

Denton Record-Chronicle

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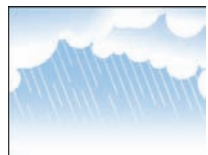
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Monday, October 26, 2009

Denton, Texas

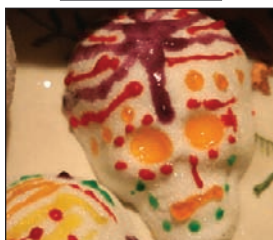
50 cents

TODAY IN DENTON



Scattered showers, steady temperatures
High: 54
Low: 53
Weather report, 2A

DAY OF THE DEAD



"Passport to Mexico: El Dia de los Muertos" will be presented at 7 p.m. Tuesday at North Branch Library, 3020 N. Locust St. The free program will celebrate Mexican culture and offer information about the Day of the Dead holiday. Snacks, crafts and activities will be included. For more information, call 940-349-8741 or e-mail juli.gonzales@cityofdenton.com.

NATIONAL



The real secretary of education, the joke goes, is Bill Gates. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has been the biggest player by far in the school reform movement.

Page 3A

TRAFFIC TIPS

Bell Avenue has lanes closed for road repairs from Oak Street to Eagle Drive.

BRIGHT LIGHTS

If you want to thank someone for their contributions to society, spotlight the good deeds of a stranger, or share an inspiring story, send an e-mail along with a contact number to Managing Editor Dawn Cobb at dcobb@dentonrc.com.

FIND IT INSIDE

CLASSIFIED	1C
COMICS	5B
CROSSWORDS	5B, 4C
DEAR ABBY	8A
DEATHS	7A
OPINION	6A
SPORTS	1B
TELEVISION	5A
WEATHER	2A



Shelter builder sought

Hickory Creek gives OK for construction bids

By Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe
Staff Writer

HICKORY CREEK — Town leaders authorized its architect to seek construction bids for a new 2,276-square-foot animal shelter to be built on the town's east side.

While plans have been slow in coming, the timing to begin construction early next year could work to the town's advantage.

Word about the possible job was already out in construction circles, according to Kim Dowdy of Quorum Architects, who posted the opportunity this week in "plan rooms," subscription Web sites that distribute project details to contractors.

"Many are calling in and interested in the project," Dowdy said, adding that it helps that contractors are looking for work. "The location and the economy are in your favor."

Her firm received 13 bids for a similar job in Allen recently, she added.

Depending on which contractor the town selects, Quorum could work more

See SHELTER on 7A

NEW LOCATION

Hickory Creek is planning to build a new 2,276-square-foot animal shelter on the east side of town.



Staff graphic



Denton Record-Chronicle/David Minton

University of North Texas senior Laura Rusnok, who's also the president of the Student Aviation Association, is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation logistics. UNT's aviation logistics program was approved earlier this month.

Aviation degree on horizon

UNT's new B.S. program will fill a hole in state's public college offerings

By Candace Carlisle
Staff Writer

Laura Rusnok pilots a single-engine aircraft off the runway at the Denton Airport on Friday, carefully logging her flight hours.

Each hour logged will help the University of North Texas senior toward a newly approved Bachelor of Science aviation logistics degree.

The aviation logistics program, housed in the university's College of Business, was approved earlier this month, and students

will be able to officially take courses for the fall 2010 semester.

The program is the only four-year aviation degree at a Texas public college and will keep aviation students on this side of the Red River, said Stephen Swartz, a marketing and logistics professor.

"There is a current and predictive shortfall of people [in the aviation industry]," Swartz said. "There is a problem in the near and long-term future in filling the needs of the aviation industry."

The regional shortfall of qualified aviation personnel has hurt the North Texas area, where aviation-related firms such as American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter and Labinal reside, he said.

Before UNT could offer the aviation

logistics program, the school had to show a need for the degree plan, Swartz said.

A recent study conducted by the North Texas Council of Governments showed about 1,000 Texans were leaving the state to study at four-year degree flight schools, Swartz said.

Rusnok said she knew she wanted to be a pilot after she took her first demonstration flight at 14.

But she couldn't find a public aviation program in Texas.

"There were no four-year institutions, only private programs, and they were very expensive," Rusnok said.

Rusnok said she resigned herself to a generic business degree at UNT and saved

See AVIATION on 7A

Early voting stays slow

By Bj Lewis
Staff Writer

Early voting numbers in Denton County show residents are following the example set by voters across the state and avoiding the polls.

Through Friday, 1,047 residents had cast ballots.

"There's not a lot of activity," said Don Alexander, county elections administrator.

Alexander said statistics on the secretary of state's Web site show that turnout for Texas' top 15 counties was a little more than half of 1 percent of the eligible voters, or just less than 44,000 votes.

"I expected it to be bad; there's just not a lot of things on this ballot that interest people," Alexander said.

Alexander noted that property tax, eminent domain and veterans issues were on the ballot, along with items such as Denton's city charter issue regarding term limits for council members, the adoption of Pilot Point's first city charter and a vacancy on the Lake Dallas City Council.

Turnout may pick up on Wednesday or Thursday, Alexander said. He said the county will be lucky if turnout

See VOTING on 7A

Deadly blasts kill nearly 150 in Baghdad

Car bombings raise questions about Iraq's handle on security

By Rebecca Santana
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — A pair of suicide car bombings Sunday devastated the heart of Iraq's capital, killing at least 147 people in the country's deadliest attack in more than two years. The bombs targeted two government buildings and called into question Iraq's ability to protect its people as U.S. forces withdraw.

The bombings show that insurgents still have the ability to launch horrific attacks even as violence has dropped dramatically in Iraq. Many fear such attacks will only increase as Iraq prepares for crucial January elections.

The dead included 35 employees at the Ministry of Justice and at least 25 staff members of the Baghdad Provincial Council, said police and medical officials



Iraqis gather as firefighters respond to a massive bomb attack near the Iraqi Ministry of Justice building, seen at rear, in Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday. At least 147 people were killed by a pair of powerful explosions that targeted two government buildings during the morning rush hour.

AP/Hadi Mizban

See IRAQ on 7A