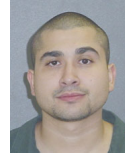


By ROBERT PIERCE • Daily Leader The trial has been set for the fourth suspect involved in an alleged carjacking in March.



During an arraignment Tuesday in Seward County District Court, Matthew Perez, 27, of Dodge City, pleaded not guilty to multiple charges, including aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery, conspiracy to commit aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, theft, criminal restraint, battery, vehicle burglary, attempted felony theft, conspiracy to commit theft and criminal damage to property. Perez's jury trial has been set for Jan. 18, 2011, but the case could be heard as early as Nov. 18. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Nov. 12.

Trials for the other three suspects in the case have been set, with Juan D. Garza, 26, of Garden City, to be heard starting Dec. 20. Jose Gil of Garden City is scheduled to be in court Nov. 18, and Bobby Stensland, 19, of Dodge City, will have his case heard starting Nov. 1.

The four suspects were arrested between Jan. 29 and March 1 by authorities in Ford and Finney counties, according to a statement from Liberal Police Department Capt. Pat McClurg.

Those arrests came following an alleged incident on Jan. 10, when officers responded to the 200 block of South Virginia in Liberal for a reported carjacking, where the handicapped victim was forced out of the vehicle without his wheelchair and had to crawl for help.

The victim's Blazer was later recovered in Finney County.