

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chadron Police Chief Lordino resigns

Longtime Panhandle law enforcement officer moving on to Attorney General's Office

By MAUNETTE LOEKS
Star-Herald

As Chadron Police Chief Tim Lordino prepares to leave the job he has had for 13 years, he audibly chokes up as he

talks about moving to eastern Nebraska.

Lordino submitted his resignation from his position as chief of police of the Chadron Police Department this week. Lordino has

accepted a position with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office to investigate Medicaid fraud and insurance abuse.

"I would tell the hardest decision for me is

that I will be giving up my gun belt and badge," he told the Star-Herald. "It is what I have been doing for the last 20 years. I have worked along a lot of great colleagues down in the val-

ley and up here. I know it is what is best for me, mentally, physically and emotionally."

Lordino said any law enforcement officer will tell you that working in the career takes a heavy

see LORDINO 2A



Tim Lordino
Chadron Police Chief

FAITH



OLIVIA WIESELER/Star-Herald

Cathy McDaniel (left), Carol Westphalen (center) and Jamey Vance dish up ham, corn and mashed potatoes for one of the meals being served through By God's Grace Mobile Meals. Larry Massie said they always put together two meals for each person.

Delivering mobile meals

Ministry serves over 300 meals every other weekend.

By OLIVIA WIESELER
Star-Herald

Every other Saturday, the kitchen at Harvest Valley Church is full of people packaging over 300 meals to deliver to people in the Valley.

It began as a way to serve meals to those without during the Easter season around the time COVID-19 first hit the Panhandle, By God's Grace Mobile Meals has since grown into a ministry serving home-cooked, to-go meals every other week, and has become a launching point for a larger umbrella ministry called 11.13 Ministries.

see FAITH 3A

COUNTY

Hope is for bus routes to restart

By DANIELLE PROKOP
Star-Herald

Public Transit Manager Curtis Richter said the county anticipates resuming Tri-City Roadrunner bus routes starting Feb. 1, barring another spike of COVID-19 cases in the area.

He said that decision is made based on making sure spread in the Panhandle and hospitalization rates flatten out or drop.

"If we kind of stay in the middle of the orange, and not tick back up into the red," Richter said. "I hate to not have service available for people so we're really trying to just mitigate our risk."

Fixed-route services between Gering, Terrytown and Scottsbluff were halted in mid-November due to the pandemic during period of a high COVID-19 positivity rates in the area. After that, only demand-response service, which requires 24-hour notice to schedule pick-ups, was allowed. He said drivers ran 1,578 trips just in December, compared to 1,390 in November, when fixed routes ran part of the month.

"We're pushing the 100 to 120 trips a day with our demand-response, that's where we're maxed out," Richter said.

Currently, there are five buses used on demand-response routes, and Richter said they are fully staffed.

He said masks will

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COVID-19

Vaccinations for residents 75 and older have begun

Scotts Bluff County is moving into phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination schedule. Notifications of time and place for the COVID-19 vaccine appointments are being sent to Scotts Bluff County residents age 75 and older who

have registered. Residents will be notified via the method they listed on their registration.

"We are thrilled that we are ready to move to Tier I of phase 1B and will be vaccinating more Scotts Bluff County residents," said

Paulette Schnell, Scotts Bluff County Health director, in a press release.

Those registered through the site will be notified over the next few weeks for a time and place they can receive the vaccination. It is by

appointment only. If you receive a message and have questions, please call 308-436-6636 for assistance.

Jessica Davies, of Panhandle Public Health Department, said notifications by telephone are being made using the

Panhandle Alert system.

If you live in Scotts Bluff County and are age 75 and older, you can still register to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Please call 308-262-5764 or 308-436-6636 and leave a message with your name, date of birth,

county of residence and phone number, or complete a form at <https://tinyurl.com/ycpxzr5d>. The registration will put you on a waiting list and you will be contacted in the next few weeks when more vaccines are available.

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