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Rockwall County News

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Rockwall approves long-term stay Hotel near high school

Elected representatives of the City of Rockwall, Inc., unanimously approved ordinance Z2016-045 related to a request from Randall Noe of Rockwall Rental Properties, L.P. for a Specific Use Permit to build a residence Hotel in a Commercial District on approximately three acres of land.

It was confirmed during discussion that the proposal would be for a 100% residency hotel that would include kitchens and other amenities for long-term stay.

Councilmember David White compared the ordinance with another agenda item Z2016-003 related to residence hotel known as Comfort Inn & Suites located at 700 E. IH-30 near Vigor Way, that was debated in a divided Planning & Zoning Committee meeting.

White noted that the 033 ordinance involved a hotel with 25% residency including four residency rooms, and the 045 ordinance involved a hotel with 100% residency with all rooms available for long-term stay. He expressed concerns about a conflict between the council's decision to send the 25% residency Hotel ordinance back to P&Z, and the decision to approve the 100% residency Hotel.

It was also explained that the dissenting P&Z commissioners expressed concerns about the 100% residency hotel being built close to Rockwall High School on Greencrest Boulevard and the IH-30 Frontage Road. The approval followed the first reading of the ordinance.

The mayor later reminded council that ordinance 033 would reappear on the agenda for the Feb. 21 regular meeting.

Prior to prayer and recitation of their pledge of allegiance to the United States and Texas, the council went into a closed meeting to discuss a lease of real property or land in the vicinity of the downtown area. The agenda included a citation of state law under Texas Government Code Section 551.072 involving real property.

Following the closed meeting, the council unanimously approved a motion for public parking in downtown.

Councilmember Fowler asked to remove from the Consent Agenda an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances in Chapter 10; Article IV, Residential Code and Article VII Fuel Gas Code related to corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) regulations.

The Consent Agenda included an ordinance establishing a "prima facie" speed limit on IH-30 that reduces the speed limit to 60 miles per hour along the main lanes from the intersection of John King Boulevard to the Rockwall east city limits. The ordinance also establishes a speed limit of 45 miles per hour along the eastbound and westbound frontage roads on IH-30. The ordinance establishes a misdemeanor criminal offense with penalty not to exceed \$200.

The council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda with the second reading of the above mentioned speed restriction ordinance.

The council returned to the CSST regulations.

Fowler asked Rockwall Fire Marshal Arianna Hargrove for a count of the number of fires caused by CSST. Hargrove explained during the last 10 years, seven out of 79 fires involved CSST damaged by lightning.

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Brandon Taylor (right), a junior at Rockwall High, recently was awarded the Gold Presidential Service Award for his volunteering efforts in and around Rockwall. The President's Volunteer Service Award is a volunteer award program that encourages citizens to live a life of service. While Taylor participated in several programs for volunteering, the majority of his time was spent spreading STEM. He earned his hours by being a robotics mentor to elementary and middle school students around Rockwall, participating in robotics summer camps through both the YMCA and ROCK as well as judging at local robotics competitions. Taylor is a member of the FRC Team 1296 - Full Metal Jackets (RHS Robotics team). Pictured above with the honoree is Courtney Gober (left), RHS principal, who presented the award.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

University scholastic honors

Applegate tapped for Dean's List

Kylie Applegate of Fate was among students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Schreiner University, according to a news release from the Kerrville university.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a full-time student must earn at least a 3.50 grade-point average and at least 12 hours of credit for the term.

Whitson named to Honor Roll

Claud Whitson of Rockwall was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fall semester at McMurry University, according to a news release from the Abilene university.

To be eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must complete 12 or more credit hours with at least a 3.5 grade-point average.

26 locals named to Baylor honors list

More than two dozen local residents were among the 3,900-plus Baylor University students named to the Dean's Academic Honor Roll for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Waco university.

Honorees included, from Fate, Madison D. Apuan and Wesley S. Scivetti; Tori Celeste Ewing from Royse City; and Hannah Nicole Adley, Samantha Nicole Lopez, Sarah M. Lopez, Hailey Elizabeth Platz, Courtney A. Sosnowski, Spencer Davis Sosnowski and Preston K. Webb of Heath.

