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The individual responsible for taking the stolen items is currently serving time in federal prison for taking stolen weapons across state lines, Sheriff Mason said.

In an unrelated incident, three men from out of state have been charged with multiple charges related to an April 18th traffic stop in Blairsville by the Georgia State Patrol, Union County Sheriff's Detective Darren Osborn said.

Jason Levi McCurry, 33, and Allan Richard Cseh, 53, both of Murphy, NC, and Kevin Dewayne Durden, 39, of Farner, Tenn., face charges of possession of tools to commit a crime along with other charges, Detective Osborn said.

The three men were arrested following a traffic stop by Georgia State Trooper Jason Bradburn, Detective Osborn said.

"Trooper Bradburn conducted a traffic stop on a white Jeep Grand Cherokee for failure to signal as it turned into the Golden Pantry off Georgia 515 and U.S. 129," Detective Osborn said. "There were three male occupants in the vehicle."

Trooper Bradburn's suspicions were aroused by the amount of items visible inside the vehicle, Detective Osborn said.

"The three men consented to a search by the



Jason Levi McCurry



Allan Richard Cseh



Kevin Dewayne Durden

trooper. Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll and Assistant Chief Michael Baxter provided backup for Trooper Bradburn," Detective Osborn said. "Union County Sheriff's deputies and detectives would arrive and assist in the vehicle search."

The driver of the vehicle was Jason Levi McCurry, of Murphy, NC, Cseh and Durden were passengers, Detective Osborn said.

"Following a consent search of the vehicle and the individuals, a quantity of methamphetamine was recovered from Durden," Detective Osborn said. "During the search of the vehicle, we discovered pry tools, masks, weapons, including a firearm, flashlights, binoculars, gloves, surveillance equipment, and a police scanner."

"Two of these individuals were convicted felons (Durden and Cseh)," he said. "They were convicted of burglary and armed robbery. Jason Levi McCurry had been previously charged with armed robbery but the case was dropped in Tennessee."

"Suspect Durden, 39, of Farner, Tenn., had just been released from state prison after serving 14 years for armed robbery," Detective Osborn said.

The masks the men had in their possession were Halloween masks, Detective Osborn said.

"They definitely had tools to commit crimes, however, I can't speculate what they were going to do with the items they had in their posses-

sion," Detective Osborn said. "It was a fine piece of police work by Trooper Bradburn."

McCurry was charged with possession of tools of a crime, no driver's license, failure to signal, and tire requirements, Union County Jail records show.

Durden was charged with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of tools for the commission of a crime, jail records show.

Cseh was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of tools for the commission of a crime, jail records show.

In another unrelated incident, a 20-year-old Blairsville man has been charged with burglarizing the home of fallen Union County sheriff's Deputy Derrick Whittle, Union County sheriff's reports show.

William Heider was caught red-handed with items stolen from the Whittle home by Union County sheriff's Deputy David McGregor, Detective Osborn said.

Detective Osborn said that McGregor apprehended Heider with his arms full of stolen items.

"There was a report of a suspicious vehicle in the area, someone was on the Whittle property and Deputy McGregor was responding to the report," Detective Osborn said. "Deputy McGregor caught the individual walking down the driveway with items

in his arms.

"Mr. Heider denied the items were stolen, he told Deputy McGregor that he had permission to be there at the residence," Detective Osborn said. "A subsequent interview with Mr. Heider following his arrest revealed he didn't have permission to be at the residence and he in fact was stealing the items."

"There was no forced entry into the home," Detective Osborn said. "He had been to the home before as a guest and became aware of how to enter the home without forced entry."

Heider was charged with burglary and theft by taking, Union County Jail records show.

Heider is free on \$5,000 bail, jail records show.



William Heider

Deputy Whittle succumbed to injuries sustained Sept. 18, 2011, three days after a crash while responding to a domestic dispute with weapons involved on Sept. 15, 2011. He died at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. — he died in the line of duty.

## Team Deyton, Daves and Reel win Spelling Bee

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Who needs spell check when you've got Peggy Deyton, Kathy Daves, and Debbie Reel?

Deyton and Daves, both from Blairsville, teamed up with Mineral Bluff's Debbie Reel, who works in Blairsville, displayed a firm grasp of the English language by outlasting five other threesomes in the Marine Corps League's first Adult Spelling Bee.

In what turned into battle of attrition, Deyton, Daves, and Reel survived a determined team of Karen Jordan, Isabella Rabideau, and Ginger Mize from North Georgia Technical College.

Six teams participated and each was allowed one mulligan if a word was misspelled before the final round. When only two teams remained, the 'second chance cards' went out the window leaving the finalists to battle it out.

In the opening round each team solved every word thrown their way by moderator Jackie Hughes.

However, as the rounds passed, the words began to become progressively rigorous, and teams began cashing in their get-out-of-jail-free cards.

It wasn't until the fourth round when team No. 6 was eliminated. Teams No. 3 and



The 2013 Marine Corps League Spelling Bee Champions, Debbie Reel, Kathy Daves and Peggy Deyton. Photo/Todd Forrest

No. 4 quickly followed as they were unable to decipher their respective words.

When the fifth round began, Team No. 5 stumbled on the word "cavil." Hughes gave the definition, which is, "to object or criticize adversely for frivolous reasons."

After hashing the word over with her team, Dr. Patricia Barnes stepped to the podium and was off by one letter. "C-A-V-E-L," she said, eliminating her team after a solid third place finish.

Down to the final two, the rules were slightly modified.

When a team misses a word, the other team tries to spell the same word correctly. They are then given another word, if they nail that one, they win. If they miss the second word, it would be given to the other team, if they spell the word correctly, they also get another word to spell for the win.

However, in the final round the words became so difficult that some of the words, when used in the writing of this article, weren't recognized by the computer's spell checker.

After brutal head-to-head combat between the two finalists that lasted nearly 20 minutes, Team Deyton, Daves and Reel survived.

Despite several unsuccessful opportunities to put the opposition away, Team Jordan, Rabideau and Mize finally succumbed to the word "domiciliated."

Team Deyton, Daves and Reel got the steal when Reel precisely spelled the word that is defined as: establishing a permanent residence; to domicile."

For the win, a confident Reel remained at the podium,

and without a definition or hearing it used in a sentence. "Verdigris. V-E-R-D-I-G-R-I-S. Verdigris," she said to seal the win.

Despite an impressive showing by Team Deyton, Daves and Reel and all those involved, the real winners on that evening were the Marine Corps League and the students impacted by their scholarship programs in Union and Towns counties to assist young people in furthering their education.

The Marine Corps League would like to thank the following for helping make the spelling bee and the scholarship programs possible: Mountain Education Center, Cadence Bank, North Georgia Tech, United Community Bank, and Union County Rotary Club.

They would also like to thank the following for the door prizes that were handed out between the rounds: BRMEMC, Papa's Pizza, The Griddle Cafe, Butternut Creek Golf Course, Home Depot, The Book Cellar, Radio Shack, Taste of Napoli, Brothers Restaurant, Ace Hardware, Bi-Lo, Skip Belton, Ingles, Zaxby's, Hallmark, and Fatz.

## Al-Anon meetings and times

Blairsville: Mountain Presbyterian Church, 2945 Young Harris Hwy. 76, Wednesday 8 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting, Saint Clare's Episcopal Church, Friday 12 noon Al-anon Group Discussion, open meeting.

Call 706-835-5827, 706-897-0628 or 828-389-8981 for more information. NT(May1.ZI)CA