

Hoke sales hit \$50 million

During the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30, retail sales increased in Hoke County by \$2.9 million over the previous year, figures recently released by the state Department of Revenue show.

During the 1983-84 year, sales in the county soared to \$50.35 million, which was up from \$47.4 million recorded in the 1983-82 fiscal year, Revenue Department spokesman Corby Gould said last week.

This year's sales also showed a gain of \$7.9 million over retail figures two years ago.

During the 1981-82 year, retail sales were \$42.4 million, Gould said.

Although sales have increased, Hoke County still ranks far behind surrounding counties in gross retail sales per capita.

Based on the current population estimate of 22,071, each Hoke County resident spent about \$2,281 with local merchants during the last fiscal year.

In Scotland County, where the population is slightly more than twice that of Hoke County, gross sales were over three and a half times greater and residents spent

about \$3,616 per head with local merchants.

In Cumberland County gross sales were \$1.46 billion during the last fiscal year, and per capita spending was \$5,805.

Moore County residents spent about \$1 more per head than Cumberland or \$5,806 each with their merchants.

In Robeson County sales were \$4,801 per person.

Figures released by the revenue department show that automotive sales in the county were \$10 million during the last fiscal year, and food sales reached \$22.1 million, which was up about \$2 million over the previous year.

General merchandise sales were \$8.56 million, lumber and materials \$1.8 million, unclassified sales \$2.6 million and apparel \$914,446, the figures show.

Since June 30, sales figures have continued to climb over the previous year in Hoke County.

In July, sales were up \$550,000, in August \$66,000 and September \$642,000 for a quarterly increase of about \$1.25 million.

Both Raeford and Hoke County sales tax collections were also equal or above anticipated revenue figures.

During the quarter ending June 30, the city received \$17,853 and the county \$103,177 in half-cent sales tax revenues.

For the first quarter of this year, which ended September 30, the city received \$19,797 and the county \$110,785.

Hoke County budgeted \$180,000 in one-half cent revenue for the general operating account, which is 40% of the gross amount received. The 60% balance of the money goes to the Hoke County schools for a building program.

Based on the first quarter's figures, Hoke County will receive \$177,256 for the year and the schools \$265,884 in half-cent sales tax refunds. Both amounts are slightly less than what was budgeted, but county Finance Director Charles Davis said last week he anticipates the collections in other quarters will show gains to make up the differences.

On the other hand, Raeford only budgeted \$35,000 in one-half cent tax revenue for the year, and based on the first quarter's figures, the city will receive \$79,188, or \$44,188 in unbudgeted income.

Both Raeford and Hoke County raised ad valorem taxes for the current fiscal year.



We need clothes

This box of naked dolls will be someone's Christmas. The Woman's Club of Raeford needs volunteers to gather toys and clothes, make doll clothes and deliver presents to families around the county. Once again this year, the Woman's Club is sponsoring "Share Your Christmas." According to Sadie Constantino, this year's Project Chairman, the club is only co-ordinating the project. The ac-

tual distribution of the toys will be done by the Department of Social Services. Money is also needed to buy special gifts and fruit for at least 30 families. Any volunteer service will be appreciated. Everyone deserves a nice Christmas. Item donations can be turned in at the Hoke County Library. Cash donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 550 Raeford or dropped at The News Journal.

... City refuses cablevision lobby for rate increase

(Continued from page 1)
"The way I read this is that if we don't put ESPN where you want it, then you won't give us a rate increase," Pettis said.

Alert is in a non-competing situation, which makes it different from other businesses. The firm also uses public property to run cable lines, Phillips said.

"We're not a monopoly. We don't have the only television," the Alert representative said.

If the rate hike is not granted, Alert would be able to raise rates by 5% each year for the next two years under a federal law recently passed by Congress.

The law provides that after two years, all cable services will be deregulated, and Raeford rates may be higher to make up the difference of lost revenue, Pettis warned.

Rates for basic service could go as high as \$15 per month, he said.

"That's when you will see lines coming down too," Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth said.

Moves for future

In other business, the council voted to join the county on a 50-50 basis to share the responsibility of maintaining the old Aberdeen-Rockfish Railroad Terminal on Main Street.

