Community

Crime increases

Annual police report discloses statistics about Kirksville crimes

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Staff Reporter

The Kirksville Police Department's annual report shows an increase in the number of crimes committed in Kirksville and downtown Kirksville.

Calls for service, as well as total crimes, have both increased significantly lower than in 2004 but still much lower than 2003.

The number of calls for service increased 41 percent to 1,587 in 2005 compared to 2004 when the number was 1,124.

Total arrests in 2005 increased 16 percent to 208 compared to 2004

Sgt. Steve Farnsworth said the rise in arrests is due to a rise in the number of drug-related crimes.

"It's kind of getting back to the way things were," he said.

The number of people caught for driving while intoxicated increased from 70 in 2004 to 106 in 2005.

The number of people caught for minor in possession violations increased from 146 to 148 in 2005, and cases of shoplifting also increased to 216 from 208 in 2004.

"Some laws change, where a lot of them have been increased," Farnsworth said.

"They can change, but our enforcement is dialed up on these," he said.

From my point of view, a huge increase is in drug sales.

"People are going to commit these things," he said.

"The police department is focusing on these issues. It is not going to be based on calls for service or things like that. It's the community."

The Kirksville Police Department, with the help of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Kirksville Schools Police Department, as well as the community, has seen a decrease in the number of complaints in certain areas.

"I feel like we are doing a great job and we are going to keep doing our best," Farnsworth said.

The department had set a goal to increase of the adopt-a-fraternity program can be broken down to three categories.

"One is where we are working with the college and the police department and the prosecu- tion side," Farnsworth said.

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