

"We have had an amazing response to our previous camps and have campers already registered," said Ansonia Theatre Director Tommy Wooten. "Be sure to secure a spot by going to ansoniateatre.com to register now. We have limited spaces, so don't wait! You can also call 704-694-4950."

THEATRE CAMPS

• **Session One June 10-21.** Session One is a two week camp for grades 2-12 (No exceptions). We will write our own spoof of Romeo and Juliet called JULIO and ROMI-ETTE. The dates for this camp are June 10-21. The cost for this camp is \$150 per student. We will have 2 performances on the final Friday of the camp. Tickets for the performances will be \$5. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each participant should bring lunch.

• **Session Two July 15-26.** Session Two will be a Musical Theatre Camp for grades 2-12 (No exceptions). We will be performing a show with the music from *West Side Story*. Looking for campers with a genuine interest in singing and dancing. The dates for this camp are July 15-26. The cost for this camp is \$150 per student. We will have 2 performances on the final Friday of the camp. Tickets for the performances will be \$5. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each participant should bring lunch.

ART CAMPS

• **Drake Gallery Summer Camp Session One June 24-28.** New this summer! One week art camp June 24-28 for rising ages 7 years through 12 years of age. We are excited to offer age appropriate lessons and projects each day. Camp hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Each participant needs to bring lunch. Cost for this camp is \$75.

• **Drake Gallery Summer Camp Session Two July 29-August 2.** New this summer! One week art camp July 29-August 2 for rising ages 13 years through 18 years of age. We are excited to offer age appropriate lessons and projects each day. Camp hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Each participant needs to bring lunch. Cost for this camp is \$75.

Applicationis to participate available now

The Anson County Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is the Chamber of Commerce's new event that focuses on the next generation of entrepreneurs and business owners. The event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about.

Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child's product or service. The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements of owning one's own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

Browse, shop and stay for the awards presentation as the Chamber acknowledge Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity in each age group.

Winners will receive prizes, as well as the opportunity to promote their business through the Anson County Chamber.

This event will be held on East Wade Street, between Washington Street and Lee Anvenue. If your child will need help with set-up materials such as a tent, table, chairs – please contact the Chamber office. They want every child interested participating to be afforded this opportunity. Please let them know how they can help so your child can apply!

Applications will be vetted through a committee of Anson County Chamber business members. Approvals will be emailed. Applications will be available on Friday, April 26.

South Piedmont Community College is the Presenting Sponsor. Community sponsorships are available now. For more information contact Shelby Emrich at semrich@ansoncountychamber.org or 704-694-4181.

Pee Dee Electric Volunteers Bring First-time Electricity to Rural Bolivian Village

Two local Pee Dee Electric linemen have completed a volunteer project to bring electricity to a rural Bolivian village for the first time. Jody Keane of Rockingham and Steve Preslar of Norwood, both employees of Pee Dee Electric, served as part of the Brighter World Initiative team to build infrastructure to connect the village of Laphia to the electric grid. More than 120



Jody Keane and Steve Preslar pictured in Bolivia

people in the mountainous, agricultural community in central Bolivia now have access to improved education and economic opportunities, as well as power for their homes and the local school.

"The locals were shy at first, but the expressions on their faces when the poles started to go up was the best part of the trip," said Preslar. "They knew this was a step forward for their village and wanted to help in any way possible."

The Brighter World Initiative brought together 13 expert lineworkers from seven North Carolina electric co-ops to build about five miles of power lines. Most of the work, including pulling long spans of wire and lifting heavy transformers, was done by hand, as access to trucks and machinery was limited. Local villagers worked with the team to help navigate the most challenging terrain, including crossing a 2,000-foot ravine.

At the completion of the 18-day project community members, local leaders and volunteers gathered at the school for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration. Cheers, applause and fireworks rang out when crew leader Eddie Stephens of Lenoir-based Blue Ridge Energy flipped the switch to illuminate lightbulbs throughout the school building for the first time.

"When we flipped the power to the school and saw the excitement as the children ran around exploring," said Keane. "We could tell they were excited for the future of their school and village."

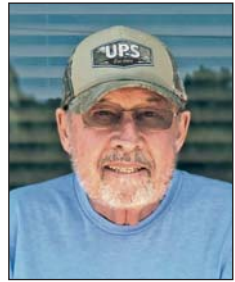
Village leaders told cooperative representatives that having electricity will create new economic and educational opportunities and a stronger community, as young people will be able to stay in the village rather than moving to the city.

"Our cooperative was founded 79 years ago to bring much-needed electricity to our rural areas, and this project brings us back to our roots," said Donnie Spivey of Pee Dee. "We are proud of Jody and Steve for traveling a long distance and working in challenging conditions to make a life-changing difference for others."

More than one billion people live without electric power around the world, according to the International Energy Agency, and only 66 percent of rural Bolivians had access to electricity as of 2016.

The Brighter World Initiative was coordinated through NRECA International, a national cooperative philanthropic group that has brought electricity to more than 120 million people in 43 developing countries since 1962.

Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly and Union counties. For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit www.pdemc.com.



Mr. John Hubert Spivey

Mr. John Hubert Spivey, 72, of Belmont, NC died on May 24, 2019, after a long battle with cancer.

A Celebration of John's life will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at Carolina Golf Club, located at 2415 Old Steele Creek Road in Charlotte. Dress is casual. Come to hear and share stories about this man's amazing life.

John was born April 27, 1947, in Rockingham, NC to the late Ernest Jones Spivey and Jewell Carroll Spivey.

He is survived by his "bride" of 40 years, Dixie; his son Andy; granddaughters Jewell and Mary-Catherine; his brother Mitchell and his wife Danell; and his sister Sharon Davis and husband Lowell. John adored spending time with his two dogs, Deacon and Lily.

John played tight end for the mighty Rockingham High School Rockets football team, which won the state championship in his senior year. He received a Bachelors degree from Wake Forest University in 1969, where he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. After serving in the US Army Reserves, he coached football at Rockingham High School.

John owned Metrographics printing company for 24 years, and then went on to co-found Lightning X Products with his son Andy, where they distribute life-saving equipment to first responders. With his natural entrepreneurial acumen he grew both businesses to become extremely successful.

An avid golfer, John loved Carolina Golf Club and his many friends there. He served on various committees and was on the Board when the golf course was renovated in 2008. He also was chairman of the Golf Committee.

John never met a stranger, and accumulated hundreds of friends from all walks of life. He never refused a request to help a person in need. He was a mentor to many individuals who considered him a second father. John was a great storyteller, and loved to tell tall tales about his adventures as a younger man. He really loved rock and roll music, and he fostered Andy's passion for becoming a musician.

Dixie and Andy would like to thank his friends, family, and employees for their never-ending love and support of John, especially during his illnesses.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Humane Society of Charlotte, 2700 Toomey Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203 or The Friedland Foundation Fund, 220 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202.

Carolina Mortuary Service and Cremation is assisting the Spivey family.



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