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Liberal High School AVID students gather at the school's entrance to pose for a photograph promoting their dedication to academics as LHS was designated a Demonstration School for AVID. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, a program that encourages students to take responsibility for their education and teaches them organizational techniques to help with studying. Seven years ago, when LHS was one of the worst performing schools in the state, it was a different story.

Cash, an voice the AVID program there and decided to make it a goal to make LHS an AVID Demonstration School. The program helped increase graduation rates, prepare students for college, and was a part of one of the most significant turnarounds in education in the state over years, taking LHS from the bottom to the second best school in Kansas. LC photo/Cat Wise

LHS joins elite by becoming model AVID school

By CAT WISE
• Leader & Times

Seven years ago, Liberal High School was near a state-wide closing due to the poor performance on national testing.

Today, LHS is nationally ranked as one of the best public schools in nation and the second best high school in Kansas.

Part of that turnaround included the implementation of the AVID program, and on April 22, LHS was designated a demonstration school for the program. AVID, or Advancement Via Individual Determination, develops a support system for students that encourages them to set a collegiate goals and how to take notes and other habits that will lead to successful outcomes.

School Board member Dan Dispenzieri was part of a team that visited Liberal High School a few years ago and he researched the AVID program and shared it with the group.

Dispenzieri, along with principal Kelly Maness, curriculum development coordinator Lana Deans and counselor Ben Williams, went to see a demonstration school in Wichita, Kan.

"We knew the kids at the top would do fine, but Deans in the middle, we wanted them to achieve at the highest," Dispenzieri said. "I read the book and was sold on it. It addresses college readiness for the kids in the middle. We want to liberate, Cash, and we were sold on it the minute we walked into the classroom at Wichita Heights High."

Maness had considered some that needed to be addressed at LHS, and AVID was a perfect fit as part of the solution.

"It was part of a comprehensive approach," he said. "School safety, academics, character education — AVID fit right in there. Once we came in contact with the

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Newly obtained Benghazi emails suggest White House aide involved in prepping Rice for 'video' explanation

By CATHERINE HERRIDGE
• Fox News.com

Newly released emails on the Benghazi attacks show that a senior White House aide played a central role in preparing former U.N. ambassador Susan Rice for her controversial TV appearances days after the strength-limited petroleum war on Internet video.

The newly released of documents were released to the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch as part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. Among them is a high-ranking aide, Ben Rhodes, who is a former speechwriter for President Obama and deputy national security advisor for strategic communications.

Rhodes, who worked with the office of Sen. Ted Cruz R-Texas, Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.ET, was sent to a dozen members of the Obama administration, including key members of the White House communications teams such as Dan Pfeiffer and Jen Psaki.

In the email, Rhodes specifically drew attention to the anti-Islam Internet video, which was released days before the Benghazi attack was different Cnn presents chronicles.

The email lists the following two problems effort.

Sept. 11, 2012 file photo shows investigators the inside of the U.S. Consulate after the attack that killed four Americans. AP file photo

"To reinforce that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy."

"To reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges."

The email goes on to state that the U.S. government received the message of Sen. Fitzmet video. "We find it disgusting and reprehensible. For there is absolutely no excuse for the violence we saw in Libya, in more with violence," the email ended.

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said the newly released emails show the White House aide attempted to provide Rice best credibility which figures to the American people.

"Rhodes is trying to do the same thing [Rhodes] is trying to do in the Benghazi [illegible] which was to make the president look good. Blame it on the video and not the President's failure," Fitton said.

The Rhodes email was only part of the 100 pages of emails released by the administration to Judicial Watch. The emails are related to news footage with the condemnation of Juba Persons on CBS director and the so-called "talking points" emails were not given.

The Rice video complained becomes in congressional testimony in early April. Former deputy CIA director Michael Morell, who helped Rice prepare for her Sunday show appearances, who linked the video to the Benghazi attack. Morell said he "was not aware of the Rhodes email."

"My reaction was two-fold," Morell told members of the House Intelligence Committee. "One was that I was surprised. One was that what she said about the attacks evolving spontaneously from a protest was not what the talking points

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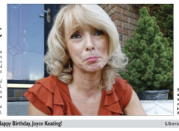
Judge OKs decision to sell widow's home over $6.30 debt



Diane Rychel sits on the steps of her elder home in Hampton. Pa. AP photo

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP) — A widow who owes eight notice before her $200,000 house was sold at a fire sale for $6.30 to satisfy a debt of $6.30 to a small amount, a Pennsylvania judge has ruled.

The decision last week turned down Eileen Rychel's request to reverse the September 2011 sale of her home outside Allentown in western Pennsylvania.

"I paid everything and didn't know about the $6.30," Rychel said. "For the house to be sold and for me to be evicted, it's wrong."

Rychel, who still lives in the house, said Monday that she plans to appeal to Commonwealth Court. That court earlier refused an evidentiary hearing which failed to last nearly ending.

Berks County Common Pleas Judge Don Lash said the sale was valid because it was completed with notification requirements in state law before the auction. She had previously owed taxes on the house, but after it was sold in the court fine 2010 tax bill, she owed $6.30.

"There is no doubt that [she had] actual receipt of the notification of the tax upset sale on July 7, 2011, and Aug. 30, 2011," the judge wrote. "Moreover, on Aug. 30, 2011, the property was sold for more than [tax] and was not returned."

The property sold for about $140,000, and most

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Happy Birthday, Joyce Keeling!

Liberal, Kansas