

Local thefts and burglaries spark investigation

(KAIR)--Several Atchison County thefts, committed in recent days are under investigation; however, authorities can't yet say if there is any connection between the crimes, with Atchison County Sheriff Jack Laurie saying there is not currently any evidence to tie them together. "To say they're related is difficult to determine at this point," Laurie said.

Laurie said one theft involved a break-in at the Evergreen Cemetery maintenance building, in Effingham. Some type of pry tool was used to force entry through the walk-in door; and once entry was made, it was discovered that a gas can and a STIHL brand weed trimmer were taken.

The report was made September 15, with investigators believing the items were taken sometime between the evening of September 14 and the morning of September 15, with additional missing items reported on the morning of September 16.

Discovered missing at that time were an air compressor, hand tools, a shovel, a rake, and a large spool of weed trimmer string.

According to the report from Laurie, it's possible those items were taken during a separate incident.

There are not yet any suspects.

Total value of the missing items is approximately \$500.

Another theft case, reported on September 16, is also being investigated, with Urban Lawn Care missing more than \$1,000 worth of items.

According to the report, a chain saw and two pole saws were taken. However, it's unclear if they were stolen from the location of the business, at 5537 U.S. Highway 73, in rural Atchison County, or from a job site.

The total loss is estimated at \$1,400.

It's believed they disappeared sometime between September 2 and September 16.

In another theft case, money is reported missing from a Muscotah restaurant.

According to Laurie's report, the \$236 was taken sometime between the early afternoon of September 16 and the morning of September 17.

No forced entry was discovered, and the investigation is continuing.

Another case remaining under investigation involves the burglary of a rural Atchison County residence, located at 5961 206th Road, in Valley Falls.

It was there that several power tools and frozen steaks were taken, with the loss estimated around \$50.

According to Laurie, someone forced their way inside the residence, causing damage to the door.

Many Signals Communications