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## **Wayne J. Gearhart, 18**

*May 8, 1983 – Feb. 22, 2002*

**NEWMAN GROVE, NE** – Wayne J. Gearhart, son of Michael and Ruth (Kenny) Gearhart, was born May 8, 1983, at Norfolk, NE. He was a senior at Newman Grove High School. Wayne was baptized in the Methodist faith and confirmed in 1988. He was involved with FFA, FBLA and was president of the Methodist Church Youth Group. He lettered in football and basketball for three years. He worked summer jobs as a lifeguard. He had plans to attend a four-year college, either Wayne State or University of Nebraska at Kearney. He died Feb. 22, 2002, at the Boone County Medical Center at Albion, NE, as a result of an automobile accident, at age 18 years.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather. He is survived by his parents; two sisters, Melissa Moreno (Matt) of Omaha and Emily Kearney and friend, Tim Ternus; grandparents, Margaret Kenny of Carroll, NE and Charles and Esther Gearhart of Harlan.

Funeral services were held Feb. 25, 2002, at the Newman Grove High School Gym with Pastor Susan Saunders officiating and Dr. Ed Bonneau, assisting. Burial was in Hope Cemetery at Newman Grove, NE.