



# Denton Record-Chronicle

## New type of water system lets nature work

**By Amelia Jaycen**  
For the Denton Record-Chronicle

To shoppers, it looks like a simple bed of native grasses and trees with a slightly unusual border.

But what appears to be landscaping at the Rayzor Ranch Marketplace development is actually a complex water system that allows storm water drainage to be treated on-site before it continues downstream.

The system is among the first to implement the North Central Texas Council of Governments' new integrated storm water program and is also the largest, said Deborah Viera, an environmental compliance coordinator for the city of Denton.

Viera said the program reflects a

new attitude toward dealing with storm water.

"It is a way to combine water conveyance and water quality components of a project into one structure," she said.

**Natural filters**

The Rayzor Ranch developer, Allegiance Hillview, agreed to build the system to treat storm water on-site, one that slows the water and allows it to filter through a series of vegetation strips and water quality ponds.

Rayzor Ranch, a mixed-use development, is upstream of North Lakes Park, which is a recreation area and home to a city-controlled dam and reservoir. Officials were concerned that the new homes, apartments and

shopping centers in the area would eliminate a wetland and change the floodplain.

So at Rayzor Ranch, water flowing across acres of concrete finds places where it can penetrate the earth. Slotted curbs allow water to flow into special medians filled with plants, rock and engineered soil.

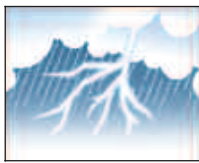
Cleaned by the grasses and plants on the surface, the water percolates through several feet of soil before finding its way to an underground pipe that carries it to retention areas with specially selected plants for further filtering before moving through a series of water quality ponds.

See DRAINAGE on 7A



AI Key/DRC  
The sidewalks in parking lots at Rayzor Ranch Marketplace, such as this one shown Wednesday, feature plants like rosemary along with ornamental grasses and trees as well as curb cuts to promote drainage.

### TODAY IN DENTON



Cloudy with rain and thunderstorms  
High: 65  
Low: 49  
Weather report, 2A

### LOCAL

Lewisville police are investigating an attempted kidnapping Wednesday in which a 14-year-old girl was approached by two men in a car as she was walking home from school.

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### LET US KNOW

To submit news tips or story ideas, visit [www.dentonrc.com](http://www.dentonrc.com) and click on "Let Us Know." The link is at the top of the home page under "Local News."

### RELIGION



The Vatican delegate running the troubled Legion of Christ urged its priests on Wednesday to elect a new leadership worthy of authority, after suffering for years from shame and suspicion following revelations that its founder was a pedophile.

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## Cascade of sweetness



A sweetgum tree, with seed pods hanging from its branches like Christmas ornaments, is silhouetted by a multi-colored winter sunset on Spencer Road in Denton recently.

AI Key/DRC

## Fundraiser able to purchase iPad minis for elementary

**By Britney Tabor**  
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A fundraising campaign at Wilson Elementary School, which drew national attention, raised more than \$13,000 for the purchase of iPad minis for the Denton school's library.

Carol Richmond, the school librarian who spearheaded the fundraiser, said she is pleased with the results.

"Thank you to the community for the support," she said. "It was great fun, and we hope they enjoyed it, too."

She said the school hopes to add the classroom set of iPad minis to the library by the first week of February.

The school had originally hoped to raise \$30,000 to purchase 30 iPads, but

decided to use the \$13,500 that was raised to purchase about 25 iPad minis to be checked out through the school library. An additional five iPad minis are being purchased for the five classrooms that each raised \$1,000 or more by Dec. 31.

To raise the funds, the school launched the Wilson Film Festival last fall. Individuals were encouraged to view online videos created by classes at the school and vote for their favorite by making a donation.

Using the school's current 24 iPads, classes at Wilson Elementary filmed 30 videos for the film festival and also showed viewers how the devices were being used by classrooms.

See FUNDRAISER on 7A

## Through the fog



AI Key/DRC  
Motorists contend with fog and drizzle on University Drive that was so thick at times that the Texas Woman's University dorms were barely visible Thursday in Denton.

## Church leader dies from flu

**By John D. Harden**  
Staff Writer  
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KRUM — A ministry leader at the Open Range Cowboy Church of North Texas near Krum has died from a combination of flu and pneumonia.

Chris Waskom, 41, a father of six from Slidell in Wise County, died Dec. 31. He had the H1N1 strain of the flu, known as swine flu, according to the medical examiner's office.

His death was the first flu-related death in Wise County and is believed to be the 21st flu-related death in North Texas, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Two people in Denton County — an elderly man and a girl, both from Carrollton — have died from flu-related causes, health officials have said.

Earl Bengston, a pastor at the cowboy church, said in an e-mail that Waskom's death was partially the result of a hospital's misdiagnosis.

