



# Denton Record-Chronicle

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## After Syria pullout, Burgess still backs Trump

House rep says sending a 'powerful message' to Turkey is important

By Dalton LaFerney  
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U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess sided with the White House this week in its decision to withdraw the U.S. military from

northeastern Syria, the latest example of the Pilot Point Republican's support for Donald Trump despite a bipartisan rebuke of what some say is unpredictable decision-making by the president.

Burgess stood against an overwhelming majority of the U.S. House that voted to condemn Trump's decision to withdraw. Burgess voted no in a 354-60 vote.

Meanwhile, Burgess, who's up for reelection in 2020, said his reason for sup-



Michael Burgess

porting the president this time is that Congress did not vote to authorize U.S. involvement in Syria when the Obama administration sent troops into the conflict in 2014.

Though Burgess did say multiple times this week, in interviews and in prepared statements from his office, that

he sympathizes with his colleagues on Capitol Hill who are rattled by the seemingly abrupt pullout, Burgess said nobody should be surprised. It's Trump doing Trump.

"First off, the president did talk about it several months ago," Burgess told the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. "We have all known that has been his strategy from the beginning."

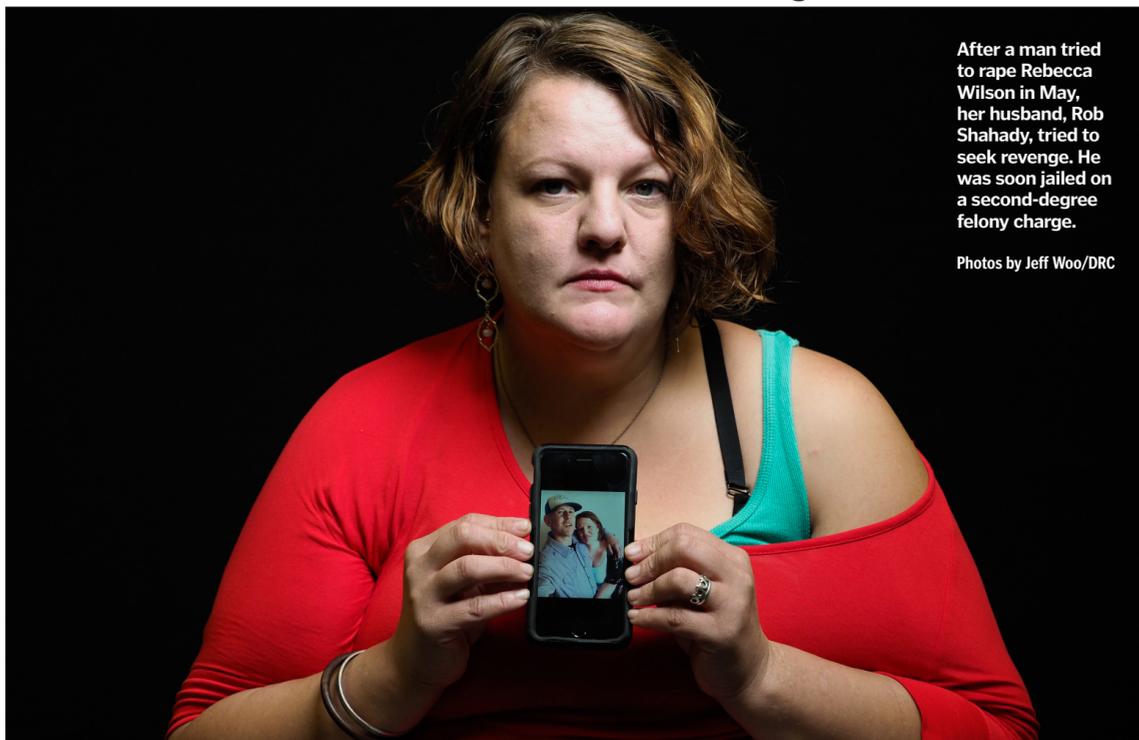
Asked if he was concerned about how the U.S. will be perceived by its al-

lies and world leaders for a swift policy change, leaving behind Syrian Kurdish fighters who've battled alongside American service members, Burgess said sanctions on Turkey would be effective in blunting Turkey's military advance.

"That's going to depend on the follow-through," Burgess said. "I think it is important to send a very powerful message to Turkey."

