

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

JULY 25, 2013

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!!!

Class of '71 turns 60

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Atkins High School Class of 1971, the last class to graduate from the historically African American school before integration forced its closure, held an all-white party July 12 at the Millennium Center Friday night to celebrate their 60th birthdays.

In between the laughs, music, food and dancing, members of the Class reflected on their time at Atkins and lamented the school's closing.

In its last days, Atkins High was home to a hodgepodge of students. Some Atkins upper-classmen decided to leave the school to integrate other county schools, and Atkins got its share of new faces as well.

"While we may not have (all) known each other, we still respected each other, worked together and took pride in the accomplishments," said Annette Wilson, chair of the class reunion steering committee. "We took pride whether you were on the basketball team, or part of the art club or the yearbook staff or the honors society; we were all proud of each other."

Wilson and her classmates learned shortly after graduation that their beloved school would be shuttered. Gwen Smith-Rasheed, chair of the reunion social committee, said the news was devastating to her and her peers.

"Our mothers and grandmothers went to that school," she said "... It closed down overnight without warning."

Atkins was eventually reopened as a middle school before the building housed the Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy. In 2006, the school system decided to preserve the name by naming a newly-built school, Atkins Academic and Technology High School, in tribute to the historic school, but alumni say nothing can replace the Atkins they knew and continue to love.

"When that was lost, it seemed like the community died somewhat," said Andrew Lindsay Jr., who co-chairs a class golf tournament. "It was like losing your best friend or losing your parent."

The Class of 1971 is active year-round, coming together frequently for fun social events as

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Community Calendar

East Winston welcomes Chief Rountree

The East Winston Community will congratulate and welcome the City's new Chief of Police, Barry Rountree, on Thursday, July 25 (today) at 6 p.m. at 14th Street Recreation Center, 2020 E. 14th St. Call Marva Reid at 336-997-2519 for more information.

Democratic Women's gathering

The next monthly Democratic Women and Wine Meeting is Thursday, July 25 (today) at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Susan MacIntosh, 129 Woodbriar Rd. It is open to all women and hosted by the Democratic Women of Forsyth County. The evening will be a casual get-together with light refreshments and a speaker addressing environmental issues and their importance to women. For more information or to RSVP, contact Shawna Williams at 336-497-1577.

Town hall meeting

A town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25 (today) at 7 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Plaza, 725 Highland St. State Rep. Evelyn Terry and Senator Earline Parmon have committed to serve on the panel. Topics such as Medicaid and unemployment benefits will be discussed. For more information, email Democracy NC at triad@democracy-nc.org.

Free SAT/ACT session

The Forsyth County Public Library will host a presentation, "SAT & ACT: Raise Your Math Score," in the Central Library Auditorium on Friday, July 26 from 1:30-3 p.m. Al Harbury will discuss the benefits of timed practice exams for building speed and accuracy. He will include examples of repeated problem types and shortcuts in the math section of the SAT & ACT. The event is free. Call 336-703-3020 for more information.

BBW Fashion Show

The 6th Annual Sista Big Bone Fashion Show, featuring men and women from the Triad area who will be working the runway, will be on Friday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center, 301 W. 5th St. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Call Vickie Hicks for more information at 336-918-6535.

Dalton Family Reunion

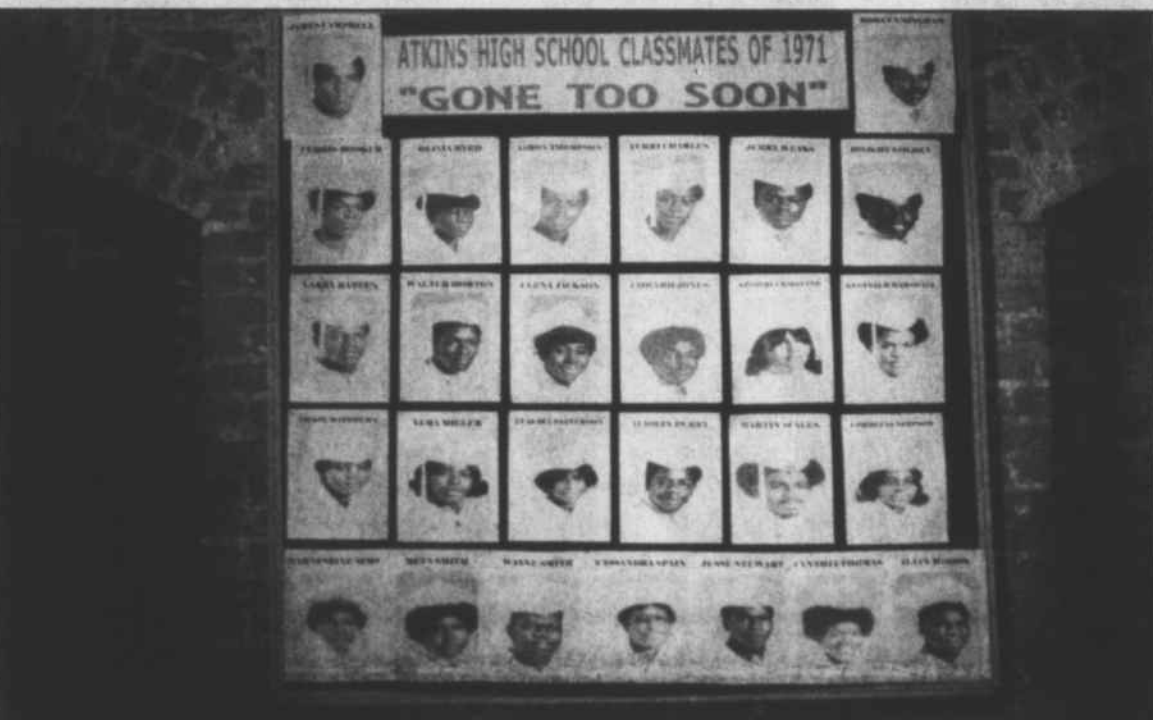
The 80th Annual Dalton Family Reunion is from Friday, July 26 - Sunday, July 28. Reunion registration takes place on Friday at the Hawthorne Inn from 6-

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Attendees take to the dance floor at the Atkins Class of 1971's gala last week.

Photo by Todd Luck



A memorial for members of the class who have passed away were honored.

Left: Class of '71 members Reginald Kay, Annette Wilson and Andrew Lindsay Jr. present a check to Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy Principal Richard Watts (second from right).



Members of the Class of 1971 pose for a group shot.

MUSIC DOWNTOWN

WINSTON SALEM NC

2013

FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ July 26 @ Prosper's Jazz
THURSDAYS 8-9 PM @ CENTRAL PLAZA

SUMMER ON TRADE July 27 @ location
SATURDAYS 7-10 PM @ 6TH & TRADE

DWSP.ORG