The building and surrounding lot will be given to both the city

and the county to be used by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce for industrial recruiting, City Attorney Palmer Willcox said.

The city and the county would have responsibility to make sure the building is maintained, Willcox said, noting that the railroad would like to give the property before the end of the year.

The Chamber hopes to put the structure in "first class condition," councilman Benny

McLeod said. McLeod is also the president of the Chamber.

Promises of donations of renovation funds have been made, and state Rep. Daniel H. DeVane believes state money for the project would be available, McLeod said.

As of December 1, the Chamber no longer sponsored the license plate bureau. The service will continue to be operated by Frances Ward, but will not be moved to the depot office, McLeod said.

On another related matter, council members received for information a letter from North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) Regional Supervisor M.J. Noland declaring the city "in compliance" with state sewer discharge regulations.

The Raeford Sewer Plant received good reports for May, July and August, and Phillips said he believed discharge levels had improved since the inspection.

Earlier this year a moratorium was lifted from Raeford which

would have prohibited any new industry tying onto the sewer system.

The removal of the ban and the good reports from NRCD are critical to the county's industrial recruiting efforts, officials have said.

Welcome signs OK'd

In still further business, the council gave a green light to Phillips to replace the present "Welcome To Raeford" signs.

The signs will be replaced with larger versions supported by brick posts, Phillips said.

Materials for the project, which would include new signs on all major roads entering the city, would be paid for by Raeford.

Labor will be provided by the vocational education department at Hoke High School.

Other matters

In addition, the council also took this action on these matters:

*Agreed to dispose of excess property adjoining two well sites and water lines behind the Thomasfield Acres subdivision. The property will probably be sold in a private sale to adjoining land owners, Phillips said. Bids for the land would be advertised and available to be overturned.

\$500 SHOPPING SPREE

McBRAYER IS MAKING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EASIER

BUY ONE OF THE USED CARS OR TRUCKS LISTED BELOW FROM McBRAYER CHEVROLET AND RECEIVE ABSOLUTELY FREE A \$500.00 SHOPPING SPREE AT ROSES IN CENTER PARK SHOPPING CENTER...



