

# OP/ED



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## Thanks for Support



**Judge Denise Hartsfield**  
Guest Columnist

Dear Citizens of Forsyth County:

It is with tremendous gratitude and appreciation that I write this letter to the citizens of this county. I have purposefully waited for closure in my recent legal matters to say thank you for the support, encouragement and generosity of spirit that you gave me in the past year. It was March of 2011, when news broke of a Judicial Standards investigation that involved my handling of cer-

tain traffic matters. The entire year was spent in legal proceedings and vicious attacks by the media. The year was full of whispering, conspiracy and distorted attacks that placed my character and my integrity in question. By the favor of God, the end has finally come, and I am pleased that I will continue to serve the citizens of this county better than before.

So often over the past year, strangers have spoken a word, offered support and sent up mighty prayers. The Ministers Conference and Rev. Lamonte Williams put on a Prayer Rally in September 2011, where hundreds came to show their support. This community in their own special ways supported me during a very dif-

ficult time in my life and career.

This community is very important to me. I was educated and raised in the community and I see the needs that we have. I know the importance of giving back, and I understand the dangers and pitfalls of the juvenile and criminal justice system. I will continue to educate myself not only in the law, but in resources that are available to help those who often are unable to help themselves. This experience has made me stronger and wiser, and I pledge to come back rested and better able to face the challenges of the District Court bench.

— Denise S. Hartsfield  
Forsyth County District Court Judge

## U.S. 52 progress made

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Motorists began traveling for the first time on the newly-constructed U.S. 52 North bridge over Liberty Street on Monday, March 19.

The N.C. Department of Transportation opened the outside lanes of the new bridge to traffic at 10 p.m. Monday night, while closing the inside lane of the highway to traffic. This step will allow crews to connect the inside lane of U.S. 52 North to the inside lanes of the new bridge.



NCDOT expects the closure to create significant traffic congestion on U.S. 52 North, especially during the morning and evening rush hours. Motorists are strongly encouraged to take an alternate route to reach their destinations.

The closure will remain in effect until Sunday, March 25. Once the paving work is complete and the highway is

fully connected to the new bridge, NCDOT will open all lanes of U.S. 52 North, and traffic will travel over Liberty Street on all four lanes of the new bridge. The department will also reopen the entrance ramp from Liberty Street to U.S. 52 North (south of Exit 111A), and the entrance and exit ramps on U.S. 52 North at 25th Street (Exit 111A) at this time.

Overall, the closures will only be in place for two weeks. Originally, the plans called for a two-month closure. Through innovative work with the contractor, NCDOT has dramatically reduced the time the closures will be in place, thus lessening the impact on drivers.

### Hensley

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the one who initially encouraged her to get involved with Transforming Race.

"She's a really supportive teacher and I think she really likes to see her students involved in things, because the purpose of IB itself is to branch out," Tai said.

Being connected with the arts has enhanced her educational experience, and her grades reflect it, said Tai, the president of the National Arts Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society.

"I actually kind of have a weird correlation with my grades and art," she confessed. "...I feel like art is something that really matters to me in my whole ability to achieve. My mom says it's because you need to exercise different parts of your brain and have that creative release."

For Tai, a Crosby Scholar and member of the school's varsity cross country team, the Transforming Race project has allowed her to explore a variety of creative avenues, including photography, which she has developed a passion for. She puts her ever-growing skills to work for the project, posting photos of its progression to the Facebook and Twitter accounts she created for it. Tai has already been accepted to Wake Forest and plans to continue her involvement in the project as a college student next year.

In addition to lending a hand to Transforming Race, Tai also spent two years as a volunteer in Wake Forest Baptist Health's Volunteer program.

"It had never crossed my mind that I could volunteer in a hospital," declared the aspiring neurosurgeon, who spent the summer after her freshman and sophomore years volunteering with the program. "I enjoyed it so much. The patients were so polite and so friendly, and they had such wonderful stories."

Tai spent last summer traveling abroad to

Italy with a group from Paisley IB Magnet, where she attended before Parkland, and at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at Emory University, where she got the chance to explore her chosen profession.

Tai has also volunteered at the Winston-Salem Police Department's food booth at the Dixie Classic Fair for over six years. She says her fervor for volunteer work stems from a sense of dedication that was instilled in her as a child, and a strong desire to experience what life has to offer as much as she can. She said she was humbled to receive the award.

