

# ... City Council unsure about tax cut

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Such procedures are set up by the State Legislature, Willcox said. "We just need to look into this thing and see," said Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth. "I'm definitely against raising taxes. If we've got \$80,000 instead of \$35,000, maybe we could look into lowering (the tax rate) by a cent or two," Hedgpeth said. "I'm not sure how reliable those figures are," Hedgpeth said, noting that perhaps the City Council should get a statement in writing from the state saying that

the extra money will be given to Raeford. "I'm for not raising taxes, but it had to be done to balance the budget," he said. Here is how the budget differences arose: "According to figures released by the state Department of Revenue, Raeford received \$15,960 during the first quarter of this year. "Those funds, which have already been received, on an annual basis would be more than \$60,000. Only \$35,000 is included

in the approved budget. "Since the first quarter, Mecklenburg, Wake and Lee counties have adopted the new sales tax. Their collections will be added to the funds received during the coming fiscal year. "Raeford should estimate, for budget purposes, \$21 per person as the amount of tax which will be received, a spokesman for the Department of Revenue said. "The revenue department shows the city has a population of 3,819. According to the state estimate, the tax funds would be \$80,199 or \$45,000 more than was budgeted. "The approved tax rate increase of one cent raised municipal revenues by about \$12,000. Councilmen Joe Upchurch and Bob Gentry agree with Hedgpeth that the tax rate should be cut if possible. "If we could cut taxes, I think we should," Upchurch said. "Most of the council members are pretty conservative, and if we can (lower the tax rate), I believe we should," he added.

"I'd certainly want to abolish our one cent tax increase," Gentry said. "I was against the raise in the first place." Councilman Benny McLeod suggested he was unsure about the city receiving an extra \$45,000. "We have no guarantee of those figures." "If you lower taxes and then come up short, what do you do?" he asked. City officials are expected to start discussions on the tax matter at the next meeting of the City Council.



Mayor John K. McNeill ...opposes tax cut

## Creech earns Bronze Star

Staff Sergeant Charles R. Creech was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in an awards ceremony on June 22. The presentation was made by Major General Cassidy, commander of the 21st Air Force. The medal was awarded to him for his exemplary leadership, personal endeavor, and devotion to duty while engaged in the ground operations against an opposing armed force at Point Salines airport, Grenada.

Creech is a member of the 3rd Mobile Aerial Port Squadron stationed at Pope Air Force Base. He is a 1978 graduate of Hoke High School.

Creech along with his wife, the former Cindy Lynn Miller, and their 3 year old daughter, Amanda, make their home at Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge.

Staff Sergeant Creech is the son of Charles B. Creech and the late Maxine Cox Creech of Red Springs.

## Cook transferred to German duty

Pvt. Joseph G. Cook, son of Mrs. Dorothy Cook of E. Prospect Avenue in Raeford, left for Germany April 15.

He is stationed in Glessen, Germany.

Cook is a Cannon MOS Crewman.

He was a 1982 graduate of Hoke County High School and joined the Army in December 1983.



Crying on a day like today?

The weeping willow tree looks like this rain or shine. It just happened to be a beautiful day when this tree was captured swaying gently in little or no wind, but its appearance will not change for the weather. Someone once said: "No one else sees the tears, when you're crying in the rain."

## Committee eyeing Chamber position

By Ed Miller  
A special committee has been appointed to research filling the vacant position of Chamber of Commerce Director. The group is preparing to meet with the managers of the city and county and will try to establish the type of director that is needed, a spokesman for the group said. The committee has been established to analyze the needs of the county, said Committee Chairman Bob Conoly. Other committee members include Jimmy Wood and Charlotta Howell. Before any meetings are scheduled, the city and county managers must meet with their respective officials and gather their views on exactly what course to take in the

area of industrial development, said Conoly. "It is important to sit down with the city and the county and see which direction we are heading," Chamber President and City Councilman Bennie McLeod. Both the city and county have put some money into the industrial development effort, said McLeod. The city's recently approved budget included \$8,000 for industrial development and the county has currently budgeted \$14,000 toward the cause. According to Conoly, the present committee will not be in charge of actually screening applicants for the Chamber Director's job, but the group will determine what type of individual is needed for the job.

