

Former policeman faces eavesdropping, obstruction charges

By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader Ray Petty, former security director of Seward County Community College/Area Technical School waived his arraignment hearing Wednesday afternoon and was set for a pre-trial hearing at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 21. Petty faces charges of allegedly eavesdropping and obstructing legal process.

Petty was arrested on the evening of Sept. 4, according to a press release from the Liberal Police Department. “On Sept. 4 at about 11 p.m., officers were called to the 600 block of North Clay Avenue for a report of a prowler in the area,” the release noted. “A 36-year-old male reported a man was in his back yard. Responding officers located a suspect leaving the vicinity of the call. The suspect was apprehended after a short foot pursuit through yards in the immediate area. He was arrested without incident. The release added the man, later identified by authorities as Ray Petty, was booked into Seward County Jail on suspicion of eavesdropping and obstructing legal process.

City attorney Shirla McQueen will be prosecuting the case. She added the charges are technically listed as an ordinance violation in municipal court, such a conviction, she said, is interchangeable with a misdemeanor charge in county court.