

# Project to celebrate birthday involves reading

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A Wake Forest University alumnus will celebrate his birthday with the community. The alumnus, Andrew Snorton, will coordinate a program called "The Literacy Project." It will take place on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Malloy-Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, 1110 E. Seventh St. in Winston-Salem. Snorton says the purpose is to provide a push and encouragement for students in grades K-12 and adults to embrace and improve their consistency with reading. "It's something I want to do as it ties in with my birth-

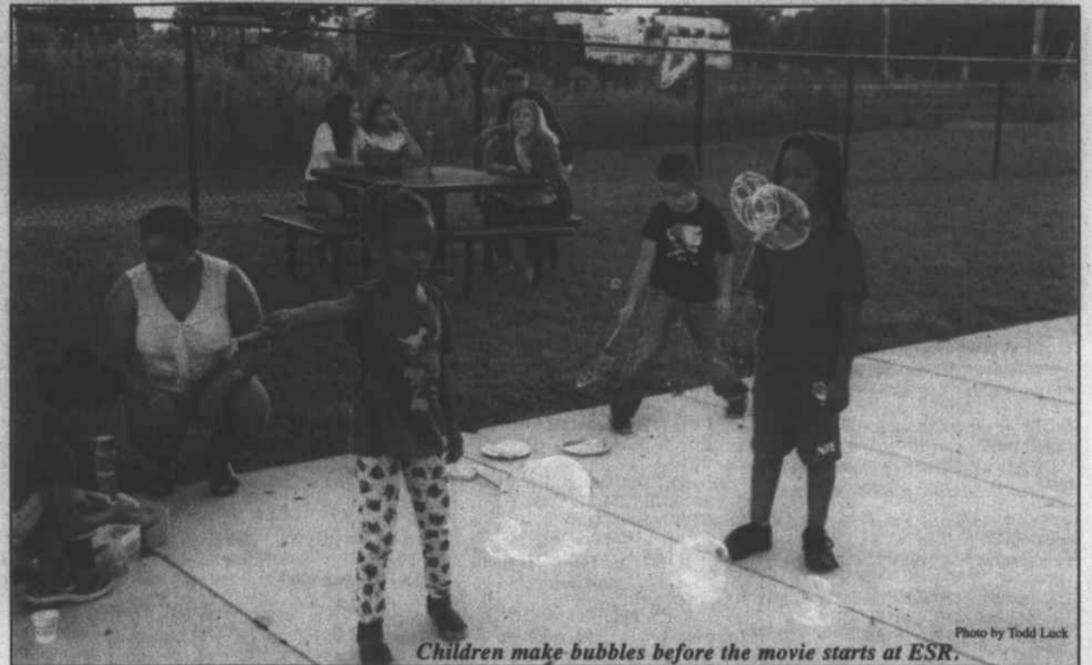
day," Snorton said. He adds, "I've always done a community service and outreach piece when celebrating my birthday; this year, my focus is on the encouragement of reading, as it truly is a powerful means of learning." Every half-hour on the hour (11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.), group readings will be conducted to help demonstrate and model the overall importance. Those who attend the program are asked to bring a book that is grade-level appropriate. Topics and content of books desired for students include economics and finance, science and technology, and history (including African-American and other cultures). For adults, similar topics are requested, along with self-help books, how-to topics including cooking and

home improvement, and health and wellness. Those who want to make a monetary donation should donate a gift card to a local bookstore in the amount ranging from \$8 to \$31. Snorton's birthday is on Aug. 31. Any books that are not picked up during the book exchange will be donated to a local school (or schools), library or other community-based organization. The beneficiaries of the books will be announced the day of the event. For details on participation, readers are encouraged to contact Snorton at email: [asnortonccs@gmail.com](mailto:asnortonccs@gmail.com) or [asnorton06@gmail.com](mailto:asnorton06@gmail.com); or phone: 770-364-9426. Interested people also can contact Solomon Quick at [quicksolomon@gmail.com](mailto:quicksolomon@gmail.com) for further information.

## ESR movie night draws families

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Experiment in Self Reliance held its second Family Fun Fest: Outdoor Movie Series on Saturday, Aug. 13. Before a screening of "Big Hero 7," kids were treated to bubbles and story time by the Forsyth County Public Library, safety advice from firefighters with the Winston-Salem Fire Department and anti-bullying advice from Greg "Catman" Good. Each gave back-to-school advice before the movie started and popcorn was served. Great Commission Community Church provided volunteers and Frank's Top Secret Cafe food truck was there to serve patrons. The event came about after ESR surveyed the community around its headquarters on Dominion Street and found that parents wanted to come and take their kids to a safe place. ESR had Spanish subtitles on the movie for the multicultural audience. The first two movie nights drew about 100 attendees. The final one will be held Sept. 17 when ESR will show "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."



