

## Armed Robbery, Gun Theft Suspect Arrested

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Wednesday, 25 September 2013 16:59

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Boone Police Officers and Watauga Sheriff's Office Deputies have Arrested a suspect in a January Armed Robbery, who was then charged with the theft of a handgun from a Boone business. Early Wednesday, Wesley Alan Cox, 20, of Deep Gap, was arrested for Felonious Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon and Misdemeanor Failure to Appear in Court. It was January 2nd of this year that the Boone Police Department responded to the Robbery at Rite Aid Pharmacy on Shadowline Drive, the suspect reportedly demanded pills from the pharmacy using the threat of a gun. Forensic evidence was discovered that linked Cox to the robbery, according to police, and Detective Osborne obtained arrest warrants for the robbery on September 18th, but Cox could not be located. Investigators found that Cox was actively hiding to avoid arrest, but early Wednesday, deputies from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office tracked down Cox, discovering him hiding in a residence on Knowles Haven Lane in Boone, underneath a pile of clothing in a closet. Along with the robbery, Cox is charged with Felonious Larceny of a Firearm, said to have entered Grashal Outdoor on September 17th and taken a pistol. The pistol has not been recovered. Cox was placed under \$20,000 and \$100,000 secured bonds pending an October 31st court appearance. Lt. Chris Hatton of the Boone Police Department said expressed gratitude for help, saying "Our detectives did a great job processing the crime scene, and the North Carolina SBI used what we sent them to link Cox, who was already a suspect, to this crime. Although we suspected Cox, we just couldn't prove it without the help of the state lab. He said Cox will likely face new charges.