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# The Estill County Tribune

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## Neighbor charged with breaking into state rep's home

A neighbor of State Representative Bill Wesley was arrested Thursday following a break-in at the representative's house on Pitts Road.

Wesley is serving his first term as state representative from the 91st district which includes Estill, Lee, Owsley, and Breathitt counties, and the Waco precinct of Madison County.

Deputy Brad Smith responded February 16 to

Wesley's home that day to investigate a burglary.

The deputy said during the investigation, that he discovered tracks leading to the residence. Smith described the tracks with a very distinct quad circular pattern (Nike Shock Style).

Smith added there was a similar shoe print on the bed sheets inside the home.

Items reported missing from the home were guns

and cold weather gear, including a back pack.

On Thursday, Rep. Wesley contacted the sheriff's office again and said he had found fresh tracks leading up to his house. The deputy stated these tracks led out Pitts Road to 1090 Pitts Road.

When the door at that residence was opened, Sheriff Chris Flynn noticed a pair of Nike Shock Shoes sitting inside the residence. The shoes still

has moisture on them.

Sheriff Flynn obtained a search warrant for the residence at 1090 Pitts Road.

During questioning, the citation states that Jean Ann Cole, 50, admitted to going inside Wesley's residence at 754 Pitts Road and taking a backpack and revolver.

The citation adds that she returned to the residence in the morning and the Nike Shock Shoes be-

longed to her.

Discovered inside the residence was a Taurus .38 revolver that was reportedly taken during the burglary.

The citation states that Cole admitted to throwing a backpack and other items in the creek to dispose of them.

Cole was charged with first degree burglary, tampering with physical evidence, and third degree criminal trespassing.



Jean Ann Cole

Photo/3 Forks Jail

## Youth build a house from snow and ice



After three ice and snow storms in eight days, Alyssa and Kaleb Haling built a snow and ice house. Above, they stand outside the little structure.



Above, they are pictured inside their little house. They used found materials for their door and roof instead of making snow blocks.

Photos courtesy of their mother, Anita Osborne

### Obituaries

- Ronald Abney, 50
  - William Baker, 80
  - Leslie Black, 93
  - Lloyd Bowles, 70
  - Betty Brock, 88
  - William Marcum, 55
  - Danny McIntosh, 70
  - Kenneth Stevens, 63
  - Robert Thorpe, 85
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## Owner of Broadway house destroyed by fire wants to move trailer to lot while rebuilding

by Cathy Dawes  
Tribune Staffwriter

The Irvine council met on Monday night and Mayor James Gross began by discussing the property on Broadway that had recently caught on fire.

He said that the owner of the property, Hoy Thacker, had reached out to him about the possibility of putting a mobile home on the property while they rebuild their home.

Thacker would place the mobile home at the back of the property and rebuild where the house burned a couple of months ago. Gross said that Thacker was supposed to attend the

meeting to speak with the council members in person but was not able to make it.

Gross added that at this time the city doesn't have a building inspector or a zoning commissioner so all he could do was go by the zoning map which states that Broadway is zoned as a family or residential area.

The council agreed to increase the salary for a full time firefighter to \$12 per hour. The subject was discussed at the meeting two weeks ago, and Fire Chief Justin Patrick said since that meeting he had had four people ask him about the position.

Patrick added that between him and Jeff Oliver

they are splitting a full time shift each week. Several part time employees are also working overtime.

City Clerk Robin Powell said that if the part time employees work 100 or more hours consecutively then the city would have to pay into the state retirement fund on them.

Mayor Gross said this year the city had extra revenue but didn't know about how the next year would go. He did say that cutting down on the overtime would be one benefit to hiring someone else.

If the money wasn't there next year then they would have to consider a

layoff.

Councilman Tim Burkhart made the motion to raise the starting pay to \$12 an hour with all members in favor.

The Dollar General store located in the old Priceless building is interested in purchasing a non-quota liquor license according to Mayor Gross. He said they have not received an application yet, but Police Chief John Sturniolo said that he had received a check for the application.

City Attorney Rodney Davis said that the discussion was premature considering they have not received the application but explained to council members that

with a non-quota liquor license the Dollar General would only be allowed to sell packaged alcohol such as beer.

Chief Sturniolo told the council that he would like to promote an officer to sergeant and with that promotion he would also like to give them a pay increase. He said the officer would have more responsibilities associated with the position and a fifty cent raise would put their pay at \$16 per hour.

Sturniolo also commended the street workers on the job they did in keeping the streets clean during the two winter storms that hit the county last week.

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