the chorus line while Nicole Rutherford sang "Gloria."



Hand drums were played by Kayler Rietcheck, Andrea Roeder, Christopher Bustillos, Jimmy Roeder and Andrew Shores.



Kirsten Toppliff, LeRoy Prine and Cristina Olave played clarinet during the sixth grade band concert Monday.