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**Lindale Area**  
"Building The Future Together"  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# Lindale News & Times

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## Fleeing man puts a fright into Penny students, staff

At Velma Penny Elementary School last week, the incident was almost like a drill, but it was real, if only for a few seconds.

On Tuesday, April 5, a young man, fleeing police, entered the school through the front door, then exited through a side door barely 15 seconds later and was taken into police custody. But in the meantime,

school authorities reacted with speed and precision.

A Smith County sheriff's deputy made a routine traffic stop of a car on neighboring FM 849, then reported a passenger in the car got out and ran. A Lindale police officer passing by in his squad car joined the pursuit.

The man entered the front See **LOCKDOWN** page 12



John Owens

## Imagine Main Street with raised medians

By Tom Boone  
Editor

Lindale should start getting used to the idea that, before long, U.S. Highway 69 - Main Street - through the center of town will have raised medians in the center of it.

That is the word coming from City Hall and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Other traffic changes are afoot as well.

In a letter to Lindale Mayor Jim Mallory dated April 1, Randy Hopmann, Tyler district engineer for TxDOT, said traffic congestion and safety concerns prompted a review of accidents along Hwy. 69. He said that, between 2008 and 2010, a total See **MEDIANS** page 12



**You're OUT!!**

Dust flies after sophomore catcher Kat Wright makes the tag on a Wills Point runner in Lindale's 7-2, District 14-3A victory over the Lady Tigers last week at the Lindale High School field. The victory helped propel the Lady Eagles to a 7-1 district record. See story, another photo on Page 8. Photo by Special Contributor Kelly Moore

## No insurance? Wave goodbye to your car

By Tom Boone  
Editor

If you're a driver who doesn't have liability insurance that is required by state law, what happens to you if the cops find out?

You get a ticket, right? Yes, but the penalty in Lindale is going to get a lot tougher on you in the future.

Under an action taken at the April 5 Lindale City Council meeting, you could have your car towed to an impoundment lot immediately, thus adding towing charges and storage fees to the cost of a citation. Plus

you'd be without your car for awhile.

By a 4-0 vote (Councilman Charles Morphis was absent), the Council amended the city's code of ordinances to authorize the police department to adopt a citywide policy for towing and storing vehicles when motorists are unable to show proof of insurance.

It is routine for police officers to ask for proof of insurance during routine traffic stops and when vehicle accidents occur.

When the new policy is

enacted, instead of issuing a ticket to a motorist and sending him on his way, an officer can call for a tow truck and have the uninsured vehicle hauled off and impounded, probably until the driver can show proof of insurance and pay to get the car back.

Police Chief Dan Somes said he would prepare a new policy for the Council to consider in the near future.

The subject of towing led to a long discussion among Council members about tow company fees and whether tow

companies that provide services for the city should be required to be located inside the city limits.

The city currently has two tow companies that rotate on call in response to city requests, P&O Motors and Foshee Wrecker Service. When they began service to the city, they were required to be located inside the city limits, Charles West, the city's community relations director, told the council. Foshee agreed to have the company's site on Highway 69 See **TOWING** page 12

## City ready to outlaw smoking in public buildings

The Lindale City Council is preparing to ban smoking in all public buildings in Lindale, including restaurants, office buildings and other places of employment, retail establishments and indoor sports arenas.

The Council agreed on April 5 to draft an ordinance similar to one that Tyler adopted three years ago prohibiting indoor public smoking of any kind.

Currently there are two public restaurants that allow smoking in designated areas within their confines, Chili's and Posado's.

The new ordinance will not concern itself with other kinds of tobacco usage and will not restrict what people can do in their own homes and other private locations.

Room is to be left in the ordinance for some exceptions. One exception cited in the Tyler ordinance is that an actor in a play may smoke on stage if smoking is called for in the script.

In other action at the Council meeting, members voted to cancel the scheduled May 14 city election and declared all three unopposed Council members, Jeff Daugherty, Robert Nelson and Charles Morphis, as re-elected to Place 1, Place 4 and Place 5, respectively.

See **SMOKE** page 12

## Lindale's sales tax revenue drops slightly

They didn't drop much, but sales tax collections in Lindale fell off slightly in March compared with the same month a year earlier, the first time in almost a year the revenue source has declined, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs reported last week.

Last month, the City of Lindale's share of state sales tax rebates came to \$135,628.31, down 0.08 percent from the \$135,738.49 collected in March 2010.

Statewide, sales tax collections were up 9.9 percent to See **SALES TAX** page 12



### Pick Up Sticks?

With a load of 2-by-4 boards behind him, the driver of this 18-wheeler made the turn from U.S. Highway 69 onto the west-bound Interstate 20 ramp last Thursday - and almost made it. As the truck, heading north from Tyler, rounded the corner, the load shifted, the driver told Lindale police, and ever-so-slowly the whole rig tipped over on its side, creating this Pick-Up-Sticks scene right next to McDonald's. Police said no one was injured. A city fork lift and several Smith County Jail trustees were called in to help clear away the lumber, and after a couple of hours the ramp was reopened to traffic.