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**Tillmon arraignment in May**

**Now 14 of 15 defendants have pled guilty in case**

By LANCE MARTIN  
 www.rrspin.com

**GREENVILLE** - Antonio Tillmon's arraignment, originally scheduled Tuesday along with nine other Operation Rockfish defendants, has been rescheduled for May 10.

While Tillmon sat through the advice of rights Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Greenville, no arraignment was held.

An order filed by Senior United States District Court Judge Malcolm Howard explains, based on the court's own motion, it continued arraignment and the deadline for filing pre-trial motions in the case. The deadline for filing pre-trial motions was extended to Tuesday, according to electronic records filed in the case.

Howard also dismissed, and found as

moot, a motion which sought to remove a protective order in the case.

"The court finds the ends of justice served by granting this continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial," Howard wrote in the order. "Any delay caused by this continuance order shall be excluded from speedy computation ..."

Nine other defendants in the case Tuesday — Lann Clanton, Ikeisha Jacobs, Jason Boone, Curtis Boone, Adrienne Moody, Jimmy Pair Jr., Alphonso Ponton, Corey Jackson and Thomas Allen II — pled guilty.

Fourteen of the so-called Rockfish 15 have now pled guilty in the police corruption case.

(Lance Martin is Editor of www.rrspin.com.)

**WELCOME TO ROTARY**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / Rotary Club of Windsor

The Rotary Club of Windsor recently welcomed new members into the organization. Above, Tierra Beale receives her Rotary pin from

club member Ron Wesson. At right, new member Annie Wilson stands after receiving her welcome.

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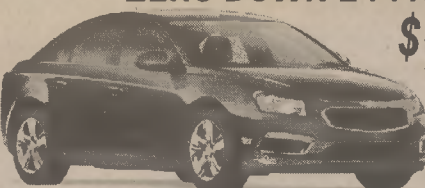
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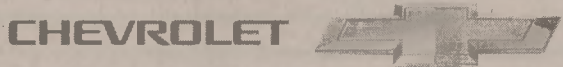


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**Chamber prepares for Spring**

Winter is upon us. We have been fortunate to basically miss the snow, but we have gotten plenty of rain. Now Pauxautawney Phil did not see his shadow which supposedly means an early spring. I don't think a groundhog really knows whether spring is coming early, but let's hope he is right. There is plenty planned and we would like to do it with "chamber of commerce" type days.

Our next big event is the Farmer's Appreciation Dinner, which will be on March 24 at the Bertie Senior Center. We will have representatives from Mount Olive Pickle Company telling us about the history of their company and what they do locally. We use this event to honor the landowners and farmers that provide the produce that makes our lives much easier. Agriculture is still the major economic driver in our area, as it has been since the

**Chamber Chatter**



Lewis Hoggard

first colonists arrived. Speaking of colonists, we will have our first lost colony festival on Saturday, April 23 at the Roanoke/Cashie River Center. There will be lectures on what was happening at the time of the lost colony in our county. The Indians that were here in Bertie County will be highlighted. Examples of Indian village life will be shown. Of course, there will be more about our archaeological digs and what has been discovered

about our European residents who moved here from Roanoke Island.

May has two marquee events. The Tee & Sea will be sponsored by the Windsor Fire Department on May 5 and 6. The combination of music, golf and seafood is hard to beat. The chamber will bring the fourth annual Sage Festival on Saturday, May 21. This event focuses on the promotion of clary sage in Bertie County and the surrounding area. Now, more than 30,000 acres of clary sage is being grown in eastern North Carolina. We love to bring attention to those beautiful crops growing in our fields. There will be plenty of music, fun and information at this downtown Windsor event.

One of our new arrivals to our list of events is the Pound the Sound Triathlon. This competition will be held at Scotch Hall Preserve as it was last year. In

its second year, this Rotary Club of Windsor event is making its presence known across the state and in the region as a premier sprint triathlon event. The YMCA is a beneficiary of this event, as is our whole community. Attention is drawn especially to our area's natural beauty.

There is a lot to look forward to in the spring. Our major events populate each month, but also look for Lunch & Learns, Business after Hours, Coffee & Donuts and the Business of the Month.

Congratulations to Cooper Insurance Agency, who was business of the month in January, and Ivy Lane Florist, who is business of the month for February. Spring is coming.

Lewis Hoggard is Executive Director of the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via email at lewishoggard@gmail.com.

**Primary**

From PAGE A1  
 Filing is already complete, and absentee balloting has begun for the March 15 primary.

Current First District Congressman G.K. Butterfield - who represents Bertie County - is not opposed in the Democratic primary for the seat, but Rep. Alma Adams has opposition in the Twelfth District.

The two top Republican lawmakers who chaired the redistricting

committees released a joint statement saying they were not pleased with the court's ruling.

"We are disappointed in the federal trial court's decision because there is so much uncertainty on whether the primary election, already under way can continue or whether a new primary election needs to take place - and whether votes that have already been cast can be counted," Sen.

Bob Rucho (R-Mecklenburg) and Rep. David Lewis (R-Harnett) said. "We hope the U.S. Supreme Court will recognize the urgency and gravity of these questions and issue a stay."

Those who have fought for the redistricting say that two elections have already occurred since the 2011 redrawing of the maps, and that it is unconstitutional for a third to

be allowed.

While battling to receive a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court, lawmakers are already moving forward with redrawing the districts in case they do not receive a favorable ruling from the court.

Public hearings were scheduled for Monday, with lawmakers planning to return for a special session later this week if the stay is not approved.

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