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Sentences handed down in 2017 drug robbery case

By Dave Russell

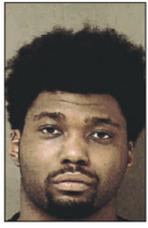
A former Western Carolina University student and two co-conspirators were sentenced Tuesday to prison after pleading guilty to armed robbery charges in U.S. District Court, U.S. Attorney Andrew Murray announced.

The three men attempted Oct. 24, 2017 to rob a rival marijuana dealer at the River Walk Apartments in Cullowhee. One of the robbers fired a shotgun round into the knee of Corey Ladarrus Alston, a WCU

sophomore at the time.

The shooter, Jonathan Keenan Berkley, 22, of Charlotte, was sentenced to six years in prison; Kendrick Tyrone Davis, 22, also of Charlotte, was ordered to serve four years and three months in prison; and Sawyer Drew Doxtad, 22, of Denton, was sentenced to four years in prison.

In addition to the prison terms imposed, U.S. District Judge Mar-



Berkley



Davis



Doxtad

tin Reidinger ordered each defendant to serve three years court supervision upon completion of their prison terms, and to pay \$38,258.75

in restitution.

According to court documents and the sentencing hearings, Doxtad was a WCU student during that time, living in a Sylva apartment. He sold marijuana around the university area.

Sometime in September 2017 Berkley and Davis moved into Doxtad's apartment. According to court records, the three men dealt marijuana together. Court documents state Doxtad

and Berkley used a social media chat group called "Wheestaylit" to identify local marijuana customers.

Another marijuana dealer, identified in court documents only as J.R., used the same chat group. Court records state J.R. posted a picture of himself with multiple pounds of marijuana.

Berkley, Doxtad and Davis decided to rob J.R. of the marijuana and sell it to their own customers. According to court records, on Oct.

►see **Charges, 7A**



MARK HASKETT PHOTO

Students file into Smoky Mountain High School as the 2019-20 school year began Monday.

Back to school

County warning consumers of new solicitation letter

Information offered is readily available online

By Dave Russell

The Jackson County Register of Deeds office is warning residents about letters they might receive from a company based in California offering property records for money.

The company, Property Profile Inc., uses open records laws to obtain names and addresses of recent home buyers.

The homeowners receive a letter that looks like a bill – complete with a respond by date and a "detach and mail" stub – in exchange for a "Property Assessment Profile" related to the recent purchase.

A letter provided to the Herald by the deeds office lists the company as Property Profile Inc., of Glendora, California.

The letter proclaims in large, bold letters "RECORDED DEED NOTICE," and requests a service fee of \$86 that can be paid online, via phone or by mail.

In smaller print, it states the "service" is not associated with any governmental agency.

►see **Deeds, 7A**

Addiction treatment: Individuality key component

By Beth Lawrence

Treatment for opioid addiction is as diverse as treatment for any other medical condition. Much like any illness, there is no one-size-fits-all cure.

Some addicts start their recovery by weaning themselves off of opiates and seeking treatment, such as a 12-step program. Some attempt to quit cold turkey. Others seek inpatient or outpatient treatment and counseling.

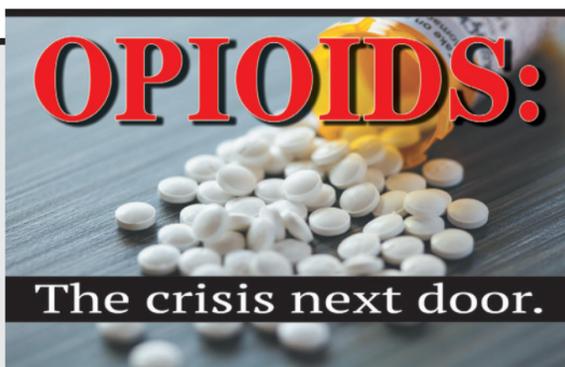
Dr. Annemarie Russell is a psychiatrist who treats persons with mental health conditions as well as those seeking recovery from substances.



Russell

Russell works for Appalachian Community Services and is the medical director of The Balsam Center Adult Recovery Unit on the Haywood side of Balsam Gap. The Balsam Center accepts patients from Jackson and surrounding counties.

►see **Treatment, 7A**



Narcotics Anonymous: Finding a path toward recovery

By Beth Lawrence

Treatment and support are crucial to recovery, and the same treatment does not work for everyone.

One addict's path to sobriety may not work for another individual.

One program that emphasizes divergent paths for addicts is Narcotics Anonymous.

Narcotics Anonymous was born of Alcoholics Anonymous, but created with an emphasis on drug addiction rather than alcoholism. NA is a 12-step program that considers itself a recovery program, not a cure all.

Joe, not his real name, is Jackson County NA's media contact and a longtime NA participant. He is sharing the story of how NA works because he is concerned that people don't know the program is established in the area and that they have one more option to seek recovery.

"Our program, Narcotics Anonymous, offers a way, as a matter of fact it says in our literature that we believe any addict can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use

►see **NA, 7A**

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John Parris

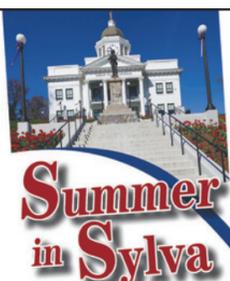
Lynn Hotaling looks at legendary local scribes

Mountain Builders

on page 9A



Bob Terrell



THE SUMMER IN SYLVA 2019 BROCHURE IS HERE!

AVAILABLE AT FINE RETAILERS ACROSS JACKSON COUNTY.