

Harlan Police Chief Lee Gordon dies

By Bob Bjoin
Managing Editor

HARLAN -- Lee Gordon, Harlan's Chief of Police for 12 years, died Sunday, Feb. 9 at his home. He was 48 years old.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 10:30 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan, with burial in the Carson Cemetery at Carson. A prayer service will be held Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in Harlan, and from 5-9 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Gordon was a long-time member of the Harlan Police Department, having joined the police force in 1981 as an officer. He was named assistant police chief in 1988, and was promoted to chief in 1991.

Officials said an autopsy is being conducted to determine the cause of death.

Gordon was recovering from injuries he sustained approximately three weeks ago in an accident at his home. He suffered a broken foot and broken hand after falling off his roof in late January.

He had returned to the office last Monday, working half-days.

Harlan Mayor Gary

Christiansen called it a tragic loss.

"It's a sad thing," said Christiansen. "He was a great police chief and a good man. He'll



Lee Gordon

be greatly missed. It's going to be a long time before we can recover from this."

Harlan City Administrator Terry Cox called Gordon a dependable, honest and hard-working

individual.

"This was definitely a shock," Cox said. "It's very sad. He had just started back to work half-days and was looking forward to getting back to full time after his accident."

"This will be a tough position to replace under the circumstances."

Kevin Petty, assistant chief of police, has been named acting police chief, said Cox.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Teri, of Harlan; son Chad (Angie) Gordon of Carson; daughter Brandy Gordon of Harlan; two grandchildren -- Samantha and Brittney Gordon, both of Carson; and one niece, Amber Gordon, of Des Moines.