

Patricia McQueen Bennett NAUW Woman of the Year

The Wadesboro Branch of the National Association of University Women recently named Patricia McQueen Bennett its 2025-2026 Woman of the Year during the organization's annual Founders' Day Celebration held March 28. Bennett was recognized for her dedication, leadership and steadfast service to the organization, as well as her decades-long commitment to education and community service.

A respected educator and servant leader, Bennett retired following an extraordinary 42-year career in education, including 37 years in Anson County and five years in South Carolina. Throughout her career, she remained committed to the belief that quality education and perseverance can transform lives and create opportunities for students.

A graduate of Cheraw High School, Bennett earned both her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Master of Education in Mathematics from Francis Marion University. Inspired by teachers who encouraged and supported her during her school years, she developed a lifelong appreciation for education and its ability



Patricia McQueen Bennett (above right)

to shape the future.

During her distinguished career, Bennett earned numerous honors and accolades. In 1999, she became the first educator in Anson County to achieve National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Her recognitions include Teacher of the Year honors at Anson Junior High School, Anson Middle School and the Anson County district level, as well as Wallace Elementary/Middle School Teacher of the Year, Marlboro District Teacher of the Year and recognition in Who's Who Among American High School Teachers.

Despite the many awards she received, Bennett says the success of her students remains her proudest accomplishment. She often takes joy in seeing former students succeed in high school, college and their careers, proudly saying, "That was my student."

Bennett is married to Ronnie C. Bennett and is a member of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Zeta Omega Chapter, where she continues her lifelong dedication to service and sisterhood.

As a member of NAUW, Bennett has served in numerous leadership positions, including delegate, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Parliamentarian and Financial Secretary. She has also worked on several committees, including Scholarship, Miss Green and White Pageant and Senior Citizen/International Tea.

Thomasina Montgomery, president of the Wadesboro Branch, praised Bennett for her unwavering commitment and positive example within the organization.

"Pat has consistently set a positive example, serving as a guiding force and offering invaluable mentorship when needed," Montgomery said.

Bennett says she lives by three guiding principles centered on service, perseverance and faith, including the well-known words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

SPCC Offering Free Workplace Skills Classes this Summer

South Piedmont Community College will offer several Human Resources Development classes from May through July 2026 at its Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe, providing area residents with opportunities to strengthen workplace skills and prepare for new career opportunities.

The tuition-waived classes are available for individuals who are unemployed, underemployed or have received notice of a pending layoff. Courses are designed to help participants improve employability, build confidence and develop practical workplace skills that can assist with job searches and career advancement.

Upcoming classes include:

- June 8-18, Monday through Thursday - Essential Software Skills for the Workplace from 8:30 a.m. - noon and Communication Skills for Workplace Success from 12:30 - 2 p.m.
- June 22-24, Monday through Wednesday - Money Smart from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 6-16, Monday through Thursday - Resume, Interview and Job Search Strategies from 9 a.m. to noon and Career Planning and Assessment from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
- July 20-30, Monday through Thursday - Essential Software Skills for the Workplace from 8:30 a.m. - noon and Communication Skills for Workplace Success from 12:30 - 2 p.m.

"Our goal is to help community members build confidence, strengthen workplace skills and prepare for new career opportunities through accessible training and resources," said Dr. Carla Graham, director of Human Resources Development.

For more information visit spcc.edu/programs/human-resource-development.

Learn The Signs of Stroke and B.E. F.A.S.T.

Health officials are encouraging residents to learn the warning signs of stroke and remember the importance of acting quickly when symptoms appear. Strokes often happen suddenly, and immediate medical treatment can make a critical difference in saving lives and reducing long-term disability.

Medical professionals use the simple reminder "B.E. F.A.S.T." to help people recognize the most common warning signs of a stroke:

- **B** - Balance loss • **E** - Eye or vision changes • **F** - Face drooping • **A** - Arm weakness
- **S** - Speech difficulty • **T** - Time to call 911

Officials say if any of these symptoms appear, even briefly, people should call 911 immediately rather than attempting to drive themselves to the hospital.

Quick treatment can greatly improve recovery chances and reduce the risk of permanent damage. Health experts also encourage residents to share the B.E. F.A.S.T. message with family and friends, since recognizing the signs quickly could help save

NOW HIRING

Help Bring Local History To Life

ENGAGEMENT AND EVENT COORDINATOR

The Anson County Historical Society is seeking an Engagement and Event Coordinator for a hybrid, part-time 1099 position.

This unique opportunity is ideal for someone who enjoys community events, local history, organization and working with people.

Position runs March through November.

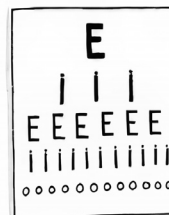
For full job descriptions:

- Scan the QR code
- Email elizabethgrizzo@gmail.com
- Or visit the Historical Society at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro during office hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Help preserve the past while creating exciting community events for the future.

OLD MACDONALD
HAD AN OPTOMETRIST



We have the latest glasses styles!



ANSON
FAMILY OPTOMETRIC
DR. HOLLY ALLISON KIKER

1134 Holly Street in Wadesboro (On Hwy 74 across from CVS)
Mon-Tue-Thurs 8:30-5 & Wed 8:30-4 704-694-3618

Accepting
New Patients
We Accept
Most Insurances

704-694-3618

Call for an appointment today

Locally Owned & Operated



Holly Allison Kiker,
OD



FREE resources
and support!

Are you pregnant or a teen parent in
the age group 14-19?

Join the Adolescent Parenting
Program!

For more information contact:

Mauricia Copeland,
APP Coordinator

(704) 694- 4036 X 110

mauricia.copeland@ansonchildren.org



Supporting Our Warrior

MJ
LUPUS FIGHT
PLATE SALE

Elliott McNeil Aka MJ

he's battling Lupus/ Lupus nephritis
at the age of 12.

SAT. MAY 30

STARTING AT
12:00PM
UNTIL SOLD OUT!

AT HARVEST MINISTRY CHURCH

HOTDOG PLATE

2 Hotdogs,
Chips &
Dessert

\$7



FISH PLATE

Choice of
Baked Beans
or Slaw,
Dessert

Includes choice of
Water or Soda

\$12



ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS

SUPPORTING MJ
= HIS FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT! =



In Remembrance of
HIS LATE GRANDMOTHER
Virginia Teal
who died of Lupus
at the age of 31.

CLASSIFIEDS

CRIDER & CRIDER PROPERTIES 704-694-8080

WE SELL APPLIANCE PARTS

HIGH QUALITY LOW PRICES

MARTIN FURNITURE

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro
704-694-3185 Mon-Fri 8:30-5 Sat 8:30-1



MARSHVILLE
Family Dentistry
MFD 704-624-6300

General • Cosmetic
& Implant Dentistry

SPA SERVICES: BOTOX
FILLERS, ESTHETIC

7260 EAST MARSHVILLE BLVD (Hwy 74)

PapaJoe's
PIZZA

Plank Road Shopping Center
Wadesboro 704-694-666

DELIVERY IN WADESBORO