October 3, 2013

Thursday, 03 October 2013 11:42

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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 of 1 p.m. Wednesday, prayers offered by students at school-sanctioned events in USD No. 480 will be referred to as "pre-game messages."

by MICHAEL COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

Like the three-word phrase replacing the simple term "prayer," the procedure to permit "pre-game messages" also takes up more time and space than the previous policy.

In the second special meeting within a week, the Liberal USD 480 school board voted Wednesday to replace the previous policy governing prayer at student-led prayer at all USD 480 activities. Also replaced it with a numerous and more detailed policy that allows for "pre-game messages" to be given during which five members present and two participating via phone consulted with the district's legal counsel, attorney Rick Stough.

Like the previous special meeting, Wednesday's meeting addressed the legal standard when a "student-led prayer at extracurricular activities is permitted," as Superintendent Dr. Dale Dobbins-Gilbert described it to discussion in executive session, which is closed to the public.

Board President Jeff Stephenson said the board had not reached a consensus on the decision at the time of new business.

Board Vice President Jim Stanchina, who attended the office of student-led prayer at the board's last regular meeting Sept. 23, presented a motion to amend by omission that basic 12-word motion. "After board

See MESSAGE, 2/Page 3

Dillons renovating

Page 3

2-step

Senior Center offers classes every Friday night

Page 3

BASEMENT
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THURSDAY OCTOBER 3, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
Your daily news & views for 127

Turpin title

State champs of 1963 return to Turpin for special 50-year reunion

Page 10

Survey closed, but district welcomes patron ideas

by MICHAEL COLEMAN
• Leader & Times

A survey conducted by USD No. 480 to gather information needs [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] published in the Monday Sept. 30 edition of the Leader & Times [illegible] the survey posted on the district's website.

That survey was placed by the VISION Team to take between their first and second meeting. Board President Jeff Stephenson Dobbins' stated "Once the team made sure (attached the survey) was closed,

But doesn't mean community members can't have their gripes (or for future [illegible] the Bluejays.

"We are buying community feedback when we start building the community vision," he said.

For more information, contact Dobbins at 304-3127 or email him at Michael.Dobbins@USD480.net.

Veterans' heath services will continue depsite partial shutdown

• Special to Leader & Times

Acting Director of Health Services Communications Susan Rust of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Communications has announced that VA health services will be short-term despite the government shutdown.

"In the unlikely event the important to know that the VHA, the launch of VA that operates our 18 medical centers, 140 outpatient clinics, 135 Vet Centers, Mobile, and five community Based Outpatient Clinics in Fort Dodge, Salina, Hays, Parsons, and Wichita, will continue to advance appropriations for fiscal year 2013," Rust said. "This means that our medical centers and other health services will remain open.

Veterans benefits payments administered by the Veterans Benefits Administration (Claims and Appeals processing, compensation and pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment services) [illegible] "Continued Operations in the event of a prolonged shutdown, claims processing and other benefits programs would be suspended as available funding is exhausted."

Rust said the Veterans Health Administration Mission Statement is will continue, but may be on a reduced schedule. "At the

"In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to process and update its claims and appeals, as well as other legal requirements and obligations," Rust added. "Mission critical functions of VA will be updated, as necessary, as

These football and soccer signs are part of a fundraiser for the Liberal High School After-Prom committee. LT photo/ Robert Pierce

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
• Leader & Times

On Monday morning, students at eight Liberal Seniors stroke to find some new decorations to their yard.

They were part of a fundraiser from Liberal High Seniors' After-Prom committee, which group members hope will continue to help fund the event.

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 Lisa Roberts said paperwork is left at the home of the "victim" to decide for themselves what to do next.

"We don't know who it is," she said. "We don't want to participate. Those cows pick them up," she said. "They could make the donation and send them on to someone else's yard."

If the "victim" does want to participate, a lock, placed in someone's yard, a donation of at least $50 is requested, and rush orders to "skin" another yard, an additional fee of $25 is added.

Roberts said the fundraiser will take place through the end of football and soccer seasons, which, if all goes well, she hopes will extend into early November.

"We'd 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 signs are the only ones.

"Last year, we just had 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 at this time."

Roberts said, if the signs have been "skinned" and wish not to participate further, "unskinning" assistance can be purchased, according to the flyer.

"If you've got a cow house and you want to send it on to my house, if you don't want it back, you can do that," she said. "It costs a little bit for the donation and stuff. I'm skinny, and I don't want it back," she said.

Roberts said she remembers a switching yards when times this week, and the fundraiser goes

See SKINNING, 2/Page 3

Vol. 128 • Iss. 127 • 18 Pages

Happy Birthday, Ronda Maxwell!

Liberal, Kansas