



Bedford County Sheriff's Office

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Monday, January 09, 2012

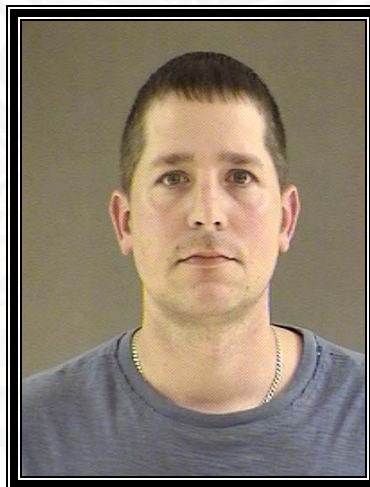
Press Release (For immediate release)

HOLIDAY SEASON YIELDS ARRESTS OF BURGLARY RING

Bedford County, Virginia:

1. On 10/14/2011, it was reported to the Bedford County Sheriff's Office that the American Legion building in Big Island, VA was broken into and \$2,500.00 worth of copper piping was stolen. At the time of the incident the suspect vehicle hit the side of the American Legion building, leaving a red paint transfer. Investigators were able to gather information that the suspect made comments that he had wrecked a family member's red Dodge van into the American Legion building on the same date as the theft occurred. Investigators confirmed that the suspect had borrowed a red van, during the same time of the incident. Investigators then confirmed that the suspect had sold a large amount of copper to a local recycling company shortly after the theft. On 12/22/2011 Investigators interviewed the suspect who subsequently confessed to breaking into the American Legion building and stealing copper piping. Byers was subsequently charged with B&E and Grand Larceny, and additional charges for other thefts are possible.

This investigation continues and additional arrests are possible.



Brian Byers

- Brian O. Byers: W/M, 32 years old of 195 Hounds Run in Forest, Va.

Professionalism, Integrity, Commitment

2. On 12/18/2011 deputies responded to 120 Fawn Haven Ln. in Huddleston, VA in reference to a homeowner who had returned home and discovered his residence broken into and some individuals in his home. He confronted three individuals and was able to detain two of the three subjects until deputies arrived. Subsequent investigations lead to the solving of five break-ins in the immediate area. Two of the subjects, identified as Michael McDonald and Amanda Harding, were arrested and charged with 5 counts of Breaking and Entering and one Grand Larceny charge each and additional charges are likely for more offenses. **Investigators recovered nearly 300 items of evidence and property and are in the process of contacting the victims to help identify where all the property was taken from.** The third subject, identified as Kean Montgomery, has yet to be arrested and has outstanding charges on him.

This investigation continues and additional arrests are possible.

Anyone with information on Montgomery's whereabouts are asked to contact the Bedford County Sheriff's Office at 540-586-7827 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-798-5900.



Amanda Harding



Michael McDonald

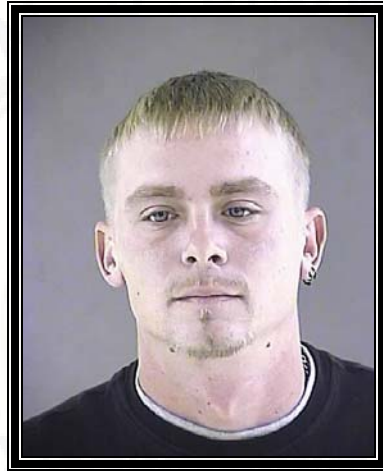


Kean Montgomery

- Amanda Harding: W/F, 21 years old of 1194 Joffrey Dr. Huddleston, Va.
- Michael McDonald: W/M, 23 years old of 1228 Clover Creek Rd, Huddleston,, Va.
- Kean Montgomery: W/M, 28 years old of 3726 Diamond Hill Rd., Moneta, Va.

3. On 12/14/2011, Bedford County Investigators arrested James Keith after deputies identified him as being responsible for a break in on Nemmo Rd in Vinton where Keith's vehicle was seen. Deputies were able to link him to an additional break-in in the area too. When deputies attempted to serve an arrest warrant, Keith fled on foot and was apprehended a short distance away. Keith subsequently admitted to involvement with several burglaries in the area and has been charged with 6 counts of Breaking and Entering and Grand Larceny. Investigators recovered several items at Keith's residence that had been stolen during these break-ins and are currently working to return the items to there owners.

This investigation and additional arrests are possible.



James Keith

- James W. Keith: W/M, 29 years old of 2106 Hardy Rd., Vinton, Va.

Anyone with information on these any of these incidents is asked to contact the Bedford County Sheriff's Office at 540-586-7827 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-798-5900.

Other law enforcement agencies in this area have been notified in an effort to provide information about these arrests in hopes that they may be, in some way, connected to other burglaries in surrounding jurisdictions. No connection has been made as of this date.

MJB/rls 540.586.7715