These Southwestern Heights students were part of a group which presented a Safe Dates program to the Community Response Committee last week. CRC is comprised of members from various crisis-response agencies in Liberal, meets every month to review data on domestic violence and sexual assault cases in the community and problem-solve by combining resources. L&T photo/Rachel Coleman

LARC-DVS program ‘makes a difference’

By RACHEL COLEMAN • Leader & Times The Community Response Committee, comprised of members from various crisis-response agencies in Liberal, meets every month to review data on domestic violence and sexual assault cases in the community and problem-solve by combining resources. At its most recent meeting, however, the tables were turned. Teens who have taken part in the Safe Dates program at Southwestern Heights High School presented a program to the CRC members. They shared stories of crises averted and violence avoided — and high praise for Sadie Madden, who presents community education programs for the Liberal Area Rape Crisis/Domestic Violence Service. The committee responded with enthusiasm.

“Aren’t these kids great?” said CRC chair Jack Cooley, “and isn’t Sadie great? I wish we could clone her.”

The students, along with SWH Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Kristin Gleason, brought Power Point and personal speaking presentations. In all, seven high school students spoke, sharing what they have learned and how they apply it in real life situations.

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