See BURGESS on 11A

## 'He had to see me be scared, so he got hurt, too'



After a man tried to rape Rebecca Wilson in May, her husband, Rob Shahady, tried to seek revenge. He was soon jailed on a second-degree felony charge.

Photos by Jeff Woo/DRC

By Dalton LaFerney  
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Robert Shahady heaved two rocks through the windows of the car and emptied a yellow detergent bottle full of gasoline inside it. The car was ablaze as Denton Fire Engine No. 2 pulled up and everything would start to fall apart for him, not that he hadn't already come unraveled.

Video coverage / DentonRC.com

Sabotaged by a medley of rage and distrust in police, Rob had spent the previous three days trying to fix things. Rebecca Wilson, his wife, flinched when he'd touch her. She was a shadow of her former self. Denton police seemed disinterested in her case. She was already having nightmares and waking up crying.

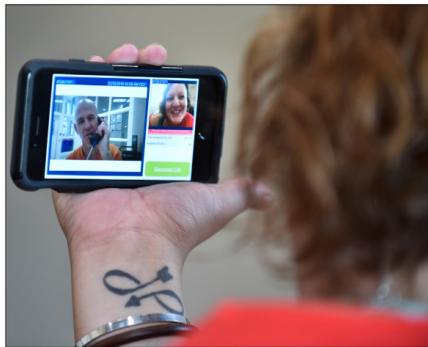
"He tried not to show me he was struggling with it," Rebecca said.

## After assault, a plot for justice gone wrong

Later that day, May 6, a fire investigator watched Robert in security camera footage douse the outside of the car with two bottles of lighter fluid and spark it. When the fire burned out, Robert left the parking lot at The Loop apartments and came back a half-hour later with the gasoline-filled detergent bottle and the rocks.

He was not going to let that car keep moving. Whoever drove it — Rob was certain — was the man who tried to rape Rebecca.

See ASSAULT on 11A



Rob Shahady and Rebecca Wilson have a conversation via the video visitation app on Rebecca's phone. Rob is housed at the Denton County Jail on a second-degree felony charge.

## Early voting begins Monday

Denton voters will be casting ballots on bond proposals

By Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe  
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Button up for your civic responsibility, Denton. There are some big decisions to make for our collective future.

More election coverage / Page 5A

The state of Texas has 10 constitutional amendments for every Texas voter to consider. And Denton residents have an extra reason to head to the polls: a \$221.5 million bond election to pay for roads, police department needs, parkland and public art.

**Proposition A** allocates \$61.9 million to renovate the Denton Police Department's current building on East Hickory Street, to build a new police substation on the south side of town and to build a new, indoor firing range.

**Proposition B** allocates \$154 million to road improvements, with \$70 million of that going to city streets in three neighborhoods that need a leg up: around Denton High School in central Denton, around Ginnings Elementary School in eastern Denton and in Southeast Denton.

The remaining amount will go to widen major arterials and accommodate a growing city, including Bonnie Brae Street in western Denton and Ryan Road and Hickory Creek Road in southern Denton.

See VOTING on 5A

## Costumes, candy and spooky fun fill rec center

By Zaira Perez  
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Halloween festivities at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center brought out dozens of children dressed as superheroes, animals and princesses for some games and a chance to win a trophy for their costumes Saturday morning.

Denton has numerous events centered around Halloween and fall in October. Denton Parks

and Recreation staffer Cheylon Brown said the rec center's annual Halloween Carnival embodies the parks department's "Come Play" slogan.

"Halloween [events] are always the most interesting because you can see the kids' personalities through costumes they choose, and the diversity is amazing," she said.

Brown said judges considered creativity, originality, effort and authenticity when deciding

on the costume contest winners. While many kids were dressed in classic Halloween costumes like Marvel and DC superheroes, Disney princesses and professions such as firefighters and police officers, there were a few others that caught the contest judges' eyes.

Ryley Sweat stood in an inflatable suit that made it look like an alien was carrying her away.

See HALLOWEEN on 9A



Two-year-old Anderson Wallace earned third place in the under-2 division, and his father, Andre Wallace, placed second in the adult division for their costumes — a ghost and a Ghostbuster — during the costume contest at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center on Saturday.

AI Key/For the DRC

