

Sales Tax returns for June**Sales tax continues strong;****Hawkins up Year-to-date 14%**

By JOHN SPARKS

Monthly sales tax returns for July 2009 for Hawkins showed an increase of 9.2 percent over the comparable month in 2008. Seven months into 2009, year-to-date tax collections remain ahead of the pace set last year as well. Hawkins is the only municipality in Wood County with a year-to-date increase in sales tax returns for 2009 over 2008.

The sales tax funds are collected by local merchants, sent to the Texas Comptroller along with the state's six and-a-quarter cents tax on each dollar of retail purchase. Hawkins' local portion-one-and-one-half cents/dollar-is then returned two months later (May retailer collections returned in July). Merchants in the unincorporated county areas collect a half-cent sales tax on each dollar sale with the local portion going into the county's general fund.

Hawkins sales tax returns in the most recent monthly report for July were \$16,505.15 compared with \$15,110.88 for July 2008. Hawkins returns are distributed to the two budgets supported by the sales tax, with approximately \$11,003.93 deposited into the city's general fund and the remaining \$5,501.17, representing a half-cent sales tax, into the Hawkins Community Development Corporation budget.

Comparative figures for sales tax returns for the month of July (as collected in May) for each city and the county follow with commentary furnished by Gary McKinley, executive director of the Wood County Industrial Commission:

July 2009 REPORT (May SALES REF.)

Wood		Jul '09	Jul '08	Pct Chg	Jul 09 YTD	Jul 08 YTD	Pct Chg
Alba	1.5%	7,625.58	11,333.92	-32.71%	56,605.24	57,626.83	-1.77%
Hawkins	1.5%	16,505.15	15,110.88	9.22%	136,046.49	119,051.11	14.27%
Mineola	1.5%	110,052.71	124,359.48	-11.50%	816,421.68	880,914.86	-7.32%
Quitman	1.5%	40,115.78	25,419.06	57.81%	263,742.12	264,336.65	-0.22%
Winnsb.	1.5%	55,700.76	62,202.83	-10.45%	422,861.33	432,789.81	-2.29%
Yantis	1.5%	1,785.58	1,660.41	7.53%	17,140.31	17,142.15	-0.01%
County		231,785.56	240,086.58	-3.45%	1,712,817.17	1,771,861.41	-3.33%
Wood	0.5%	89,271.26	106,429.37	-16.12%	702,106.21	737,752.94	-4.83%