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KIRKSVILLE, Mo. (AP) - Kirksville police say a cross that burned recently on a lawn is connected to an ongoing family dispute and did not involve any racial motives.



Police say they made the announcement Thursday to ease public fears that a racially motivated crime might have taken place.

KTVO-TV (<http://bit.ly/1Em6mj>) reports a 6 1/2-foot-tall wooden cross was burned just after 3 a.m. on April 25. The woman who lives at the residence is white and says her son is black.

A man who lives near the neighborhood told police a wooden cross he made for his grandfather's grave had been stolen.

Residents who live in the duplex where the incident happened said they slept through the commotion and didn't know about it until hearing about it on the news.