

Drug Deal, Armed Robbery Yields Arrest

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Nobody won in a drug deal that started in Wilkes and ended in Alexander County with an armed robbery count—and the robbery victim charged, as well. The incident occurred on the lot of a fast food restaurant on Winkler Street in the predawn hours Wednesday, a group from Hickory and Taylorsville meeting with Edward Claude Knight to buy a bottle of prescription medicine, according to Wilkesboro Police. The suspect entered Knight's car, produced a handgun, and took the meds, leaving the scene with Knight following. Knowing a woman with the suspects, Knight is reported to have called the woman in the suspect car, but told that he was not getting his drugs back—or the money—he called the Alexander Sheriff's Office, and the suspects were intercepted on the lot of Schneider Mills near Taylorsville, and the story unfolded there. Sorting out the details, Wilkesboro Police charged 32-year old Matthew Blane Leonhardt with Armed Robbery—even after finding the gun was a toy—the Hickory man set \$5000 bond. But robbery victim Edward Claude Knight, 42, of Ridge Lane in Wilkesboro was charged with Conspire to Sell/Deliver Prescription Meds, and was set \$2500 bond.