

THE EXPRESS

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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

State Board Approves Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey as South Piedmont’s Next President

South Piedmont Community College has announced Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey as its next president. With more than 15 years of leadership experience in higher education, Waters-Bailey was unanimously selected by the College’s Board of Trustees from a field of five finalists. The appointment was confirmed by the State Board of Community Colleges during its regularly scheduled meeting on May 16.

“I am deeply honored and thrilled to lead South Piedmont Community College into its next chapter,” Waters-Bailey said. “This institution has a proud legacy of transforming lives through education, and I am committed to building upon that foundation to create even greater opportunities for our students and community.”



Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey

Waters-Bailey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Studies, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She earned a doctorate in Community College Leadership from Old Dominion University.

She currently serves as Vice President of Transfer Excellence and Success at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem, where she has worked since 2018 in increasingly senior roles. Her previous experience includes positions at Davidson-Davie Community College, The University of Alabama, and Tidewater Community College in Norfolk, Virginia.

Looking ahead, Waters-Bailey expressed enthusiasm about engaging with the communities of Anson and Union counties and furthering the College’s service to its students.

“It is with immense gratitude that I accept the role of president at South Piedmont Community College,” she said. “I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated faculty, staff, and community partners to advance our mission of fostering lifelong learning and student success.” She added, “Becoming the president of South Piedmont is both a privilege and an honor I embrace wholeheartedly. I am excited to work alongside our college community to innovate and expand our impact, ensuring we meet the evolving needs of our students and the region we serve.”

Board of Trustees Chair Pat Kahle praised the selection, stating, “After an extensive national search, the Board of Trustees is proud to name Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey as the next president of South Piedmont. She brings a proven record of visionary leadership, a deep commitment to academic excellence, and a dedication to student success that aligns seamlessly with the mission and values of our college.”

“We are confident that under her leadership, South Piedmont will continue to thrive, grow in service to our students and community, and remain a vital partner in economic and workforce development in Anson and Union counties,” Kahle added.

The national search was led by the Charlotte-based firm Buffkin/Baker. The process included listening sessions with faculty, staff, students, and community members, narrowing the candidate pool to five finalists. Each finalist participated in a daylong visit to the College, which included tours of Anson and Union counties, meetings with employees, a presentation on their qualifications for the position, and an interview with the Board of Trustees.

Waters-Bailey succeeds Dr. Maria Pharr, who led the College from 2017 to 2024 before stepping down to become president of Pitt Community College. Since Pharr’s departure, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services/CFO Michelle Brock has served as interim president.

Kahle expressed gratitude to Brock for her “exemplary leadership during this transition.”

Brock also welcomed the new president, saying, “The College has made an excellent choice by selecting Dr. Waters-Bailey. I look forward to working with her as we continue to grow, innovate, and make higher education accessible for our students while supporting the workforce needs of our local employers.”

Dr. Waters-Bailey will officially begin her role in July.

Town of Wadesboro Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget is Available for Public Inspection

**For information on the budget call 704-694-5171
Citizens are invited to attend the Public Hearing
concerning the budget**

This is a release from the Town of Wadesboro:

The Town of Wadesboro Proposed FY2025-26 Budget has been submitted to the Town Council and is available for public inspection on our website at wadesboronc.gov and also in the office of the Town Clerk located at 124-126 East Wade Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170. The Wadesboro Town Council will hold a Public Hearing concerning the Proposed FY2025-26 Budget during its regular meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

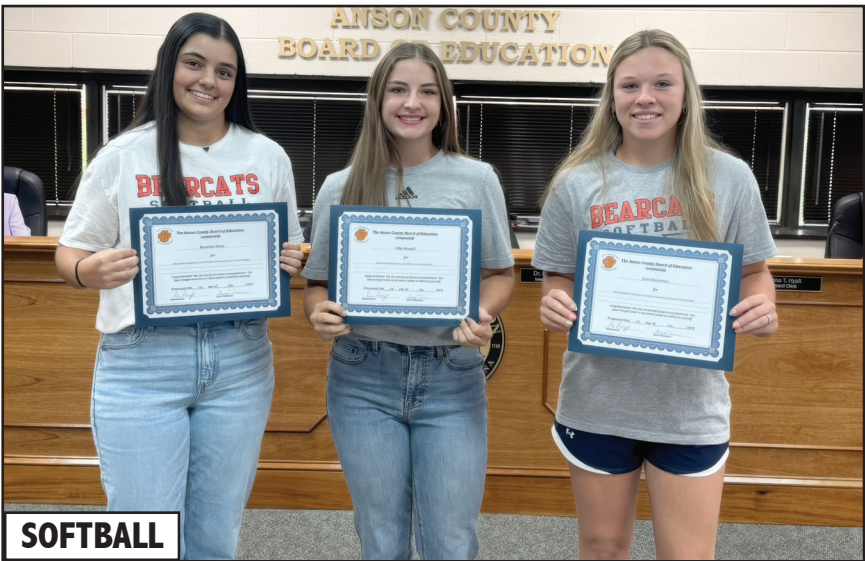
Citizens are invited to attend this Public Hearing and may provide comments. The budget ordinance is scheduled for adoption by the Town Council at its regular meeting on June 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

For additional information regarding the Annual Budget, please call 704-694-5171.

Memorial Day Ceremony Set for Monday, May 26

The Anson County Veterans Service and Veterans Council invite the residents of our county, and their guests, to the Anson County Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26 to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Wadesboro Park, located at the corner of Center Stree and Gatewood Street (just off Morven Road) in Wadesboro. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

For more information about this event, and other opportunities for veterans in Anson County, please contact Brendan Gibbons at BGibbons@ansoncountync.gov or 704-465-0086.



