

Drug, Threat Charges at Watauga High

Written by Boone PD Press Release
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A drug enforcement operation was conducted today at Watauga High School that resulted in a number of charges. Officers with K-9's from area agencies, in conjunction with school officials, searched the high school for evidence of drugs. Classrooms, lockers, and vehicles were searched. While searches are routinely conducted throughout the school year, this operation was launched in response to various recent complaints of drug activity on and around campus.

Mark Winston Morley, age 16 of Banner Elk, was charged with one misdemeanor count of possession of simple possession of marijuana. Grayson Philip Foster, age 17 of Vilas, was charged with one count of simple possession of marijuana and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Additionally, another student was charged with the felony of making a false report concerning mass violence on educational property. During the search operation, James Ryan Wooten, age 17 of Vilas, is alleged to have made a Facebook post in which he stated he would bring a gun to the school in response to the police presence. Wooten was taken into custody at the school and taken before a Watauga County magistrate where he was given a \$3,000 unsecured bond, subject to be released to a parent or guardian.

Boone Police would like to thank the Avery and Watauga County Sheriff's Offices and the Lenoir Police Department in assisting with the operation which resulted in three drug charges against two students.