



Norvin Anderson (right) went over reports with Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County sheriff, and Sarah Smith, a dispatcher at the sheriff's office in St. Francis. Anderson has been declared the oldest working police officer in the state by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.
Photo by Karen Krein/The Saint Francis Herald

St. Francis deputy is oldest working officer

By Karen Krien
St. Francis Herald

Norvin Anderson, 79, a St. Francis police officer and Cheyenne County sheriff's deputy, has been declared the oldest working police officer in the state by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.

Sheriff Troy Garner said he is checking to see if Anderson might also be the oldest working officer in the country.

Anderson started his career in 1969, 37 years ago. For the first two years, he was the city policeman, working with Sheriff Ray Lee. He then became the deputy sheriff and he and Lee worked together until the sheriff retired in 1996.

Anderson today works with Gardner, who is both sheriff and St. Francis chief of police. He is one of five full time officers on the combined department and still goes out on patrol.

"He can work for me as long as he wants," Gardner said. "He has lots of institutional knowledge, knows everybody, knows locations and is invaluable when it comes to what the other officers can learn from him."

Anderson said there have been a lot of changes in the last 37 years, from technology to the attitude of

people toward police officers. There was some drug use in 1969, he said, mostly marijuana, but today, the illegal drugs tend to be "harder" drugs.

"There is less respect for the law and more complaints about the law," he said.

Gardner said that Anderson has a calming influence in the situations he deals with.

"I'm always asking for advice on how to deal with situations," he added.

In 1969, there was no backup, so he and the sheriff were on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was nothing unusual to get calls in the middle of the night and then get up the next day (if he had a chance to go to bed), and be at the office.

The sheriff noted that it took an understanding family and wife, as Anderson was out in the line of duty a lot of the times when other husbands were at home with their families.

Other changes through the years have included changes in the law, Anderson said. What used to be a simple test for a person caught driving while intoxicated has turned into extensive testing, as well as piles of paperwork.

"The girls in the office take care of most of the paperwork, which

makes it much easier for me," he said.

There are now mandatory arrests for drunk drivers, domestic violence and fleeing and eluding, he said. When he started, there was little formal training. Today, fourteen weeks of training are required before a person can be certified as an officer, then 40 hours are needed each year.

Through the years, Anderson said, he has seen a lot of crimes, big and small, but in 1985, Daniel Remata, along with Lisa Dunn, James C. Hunter Jr. and Mark Walter murdered their way across the area until the were stopped only a few miles north of Colby. They were considered among the state's most notorious killers.

Sheriff Lee and Anderson were helping other officers track the killers and were the second group of officers on the scene. A state patrolman killed Walter, he said. It was a killing spree that will not soon be forgotten.

Anderson said he plans to continue working. There is little crime in Cheyenne County, he said, and he likes the people.

"We're proud to have him with us," Sheriff Gardner said.

Officer Anderson smiled and said, "Troy is a good man!"

City commissioners hear about housing grants

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland City Commission heard a presentation Monday about housing grant programs from two development officials, and agreed to look for money to help people fix up their homes — or tear them down and replace them.

Tiffani McMinn, Sherman County Economic Development director, and Darren Murphy, business finance and grant administrator with Pioneer Country Development from Hill City, talked with commissioners about available grants.

McMinn said there are several grant programs available to cities, and had Murphy give the commission a brief description of the most useful.

Murphy said he was from Wa-Keeney, and had been in business before joining Pioneer Country, a regional economic development agency that handles loans for small

business and revolving loan programs in an 18-county area of northwest Kansas.

A main source of money for cities is the Community Development Block Grant program, but Murphy said the state has only \$1.5 million right now, and the process is very competitive.

McMinn said the block grants are not being approved for demolition, but might be available for other city projects.

Murphy said the city can apply for up to \$400,000, but there has to be a target area, and more than half the households in it must be low-to-moderate-income. He said the city could establish a housing committee to do a "window survey" and look at houses that need to be rehabilitated, condemned or demolished.

McMinn said she did not think Goodland could get a grant for demolition using the block grants,

but said a Community Facilities Grant that might work.

Murphy said there is a Housing Development Grant program that can be used to rehabilitate rentals, but he said the landlord has to come up with 25 percent of the cost.

The city could apply for up to \$300,000 through the Kansas Housing Resources program, he said. There is no target area required, and the minimum per home is \$1,000.

McMinn said she thought the city should apply for a facilities grant for demolition, and there would be no income limits. The deadline for grant applications is Nov. 1, she said.

"I would like to apply for the HOME program," McMinn said. "I talked to Amy Griffey of Pioneer Development, and she said the city could take advantage of their services since they are members

through Sherman County.

"We can apply for the HOME program year after year, and this way there are two program not out of the same pot of money."

McMinn said she had not talked to the Economic Development Council, but felt it might have some money to help with a match.

"While I was looking for a place to live, I looked at a lot of houses," said McMinn, who moved here from Sharon Springs to take the development job. "I know there are 25-30 houses that ought to be condemned and demolished."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the first step would be to set up a housing committee.

Murphy said the city could use an existing housing board if there is one, but needs to have someone from the city to help do the survey.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked McMinn if she could

do the leg work on a grant. McMinn said she could but it would take more than her alone to make it work.

City Clerk Mary Volk said she and Jerry Nemecheck, former city building inspector, had managed

the last grant.

McMinn said if the city is interested, she would follow up on the grants. The commissioners agreed that they were interested in seeing more information.


Crossword Puzzle

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CLUES ACROSS

CLUES DOWN

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



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1533 Clark
\$82,500

You will fall in love with this vintage 1920's traditional style home! Offers hardwood flooring, large dining room and kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Attic offers a large room perfect for an office or teenage bedroom. Also has basement for storage, large corner lot and gorgeous landscaping. Let Cynthia show you this home today!



1100 E. 8th
\$187,000

This well cared for home, built in 1916 offers all the glory of yesteryear, yet is loaded with modern upgrades. With over 2800 of sq. ft. of living space, this beautiful home offers hard wood floors and large sunny rooms throughout. Inside you'll find 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, full finished basement with rec room, 2 large patios overlooking privacy fenced yard. Situated on over an acre! Call Cynthia Butts to look at this one of a kind home!



1101 Grand
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This spacious 3000 sq. ft. home boasts quality throughout, with a large open floor plan, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, formal living room, kitchen with center island and appliances. Partial basement offers rec room with wet bar and additional storage. Property has attached single car garage, detached single garge, large yard and covered patio. Please contact Cynthia Butts for your showing.

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Sunflower Contest

RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Nutrient"
- Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star- News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 14th

Winner will be announced in the Friday, August 18th edition

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(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

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