

County's crime falls 5.9 percent

SANTA CRUZ — The overall crime rate for the county's unincorporated areas dropped 5.9 percent in 1982 based on statistics released today by Sheriff Al Noren.

Crime-rate computations show the number of reported crimes in eight major categories was down by 3.7 percent in 1982 from 1981.

Projecting this figure onto the population of the unincorporated areas, Noren announced the 5.9 percent decrease last year in the overall crime rate.

Figures for 1982 showed crime rates to be up only in the category of theft. The number of reported thefts increased 8 percent in 1982 from the year before.

The number of reported homicides was down 70 percent last year over the previous year. In 1982 there were three reported homicides — seven less than the previous year.

According to Noren's figures, rape was down by 26 percent, robbery by 20 percent, assaults by 14 percent, burglaries by 7 percent and vehicle thefts by 33 percent.

Arson was a new statistical category for major crimes last year, so the number cannot be compared to previous years. There were 25 reported arsons last year, according to the sheriff's report.

Overall, in the eight categories, 4,121 crimes were reported to the sheriff's office in 1982. That figure is 157 less than the figure for 1981.

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Suicide try *See me*