



Anderson Brothers A 1-2 Combination

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Fantastic Frivolity

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# West Craven Highlights

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## Festival Leaves Sweet Taste Behind

### 2,500 Visit Vanceboro To Sample Offerings



Tabitha Williams and Janell Morris have to peer around the legs of adults to see parade

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

Strawberry shortcake, strawberry ice cream and strawberries disguised with a chocolate coating should have been enough of a hint. But those still unsure what all the hoopla was about Saturday had only to take notice of all the items adorned with strawberries.

The annual Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day left a flavorful and favorable impression on many. The Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club and Rescue Squad sponsor the fruity festival each year as one of their largest money-making events. The organizations use the money to do work in the town.

About 2,500 lined the streets and the once-vacant lots downtown. The conversion from quiet little town to a beehive buzzing with activity offered treats for tastebuds, sights to see and choices to choose from. With blue skies and a golden sun, strawberries weren't the only things red. A few faces turned red on the cheeks as the day wore on.

Craftsmen had their wares on display early and the town

square took on the atmosphere of a medieval marketplace. A bunch of grapes made their way down the street, but on second glance it was just a vendor and his purple balloons. About the only casualties of the day were the balloons, which would pop as the sun expanded them.

The parade snaked through the town as a corps of parade watchers craned their necks to view varieties of bands, baton twirlers, floats and creatures. Brass bands blared, majorettes marched majestically and festooned floats fluttered down the street.

Picnic tables under shade trees became a gathering point while people ate barbecued pork or did some chicken pickin' as tendrils of smoke wafted through the sunstreaked square. While palates were being pleased, some fingers were busy picking a banjo or plucking a bass fiddle. While some sat on grass and listened to bluegrass, others strolled among the stalls searching for bargains.

Ponies pranced with children on their backs, toddlers took tentative steps while holding

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## Bill Targeted At Eliminating Unfair Rates, Says Anderson

RALEIGH—Rep. Gerald Anderson, D-Craven, has introduced a bill aimed at eliminating what he considers unfair rates many municipal utility systems charge customers living outside the corporate city limits.

"There are some systems that charge customers living outside the city limits double what they charge citizens living inside the city for the same utility services," Anderson said.

"This hurts the user of the specific services and is unfair, especially to senior citizens, the poor, and persons on fixed incomes," he added.

"Municipal utilities were formed to help people and provide services they must have but can't provide for themselves," Anderson said, "but the present law penalizes the people who live outside the city and buy utilities services from the municipality."

"Instead of raising ad valorem taxes of city residents, the municipalities are making money on utilities provided outside the city and using those profits to subsidize services inside the city," Anderson said.

In addition, cities receive money back from the 1/2-cent sales tax that the state returns to them to be used for water and sewer services. "And county residents, as well as city residents, pay that sales tax," Anderson said. "Municipalities also can apply for money from the state's general fund from the Clean Water Act passed in 1985 to help meet water and sewer needs," he added.

If enacted, the bill would require that revenues the utility generates be used only for operating, maintaining or expanding that particular utility, rather than helping to subsidize the general funds of municipal budgets.

The bill would continue to allow different rates for different classes of services, i.e., commercial and residential services. However, for the same classes of service, the bill would not allow different rates to be charged to customers outside the corporate city limits than those charged to in-city customers.

A major change in the bill would prevent Electricities (municipalities which operate

their own electric generating facilities) from providing electric service outside their corporate boundaries except to customers already being served unless electric service will not be provided by a public utility or an electric membership corporation (EMC) and the property owner asks the city to supply electric service.

If a city annexes territory which is not contiguous to its city limits, including territory connected to the city only by a narrow corridor, in which electric service is being supplied by a public utility or EMC, the city may not supply electric service in the annexed territory except to premises it already supplies or to which electric service will not be provided by a public utility or EMC.

Electric service provisions in annexed areas contiguous to a city's limit will not change under the new bill.

In most cases, city rates are higher than rates charged by public utility companies which are regulated by the North Caro-

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Oh Brother!

West Craven's Arnold Morris, in lead, had competition from his brother, James, in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes at the Coastal Conference track championships in Havelock. Arnold won

both races and James took second place in each race. The two will compete tomorrow in the 3-AAA sectional track meet at Bertie High School in Windsor. (Mark Inabinett photo)

## Area Legislators Vow To Fight Severance Tax

Rep. Gerald Anderson, D-Craven, is ready to fight against a bill that would impose a severance tax on mining operations at Texasgulf Chemical Co.'s phosphate mining operation at Aurora.

Joining him in opposing the bill is Rep. Beverly Perdue, D-Craven, who said, "I certainly am against the severance tax."

And two other legislators could have an early impact on the proposed bill. Senators Bill Barker, D-Pamlico, and Tom Taft, D-Pitt, both serve on the senate Environmental Committee. The bill would have to pass through that committee before moving further in the legislative process.

Anderson, interviewed at the Vanceboro Strawberry Festival Saturday, said, "I was ready to fight." The bill was introduced by Sen. Bo Thomas, D-Hendersonville, who admitted the bill was aimed at

Texasgulf.

Anderson said the bill was probably in response to the recently passed phosphate ban. Some critics of the ban say it was watered down and not effective. The ban applies to areas identified as nutrient sensitive by the state. Some legislators who voted against the ban said there were too many exemptions for it to be effective. Anderson voted against the ban.

Anderson said the severance tax bill was "a little politics" in that it was probably aimed at "punishing Texasgulf for its lobbying efforts against the (statewide) phosphate ban."

"The importance of Texasgulf to the area is employment-wise and tax-wise," said Anderson.

Rep. Perdue said the pre-

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Sen. Barker at Strawberry Festival

## Martin: Phosphate Ban 'Boy Scout Merit Badge' For Some Legislators

By A.B. FUTRELL Jr.  
Publisher

RALEIGH—Gov. Jim Martin has reiterated his strong stand against legislation which would have the effect of weakening the phosphorus industry in North Carolina.

Martin likened the recent passage of a bill limiting the amount of phosphates in household detergents to a "Boy Scout merit badge" for some legislators.

Martin said that the proponents of the legislation "wanted to show that their hearts were in the right place, that their intentions were honorable. So they passed a bill with little far-reaching effect and now proudly wear the badge of environmental protection for all to see."

The governor made his remarks Friday night in answer to questions during a meeting of

the Eastern North Carolina Press Association. He emphasized his commitment to protect the environment, but said that there are alternatives to prevent phosphorus from entering the estuary systems other than limiting phosphate use.

Noting that most phosphorus in streams and lakes comes from agricultural run-off, Martin suggested that experiments such as no-till farming be implemented statewide.

No-till farming is a method in which holes are punched in the soil and seed and fertilizer inserted. This limits run-off without decreasing productivity, according to Martin. He said the method had been used successfully in the western parts of the state.

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