Rockwall honorees were David J. Alderman, Jade L. Brown, Anabel Glynn Burke, Cathleen Cheyenne Conrad, Ashley Kathleen Faris, Alexis Rae Greenhill, Alexa Briel Hein, Mary Catherine Hinton, Taylor Rae Lemons, Christian Daniel Mackin, Nathan Sheeder Mater, Gage Mitchell Mayborn, Patrick Sam Ntchobo, Dillon T. Stokes, Karina Traxler and Abigail Parrish Young.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours, according to the release.

Locals tapped for SFA honors

Several local residents were among students named to the Stephen F. Austin State University President's and Dean's lists for the fall semester, according to news releases from the Nacogdoches university.

Honorees included Sheydon Botheras, Stephen Janovsky and Bradley Simpson of Fate; Victoria Lack of Heath; Haley Coleman, Caitlyn MacCormack and Clark Norris of Rockwall; and Sara Gray of Royse City.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must be enrolled in 12 or more semester hours and maintain a grade-point average of 4.0.

Honorees included Alexander Cooter of Fate, Christopher Coleman of Heath and Andrea Chavez-Hernandez of Royse City. Rockwall residents included Janet Barker, Amber Britton, Michael Deguenther, Hannah Duncan, Cole Grimes, Braeden Hiles, Emily Hughes, Cassandra Hutcheson, Bailey Jameson, Riley Kelley, Lindsay Kraft, Julia Lott, Meagan McNabb, Mackensie Mrva, Courtney Munoz, Eric Pacheco, Hannah Passon, Adriana Romero, Carole Smith, Amanda Thornton, Kaylei Whalen and Christina White.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled in 12 or more semester hours and maintain a 3.5 or better GPA.

Johnson tapped for Dean's List

Rebekah Johnson of Rockwall was named to the Dean's List at Miami University for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Oxford, Ohio, university.

Students who achieved a 3.5 or higher grade-point average for the semester were eligible for inclusion on the Dean's List, according to the release.

Johnson is working toward a bachelor's degree. Her major is music performance, linguistics.

Smith named to Dean's List

Katharine Smith of Rockwall was included on the Dean's List at the College of New Jersey for the fall semester, according to a news release from the Ewing, New Jersey, college.

Smith is a communication studies major.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must carry 12 or more credits for the semester and earn a 3.5 or higher grade-point average.

TAMU Dean's Roll honorees recognized

Texas A&M University recently named its honor students for the fall semester, according to a news release from the College Station university.

The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes students taking a minimum of 15 semester hours during the fall semester who maintained a 3.75 or higher grade-point out of a possible 4.0. A second designation, Distinguished Student, recognizes those who earned a 3.5 to 3.74 while taking the minimum number of hours.

Local honorees included Holly A. Bender of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Chelsea M. Briggs of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Andres Caballero of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Elaine B. Chinn of Fate, Dean's Honor Roll; Anna M. Digirolamo of Heath, Distinguished Student; Nathan W. Eldridge of Rockwall, Distinguished Student; and Emmalee D. Evans of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll.

Also, Brent C. Farley of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Nicole A. Goff of Heath, Distinguished Student; Laura-Noelle C. Grumbine of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Paul A. Guardiola of Rockwall, Distinguished Student; Amanda E. Hall of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Hannah B. Hernandez of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Stone A. Kinsey of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; and Tyler A. Lew of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll.

Rounding out the list were Kailey N. Litherland of Rockwall, Distinguished Student; Austin S. Lu of Heath, Distinguished Student; Logan P. Nixon of Rockwall, Distinguished Student; Joshua A. Patel of Rockwall, Distinguished Student; Evan J. Perlitz of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Brian T. Porter of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Kristin T. Pruitt of Heath, Dean's Honor Roll; Colton L. Smith of Heath, Dean's Honor Roll; Alexis G. Starkey of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Caitlyn G. Tunnell of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Michael P. Weidman of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Logan D. Whitley of Rockwall, Dean's Honor Roll; Tyler A. Wiener of Heath, Dean's Honor Roll; and Erica N. Wood of Heath, Dean's Honor Roll.

