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HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION CHARGE

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Kenneth Allen Barker, 31, of Huntington pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Barker admitted that on or about October 14, 2010, he traveled to and entered the Smokin' Aces store that was located in Huntington. Barker further admitted that he was in possession of a Savage .22 caliber rifle which he subsequently sold to an undercover agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in exchange for \$60. The defendant admitted to possessing a total of three firearms. Barker was prohibited from possessing a firearm based on a prior felony conviction in the Court of Common Pleas in Lawrence County, Ohio, in January 2007.

Barker faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on September 12, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Huntington Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Joseph F. Adams is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

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OHIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL OXYCODONE CHARGE

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Richard L. Snodgrass, 23, of Ohio, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to conspiracy to distribute oxycodone. Snodgrass admitted that from at least June 2009 until October 2009, he participated with other known individuals in the distribution of oxycodone in Huntington, West Virginia. During the time period that the defendant was involved in the conspiracy, Snodgrass admitted to being supplied with 90 80-milligram oxycodone tablets on three separate occasions. Snodgrass further admitted to receiving approximately 90 80-milligram tablets on consignment with the expectation that he would distribute the tablets for \$55 each and return \$35 per tablets to his drug supplier after distribution. On or about October 15, 2009, agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) approached Snodgrass and an associate in the 1400 block of 4th Avenue in Huntington. Agents subsequently recovered 90 80-milligram tablets from the defendant's associate. Snodgrass admitted that he was present to pick up the known associate to receive the oxycodone tablets.

Snodgrass faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on September 12, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Huntington Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Joseph F. Adams is in charge of the prosecution.

This case was prosecuted as part of an ongoing effort led by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia to combat the illicit sale and misuse of prescription drugs. The U.S. Attorney's Office, joined by various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, remain committed to aggressively pursuing and shutting down illegal pill trafficking, eliminating open air drug markets and curtailing the spread of opiate painkillers in communities across the Southern District.

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WAYNE COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION CHARGE

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Christopher C. Blackburn, 28, of East Lynn, Wayne County, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Blackburn admitted that on or about October 19, 2010 and several other occasions, he traveled with an associate to the Smokin' Aces store that was located in Huntington, for the purpose of selling firearms. Blackburn further admitted to possessing multiple firearms, which were subsequently sold to undercover agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in exchange for \$1000 cash.

According to the defendant's criminal history, Blackburn was prohibited from possessing a firearm based on prior felony convictions in December 2008 and May 2009 in the Circuit Court of Wayne County.

Blackburn faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on August 29, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Huntington Police Department. Special Assistant United States Attorney Joseph F. Adams is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

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