"I suppose I'm very proud of this," she commented. "I'm a little bit in disbelief."

For Parkland Assistant Principal Henry Pankey, the fact that the NCAE, which is holding its annual meeting in Winston-Salem this week, chose to single Tai out came as no surprise.

"If you had to sit down and write a description of the person who should receive this award, it would be her," Pankey said. "She's very giving, she's very active in school, she's very active in her neighborhood, and she's an honor roll student. What else do you want from a student?"

Pankey, who will be recognized as Assistant Principal of the Year at the Association's awards banquet today (March 22), said March has been a good month for the school. In addition to the awards he and Tai are taking home, the school's chorus, orchestra and theatre groups all received superior ratings this month as well.

"God has blessed Parkland, and a lot of good things have happened," declared the veteran administrator. "This is Parkland's month."

Pankey credits the school's faculty and staff for helping him to achieve the honor.

"Anytime a school receives something, it's a group effort — it's never one person," he remarked. "I've had a lot of strong, sturdy shoulders to stand on and I appreciate it."



Headstones of Pitts Johnson's relatives in Happy Hill Cemetery.

## Honoree Needs Help!



**Maurice Pitts Johnson**  
Guest Columnist

Thanks to The Chronicle for giving me a Community Service Award at the recent Awards Banquet.

Attempting to clean and beautify the Historic Happy Hill Cemetery takes many heads, hearts and hard work, therefore, I take this opportunity to extend thanks to many loyal individuals.

First, thanks to Moe and Martha Hartley of Old Salem who helped me to launch this project. Thanks to David Gall of Preserve Historic Forsyth and Lonnie Scriven, representing the Anderson Alumni Association for their consistent work ethic. Additional thanks go to Reverend William Brown and the men of Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church. Others who have helped with the project started in 2009 are James Hunder of the LOP, Many

Stewart, Jean Moses-Petree, Earl & Tim Byers, James Arradondo and many others. Thanks for the encouragement of Belina Tate of Diggs Galley at WSSU, Cheryl Harry of African American Studies at Old Salem, Ben Piggott, coordinator of the Happy Hill Reunion and a few students from the Public History class at Salem College, thanks to their instructor, Dr. Tekla Johnson.

Second, thanks to the descendants of my grandfather, Columbus Pitts, who attended the Awards Banquet — my daughter, Lemelia Johnson Bonner, her children Brian and Taryn and Bronald and his wife Valerie Johnson of Charlotte. Also in attendance was a former resident of Happy Hill and friend of the family, Jerry Hinson and his wife, Ruby.

### The Need

Many of you read The Chronicle may have relatives buried in the Happy Hill Cemetery. In order to delve into this history, ask your elders. Through some research provided by Judy

Caldwell, some lists have been provided. Please share your ancestors with us and any dates that you may find in an old family Bible. Join our efforts to honor the memory of these dedicated souls who worked extremely hard to ensure they would have a final resting place. There are ministers, veterans and possibly some slaves who rest there.

The other reason for our effort is to avoid having the cemetery be an "eye sore" in the otherwise revitalized, historic Happy Hill Community. Ride through and witness the change.

Please plan to attend the next meeting of the Happy Hill Cemetery Friends scheduled for March 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sims Recreation Center on Alder Street. Bring to the meeting information about your ancestors. Learn about our cleaning efforts, problems we have encountered and our future plans.

For additional information, call Mrs. Maurice Pitts Johnson 336 721-1981.



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**ALICE MAE ROSEBORO**  
MARCH 25, 1931

Time becomes more precious, as seasons come and go. Each dawning day's a special gift, when twilight shadows grow. And looking back we see God's hand in happiness and sorrow. He has a purpose for our lives, a plan for each tomorrow.

Faithfully, He brought us through the valleys in our lives. He took our hearts and molded them, through pain, grief, and strives. He met us on the mountain top, to catch a fleeting view of love and joy unspicable.

That thrilled us through and through. Throughout life's changing seasons we found God ever near, into the sunset of our years.

Alice, you are missed so very, very, much. We love you!  
Happy Birthday!!

Clell Sr., Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren,  
Sister, Brothers, and many, many Friends

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