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LEADER TIMES

SERVING SEWARD COUNTY AND THE CITY OF LIBERAL SINCE 1886

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WEATHER

THURSDAY — Hi - 79° Low - 47°

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RANE

Dr. Mona Rane appointed to SWMC Board of Trustees

• Southwest Medical Center

The Seward County Commission has elected Dr. Mona Rane to serve on the Southwest Medical Center (SWMC) Board of Trustees.

Dr. Rane will serve a three-year term, joining a dedicated group of individuals committed to guiding the mission and future of healthcare in Seward County.

Dr. Rane, a respected surgeon in Liberal, brings more than 30 years of medical experience to her new role on the board. She has built a strong reputation for compassionate care and medical excellence, making her an outstanding addition to SWMC's leadership.

"I'm honored to be selected to serve on the Board of Trustees at Southwest Medical Center," Dr. Rane said. "It's a privilege to support an organization that is deeply committed to improving the health of our community. I look forward to working with the board and leadership team to continue that mission."

In addition to Dr. Rane's appointment, Ivanhoe Love Jr., current vice-chairman of the board, and Marlene Rieger, assistant secretary and treasurer, were both re-elected to serve two-year terms. Their continued service ensures experienced leadership remains at the forefront of SWMC's strategic direction.

The current Board of Trustees also includes:

- Dennis Sander, Chairman
- Stacy Cope, Secretary
- Tony McKee, Treasurer
- Joe Denoyer, Member

The SWMC Board of Trustees is the highest policymaking body for Southwest Medical Center, responsible for setting governance and fiscal policies that support the hospital's long-term success.

"We're excited to welcome Dr. Rane to our Board of Trustees," Amber Williams, CEO of Southwest Medical Center, said. "Her decades of clinical expertise and strong ties to the community will be an asset as we continue our work to deliver elite care. We also deeply appreciate the continued service of Mr. Love and Ms. Rieger, whose leadership and dedication are vital to our mission."

Southwest Medical Center remains committed to building a healthier community through collaboration, innovation, and a patient-first approach.

City approves removal of nuisance vehicles, recognizes staffers for service

ELLY GRIMM
• Leader & Times

A pair of City of Liberal employees got some special recognition from the Liberal City Commission at its most recent meeting Tuesday evening.

Up first to be recognized was Mandy Read from the Tourism Department as the Employee of the Quarter.

"It is my pleasure to present the very first Employee of the Quarter Award. This quarter's recognition focuses on community impact and recognizing an individual who has shown outstanding dedication to citywide events and planning, is someone whose work actively strengthens and uplifts our community," Director of Human Resources Angelica Arroyo said. "The recipient of this award has gone above and beyond not just in making wonderful contributions to the community but also showing a collaborative spirit. I am proud to announce the inaugural Employee of the Quarter is Mandy Read. Mandy's work has a wonderful impact on our community and her commitment and hard work



City of Liberal Tourism Marketing Coordinator Mandy Read is recognized as the City of Liberal's first Employee of the Quarter at the Liberal City Commission's most recent meeting Tuesday evening. Read was praised for her work in the department. L&T photo/Elly Grimm

don't go unnoticed, and we're very grateful for everything she does."

Up next to receive recognition was City Clerk Alicia Hidalgo as Liberal Mayor Jose Lara read a proclamation for 56th Annual Professional

Municipal Clerks Week, which is set for May 4 through 10.

"WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part local government exists throughout the world, and WHEREAS, The Office of the

Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels," Lara read. "And WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all. WHEREAS, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community. WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations. WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk. Now, Therefore, I recognize the week

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GANG ACTIVITY ALERT

Local victims duct-taped, shocked with car jumper cables

• L&T staff report

The Liberal Police Department is currently investigating a group of juveniles in the community who are referring to themselves as an organized gang and are allegedly involved in multiple felony offenses.

These reported crimes include kidnapping, aggravated battery, property damage and other violent acts.

"Videos of these incidents have depicted juveniles being ambushed and overpowered by a group using Orbeez guns, shot with the Orbeez guns, restrained with duct tape – including tape applied over their mouths – and even electrocuted with jumper cables," an LPD press release said.

The release added these actions are not pranks or games. They are serious criminal offenses and will be treated as such by law enforcement.

"Under Kansas law, a criminal street gang is defined as any group of three or more individuals who share a common name, sign or symbol and whose members engage in criminal activity," the release said.

Based on current reports, the LPD release said the behavior of this group may meet the legal definition of a criminal street gang.

"We urge all parents and guardians to speak with their children about the legal and personal consequences of engaging in this kind of behavior," the release said. "Participation in such acts can lead to severe criminal changes and long-term repercussions."

The LPD encourages people have been or know someone who has been a victim or witness to these activities to call 620-626-0141.

"Your report could be crucial in ensuring the safety of our community," the release said.

IN CONCERT: SCCC prepares to entertain public May 2

By ROBERT PIERCE
• Leader & Times

Friday, May 2, Seward County Community College's Rapid Fit Health Club Showcase Theater will come alive with the sound of music as SCCC presents its annual spring concert.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., and Instrumental Music Instructor Claire Thompson said the evening will feature music from many realms of entertainment, including movies, television shows and video games.

"We are really excited to put on that concert and showcase what we've been working on this semester," she said.

Thompson said audience members can expect a fun, upbeat concert that will keep them guessing and on their toes.

"They'll also hear a lot of familiar things since it's from movies, from composers like John Williams and Hans Zimmer," she said. "They'll hear things they have heard before from famous movies, and we're looking forward to sharing that with everybody."

May marks the end of Thompson's first year at SCCC, and with a winter concert behind her as well as the return of a pep band, she is in a good mental state for the upcoming spring concert.



Seward County Community College choir members sing one of the songs as part of last semester's winter concert. The spring concert is scheduled for Friday, May 2, in the Rapid Fit Health Club Showcase Theater. Courtesy photo

"I'm really excited to finish out the year strong," she said. "It's been an incredible first year at SCCC. I felt super supported by my students and staff members. It's been a very exciting year, and I'm incredibly happy to be a part of the staff at SCCC."

Planning for the concert too has been much fun for Thompson.

"We're doing a piece called 'Player One

Press Start,'" she said. "It comes with a back track, and it's all about video games. The composer of this piece is still alive, which is awesome. A lot of times, we play or sing pieces from composers who have passed on."

This time, however, Thompson and her

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