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FM 3549 bridge demolition scheduled next week in Rockwall

The Texas Department of Transportation will perform demolition of the FM 3549 bridge over Interstate 30 beginning Wednesday, Feb. 8, weather permitting, according to a City of Rockwall news release.

The project will start with removal of the bridge over the eastbound frontage road from 10:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. Traffic on the eastbound frontage road will be detoured, and motorists should expect delays.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the contractor will move equipment to the north side of the bridge and begin demolition of the bridge over the westbound frontage road from 10:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, according to the release.

Demolition of the bridge over the main lanes of Interstate 30 will be on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10:30 p.m. to 6 a.m.

During demolition of the main lanes, there will be a full road closure, and all traffic will be detoured to the frontage roads.

Demolition work is being performed at night to minimize the impact to the public, but expect delays along this route, according to the release.

The FM 3549 / I-30 Interchange project will include total reconstruction of the roadway south of I-30, north to an area before the railroad tracks and creating an overpass of I-30 over FM 3549. The construction cost is \$32.8 million and is anticipated to be completed in August 2018, according to the release.

The Texas Department of Transportation and the City of Rockwall will provide further updates as the project progresses.

Rockwall County News Briefs

Democratic Men's Group to meet Feb. 4

The Democratic Men's Group of Rockwall County will host its next luncheon at noon on Saturday, Feb. 4, at Arboleda's Mexican Grill, 1103 Ridge Rd., Rockwall. The group meets for lunch on the first Saturday of each month at various local restaurants. Open-minded, progressive men who are concerned about the future of Texas and Rockwall County are welcome. Speaker for this month will be Peter Hancox, who will speak on the legal immigration process.

RISD PTA event, scholarship applications

The Rockwall ISD Council of Parent Teacher Associations will offer "Successful Scholarship Applications," beginning at 7:00 p.m., Tues. Feb. 7, 2017 at the Rockwall High School Cafeteria Annex. The event will be for parents, teachers and students grades 5 and up. Texas TPA Vice-President Leadership Heath Ashwell-Hair will provide the presentation, with the assistance of RISD Director of Counseling Services Marty Barbieri. Attendees are asked to RSVP at risdcouncilpta.rsvpify.com.

Utley to host Expo

Connecting the dots Expo '16-'17 will be held, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sat. Feb. 4, 2017, at Utley Middle School, 1201 T.L. Townsend Drive, Rockwall. The event will offer community and educational resources for youth and adolescents.

Newcomers & Friends to meet Feb. 9

The Rockwall County Newcomers & Friends will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at Occasions at Stone River in Royse City. Luncheon reservations must be made by Jan. 30. Call Becky at 712-202-6916 or Cathy at 972-400-9934. This is a social

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Royse City Council members opt to sell historic house

by Millie Jean Coppedge/ Rockwall County News
The oldest house in Royse City, located at 107 N. Houston and built in 1882, will go up for sale for 90 days.

This was the final decision of the Royse City Council following an executive session conducted in a Tuesday, Jan. 4, meeting.

The last residents of the house were Leta Weatherford, her mother, Mattie Sisk, and sister, Lena Sisk. Leta Sisk, the last of the three, died in 2009.

According to the book "The Rockwall County History" published in 1984 by the Rockwall County Historical Society, the three were descendants of Nancy Francis McCasland, who died in 1864. The McCasland family members were early settlers of Kaufman and

Rockwall counties, owned a lot of land and helped create a rich history for the Royse City and Rockwall area.

The house was built by Byrd Royse, who platted the town site for the city in 1886, the same year the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad came through Rockwall County and caused a large surge in population and need for new homes, according to a newspaper article provided by Deloris Ballard of the Zaner Robison Historical Museum. Royse built the house for his new bride.

It is thought that a doctor and his family and possibly some renters lived in the house until Leta Weatherford bought the house. She, her sister, Lena Sisk, who never married, and her mother, Mattie Sisk, were the last owners of the house.

