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## The Briefcase

### Hearing for Pace Airlines co-owner postponed

A Forsyth County Superior Court judge agreed Monday to postpone until April 16 the next hearing for William Rodgers Sr., the co-owner of defunct Pace Airlines Inc.

Judge Edgar Gregory also permitted Walter Holton Jr., who has represented Rodgers since the first criminal charge was filed in September 2009, to step down as his attorney.

Mark Calloway, a Charlotte attorney, has been hired by Rodgers.

Holton said he recommended Calloway take over representation because Calloway's firm has more experience handling cases involving the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

On Jan. 25, a Forsyth grand jury indicted Rodgers on one count of willful failure to pay group health-insurance premiums to Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.C. and 26 counts of willful failure to deliver notice to employees.

Each count is a Class H felony, which carries a sentence of five to 20 months of prison.

Pace and its predecessors had been an anchor tenant at Smith Reynolds Airport in Winston-Salem for decades, until the company collapsed four months after Rodgers took ownership in May 2009.

Rodgers was arrested by state insurance officers on Sept. 22, 2009, just five days after the company shut down for good and the jobs of 423 Pace employees, including 300 in Winston-Salem, were eliminated. Rodgers has been out of jail on a \$50,000 bond since September 2009.