

By EARL WATT

• Daily Leader

For the first time in Liberal, an amateur mixed martial arts tournament will take place at Throwdown Showdown 8.

It will also be the first time that Dave Rine will put on a tournament, and it will be the first time he will have the Throwdown Showdown in the Seward County Activity Center.

“I think it is totally amazing,” Rine said. “They’ve done this with Belatore and Shine fights, which are bigger organizations. We’ve decided to bring it to Liberal and make something exciting out of it.”

The tournament will consist of 12 150-pound fighters who will be seeded and placed on a bracket.

As the winners advance, they will move up the bracket , and by the end of the night, one of the fighters will win four fights and earn the title of Revolution Cage Fighting Throwdown Showdown 8 Tournament Challenge Champion.

But the tournament won’t be the only fights. Rine is bringing fighters from Utah, Oklahoma City, Topeka, Kansas City Wichita and more.

“I seriously think people will love this,” Rine said. “It’s something totally different — A Battle for the Belt.”

Rine is working with former UFC middleweight champion Jeremy Horn on bringing fighters to the event.

“He’s going to bring out five or six fighters,” Rine said. “If I get that worked out, we will have Jeremy Horn here for the fights, which is a big thing.”

In addition to the tournament, local professional fighters Jesus Adame and Cesar Castillo will also enter the cage.

With the larger venue of the Activity Center, Rine believed that it will provide more opportunities for the fans.

“This is the very first time we are doing it out there,” Rine said. “The cool thing is, we have Doug Brewer to do lights and sound.”

The Activity can seat more than 2,000 fans, and tickets are being printed and will be available next week at Rine’s American Freestyle Karate.

Cage side will be \$50, general admission, \$40, \$30, bleachers will be \$20.

The action will be shown on big screens to provide a great view for all in attendance.

“It will be exciting for the fans,” Rine said. “Fans that love the old UFC-style or the new challenger series strike force fighting, they will like this. These guys will have to be in shape. It will be tough, but it will be fun.”

