



Police arrest man suspected in assault at Wiggly Field Dog Park

>> Local, 6A

DATA CENTERS

AI boom sparks debate over growth

By Alyssa Burks

For the Denton Record-Chronicle

As Denton city leaders push through approval of major data center projects, residents are expressing concerns that the strain on local resources, especially energy and water, could outweigh the economic benefits.

"A lot of it just seems to be like build, build, build and we'll deal with repercussions later," said James Macfadzean, a Denton County resident who believes the pace of development raises questions about long-term impacts.

The Denton City Council most recently approved a specific-use permit for a modular data center by QumulusAI in January. The data center, which will break ground near Western Boulevard and Jim Christal Road, will use a closed-loop cooling system designed to minimize water consumption.

Already under construction, a facility owned by CoreWeave and run by Core Scientific is converting its bitcoin mining technology to high-powered computing for artificial intelligence. The City Council approved the switch and \$6 billion investment in 2024.

A national poll released this week by Quinnipiac University reveals that 65% of Americans oppose AI data centers being built in their communities, predominantly citing electricity cost and water use.

In addition, state leaders have



Penny Kimble/DRC

The Core Scientific and CoreWeave data center on Jim Christal Road is under construction as the facility is expanded for additional AI and data usage.

See DATA on 9A

Free time, game time



Jayden Rudd/For the DRC

University of North Texas students play *Dragon Ball FighterZ* in the Syndicate at the University Union on Wednesday. Students can check out TV spaces and connect devices to play games during free time.

This photo was contributed by Jayden Rudd, a UNT student in the Mayborn School of Journalism's Advanced Photojournalism Portfolio course.

EDUCATION

Which local schools accept vouchers? What to know

By Lucinda Breeding-Gonzales
Staff Writer

After lawsuits, some uncertainty about eligibility and rule changes on documentation that applicants can use to qualify, Texans are ready to get their school vouchers. The 89th Texas Legislature set aside \$1 billion to fund them.

The funding comes from the state's appropriations for public schools. The program finally passed after years of bitter gridlock in the state House of Representatives.

Proponents of vouchers say the program will help families get their children out of failing public schools, and create competition that will improve academic performance in public schools, thanks

to competition with private and religious schools. Critics said the program will hurt public schools in the midst of statewide deficit budgets, stagnant state funding, and a record number of teachers leaving the classroom since the 2020-21 school year.

On Thursday, acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said more than 274,000 students applied for the vouchers, referred to as Texas Education Freedom Accounts.

The comptroller's office released a detailed breakdown of the application pool.

So far, a review of applications shows:

- About 43,000 students

See VOUCHERS on 8A



Aubrey holds off Krum for decisive win

Aubrey pulled ahead early and held off Krum for a 6-3 win, clinching a crucial District 10-4A series victory in the process. >> Sports, 10A



'Super Mario Galaxy' paints a dazzling universe

Movie review: Colorful chaos and nostalgic nods make this *Mario* sequel a spirited ride — even if its story never truly leaves orbit. >> Entertainment, 7A



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