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STUDENTS TO PROVIDE PRE-GAME MESSAGE

District replaces prayer with broader definition to meet legal standard

A prayer by any other name is still a prayer.

But, as it [illegible] Wednesday parents offered by students at school ...

... [illegible] section 8-1302 No. 500 will be referred to as 'pre-game messages.'

by MOSE CUDNO
• Inside & Iowa

Like the first vocal debate replacing the single term "prayer," the procedure to permit "pre-game messages" also takes up more time and space than the original prayer.

In the second special meeting within a week, the Liberal USD 480 school board voted Wednesday to approve a new procedure for allowing a student-led prayer at USD 480 activities. Rule replaced it with a narrower and more detailed policy ... [illegible] during which five members present and one participating via phone consulted with the district's legal counsel, attorney Rick Small.

Like the previous special meeting, Wednesday's meeting followed the legal standard ruling of Small

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Dillons renovating
Page 3

2-step
Senior Center offers classes every Friday night
Page 3

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Turpin title
State champs of 1963 return to Turpin for special 50-year reunion
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Survey closed, but district welcomes patron ideas

by MICHAEL CUDNO
• Inside & Iowa

VISION Team to take between their first and second meeting. Dr. Robert Balthazor, USD 480 Superintendent, said Thursday. "Once the team actually was tabulated the survey was closed.

But doesn't mean community members can't have their gripes or praise for future ... [illegible] in the district.

"We are hoping to get ... [illegible] community feedback when we start holding the community meetings," he said.

For more information, contact Hurley at 804-3925 or email him at Michael.Hurley@usd480.net.

Three football players from the staff of a Liberal [illegible] are part of a fundraiser for Liberal High School After-Prom committee. (Jeff Jones/ Robert Pierce)

Veterans' heath services will continue depsite partial shutdown

• Special Re: Inside & Iowa

Acting Director of Health Service Communications Susan Fanning said that the Veterans Health Administration Office of Communications has announced that VA medical centers will, for the short term despite the government shutdown, ... [illegible] important to know that the VHA, the branch of VA that operates our 18 hospitals and 800 clinics, will be funded through Wednesday and the Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Fort Dodge, Salina, Hays, Parsons, Iola and Dodge City, which have advance appropriations for fiscal year 2014," Ruel said. "This means that health care, benefits and other health services will remain open.

Benefits Administration Claims processing, education and vocational rehabilitation and employment, and insurance and loan programs ... [illegible] October," continued Hennessy, in the event of a prolonged shutdown, claims processing and other benefits programs would be suspended as available funding is exhausted.

"In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to provide health care services to all veterans, but may be a reduced schedule," she said.

"In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to provide health care services to all veterans, but may be a reduced schedule," she said. "Most veterans' benefits payments will be unaffected, at least for a short time, as previously appropriated funds will be available to support these payments. However, VA will not be able to process any new claims for benefits during a shutdown because VA staff responsible for processing claims will be furloughed. Veterans should continue to file claims as they normally would, but they will not be processed until VA staff return to work. Claims will be processed in the order they were received."

Hennessy said that the Veterans Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, will remain operational during a shutdown. Veterans in crisis can also text 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

Help After-Prom by 'skinning a friend'

To have football or soccer signs, or both, placed in someone's yard, a donation of at least $50 is required, and rush orders to "skin" another yard, an additional fee of $25 is added

by ROBERT PIERCE
• Inside & Iowa

On Monday morning, students at eight Liberal [illegible] awoke to find some new decorations in their yard.

Those yards were all part of a fundraiser from Liberal High School's After-Prom committee, which group members hope will continue through the end of football season.

With some simple paperwork and a little money, those living in Liberal can currently have football and soccer signs put in someone else's yard.

After-Prom member Liz Roberts said paperwork is left at the home of the "victim" to thank for themselves what to do next.

"We'll like to do it during basketball season," she said. "I mean this is going to be a good fundraiser."

Roberts said though, for now soccer and football season is the focus.

"Last weekend, we had hoped to pick a couple of sports we thought would have a lot of participation," she said. "We couldn't afford to do all the sports right now."

Those who have already been "skinned" and wish not to participate further, "unskinning" assistance can be purchased, according to Roberts.

"If you've got a[ll] your lessons and you want to send it on to your house, if you don't want it back in your yard, you can pay to have it removed," she said. "It's $[illegible] and we'll do that, and I don't want it back," she said.

Roberts said [illegible] somewhere is switching yards three times this week, and so the fundraiser goes ... [illegible] the number of yards "skinned" will go down.

"Probably after this week, it'll just be two, but we're trying to hit it pretty hard during homecoming," she said. "Another thing we were trying to do is ... [illegible] bring a few of the coaches. Primarily this week will probably be the senior football players and cheerleaders, but we're trying to get a little bit of the soccer players and coaches involved in that too."

Those wishes to the "skinning a friend" fundraiser, call Roberts at 626-2330 or 371-2465 or Stacy Hammond at 626-0607 or 625-6503.

"We're excited about it," she said. "We've got to thank the administration ... Roberts said. "[They] don't have to wait for the signs to show up in their yard. We'll be glad to work with them."

Roberts emphasized that After-Prom will try to work with anyone who wants to participate.

"We're not trying to intentionally leave anyone out," she said. "We started with two of them."

Roberts said that [illegible] committee meeting when the school year started, and its main purpose is to raise [illegible] for after-prom, which will be held in the spring of 2014.

"It's right after prom is over," she said. "So, rent out the Activity Center. There's a theme for

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