

Magazine: Atkins, West among nation's best schools

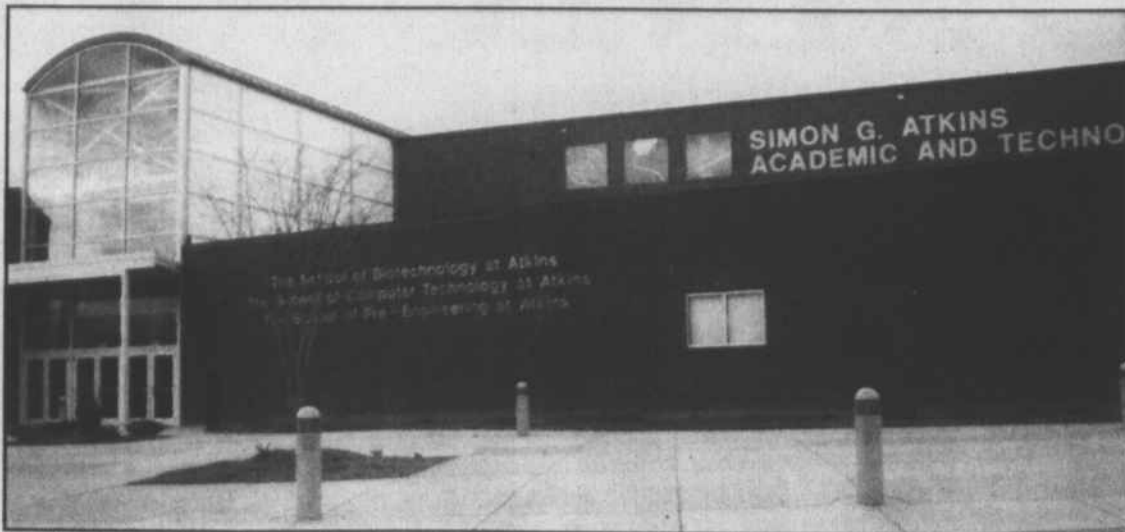
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Two schools in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools were judged among the top high schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report, including West Forsyth High School, which ranked second in North Carolina.

West Forsyth ranked 378th nationally, earning it a gold medal for being ranked among the top 500 schools in the United States. It was one of just two high schools in the state to earn a gold medal.

Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy earned a silver medal for being ranked in the top 2,000 nationally. It was ranked 34th in North Carolina and 1,986th in the U.S.

U.S. News looked at more than 19,400 public schools in the



U.S. and ranked them according to how they perform on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college. The data is from the 2011-12 school

year. The magazine first determined whether a school's students performed better than expected for the average student

in the state. It then examined whether a school's least advantaged students performed better than the average of similar students in the state. Finally, U.S.

News judged how well schools prepared students for college based on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate data.

West Forsyth and Glenn High School also were included earlier this month in The Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools. The list is compiled by the Post's education columnist Jay Mathews. Schools are judged by the number of college-level tests given at a school in a school year divided by the number of graduates that year. West Forsyth ranked 16th in the state on the list, and Glenn ranked 58th in the state.

For more information about U.S. News' rankings, please visit <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools>.

Gist to give genealogical talk Hope du Jour is May 6

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James E. Gist, a Winston-Salem native, will present "African American Genealogy Roadblocks" at the Forsyth County Genealogical Society's next monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 6 at the Central Library, 660 W. 5th St. The social starts at 6:30 p.m.; the program begins at 7.

Gist retired from the U.S. Air Force and Lockheed Martin



Gist

Aerospace. His interest in genealogy began almost 30 years ago when he found an old family Bible and

wanted to "fill in the blanks" with his grandmother's help. His family database has grown to more than 2,400 names. He is looked to as a family historian by the Gist families of Chester County, S.C.

He recently developed and presented a class in African American Genealogy at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, where he is chair of the Computer Lab Ministry.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

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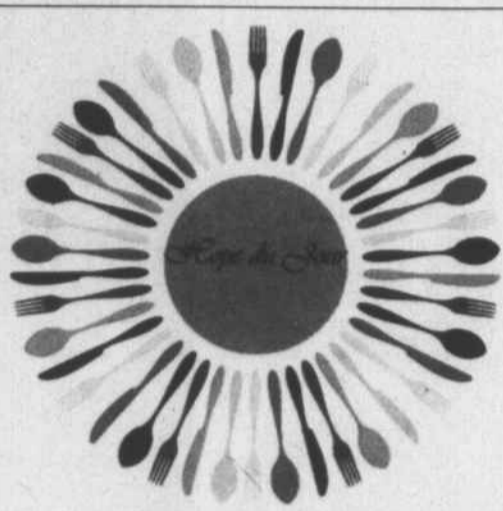
More than 130 restaurants are on tap to participate in Hope du Jour on Tuesday, May 6. This year, two restaurants are offering special promotions.

Chef Dion Sprengle, 5479 Old Us Highway 52 in Welcome, will serve a five-course, prix fixe Hope du Jour menu featuring 28-day dry-aged sirloin for \$37.50. The Vin 205 Wine Bar at Wine Merchants, 205 S Stratford Rd., will offer a wine tasting of 18 different wines from around the world for \$10.

Presented by sponsors Wall Esleek Babcock LLP, and Leonard Ryden Burr Real Estate, Hope du Jour is Crisis Control's signature event and one of its largest fundraisers.

It has become a much anticipated community tradition where friends and family get together to share a meal while supporting Crisis Control Ministry, Forsyth County's largest emergency assistance provider. Participating restaurants agree to donate 10 percent of their sales on May 6 to support the mission and programs of Crisis Control Ministry.

A list of participating restaurants can be found at www.hopedujour.org. The web site includes a convenient search function to find restaurants by city, type of meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday Brunch), those that cater, have meeting rooms, or are offering special promotions. News and restaurant specials are posted daily on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hopedujour.



SENIOR GOLFERS DONATE CASH

Submitted Photos
Winston Lake Senior Golf Association President James Streater presents a check for \$1,000 to Carver High School Band Director Juan Eckard (right) to help pay for new instruments and other urgently needed band equipment. The association also presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Jon A. McNeil, a freshman at N.C. Central University and a graduate of East Forsyth High School. He is the son of Kimberly McNeil.

Some of the Members of the association are pictured above.

They are: (first row) Harry Transou, James Mitchell,

Richard Pettus, Leon "Popcorn" Sutton and James Streater, (second row) Mannie "Giggy" Hardin, John Easter, Henry Hardin, Charles Butler and Ander "Tommy" Nelson, (third row) Dan McGill, Bobby Gwyn, Robert Nesbit, Von Roberts, Larry Butler and Ernest Squire.



McNeil

Nadege Gay,
Business and Education Major

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