

Bertie Ledger-Advance

WEDNESDAY • MAY 31, 2017

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SPORTS | B1

Arrests made for drugs, prostitution

Windsor police have busy holiday weekend

BY THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - The Windsor Police Department had a busy Memorial Day weekend.

Officers made arrests for a breaking and entering,

drugs, prostitution and a stolen dog.

The incidents began Friday, when officers responded to the Tobacco Shop on Granville Street to investigate the theft of a dog.

Cpl. Frank Ratzlaff and Po-

lice Officer A.J. Lanier took a report in which the victim stated he had a dog in a friend's vehicle near the Tobacco Shop. The victim said he witnessed Sierra Stokes pulling the animal by its collar in the direction of her

residence on King Street.

The officers went to the suspect's residence, and were able to recover the dog.

Stokes, of 121 South King St. in Windsor, was charged with felony breaking and entering a motor vehicle, felony larceny and misdemeanor cruelty to animals.

She was confined to Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$2,000 secured bond. Her first appearance in Bertie County District Court will be today (Wednesday).

A day later, Cpl. Ratzlaff and Officers Jessie Mizelle and Lloyd Smithwick responded

See POLICE, A5

BJRP nets \$150K

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

INDIAN WOODS - Grant awarded.

The Kate B. Reynolds Trust announced last week a grant of \$150,000 awarded to Bertie County's Blue Jay Recreation Park in the Indian Woods community.

The award was announced at the Bertie County Commissioners meeting that was held at the Blue Jay Fire Department last week.

The grant is for the construction of a paved walking trail and facility improvements.

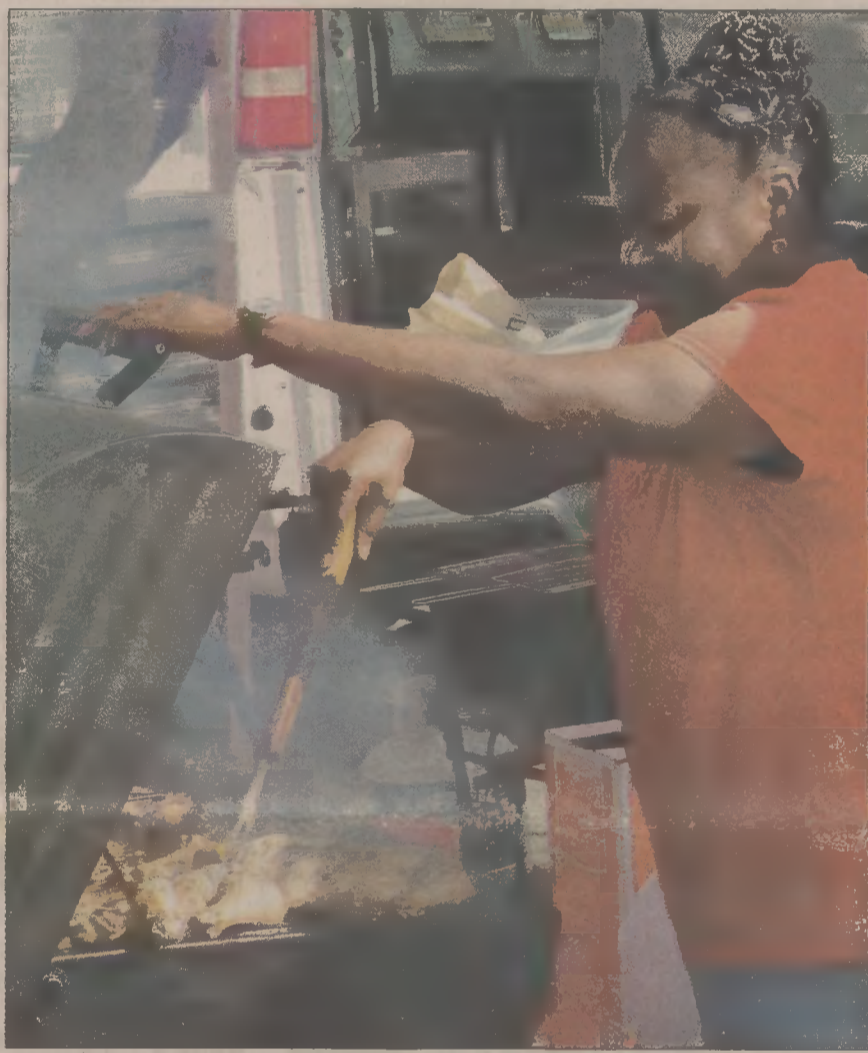
Vice Chairman Ernestine Bazemore and Commissioner Ronald Wesson provided the project coordination with the Blue Jay Committee.

The project was accelerated last year when the commissioners approved a thirty-year lease of the park's property and a commitment to provide facility improvements.

"The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Health Care Division promotes

See GRANT, A3

SAGE FESTIVAL



There will be food of all kinds at the fifth annual Sage Festival, which is planned for this weekend in Windsor. Learn all about it with a special insert in today's edition.

HCLA director says case was investigated

BY THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - The leadership of Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy says an incident involving a former student has been investigated by the school.

HCLA Executive Director Dr. Kashi Bazemore-Hall said the school is cooperating with an ongoing investigation by the Windsor Police Department, but is certain the police investigation will find the same as that of the school.

Last week, the Windsor Police Department confirmed an investigation is being conducted

after a complaint was filed that a student was slapped at the school.

"We have fully cooperated with law enforcement in this matter," Dr. Bazemore-Hall said. "I have determined that reasonable force was used to protect this child from injuring our school official, bus driver, the student and other students on the bus."

Dr. Bazemore-Hall said it was not the first incident involving the student in question.

"The child has a pattern of hitting school officials," she said. "He

See INVESTIGATED, A5

Manager proposes half-cent tax cut

Sauer's recommendation comes in budget message

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Bertie County's proposed budget would give citizens a one-half cent property tax break.

The North Carolina Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act requires that the

budget officer present a balanced budget and fiscal plan, and in order to satisfy this requirement, the following budget proposal has been prepared for the governing body's consideration for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

"Bertie County families, businesses and entire neigh-

borhoods were devastated by two flood events in Sept. and Oct. of 2016." Said Bertie County Manager Scott Sauer. "For county government services, our staff has responded with courage and fortitude with these challenges including the loss of a public library, the cooperative ex-

tension and the primary ambulance base (EMS Station One) in Windsor."

According to Sauer, many new projects, programs and initiatives planned for the county have been deferred as the county refocuses its attention to the painstaking process of recovery, hazard mitigation and resiliency

See CUT, A3

Tillmon could face maximum of life in prison

BY LANCE MARTIN
rrspin.com

Antonio Tillmon could receive a maximum sentence of life in prison after a federal jury found him guilty on drug trafficking and

bribery counts last week.

Tillmon, a former Windsor police officer, was the only one of the so-called Rockfish 15 to enter a not guilty plea in the corruption case.

A spokesman for the United States Eastern District Attorneys Office of North Carolina confirmed the possible maximum sentence late last week.

His sentencing was originally scheduled in

August, but on Tuesday Senior Judge Malcolm J. Howard continued it until Sept. 12 in Greenville. A text order filed in the court record said the continuance was approved "to ensure that the US Probation Of-

fice has adequate time to prepare the Presentence Report in this matter."

The jury verdict sheet contained in the federal court record shows the panel found him guilty of the following:

■ Count 1 - Conspiracy with intent to possess and distribute 1 kilogram or more heroin from November 2013 to April 2015;

■ Count 2 - Conspir-

See TILLMON, A5

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