

## Assault investigation leads to growing operation

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Avery County sheriff's deputies got more than they bargained for last week when responding to a possible assault at a residence on Highway 105 near Watauga County.

In fact, when investigating a possible drug-related home invasion and assault, deputies discovered an indoor growing operation. The Avery Sheriff/Municipal Drug Task Force was called into investigate- and 19-year-old Jeffrey Street and 20-year old Justin Cerniglia now face drug charges. Though few plants were found, the amount of grow lights and other equipment seized indicate the operation was stopped in the very early stages. According to Frye, the arrestees had the resources to begin a much larger operation.