Children make bubbles before the movie starts at ESR. Photo by Todd Luck

# Black Schools of Choice support charter school merger

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

ASHEVILLE - Black Led Schools of Choice (BLSC) has announced its support of the merger of the North Carolina Public Charter Schools Association and the North Carolina Alliance for Public Charter Schools. The merger was announced at the closing session of the North Carolina Public Charter Schools Association's annual conference held recently in Asheville. Three members of Black Led Schools of Choice - Simon Johnson, Dr. Cynthia McQueen and Eugene Slocum - also serve on the board of the

North Carolina Public Charter Schools Association. They also participated in a panel discussion of the merger during the closing session of the conference. Black Led Schools of Choice seeks to have a close working relationship with both the newly merged Public Charter Schools Association and other aligned groups to build a successful pathway for both charter schools and private schools in North Carolina. "The merger is needed to give public charter schools a greater voice before regulations are made and laws are passed," said Johnson of Quality

Education Academy, a K-12 public charter school in Winston-Salem. "We must tell lawmakers and regulators what we need to be successful with our children and provide them with accurate facts regarding charter schools while at the same time dispel the many misconceptions and falsehoods." BLSC also fully supports the new director of The Office of Charter Schools and is excited about the pledge he made at the Charter School Conference in Asheville to ensure that the OCS be more service oriented. The merger and the formal creation last year of Black Led Schools of

Choice come at a critical moment in North Carolina's education reform movement. In 1996, North Carolina leaders authorized the creation of public charter schools and in 2011, they lifted the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in the state. However, since 1996, more than 20 public charter schools were closed by the state and the vast majority of those schools were led by a black principal and or a black board of directors. "We saw this as an enormous issue that BLSC can help rectify," said Don McQueen, executive director of Torchlight Academy, a K-7 public charter school

in Raleigh. "Black Led Schools of Choice leverages the more than 100 years of charter and private school experience among its members, offers technical assistance, advocacy and best practice recommendations to new, existing and prospective charter and private schools," said BLSC member Dr. Michelle Johnson, principal of the Point College Preparatory and Leadership Academy in High Point. "This experience is needed now more than ever as successful schools struggle against encroaching government regulations that arose in response to failing schools. Such regu-

lations burden quality charter schools and discourage prospective charter schools capable of tackling unmet needs in our communities," said McQueen. "Public charter schools were created to allow us to be innovative and creative in serving our students," said Slocum of Alpha Academy, a K-9 school in Fayetteville. "However, these regulations are constricting and often come without the financial resources to implement them." For more information about Black Led Schools of Choice, contact executive director Kerra Bolton at 919-744-4601 or [kerrabolton@gmail.com](mailto:kerrabolton@gmail.com).

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336-577-9316.

### Aug. 27 - 9th annual Pawpaw Festival

The ninth annual N.C. Pawpaw Festival will be held on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Forsyth County Agriculture Building, 1450 Fairchild Road. A few of the events planned are pawpaw orchard tours, cooking with pawpaws featuring a local chef, and lectures given by pawpaw experts covering everything pawpaw from folklore, growing a couple backyard trees to setting up a commercial orchard and marketing fruit. Chef and cookbook author Sara Bir from Ohio is expected to give demonstrations on processing. Children can learn about local butterflies and get their faces painted. Vendors are expected with pawpaw fruit and trees for sale as well as other ornamental and edible plants. Free food will be available, all made with pawpaw, as long as it lasts. Pawpaw ice cream is a perennial favorite. For more information, please contact Derek Morris or Mary Jac Brennan at 336-703-2850 and check out our Facebook page - NC pawpaw festival.

### Aug. 27 - "Shmedfest" Music Festival

"Shmedfest," a family-friendly music event benefitting Crisis Control Ministry, will be held Saturday, Aug. 27 from 4 to 11 p.m. at Triad Park in Kernersville. Live music will be provided by five different local bands over the course of the event: Junction Trio, Downtown Band, Brother Brother, The Winmars! and Sons of Thunder. Dinner will be provided by K&W Cafeteria and beer will be courtesy of Foothills Brewing. There is no cost to attend Shmedfest, but donations to Crisis Control Ministry at the event are encouraged. Chairs and blankets are welcomed, tents and umbrellas are not allowed. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP at [www.crisiscontrol.org/shmedfest](http://www.crisiscontrol.org/shmedfest) so that attendance numbers may be collected in regards to catering.

### Aug. 29 - SAT Test Strategies

SAT Test Strategies will be held on Monday, Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m. at the

Southside Branch Library, 3185 Buchanan St. How great would it be if you could spend an hour learning tips and tricks about the SAT that would actually help improve your score? Now you can! This session will demystify the test, introducing you to the structure of the SAT and providing some useful tips and tricks that can help get you closer to your target score. Bring your questions! Presented by Princeton Review. This program is part of the Preparing for College Series at the Library. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Southside Branch Library at 336-703-2980 or email [lohmanj2@forsyth.cc](mailto:lohmanj2@forsyth.cc).

