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Pee Dee Electric Announces Jordan Hildreth as New Chief **Operating Officer and Future CEO**

This is a release from Pee Dee Electric: Pee Dee Electric is excited to announce the appointment of Jordan Hildreth as the cooperative's new Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective immediately. In alignment with the Board of Directors' long-term leadership vision, Mr. Hildreth is slated to succeed Donnie as Chief Executive



Jordan Hildreth

Officer upon Donnie's planned retirement in January 2026. This announcement follows a search process that drew exceptional candidates from within the Pee Dee Electric Co-op. The Board was gratified and inspired by the passion, dedication, and breadth of knowledge displayed by each applicant. Jordan Hildreth brings a wealth of experience managing

several core aspects of Pee Dee Electric's operations, with his extensive finance expertise serving as a particular highlight during the selection process. The Board is confident that Jordan's leadership will help guide Pee Dee Electric through the evolving energy landscape and ensure strong, strategic stewardship for years to come. Board Chair Richard Johnson stated, "Jordan has

demonstrated a deep commitment to Pee Dee Electric's mission, values, and community. His robust finance background, proven leadership within the organization, and his vision for Pee Dee's potential make him uniquely positioned to lead us into the future.'

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to all who applied and remains grateful for the strong leadership and service that defines the Pee Dee Electric family.

Please join us in welcoming Jordan to his new role and in supporting him as he takes on expanded responsibilities during this important transition.

Disabilities Council Seeks Public Input for Its Next 5-Year State Plan

The public can provide input via an online survey or attend in-person listening sessions.

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) invites the public to provide input for the Council's next Five-Year State Plan (2027-2031). Every five years, the NCCDD creates a State Plan. This plan helps guide its work and decide which projects to fund to improve services and supports for people with I/DD and their families in North Carolina.

The public input will help NCCDD better understand the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families across the state as it builds its next strategic plan. Then, the Council will identify clear goals, steps to reach those goals, and actions to create systems change.

The Council seeks input in two ways:

• Take an Online Survey (available in English and Spanish)

• Attend an In-person Listening Session

The survey is open to individuals with I/DD, their families, caregivers, professionals, and other members of the I/DD community. The deadline to submit the survey is September 30, 2025.

The listening sessions will be held across the state including one virtual session on September 30th. Registration is required for the listening sessions and attendees can register at: nccdd.org/the-council/five-year-plan. For more information about the Five-Year State Plan,

visit nccdd.org/the-council/five-year-plan.

About the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities: The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) works to assure that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families participate in the design of, and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion in all areas of community life. Through its Five-Year Plan, the Council identifies and funds innovative projects and initiatives that promote the goals of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) for all North Carolinians. www.nccdd.org

South Piedmont to Host Free Healthcare Administration Expo on Tuesday, September 16

South Piedmont Community College is hosting their first ever Healthcare Administration Expo on Tuesday, September 16, a free event designed to connect students. alumni, healthcare professionals, and the community with career opportunities in the rapidly growing field of healthcare administration. The expo will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Salon A & B of Building A at South Piedmont's Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe.

The event will feature local healthcare employers, vendors, and career experts offering networking, job opportunities, mentorship, and guidance on educational pathways. Attendees can learn more about South Piedmont's healthcare programs and how to prepare for careers in this vital industry.

"The Healthcare Administration Expo at SPCC is more than just an event - it's a vital nexus for our community," said Program Lead and Faculty for Medical Office Administration, Stephanie Slade "It offers an unparalleled opportunity for networking, connecting aspiring professionals with healthcare personnel. Attendees will gain invaluable career exposure and discover diverse opportunities, while mentorship and educational guidance

will help shape their next steps. This expo is an investment in our collective well-being, fostering growth and innovation right here at South Piedmont.' The Healthcare Administration Expo is free and open to

all - students, alumni, SPCC staff, and the public are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions you can contact Stephanie Slade at SSlade@spcc.edu.



Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's Care Korner Offers Many Items to the Community

These Items have been donated to the expanding Care Korner at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center. They are available to those who have a desire come by and take items home. You are invited to please stop by BRLC on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to check out the Care Korner. The Care Korner has new

and gently used items of all sorts, for babies, children and adults. There's clothing for males and females, household items, furniture, yard decorations, books, new and used videos for children and adults, and much more! Come and see the great selection of Christmas items and gifts.

Everything is available for a minimum donation to BRLC.

BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information you can call 704-826-8737, check Facebook page, burnsvillelc@gmail.com, or visit www.burnsvillelc.org.





Affordable Lending Library for Ages 0-5 at SPCC is Open to the Public

South Piedmont Community College invites parents and early childhood educators to explore its Smart Start Resource Center - a convenient, affordable lending library filled with carefully selected books, toys, and learning materials for young children.

'The Smart Start Resource Center is one of our community's best-kept secrets. We encourage parents, caregivers, and educators to stop by and see what we offer. I guarantee you'll be impressed," said Stacey Fleming, director of South Piedmont's Education Stars program, which oversees the center.

Located on South Piedmont's Old Charlotte Highway campus, the Smart Start Resource Center is funded by and in partnership with the Alliance for Children. Designed specifically for children ages 0-5, the center offers a vast selection of educational resources, including:

- Costumes, games, and puzzles
- Musical instruments and literature kits • Art supplies and math manipulatives
- Puppets, outdoor play items, and STEM materials

With over 5,000 items available, families and educators can borrow materials for little

Affordable Membership & Free Delivery Services

- Annual Membership: Just \$5 per year, allowing members to check out up to 15 items
- Free Memberships: Available for North Carolina pre-K teachers, as well as South Piedmont employees and students (5-item limit).
- Free Delivery: Offered to Union County childcare centers, preschools, licensed homebased childcare providers, and therapy/support organizations serving children ages 0-5. Young children grow and change so quickly. The Smart Start Resource Center helps

parents, educators, and caregivers keep their materials fresh - without the high price tag of retail stores," said Fleming. Expert Guidance & Support Beyond lending materials, the Smart Start Resource

Center is staffed by early childhood specialists who help patrons select age-appropriate resources tailored to their child's developmental needs "You're not just borrowing books and toys - you're gaining a supportive community dedicated to helping your child thrive," Fleming said. "We truly care about you and your little one, and we're here to help you find the best resources for your family or students.'

Visit the Smart Start Resource Center Location: South Piedmont Community College, Mobile Unit 1, 4209 Old Charlotte Highway. Hours: Tuesdays: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. & Wednesdays & Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For information: Call 704-290-5894 or email smartstartresourcecenter@gmail.com.

Scholarship Opportunity for North Carolina Students!

North Carolina students from households making \$80,000 or less could have their

tuition and fees fully covered thanks to the Next NC Scholarship! The scholarship is for community colleges and public universities in North Carolina. This is money that doesn't have to be repaid! Applying is very simple, you just submit your FAFSA form... and that's it! If you're

eligible, you will receive the Next NC Scholarship. There are no additional forms to fill out. The scholarship could fully cover the cost to attend South Piedmont Community College, for example.

Check out the information video on YouTube to learn more - just search for: 'NextNCScholarship. Visit nextncscholarship.org.

Anson County AA Meeting

Schedules

The Anson Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Group meets Mondays at 7:30 pm for an Open Topic Meeting. (Except the 2nd Monday of each month is an Open Big

Book Study.) The Harmony Group meets on Wednesdays at 12 noon for an Open Discus-

sion Meeting Anyone who thinks they may have a problem with drugs or alcohol, AA wants

All meetings are held at the AA Building, located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, across from the EMS building. Meetings are non-smoking and handicap accessible.

Anson Crisis Ministries Provides Free Food Tuesday Through Friday

Anson Crisis Ministries distributes free food items to over 1,000 families each month. This adds up to an estimated 50,000 people a year in Anson and surrounding counties. They serve families Tuesday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Anson Crisis Ministries is

located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone

number is 704-694-2445. The Express is on the web at

www.TheExpressNewspaper.com