

**Hartsfield**

from page A1

recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Hartsfield dedicated her election campaign to her father, who was in a hospital room on the day that she and supporters gathered at the Forsyth County Board of Elections for her filing. Even up until his last days, Delray Hartsfield encouraged his daughter to follow through with her dream of being a judge.

Although he was gone when she was in the thick of her campaign, his words helped to sustain her as the road got long and then bumpy.

"Every time I would hear my daddy's voice in my ear, I would muster up the strength to climb back up," she said.

During a ceremony that was at times emotional and at times hysterical, Hartsfield called her father her "main angel," but there were other angels who helped carry Hartsfield during her campaign.

"Angels, indeed, watched over me during my journey," she said, referencing a popular refrain of a Negro spiritual. "I stand here today because those angels stood at the gap for me and made room for me to come through."

Among Hartsfield's other angels were her campaign volunteers, contributors and those who prayed for her.



Doris Hartsfield helps her daughter with her robe. Photo by Kevin Walker

Hartsfield was sworn in by the man she replaces on the bench, Roland Hayes' distinction as the county's only African-American District Court judge.

Several other District Court and Superior Court judges were also on hand, as was Senior Judge Richard Erwin, U.S. District Court, Middle District of North Carolina. Several of Hartsfield's family members, some from as far away as Florida, were also present. Doris Hartsfield sat beside her daughter for most of the ceremony. At one point, she helped her daughter put on her judicial robe after Erwin presented it.

Hartsfield has already gotten a taste of what it is to be a judge. She began work in early December, nearly a month after winning convincingly in the Nov. 5 general election. Hartsfield worked as an assistant county attorney for the county's child support enforcement division for the last seven years, where she picked up the title of the "mean child support lady" for her many victories.

Hartsfield was born and raised here. She received her undergraduate degree from Spelman College and earned her law degree from Wake Forest University. School of Law. Hartsfield's term is for four years.

**Rolle**

from page A1

was serving in the Navy, but was living off base in Norfolk, Va. She says her drug use began as a social habit but quickly descended into a daily addiction that infiltrated her life and turned her into a prostitute.

Crack, says Rolle, allowed her "not to feel things" and "made her feel good about herself" and otherwise not face the reality in which she was living.

"Whenever I felt like I needed a pick-me-up or a boost, then I would use (crack). I learned how to get it on my own and how to spend money for it. Eventually it was my little secret," said Rolle, who describes her crack addiction as being "love at first sight" because she became addicted so quickly.

Once Rolle received an honorable discharge from the Navy, she relocated to California, where, she says, her drug use "became an everyday thing." It was on the West Coast where she began her career as a prostitute. Later her new lifestyle led her to Florida, where she was arrested and then ordered by a judge to return back to her hometown, Winston-Salem, or go to prison.

Back in North Carolina, Rolle spent the next 13 years on the streets where she would prostitute herself in order to support her drug addiction. She says she did experience short periods of time when she would be clean, but would eventually make her way back to the streets for more drugs.

During that time, she gave birth to three children, all of whom she lost custody of because getting high became a priority over motherhood. Rolle was arrested and sent to prison a total of three times. Her sister adopted her children and raised all three of them in Michigan.

"I was raped repeatedly, I was stabbed and left for dead in an alley once, but I was anesthetized all of that. It would happen, frighten me and then a couple of weeks later I would be back out on the street," Rolle said.

Eventually, Rolle says, she accepted that her fate would be dying as a homeless crack addict in Winston-Salem. Having witnessed the death of friends who succumbed to hard living on the streets, she says, she quickly realized that she was doomed herself.

Anita Evans is a close friend of Rolle's who became a mother figure to her since Rolle's real mother was no longer living and Rolle had few relatives who were still alive or wanted little to do with her because of her drug habit. Evans recalled: "I knew Jan wasn't finished using...I would drive through areas I knew she would be and would see her and make sure she was still alive. Jan would holler out 'hey' but (she would never say), 'Come get me.'"

**Forum**

from page A8

Kivati, Wallace Consulting (Winston-Salem); Web Design Carolinas (Winston-Salem); Judy McAllister-Doncaster Clothing (Winston-Salem); and Nextel Communications (Triad).

More information and the conference registration form are available on the conference Web site: [www.triad-wings.org/](http://www.triad-wings.org/).



Recently, Fourth Street has been touched up with a number of features.

**Wirelessly Wired**

Internet access to be made easier on Fourth Street

FROM STAFF REPORTS

People with wireless modem laptop computers or handheld digital devices will soon be able to access the Internet free of charge along Fourth Street. The Winston-Salem Information Systems Department announced recently that it will develop a so-called free public access hotspot that will make it possible for people eating lunch or sitting on benches along Fourth Street to access the Internet.

The city will set up a system called Wi-Fi, which uses a

short-range radio antenna to broadcast Internet signals in a focused area. The system is already widely used and is especially popular in coffee shops and airports. City officials believe that once the city's system is set up, which will be in about 90 days, Winston-Salem will be the first city in the state with a government-sponsored, public access hotspot.

Fourth Street was chosen because it has become the center of the city's downtown revitalization efforts. Several new restaurants and shops are

slated to open along Fourth Street in the near future. This summer the city finished a \$2.6 million project that widened sidewalks and added trees and benches to the stretch of Fourth Street that runs through downtown.

"We see this as an economic development tool," said Dennis Newman, the chief information officer for the city. "(The hotspot) will encourage people to come downtown and dine at our sidewalk restaurants and go to our other venues along Fourth Street."

**Mall**

from page A6

NAACP, the Rev. R.L. Shanklin, said the group never had plans for a boycott, and that he would have to approve any boycott carried out by the organization.

Nevertheless, Nolan said the mall was in an "emotionally charged controversy that we didn't want to be in the middle of."

"There was going to be no easy decision," he told the

Mobile Register. "Certainly customers are disappointed that we took them out. Customers would have been disappointed had we left them in."

Asked whether he thought his clothing was offensive, Dixie Outfitters owner Dewey Barber said, "We certainly don't put any designs out there that we feel are offensive to anyone."

Dixie Outfitters' Web site has links and news stories about the Battle Flag, and in a

section called "Our Mission" it states:

"The truth about the Confederate Flag is that it has nothing to do with racism or hate. The Civil War was not fought over slavery or racism. We at Dixie Outfitters are trying to tell the real truth via our art and products in regards to the Confederate flag."

Ben George, head of a local Sons of Confederate Veterans camp, said he was considering a protest against the eviction.

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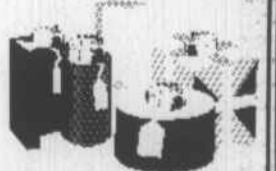
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