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Kirksville Regional Computer Crimes Unit Accomplishments

- Made 22 arrests
- Obtained 68 subpoenas
- Executed 40 search warrants
- Conducted 27 community presentations for internet safety
- Conducted 84 cell phone forensic examinations
- Conducted 93 forensic examinations of computers (over 9000 GB)
- Identified 7 child victims

Active from 2012 to October 2014

Worked throughout 13 counties in Kirksville area

According to a press release from the Kirksville Police Department

KRCCU loses funding, will shut down Jan 18

BETHANY BOYLE

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The Kirksville Regional Computer Crimes Unit will discontinue operation Monday because of a lack of state funding.

The KRCCU is comprised of a full-time investigator, Detective Steve Feeney, a part-time officer and a special computer lab with software and equipment to aid in cyber investigations and the location and analysis of electronic or digitally stored evidence. The unit has been dependent upon the Missouri State Cyber Crimes grant for funding during its existence, which Gov. Jay Nixon withheld since last June.

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said the Kirksville Police Department has been funding the unit out of pocket for the past six months. He said he expected the funds to be released eventually and the department considered the work of the KRCCU of crucial importance to protecting the community. However, Hughes said it has reached the point where KPD no

longer can afford to fund the unit and he said he thinks this is a great loss for Kirksville law enforcement.

"I have been at this almost 37 years and I've never seen a grant-funded operation that is as beneficial to the community as this one is," Hughes said.

Hughes said the accomplishments of KRCCU demonstrate the continued

Beginning Monday, Feeney will be reassigned to an operational position as a patrol officer, which will allow him to continue to work for KPD and assist the department in other areas, Hughes said. He said the computer lab will be left in place for the time being, and it is possible Feeney will be able to assist

with certain aspects of future investigations, as required, using the skills and technology KRCCU has used for the past several years.

"The expertise that he has obtained and the specialty equipment that he has to forensically analyze computers is helpful for just about every other type of investigation," Hughes said.

Feeney said the main focuses of the KRCCU have been peer-to-peer investigations, such as incidents of downloading or possessing child pornography or proactive undercover cases involving sexual predators on social media. He said the four "traveler" cases employed a social media method to identify and eventually apprehend the

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-Jim Hughes, KPD Chief of Police

need for the unit within Kirksville and the surrounding counties. During the past year, he said the unit identified and facilitated the arrests of four "travelers," or individuals who make the journey to Kirksville for the sole purpose of meeting and engaging in sexual conduct with a minor. Hughes said the KRCCU used undercover profiles to interact with those individuals through social media and set the meeting place that would in turn become the scene of their arrest.

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City Council approves MIP ordinance

BY JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville City Council approved an ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinance at their Jan. 5 meeting.

In accordance with the new ordinance, any person who has been convicted of a minor in possession charge can apply to have all records of the arrest, plea, trial and conviction expunged. The ordinance will take immediate effect and will be available only to people who have no more than one minor in possession charge and no other alcohol-related convictions.

Attorney Wallace Trosen brought the bill to the attention of the City Council after he noticed a disparity between municipal and state law. This ordinance updates city laws on minor in possession violations to parallel state laws by allowing for expungement of one time offenses.

Kirksville Mayor Glen Moritz said this ordinance gives people an opportunity for a second chance, something he said he believes in.

"It makes sense for us to be in line with that so that people are being treated equally throughout the state," Moritz said.

Moritz said the City Council tries to stay updated on new state laws. He said he and City Manager Mari Macomber often attend Missouri Municipal League meetings to be updated by legislators about new laws that recently have gone into effect or will be up for review.

Trosen said he noticed the disparity between state and local laws when a client contacted him interested in expunging her municipal record of a minor in possession charge. He said according to state law, the record was allowed to be expunged, but Kirksville's municipal law forbade it.

Trosen said he then contacted City Attorney Howard Hickman about preparing an ordinance that would mirror Missouri Revised Statute 311.326. Trosen said it didn't make sense to him that municipal laws did not give the same breaks that state laws did.

"I prepared an ordinance that tracked the state law and presented it to the city manager and the City Council and asked them to pass it because it seemed the right thing to do," Trosen said.

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CWD discovered in Adair County

BY LUCAS MEYRER
Staff Reporter

The Missouri Department of Conservation was alerted to a positive case of Chronic Wasting Disease in a whitetail deer population in Adair County this past deer hunting season.