SOFTBALL



TRACK & FIELD



TRACK & FIELD

We are incredibly proud of these student-athletes and their coaches for their outstanding accomplishments. Your dedication, discipline, and drive truly exemplify the spirit of Bearcat athletics. Keep striving for greatness! (Baseball, Soccer and Golf were not present.)

School Board Recognized Outstanding Student Athletes

This is a release from Anson County Schools: At the regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Education on Monday, May 19, the Board proudly recognized several outstanding student athletes for their achievements during the spring sports season. These young men and women have demonstrated incredible talent, dedication, and sportsmanship, representing Bearcat athletics with pride.

Softball:

- All-Conference Honors: Allie Steagall

- Honorable Mention Honors: Brooklyn Miles and Gretchen Henry

Baseball:

- All-Conference Honors: Jackson Burr

- Honorable Mention Honors: Isaiah Hatcher and Jared Horne

Women’s Soccer:

- Honorable Mention Honors: Alysia Caraway and McKayla Mason

Golf:

- 2A Rocky River Tournament Champion: Coy Lear

Men’s and Women’s Track & Field:

- All-Conference Honors: Janiyah Maxwell, Essence Davis, Kyah Davis, Trinity Sellers
- Honorable Mention: Angel Cason, Zaliyah Lloyd, Dallas Lilly, Justin Medlin

State Championship Highlights:

- Men’s 4x100m Relay (Jaden Allen, Elijah Sellers, Nyhaji Johnson, Dallas Lilly): 8th place overall, season-best time of 43.51
- Women’s 4x200m Relay (Angel Cason, Essence Davis, Taliah Wall, Janiyah Maxwell): 8th place overall, season-best time of 1:47.7
- Discus: Justin Medlin – 10th overall
- Triple Jump: Trinity Sellers – 8th overall
- Long Jump: Janiyah Maxwell – 7th overall

Anson County Receives \$500,000 Grant from North Carolina Railroad Company

The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR) expands its Build Ready Sites Program (BRS) to include two application rounds in 2025, increasing opportunities for communities to develop rail-served industrial sites throughout North Carolina. The spring application round opened on May 12, and runs through June 13, with a fall round scheduled for September. This marks the first time the program will offer two application rounds in a single year. Up to \$3 million in grants will be available in each round.

“Primed industrial sites are a critical component of North Carolina’s infrastructure for supporting business recruitment and expansion,” said Carl Warren, President and CEO of the North Carolina Railroad Company. “The expansion of our Build Ready Sites program aligns with increasing demand for domestic manufacturing capacity and provides communities with a strategic asset to facilitate timely project development.”

Since the program’s inception in 2021, BRS has awarded over \$9.3 million in private grants to 17 counties across the state, creating over 3,500 “build-ready” acres for rail-served industrial development. Any potential rail-served site can apply for up to \$500,000 per project, with up to \$750,000 available for sites along the NCR corridor. The grant initiative prioritizes proposals from rural and economically distressed communities and requires sites to be at least 50 contiguous developable acres located within half a mile of potential rail service.

“The BRS grant will jumpstart our site prep and help us complete vital improvements that make our site even more attractive to businesses,” said Randy Collins, Executive Director of Anson Economic Development Corporation. “We appreciate NCR’s investment to help our region be ready for new opportunities.”

NCR awarded Anson County and two others \$500,000 each in the 2024 Build Ready Sites grant round, totaling \$1.5 million.

- Anson County received funding to clear and grade the 78-acre Atlantic Gateway Logistics Park. NCR partnered with Anson Economic Development Corporation, Pee Dee Electric, North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives and North Carolina’s Southeast on this project.

- Guilford County received funding for water and sewer extensions at the 115-acre Southeast 85 PowerPlex site, addressing increased water and sewer demands crucial for industrial recruitment.

- Randolph County received funding for water and sewer extensions on a 67-acre site. NCR collaborated with Norfolk Southern and Randolph County Economic Development Corporation on this development.

“When site selectors evaluate opportunities in Guilford County, they’re looking for sites that are ready to go,” said Marvin J. Price, Executive Vice President of Economic Development for the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce. “This grant is a critical step forward in strengthening Guilford County’s ability to compete for rail-served industrial projects. With infrastructure in place, we can move at the speed of business - showcasing sites that are truly ready for development. NCR’s investment enhances our market competitiveness and positions us to attract transformative employers to our region.”

Eligible projects must also demonstrate community support, provide a 20 percent match and have service confirmation from the serving railroad.

“Economic development is truly a team sport, and we appreciate the collaboration and support of our rail partners in providing resources that help prepare our rail-served sites to attract industry to our community,” said Crystal Gettys, Business Recruitment Director of the Randolph County Economic Development Corp.

About the North Carolina Railroad Company The North Carolina Railroad Company is the one private railroad company that has been driving economic growth for North Carolina for more than 175 years. For more information, visit ncrr.com.

Anson NAACP Meets May 26

The October meeting of the Anson County Branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will be held on Monday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 612 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro. They welcome you to come and see what is going on. “Each one reach one.”

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month.

For more information contact Anson NAACP President Sinic Marsh at mrshs6@yahoo.com or 704-254-0630.

Lunchtime Music & Art on the Green in Cheraw

The Cheraw Arts Commission invites the public to Lunchtime Music & Art on the Green on Thursday, May 29, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Lewis Realty of Cheraw is the sponsor of the May event. Additional dates for the Lunchtime concerts are June 26 and July 24.

Local artists will be creating art en plein air (painting outdoors), while guitarist Kris Houser will provide music. Attendees are encouraged to bring lunch from a favorite dining establishment and lawn chairs.

The CAC will provide sketch pads and pencils for those who wish to Discover Their Inner Artist!

This is a free event for all ages.