

2 Liberal men face unrelated rape charges

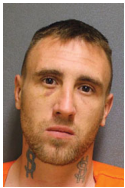
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By LARRY PHILLIPS

• Leader & Times

Two Liberal men were arrested within two days of each other on unrelated crimes, yet both now face felony rape charges.



Michael Thacker, Liberal, was arrested May 22 and made his first court appearance May 28.

Seward County Attorney Don Scott said Thursday that Thacker, 30, is now facing charges of rape, attempted second degree murder, aggravated intimidation of a witness or victim, aggravated escape from custody and interfering with a law enforcement officer.

Thacker has a scheduling hearing set for 8:30 a.m. July 1.

The Seward County Sheriff's office confirmed Thacker is still in the county jail on a \$250,000

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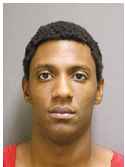
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bond.

Plains attorney Russell Hasenbank is representing Thacker, Scott said.

Another Liberal man, Martavious Owens, 21, was arrested May 24, also on charges of rape. However, Scott said Owens is facing two counts of rape with a child under 14 years of age, aggravated indecent liberties with a child under 14 and aggravated indecent solicitation of a child under 14.

Owens, too, made his first appearance on May 28. Though several scheduling hearings were continued, Owens is now scheduled for his preliminary hearing at 9 a.m. July 17.



The Seward County Sheriff's office confirmed Thacker is also being detained in the county jail on a \$250,000 bond.

Hugoton lawyer Paul Kitzke is Owens' attorney.

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