## ... Thacker seeks court

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and if another has to be granted, it will be the last, she said. When the warrant comes, Thacker will be able to file a writ of habeas corpus questioning the validity of the warrant, the assistant district attorney said. The writ will delay Thacker's extradition until a Superior Court hearing is held. If no flaws are found in the state's case, Thacker will be extradited to Florida immediately, Powell said. Thacker, 52, was indicted by a Florida grand jury after hearing

testimony incriminating him in a \$2.2 billion drug ring that allegedly smuggled over 15,000 pounds of cocaine into this country. Thacker was alleged to have been involved with 1,600 pounds of the illegal drug, or about \$12 million worth. The Florida grand jury indicted 42 persons, two of whom are North Carolinians. The charges came after an investigation that lasted 14 months. Thacker is a retired soldier and a former member of Army's elite Golden Knights parachuting team. Until July 1, Thacker holds a lease with the City of Raeford.

# Hunt selects county residents to aid Senate election bid

Governor Jim Hunt announced recently that Al Leach of Raeford will head up the Hoke County organization of Hunt's 1984 Senate campaign. "Our strength is in the people working together with us," said Hunt. "I'm pleased that Al has agreed to spearhead our drive for us." Leach will serve as chairman and finance chairman of the Hoke County Jim Hunt Committee. He is the principal stockholder of

Farm Chemicals Corporation and an elder of the Antioch Presbyterian Church. An active member of the Democratic Party, Leach has worked on Hunt's campaigns for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Thomas P. Howell of Raeford will head up the county's "Dollars For Hunt" program, a new certificate-booklet fundraising effort designed to involve small contributors in the campaign. He is a

pharmacist with Howell Drug Company and a member of the N.C. Pharmaceutical Association and the Raeford Kiwanis Club. He currently serves as a precinct chair in the Hoke County Democratic Party. Charlotte Kelly and Kay Thomas of Raeford will serve as women's keys for the Hoke County Jim Hunt Committee. Kelly is an Eligibility Specialist with the Hoke County Department of Social Services. She is a member of the N.C. Council on the Status of Women and a secretary of the Hoke County PTA. She is an active member of the Hoke County Democratic Party. Thomas is a part-time market

surveyor for PepCom Industries. She is chairman of the Hoke County Council on the Status of Women and is co-chairman of the Hoke County Historical Association. An active member of the Democratic Party, she is a past precinct chairman. L.E. McLaughlin of Raeford and Henry Dial of Red Springs will serve as co-minority keys for the Hoke County Jim Hunt Committee. McLaughlin is a deputy motor transport officer at Fort Bragg. He is a member of the Federal Transportation Board and the Hoke County Airport Commission. An active member of the Democratic Party, he has worked

on Hunt's campaigns for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Dial is a building contractor and a member of the Board of Directors of Southern National Bank in Red Springs. He is a former member of the Hoke County Social Services Board, and an active member of the Hoke County Democratic Party. "I'm extremely pleased with this fine county organization, and we will be adding other key leaders and building it further as we approach November," Hunt said. "Our campaign is going to be about restoring positive leadership in Washington that looks to the future, and what better way to begin than with strong, positive county leaders." Hunt's campaigns have traditionally relied on strong grassroots and support and organization - built around the county chairs and "keys," who have specialized organizational advisory roles in the campaign.

"We run a people's campaign," the Governor said. "We have always believed that our people can beat their money anytime." He noted that the Helms organization has already spent three times more than the Hunt campaign. "But that," he said, "only increases the importance of good hard-working county organizations like this one." "The issues in this campaign," he said, "are issues for the future. For example, how to make sure our children get the kind of education they need for a good job; how to make sure that our parents and grandparents can live in security when they retire, and how to bring down the federal deficit and those high interest rates which are choking our economy and hurting our working people the most." "These are just a few of the important messages our county campaign leaders will be carrying as we work toward a victory on November 6."

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