

# Search continues for Union County man wanted for burglary

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Assistant Editor

One suspect has been arrested while another is on the run and facing charges in a string of burglaries that occurred on Jan. 11 in Union County.

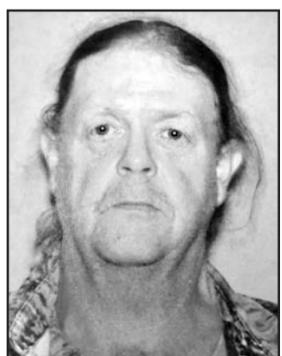
Jared Adair, 37, of Blairsville, was arrested recently and charged with three counts of burglary in the first degree, two felony counts of theft by taking and two misdemeanor counts of theft by taking, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Adair has since bonded out of jail, according to the sheriff's office.

Authorities have yet to apprehend Tracy Lynn Cook, 49, of Blairsville, who is wanted on several warrants for burglary, and is likely hiding out in Union County or nearby, according to the sheriff's office.

"On Jan. 11, 2018, we had four burglaries all in one afternoon," said UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

Three of these burglaries occurred in the Town Creek School Road area, and the other happened off Old Blue Ridge



Tracy Lynn Cook



Jared Adair

Highway. "One of the burglaries was off Old Bald Mountain Road, and one of the caretakers of the residence caught the suspects as they were leaving," said Lt. Osborn. "He followed the vehicle and called 911."

The caretaker turned Good Samaritan kept on the trail of the burglars, but before deputies could arrive, the burglars pulled into a residence on Trackrock Church Road and switched vehicles.

At this point, the Good Samaritan alerted the deputies to the vehicle change and decided to leave off following them.

"He didn't follow them after that because he felt it was too dangerous, which was smart," said Lt. Osborn. "So, we put a lookout on the second vehicle, and we found that vehicle across the road from another burglary that occurred later on that afternoon, the fourth that day."

Both vehicles used during the commission of the burglaries were impounded, and search warrants turned up evidence from the scenes of all four burglaries.

"We have recovered all stolen items except for two firearms," said Lt. Osborn, adding that a stolen camper was recovered from the residence where the vehicle swap occurred on Trackrock Church Road. "That residence belonged to a Tracy Lynn Cook, and we do not have him in custody yet."

Continued Lt. Osborn:

"The other vehicle that they left in at the Old Bald Mountain Road residence was a Jeep Liberty pulling a trailer, and it was full of stolen stuff."

The suspects were caught on security footage at one of the residents, according to Lt. Osborn.

"If anybody knows where Cook is located, give me or SSgt. Lamar Dyer a call here at the Union County Sheriff's Office at (706) 439-6066," said Lt. Osborn, who worked the case with SSgt. Dyer.

As for the Good Samaritan who followed the two burglars, Lt. Osborn doesn't recommend that people do what he did, but he's grateful to that individual's efforts to keep a watchful eye out in the community.

"With his assistance, we were able to get back a whole lot of stolen property, and get it back to the rightful owners," said Lt. Osborn, noting that his efforts sped up the turnaround time on finding the burglars.

Continued Lt. Osborn: "Do not ever confront these people. They stole guns out of one house, so who knows if they're armed. If they're breaking in and committing crimes, they're dangerous."

"But people need to be aware of what's going on in their neighborhood. When you see suspicious activities, you need to call and let us know. We'll check it out. It may not pan out, but that's alright, we at least can go check it out."

# Indictments...continued from Page 1A

deposit account fraud; theft by taking; two counts possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug-related objects; possession of marijuana less than an ounce.

Joseph Ray Wehunt, possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug-related objects.

Jessie Deann Buchanan, cruelty to children in the first degree; burglary in the first degree; terroristic threats; two counts obstruction of an officer; battery, Family Violence; simple assault; two counts simple battery.

Zachary William Hart, possession of a controlled

substance. Fumiko Brook Snow, possession of a controlled substance; driving while license suspended.

Jake James Edison Martin, four counts aggravated assault; aggressive driving.

Jeremy Wade Blessing, false imprisonment.

# Flu...continued from Page 1A

our health departments, local pharmacies and doctor's offices. The flu shot can help prevent or reduce the effects of flu depending on how well a person's immune system reacts to the vaccine."

Continued Palmer: "The flu shot is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. Children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic health conditions are at higher risk for complications from flu and should be vaccinated."

And while the flu is definitely a cause for concern, folks would be better served spending less time worrying and more time concentrating on prevention.

"People should be aware that influenza can cause serious complications in some people," said Palmer. "Therefore, everyone should practice good hygiene such as washing their hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if sick. Of course, getting the flu shot is the first step in preventing flu and complications from the illness."

"Flu symptoms occur rapidly with cough, sore throat, runny nose, fever, and body aches the most common. Adults generally don't experience vomiting or diarrhea, but children might."

"Some symptoms can mean your illness is severe, such as: trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest or belly, sudden dizziness or confusion, or severe vomiting. If an individual experiences these symptoms, they should seek immediate medical attention."

For vulnerable segments of the population, vaccination could mean the difference

between life and death. Already, dozens of young children across the U.S. have died this flu season from flu-related illnesses, and although a flu shot is not guaranteed to keep people from catching a variant strain of the virus, it's still the best hope for many Americans.

"In 2017, a study in Pediatrics was the first of its kind to show that flu vaccination also significantly reduced a child's risk of dying from influenza," per the CDC. "The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women, and people with certain long-term health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications."

Those who have the flu can spread it to others up to six feet away, and according to the CDC, most experts think that the flu virus is spread mainly by droplets made when people sick with the flu cough, sneeze

or talk. "These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs," per CDC.gov. "Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface on which that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose."

"To avoid this, people should stay away from sick people and stay home if sick. It also is important to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub."

Continued the CDC: "Linens, eating utensils, and dishes belonging to those who are sick should not be shared without washing thoroughly first. Eating utensils can be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with water and soap and do not need to be cleaned separately."

"Further, frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at home, work and school, especially if someone is ill."

# S.A.F.E. needs volunteers

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S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides services to domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Towns, and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact (706) 379-1901. If you are a victim of Domestic Violence or sexual Assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day, (706) 379-1901.

# Vendors needed for Lions Club annual yard sale

Union County Lions Club is taking applications for vendors for their annual mid-winter Trash to Treasure sale. The sale will be held on February 17, 2018 at the Haralson Civic Center from 8-3. Anyone interested in participating in this event needs to call 706-897-5467 to obtain a reservation.

# Country/western show in Young Harris

A country/western show will be held on Friday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Stephens Lodge Auditorium on Hwy. 66 in Young Harris. Free admission!

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