1981 Chevrolet C-10 Pickup 8 Cyl. 3 Spd. AM/FM Radio, Low Miles, Red Color. Stk. #2563A SPECIAL PRICE \$5000.00	1983 S-10 Pickup 5 Spd. Extra Clean. Stk. #85308 SPECIAL PRICE \$5900.00	1980 Chevrolet El Camino V8 Auto. A/C. Red & White With Camper Top. Stk. #P919 SPECIAL PRICE \$5500.00	1984 Fiat Pina Farina Conv. A/T. A/C. AM/FM Stereo. Light Blue. 11,000 Miles. Stk. #F7403C SPECIAL PRICE \$12,000.00
1980 Pontiac Grand LeMans 4 Dr. A/T. Tilt AM/FM Stereo. White. Extra Clean. Local Car. Stk. #P83A SPECIAL PRICE \$5000.00	1979 Honda Accord 2 Door. 5 Speed A/C. AM/FM. Blue. Clean. Stk. #31868 SPECIAL PRICE \$3000.00	1980 Buick Century Limited 4 Dr. 8 Cyl. A/T. C/C. Stereo Radio. Silver. Stk. #3570A SPECIAL PRICE \$4500.00	1983 Caprice Estate S/W This Car is Tan in Color With Wood Grain. Loaded With All Options and Has Under 16,000 Miles. Compare to 1984 at \$16,000. Stk. #3228A SPECIAL PRICE \$10,000.00
1981 Chev. Caprice S/W A/T. A/C. Gray. Clean. Stk. #D1521A SPECIAL PRICE \$5000.00	1983 Lincoln Town Car 4 Dr. A/T. Loaded. Two Tone Jade Green. Factory Custom Wheels With White Leather Interior. Extra Clean. Stk. #8578A SPECIAL PRICE \$13,000.00	1982 Peugeot 604 A/T. Loaded. With Sunroof. Factory Mag Wheels. The Ultimate in Luxury at a Price You Can Afford. Stk. #F7407A SPECIAL PRICE \$12,000.00	1982 Chevrolet Cavalier S/W A/T. A/C. AM/FM Stereo. Clean. Low Mileage. Stk. #3804A SPECIAL PRICE \$5500.00
1982 V.W. Jetta 2 Dr. 5 Speed. A/C. Green. Sharp. Economical Transportation. Stk. #64874A SPECIAL PRICE \$6000.00	1984 Dodge Daytona Turbo. 5-Speed. A/C. AM/FM Stereo. Taps. Still Under Warranty. Sharp & Fast. Black. Cost Over \$15,000 New. Stk. #D1647A SPECIAL PRICE \$12,500.00	1979 Peugeot 504 S/W 4 Speed. A/C. AM/FM. Diesel. Excellent Family Car. Tan. Stk. #F7333A SPECIAL PRICE \$4500.00	1983 BMW 633CS1 A/T. Loaded. This Car is Still Under BMW's Warranty. Looks and Drives Like New. A Sports Car Enthusiast's Car. Slate Gray. Red Interior. Stk. #F7403A1 SPECIAL PRICE \$29,000.00
1983 Chevrolet 4 Dr. A/T. A/C. AM/FM. This Car is From Our Rental Fleet and Has Been Serviced By Us Since New. White. Extra Clean. Stk. #F85 SPECIAL PRICE \$5000.00	1980 Olds Cutlass 4 Door. Auto. Cruise. A/C. Silver. Local One Owner. Stk. #85240 SPECIAL PRICE \$5000.00	1980 Champion 24' Mobile Office With Display Racks. A/C. Generator. Low Miles. Stk. #P940 SPECIAL PRICE \$8000.00	1984 Ford Mustang VSD Turbo. 5 Speed. Loaded. This Car Has Under 1,500 Miles. Has Never Been Titled. And is Now Listed For Over \$17,500. Stk. #F823 SPECIAL PRICE \$5000.00 OFF
1983 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Silver & Maroon. Auto Trans. Loaded. Low Miles. Stk. #F7228A SPECIAL PRICE \$7900.00	1984 Chevrolet Camaro V6 Cyl. 5 Speed. A/C. AM/FM Stereo. Sport Wheels. Silver. Stk. #P8788 SPECIAL PRICE \$8500.00	1978 Pontiac Bonneville A/T. A/C. Loaded. Blue. Stk. #C1125A SPECIAL PRICE \$3000.00	1984 Renault Encore S. 4 Dr. Hatchback. A/T. A/C. Stereo. Only 2,000 Miles. Like New. Silver. Stk. #F7208A SPECIAL PRICE \$7000.00

OUR USED CAR INVENTORY IS OVERFLOWING SO WE HAVE LOWERED PRICES EVEN FURTHER THIS WEEK TO MOVE 'EM OUT... YOUR BEST TIME EVER FOR TREMENDOUS SAVINGS.

McBRAYER

CHEVROLET PEUGEOT HONDA

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

HWY. 15-801 & 1 N. ABERDEEN, N.C. 282-2111
 Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. — Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
TOLL FREE: 1-800-872-2193

WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT
PHONE FOR FOOD
LARGE SHRIMP DINNER
 With Slaw, FF, Hushpuppies
***4.25**
 Call 875-5752

COMPARE and SAVE with

24 MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT
10.25% YIELD 10.792% APR

30 MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT
10.50% YIELD 10.069% APR

HERITAGE FEDERAL
 Savings & Loan Association

RAEFORD
 113 Campus Avenue
 875-5061

Poulan Chain Saws
 The American-Made Favorite

2300AV
 (w/16" bar)
 reg. \$229.99

NOW \$189.99

SAVE \$55.00
 \$40.00 on Saw
 \$15.00 on Maul Kit

Axe/Maul Kit
 reg. \$29.99

Includes Collins Axe Splitter Maul Goggles

Until supplies are exhausted
NOW \$14.99
 with purchase of any 25, 2300, or 3400 series Poulan saw

Prices and Discounts Subject to Local Dealer Option
THIS EXCELLENT VALUE IS AVAILABLE NOW AT THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPATING DEALERS.

Western Auto Associate Store
 Raeford
 875-8431