The MDC currently is collecting and testing samples from deer living within 25 square miles of where the case was reported to see if the fatal illness is spreading. CWD is a disease which causes degenerative symptoms in populations of deer, moose and other cervids.

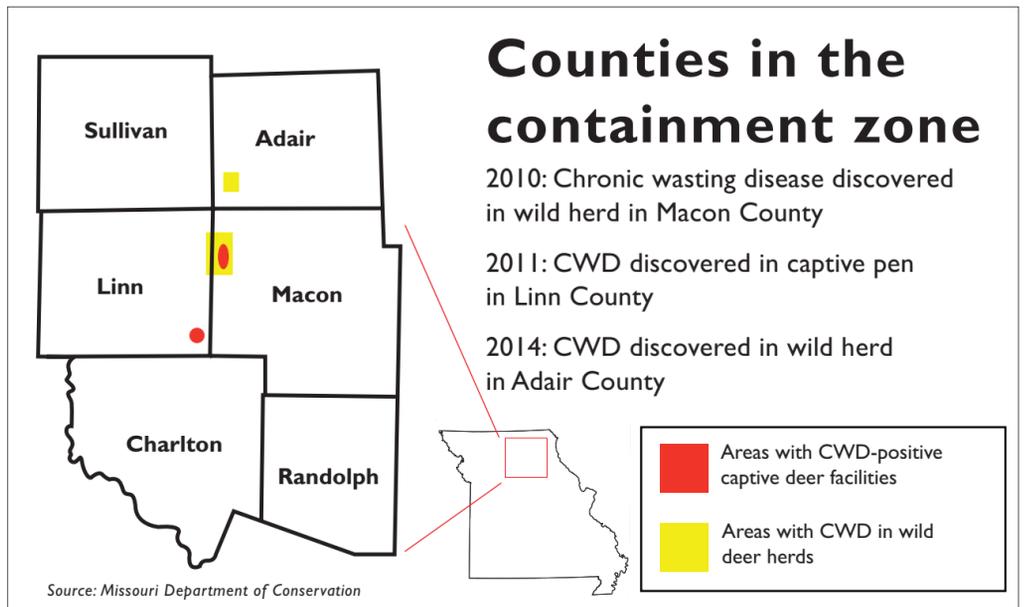
Matt Wolken, Regional Supervisor for Protections Divisions with the MDC, said the MDC has been testing for CWD across the state since 2002. Wolken said a positive deer sample was first found in a captive deer pen in northern Linn County during 2014, and since then, the northeast region has seen 13 deer test positive in Macon County.

Wolken said the deer with CWD that was found in Adair County during 2014 was east of Kirksville, about 25 miles from the infected population in Macon County.

Wolken said during deer hunting seasons, the MDC asked hunters to allow the Conservation Department to harvest and subsequently test a sample of the felled deer to see if it might test positive for CWD. However, he said this strategy is no longer feasible because the firearms and bow hunting seasons have concluded.

In Adair County, specifically, Wolken said the MDC is attempting to collect 100 total samples of deer to attempt to gauge how much CWD has spread. He said this will help determine if the positive case is a "spark" from the known infected population in Macon County, or if it is completely unrelated.

"It's a minute part of the population that it has ever been detected [in] and it has not manifested itself where the deer are starting to die from [the disease]," Wolken said. "But it can incubate in deer



for years, it can pass from deer to deer...the only percentage where any of it is in the population is in the 30 square miles in Macon County."

Wolken said 25 deer have tested positive for CWD from 41,000 sampled in Missouri, and more than 200,000 are hunted every year.

Wolken said in areas where there is a known population infection, such as the 30 square miles of Linn and Macon County, there are ongoing targeted culling efforts. He said the MDC is working with landowners there by issuing permits to shoot deer on their properties after official hunting season. Similar actions are not being taken elsewhere

given the uncertainty of the spread of the disease, Wolken said.

Wolken said he hopes CWD hasn't spread throughout the Adair County population, so it easily can be contained.

"It could sure be something that my grandchildren and your children sure won't have the deer to hunt or enjoy what you and I have right now," Wolken said. "It affects populations long-term, which is why we're concerned about it."

CWD gets its name from the effect it has on members of the cervidae family, such as deer, who