

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times An arraignment has been set on a Liberal man facing charges stemming from four separate cases.

Jorge Almeida, 30, is scheduled to be arraigned on May 3 for counts involving unlawful acts with computers, alleged electronic solicitation, criminal sodomy, promoting obscenity to minors and attempted sexual exploitation of a child, in addition to a previous charge of indecent solicitation of a child.

Wednesday, Seward County Attorney Don Scott said Almeida had waived his right to preliminary hearings in the cases, and the defendant would not enter a plea on the charges. Almeida's latest arrest came at the March 4 meeting of the Seward County Commission on a warrant pertaining to a charge of alleged sexual exploitation of a child after being released on bond for the previous charges.

Almeida had been extradited back to Seward County after a November 2012 arrest in Cimarron County, Okla., relating to an arrest which took place in October 2012.

In November, Almeida was charged with aggravated intimidation of a witness, according to Scott, and Boise City, Okla., officials indicated he was being held on that charge.

Almeida was scheduled for preliminary hearings on March 3, but the cases were continued until Wednesday. A prelim hearing had also been set on some of the charges for Jan. 16.

In early March, Scott gave no specifics as to the time Almeida could receive, but the attorney did say if convicted "He's looking at a lot of time."

The charges the defendant faces include 11 level 3 charges for electronic solicitation, a level 8 charge for the alleged computer crimes, level 6 for intimidation of a witness and level 5 for the charges incurred in the March 4 arrest.

Scott added the time Almeida is looking at depends on the order the cases are tried in, as they could potentially be tried consecutively.

The attorney said Wednesday the defendant is still custody and being held on a number of bonds in the Seward County Jail.

Almeida was originally arrested Oct. 30, 2012, in Liberal for charges that alleged he had committed unlawful acts with computers.

He was arrested a second time Nov. 14, 2012, and was charged alleged electronic solicitation,

criminal sodomy, indecent liberties with a child, sexual exploitation of a child and promoting obscenity to minors.