"The house, the lot the house sets on, along with two other lots, were purchased in early 2012 for the sum of \$57,000 by the city," City Manager Carl Alsabrook said on Dec. 5, 2012. "The prevailing thought at the time of the purchase was to preserve the house, not so much for those of us living now, but for our children and grandchildren. We want them to know what life was like in the early

days of Royse City." At the time of the purchase Alsabrook said, "We have several options. We could build a heritage park to celebrate the history of Royse City and the house could be refurbished from that time period and turned into an extension of our Zaner Robison Historical Museum. We have considered moving the house to a lot across the street that was included in the original purchase, or if it proves that the house is structurally or financially cost preventative to be moved, we will consider alternatives to maintaining it in its current condition and location."

Since the purchase of the house, it has continued to deteriorate as the City Council debated what to do with the property. Estimates proved all the options for moving or turning it into a museum were not feasible for a variety of reasons, mostly because of financial concerns. The house is too deteriorated to try to take any earlier considered actions. The property is valuable and it is the city's hope that someone will purchase the site for the vision of prospects for the land.

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Ask Dr. Danette

by Danette McNew, D.D.S.

POSSIBLE WARNING SIGNAL

As we learn more about the potential health dangers that gum disease may pose, new research provides yet another reason to have the dentist check for periodontal disease. While previous research has uncovered an association between gum disease and pancreatic cancer, a new study has found the people with high levels of a specific oral bacterium are more likely to get this form of cancer, which strikes 50,000 people annually. Researchers found that individuals with high levels of Porphyromonas gingivalis had a 59 percent greater chance of developing pancreatic cancer. While these findings do not establish a direct association, they are the first to reveal that significant oral bacteria levels can precede pancreatic cancer rather than developing later.

At McNEW DENTAL, we do our best to ensure our patients can get the gum disease care they need in one convenient location. We provide a variety of gum disease treatments for your convenience. If gum disease gets too severe it may need to be treated through surgery or extraction. This is why it's important to get it treated at the first sign of a problem. To schedule a consultation, please call (972) 771-2213. Our office is located at 1300 E. Ralph Hall Pkwy., Suite 114.

P.S. Because inflammation is related to cancer, Porphyromonas gingivalis could cause inflammation in the pancreas, or the oral bacterium may simply be a marker for cancer-causing inflammation.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "one-armed bandit" (___ machine)
- ex-star Cowboy RB, Dorsett
- former office for TX George W.
- small rodents
- town in 1990 film "Texasville" (2 wds.)
- country cable net
- retired TX gymnast who co-owns "Texas Dreams Gymnastics"
- TXism: "___ could strut sitting down" (big ego)
- TXism: "___ the bullet"
- TBN program: "___ the Lord"
- powerful bomb
- plague or curse
- Hilton's first TX hotel: "cross between a gold mine and a ___ house"
- Ken Paxton's state title (abbr.)
- TX Ginger was in 1931 film "___ Lovers"
- Edna, TX FM
- "Honest ___" Lincoln
- TX Gary Morris' "Leave ___"
- TX Johnny Rodriguez's "Pass ___"
- univer. course
- TX has several of these bird refuges
- TXism: "his ___ is colder than freon" (heartless)
- 42 Aransas Pass festival: "Shrimpo ___"
- growl with teeth bared
- androids, e.g.
- TX-created ___ Pepper
- hot tub, e.g.
- first TV game show in TX: "___ the Street"
- Alice newspaper: "___ Journal"
- 50 a Texas way of looking at things
- 14 this company made the first big copier
- do it quickly abbr.
- activity on TX lakes
- TXism: "tough ___ heel"
- NBA development team in Frisco: "___ Texas"
- fig tree
- 24 "___ Belo Corp." owns newspapers in North TX
- Coach Landry
- wallet stuffers
- TXism: "___ mop" (toothbrush)
- Houston Oiler kicker in 1980s, Zendejas (init.)
- TXism: "we ___ out our differences"
- 29 large pill used by TX veterinarians
- TXism: "tells a windy"
- TX Ivory Joe Hunter sang "Since I ___ You Baby"
- "on an even ___"
- TXism: "in ___ age" (long time)
- 37 "___ Main Street" (Astrodome)
- TXism: "bend an ___" (drink)
- 40 sexual assaults
- 41 "wish ___ offense" was created in TX
- 44 "___ and rave"
- 47 TX "Daddy Don" Meredith was first color commentator on "___ Night Football"
- 49 theme park in Spring, TX in 1984 and 1985: "___ Barbera Land"



