



HALE COUNTY

SHERIFF

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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

July 18, 2017

SHERIFF'S OFFICE RAIDS INDOOR MARIJUANA GROWTH IN NEWBERN

NEWBERN – At approximately 11:00 am on July 10th, Hale County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the 300 block of Woods Loop Road in Newbern to investigate suspicious activity. Upon arrival deputies noticed the strong odor of what they believed to be marijuana coming from an exhaust vent at the residence. The residence was then secured and a search warrant was obtained from the circuit judge. When deputies made entry in the residence marijuana paraphernalia was plainly visible throughout the home. Deputies discovered a room inside the residence where the occupants had been growing and cultivating marijuana by hydroponic light. Deputies seized all the equipment used in making the marijuana, processed marijuana, and two firearms. Darren Whatley, 25 year old white male from Bibb County was taken into custody and charged with Trafficking Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia. Mr. Whatley was booked into the Hale County Jail and given a bond of \$251,500 by District Judge Timothy Evans, pending further action from the District Court. Sheriff Ellis also wished to thank Greensboro Police for their assistance with securing the residence. Newbern Mayor Woody Stokes also thanked the Sheriff's Office for doing a good job with this bust.