### Aug. 31 - Oct. 12 - Small Business "Pathway to Success" Series

The Forsyth County Public Library Southside Branch will hold the "pathway to Success" series in the library auditorium, 3185 Buchanan St., for those thinking about starting their own business. Join us for one session, or all, as your schedule allows. Sessions run Aug. 31 - Oct. 12 from 6 - 8 p.m. These programs are part of the Small Business Series at Forsyth County Public Library, in partnership with Forsyth Tech Small Business Center. Call 336-703-2980 for directions to Southside. For more information, call 336-703-3023 or email [lohmanj2@forsyth.cc](mailto:lohmanj2@forsyth.cc). You may also register for each session at Forsyth Tech Small Business Center by calling 336-757-3810. All programs are free and open to the public.

### Sept. 1 - 15 - How Your Government Works Classes

The Village of Clemmons will be offering free classes on "How Your Government Works." The classes will be held on Thursday nights, Sept. 1, 8 and 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. Each night we will explore a different aspect of Village government. You will come away with a better understanding of how complicated and difficult decisions are made and the impact you can have on those decisions. Join us to learn the basics, to participate in interactive sessions, to have your questions answered, and to find out what new projects are in the works. For more information, contact Mary Cameron at 336-766-6882 or [mcameron@clemmons.org](mailto:mcameron@clemmons.org) or call the Village Hall at 766-7511 to reserve

your place in these free classes. Registration closes on Aug. 11.

### Sept. 2-4 - Atkins Class of 1971 45th Reunion

Members of the Atkins High School Class of 1971 will celebrate their 45 Year Reunion, on Sept. 2-4. The highlight of their celebration will be a Gala Dinner Dance on Saturday, Sept. 3 at the Carlyle Clubhouse at the BB&T Ballpark. The celebration will pay tribute to the legacy of Atkins High School Alumni in addition to celebrating with the members of the Class of 1971, which is the last graduating class of the historically black Atkins High School. Tickets for the Gala Celebration are \$35 for the general public. A reunion package is offered for graduates of the class that includes the Gala and events throughout the weekend, including a meet-and-greet social on Friday, a cookout Sunday, and souvenir items. For information about the Reunion Celebration or to purchase tickets for the Gala, please contact Rozena Purvis Lyles at 336-692-6426.

### Sept. 10 - 20th Anniversary Celebration of Black Family Day

Black Family Day will be observed Saturday, Sept. 10, in downtown Reidsville. Open to the public and sponsored by the Rebuilding the Block Initiative, Muhammad Mosque No. 34, local businesses and citizens. Black Family Day is held annually. The outdoor program will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Market Square, 303 S. Scales St., Reidsville. Black Family Day has been bringing all people together in Reidsville since 1996. The Black Family Day tradition has become a part of the fabric of Rockingham County. People of every race, creed, color and class distinction have enjoyed participation the last 20 years and this year's program is touted to be the best ever. The day includes gospel, praise dance, African dance troupes, R&B, hip-hop, spoken word artists, spiritual and civic leaders. Vendors and entrepreneurs from all over the region bring arts, crafts, and products of interest to the Black community. Ethnic and traditional menus are on hand in the food village. The Family Fun Village will feature a mobile arcade, bounce houses, face painting, and more. Families are encouraged to register online at

<http://www.facebook.com/blackfamilyday> or <http://www.blackfamilyday.org>.

### Sept. 14-17 - Big 4 Alumni Celebration

The Big 4 Alumni Association of Forsyth County, Inc. will hold its annual Big 4 Celebration Sept. 14 - Sept. 17. In addition to the traditional worship service, Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon, Friday Family Event and Saturday Gala, the Big 4 added a new project last year which is "Day of Service." For tickets to the Big 4 events, visit [www.Big4fc.org](http://www.Big4fc.org) for more information and a schedule of events. Tickets to the Big 4 events can be purchased at the American Legion Post 128 at 4817 Old Rural Hall Road.

### Sept. 17 - Free Outdoor Movie

Experiment in Self-Reliance, in partnership with Forsyth County Public Library, Forsyth County 4-H, and Great Commission Community Church, will host the final movie of its three-part Family Film Fest: Outdoor Movie Series, on Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. This free community-centered movie will be held at Experiment in Self-Reliance, at 3480 Dominion Street NE. Before the movie screening, children will have the opportunity to enjoy educational entertainment including a puppet show, book mobile, anti-bullying seminar, and crafts. The movie is equipped with Spanish subtitles. Chips and drinks will be available for sale. Popcorn will be free. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. For more information, call 336-722-9400 or visit [www.eisr.org/events](http://www.eisr.org/events).

### Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 - Winston-Salem Fashion Week Event

The second annual Winston-Salem Fashion Week event features local artisans, fashion designers, boutique owners, make-up artists, models and photographers. "Ready for the Runway Fashion and Art!" will kick off the red carpet event on Friday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Marriott Downtown in the Hearn Ballroom. A reception and live music by M&R Soul Expression featuring Ron Hunter and the Brown Bag Exhibition by Owens Daniels will follow. Tickets are available at [www.ticketriver.com/WinstonSalemFashionWeek](http://www.ticketriver.com/WinstonSalemFashionWeek).