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#### Former Richardson Co Sheriff Begins New Job

(KLZA)--Former Richardson County Sheriff Randy Houser began work Thursday morning in a new role--as interim director of the Hall County, Nebraska Jail.

The Grand Island Independent reports Houser was hired for the position Wednesday. He was among two candidates interviewed.

Houser will replace former corrections director Fred Ruiz who was fired last week following a special investigation of his management style and jail operations.

Hall County Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott Arnold told the newspaper Houser's management experience and 28-year record in the U.S. Marines was impressive.

Although the jail Houser ran from 2012 to 2015 in Richardson County has just 15 beds, Arnold said Houser is already familiar with Nebraska Jail Standards, which is a plus.

Hall County has a 300-bed, direct-supervision jail with 83 employees. The Hall County Jail is also currently under contract to house state inmates due to overcrowding in Nebraska's prisons.

Arnold said Houser will serve an estimated 90 to 120 days as interim director while the county conducts a nationwide search for a permanent director.

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