

## Smoke Shop Duo Charged With Selling Pot

Written by Steve Frank

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Narcotics Detectives from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office obtained warrants and arrested two individuals from an incident that occurred on January 13, 2014. Both individuals were arrested on Monday, February 10, 2014. The joint operation involved Narcotics detectives from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office and Boone Police Department, an undercover operation in which Marijuana was purchased from the business of Smoke Rings located in Boone. Smoke Rings, according to the release, is a 'head shop' where novelty items and glassware are sold to be used for "tobacco." However, according to Captain Al Reed of the Sheriff's Office, most items located in these types of stores are for Marijuana use but sold under the guise of tobacco. Captain Reed also stated that most, if not all, the glassware encountered by law enforcement officers, which includes pipes, bongs, etc..., is used for drug related purposes.

Following the undercover operation, a search warrant was executed on Smoke Rings. Detectives seized a total of 593 grams (1.3 lbs) of Marijuana from the business. The Marijuana had an estimated street value of \$4,000 - \$6,000. David Frank Lynch Jr., 30, of 126 Sequoia Lane, Boone, was charged with Possession With Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver Marijuana, Conspiracy Sell/Deliver Marijuana, Maintaining a Dwelling/Place/Vehicle for Controlled Substances, Possession of Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Zachery Lee Simpson, 22, also of 126 Sequoia Lane, was charged with Conspiracy Sell/Deliver Marijuana, Maintaining a Dwelling/Place/Vehicle for Controlled Substances, and Possession of Marijuana. Both Lynch and Simpson were taken to the Watauga County Detention Facility in lieu of a \$10,000 secured bond, and both are scheduled to appear in District Court March 18th.