The oldest house in Royse City, located in the 100 block of North Houston, is scheduled to go up for sale. The house, pictured above, was built in 1882.
Photo by Millie Jean Coppedge/Rockwall County News

Rockwall bans use of legal tubing ...

(Continued from Page 1)

She emphasized her opinion that the low number of fires caused by CSST does not reduce the importance of banning use of the product. Hargrove also said that bonding and grounding of CSST might help mitigate risks, but it does not protect it from direct lightning strikes.

It was also confirmed that CSST was officially considered a legal product.

During the discussion, Mayor Pruitt asked Hargrove whether "we have the power to do this." Following the mayor's question, a number of council members immediately broke into laughter.

The Fire Marshal suggested that his was a legal question that should be addressed by the City Attorney. The mayor and council did not ask City Attorney Frank Garza to address whether the council and city officers had the "power" or authority under state law to ban, and/or enforce a ban, on the use of a legal product.

Pruitt presented his proclamation for "Lake Pointe Church Christmas in Mexico Recognition Day."

According to the proclamation, pilots from the Rockwall Municipal Airport flew to Mexico with planes loaded with Christmas presents for children in need, as part of Lake Pointe Church's "Christmas in Mexico" mission. The ministry is called "Wings of Witness Ministries."

Tracy Tuttle represented Lake Pointe Church during the meeting. Pruitt did not seek advice from City Attorney

The council discussed a mural that would appear on the south wall of 110 South Goliad in downtown Rockwall. As owner of the building, Pruitt recused himself.

It was explained that the cost of the mural would be \$15,000, which will come from the \$74,000 bond issue for different art projects.

The item was unanimously approved, with Pruitt abstaining.

Next, the council unanimously approved the deed of easement related to the mural, with the mayor abstaining.

Following the above mural votes, Pruitt told the council that about six months ago, he received a letter from the City of Rockwall instructing him to paint the side of the building. He expressed appreciation over the city's decision to use the building for a mural.

Also during the Appointments portion of the meeting, Leslie Milder of "Our House," requested an amendment to the city's Sign Ordinance related to "on premise traffic signs."

She explained that a sign she posted showed people what parking entry to use for the business. Because the sign included a business logo, the City sent a letter alleging violation of an advertising sign ordinance. Ms. Milder clarified her intentions were not to advertise the business.

It was explained that signs are not in violation when they

simply include an address without business logo. The mayor directed staff to bring back a sign ordinance amendment.

Suntex Marinas was unanimously approved to make certain infrastructure improvements within Chandler's Marina. The lease agreement with Suntex Marinas was extended until year 2041. According to a memorandum from Parks and Recreation manager Any Hesser, the extension would provide the ability to finance capital improvement projects for a longer period of time.

