Last Wednesday, the Watauga County Sheriff's Office received a call of shots fired near 815 Apple Orchard Lane. Deputies arrived on scene and subsequently arrested Chester James Moraniec Jr, 46, of 815 Apple Orchard Lane, Boone, NC, for assault and communicating threats.

Pursuant to arrest procedure, Mr. Moraniec's criminal history was requested. The arrest history revealed that Mr. Moraniec was a convicted felon and thus could not legally possess a firearm. This patrol information was then directed to the Special Operations Division. SOD Detectives then began an investigation regarding the incident and evidence was gathered to obtain a search warrant for the 815 Apple Orchard Lane address. Detectives arrived at the residence with the assistance of patrol deputies on 2/17/2011 to serve the search warrant.
Pursuant to the search, an illegal weapon was found. Detectives immediately noted that the shotgun was allegedly altered and considered to be "sawed-off" due to the modifications made to it.
The search moved to an "out building" where an alleged indoor marijuana growing operation was found inside. Detectives arrested Chester James Moraniec Jr for Possession of a Firearm by a Felon and Possession of a Weapon of Mass Destruction. Mr. Moraniec was held on a $20,000 secured bond. Chester Moraniec Jr. also has pending charges of Maintaining a Dwelling; Possession with the Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver Marijuana; and the Manufacture Marijuana.
Mr. Moraniec's son, Nicklaus Scott Marczika 18 years old of 815 Apple Orchard Lane Boone, NC, was also arrested for Possession of a Weapon of Mass Destruction and held on a $10,000 secured bond. Another search warrant was subsequently granted on the residence for the presence of controlled substances and executed just after midnight on 2/18/2011. Mr. Marczika also has pending charges for Possession with the Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver Marijuana; and the Manufacture Marijuana.