



December 30, 2009

Man, 53, broke into homes to steal beer, wine

By Gina Damron
Free Press Staff Writer

He broke into a neighbor's home on Christmas to steal beer and was arrested.

Independence Township resident Craig Alan Cooke posted bond and, within a few days of the first break in, he was at it again — this time breaking into another neighbor's home on Waldon Road and stealing wine and painkillers, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

Cooke, 53, will be in 52-2 District Court in Clarkston Jan. 5 on charges of first and second degree home invasion, according to the sheriff's office.

According to the sheriff's office, Cooke admitted to being an alcoholic.

Police said Cooke said he was fixing his car at about 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and needed a battery charger, so he went next door to borrow one. He went into the garage, then into the home through an unlocked door and into the kitchen, where he took four bottles of beer from the refrigerator.

He told police he drank them and then at 8 p.m. wanted more.

Police said Cooke went back to the home, but the door was locked, so he got a hatchet and hammer and began chopping and hitting the dog door until the hole was big enough for him to fit through.

He stole more beer and returned home, police said.

At about 2:50 a.m. Christmas Day, deputies responded to the home, where the homeowner had found a pair of glasses and a "Hooters Racing" baseball hat — both belonging to Cooke.

Cooke was arrested, charged with one count of second-degree home invasion and was released on a \$25,000 personal bond.

Then on Dec. 29 at about 3 a.m., deputies received a call for a home invasion in process. Police said another neighbor had been home and locked in a bedroom, when she heard someone come into the house.

She called 9-1-1.

When she saw the intruder fleeing her home, holding what looked like a window, she identified him as Cooke, police said.

According to the sheriff's office, Cooke later admitted to breaking in the home through a basement window and stealing wine and pain medication because "he was going through withdrawals."

Cooke, who was being held at the Oakland County Jail, was charged with one count of first-degree

home invasion and his bond was set at \$75,000 cash. His first bond was also changed to a cash bond, the sheriff's office said.

Officials with the sheriff's office couldn't be reached this afternoon.

It's unclear whether Cooke has posted bond.