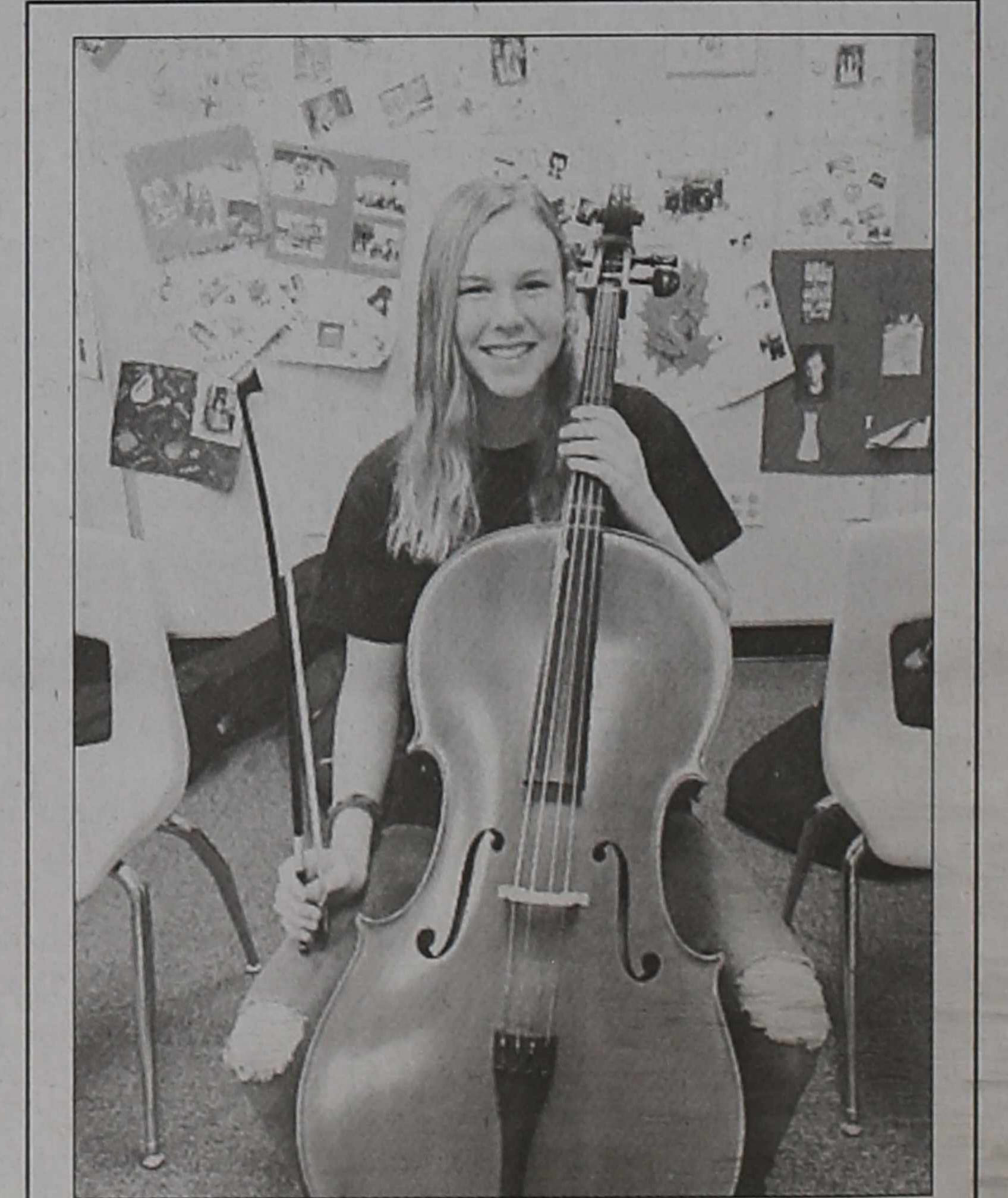
Suntex presented a proposal to the Park Board with the following capital improvement plan changes:

- Redevelop H Dock which currently includes 52 uncovered slips; and
- Adding a bulkhead wall to contain approximately 12,500 yards of dredge material on site.

The council was divided on whether to approve a Specific Use Permit for hacienda Car Wash within the Scenic Overlay District located south of the intersection of West Yellow Jacket Lane and Ridge Road.

The council was challenged with the consideration that continued granting of SUPs might undercut the purpose of the Scenic Overlay District.

White moved for approval with an amendment to include screening and no expiration date on the SUP. Hohensheldt, Fowler and Pruitt cast the dissenting votes.



Maddie Stovall, a sixth grade student and cello player at Nebbie Williams, earned a second-place finish at the Rockwall All-City Orchestra competition on Saturday, Jan. 21, at Williams Middle School. She added, against other sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from throughout the Rockwall Independent School District.

Courtesy photo/Rockwall County News

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