

## Trio of "Smurfs" Charged in Meth Operation

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Last Friday, February 1st, Officers from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office arrested three individuals associated with obtaining materials for the clandestine methamphetamine laboratory found at 1297 NC-194 North in Vilas, NC on January 24th, 2013. Casey Ward, 25, and Lindsey Miller, 20, both of 1656 Meat Camp Rd., and Heather Nelson, 20, of 3296 Meat Camp Rd., Boone, were arrested for their participation in the manufacture of methamphetamine. All three suspects are accused of supplying items needed to manufacture methamphetamine to Kevin Baird, of 1297 NC-194 in Vilas. Ward and Miller were set 25,000.00 bonds while Nelson was set a \$10,000.00 bond. All three suspects have a March 23rd, 2013 court date.

The Sheriff's Office investigation identified the trio as "smurfs," the term for law enforcement being individuals that go from store to store buying the maximum legal amount of pseudoephedrine products with the intent of distributing these products to be used in the production of methamphetamine.