"We are shocked as to how a 41-year-old healthy [man] with no health issues at all could be taken so quickly," Bengston said.

Waskom's father was a pastor, so he grew up in the church for most of his life, but at some point in life, he stopped attending, Bengston said. But one day, one of Waskom's sons encouraged him to attend a service at the cowboy church, which is located at 7290 Hawkeye Road.

"The rest is history," Bengston said. "He attended and knew God had sent him there."

Since then, Ritchie Johnson — the church's senior pastor — had mentored

See FLU on 7A

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Flu

Waskom for about a year before his death, Bengston said.

He added that Waskom was very involved with the youth community and was being trained for arena ministry.

A funeral for Waskom was held last weekend at the cowboy church, and he was later buried in a Slidell cemetery.

Family members could not be reached for comment.

The U.S. Army veteran and owner of Smalltown Plumbing was married to Lacy Waskom. He leaves behind six children: Lizzy Waskom, Maddi Waskom, Chase Waskom, Dustie Fennell, Rusty Fennell and Ruston Fennell.

Denton County Health Department officials say the dangerous strain of flu is spreading this year, and they are urging residents to get vaccinations.

Texas first lady Anita Perry joined the call for vaccinations in a public service announcement that was unveiled Thursday by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Perry, a nurse, urges residents not to wait for symptoms to get severe before consulting a physician.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Texas is one of a handful of states with "high" activity of influenza-like illnesses. Most of the cases have been the H1N1 strain, which is covered in the vaccination, officials said.

In the Denton area, free flu vaccines are still available at both health department clinics: in Denton, at 535 S. Loop 288, Suite 1003; and in Lewisville, at 190 N. Valley Parkway, Suite 203.

For additional information, visit [www.dentoncounty.com/immunizations](http://www.dentoncounty.com/immunizations), [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). Updates can also be obtained by following agency reports on Twitter at @CDCFlu or @FluGov.

*This article contains material from The Associated Press.*

JOHN D. HARDEN can be reached at 940-566-6882 and via Twitter at @Jdharden.

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Fundraiser

In November, the school hosted the Wilson Red Carpet at Ryan High School to screen the films for the public and to stump for donations.

News of the film festival gained national attention after an article in the *Denton Record-Chronicle* in October was picked up by The Associated Press. As the story spread, the school saw increases in festival donations, Richmond said.

The school has no information on festival donors and no way of knowing where in the country donations were contributed from, she said.

Richmond said there are no plans to use the film festival as a fundraiser next year, but the festival could continue as a way to show how iPads are being used

in classrooms.

Audrey Staniszewski, principal of Wilson Elementary, said the school is appreciative of Richmond's efforts in putting on the fundraiser. The school received feedback from parents and grandparents that they enjoyed participating in a fundraiser that didn't require them to purchase items they didn't want, she said.

"We were very happy," Staniszewski said. "We're so appreciative and pleased by the response, and that all those monies will go to buying iPad minis."

"We are so excited to get that technology, the iPads, in the hands of the kids."

BRITNEY TABOR can be reached at 940-566-6876 and via Twitter at @BritneyTabor.

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Drainage

When a storm subsides and the water is still, sediments settle out. Fencing skims debris off the surface. Ducks, turtles, fish and even pesky, tree-eating beavers frequent the site, according to Tom Galbreath, a registered landscape architect and executive vice president at Dunaway Associates, who managed the Rayzor Ranch site design and planning.

A treatment wetland dense with aquatic plants filters the water one last time before runoff from the next storm sends it traveling under Bonnie Brae Street to flow into the reservoir at North Lakes Park.

"You have to design the landscape ordinance — the planting that cities require anyway — to work in concert with the integrated storm water management plan," Galbreath said. "So you let the site dictate where things need to be, not an ordinance. If you know that you have landscaping on a site and you need landscape elements to clean up the water, then let water treatment needs guide the landscape criteria, rather than dealing with each of them independently."

Future developments

Storm water runoff is a different problem to manage than permitted discharges by manufacturers and other industries.

The NCTCOG program offers a technical manual, workshops and classes to teach builders, architects and landscapers how to incorporate water quality features into their



Al Key/DRC

Retention ponds behind the stores at Rayzor Ranch Market-place are pictured Tuesday in Denton.

projects.

The program also provides technical details on ways to treat storm water where it falls, through filter strips, rain gardens, grass channels, storm water ponds, porous concrete, pipe systems and features.

Capturing the water where it falls lessens the chance it will pick up pollutants such as oil and gasoline as it travels over concrete surfaces.

Denton has secured two Environmental Protection Agency grants in the past decade to develop a protection plan for the Hickory Creek watershed and implement the design and construction of demonstration projects.

The plans and projects were completed together with researchers at the University of North Texas, Texas A&M University, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, North Texas Municipal Water District and consultants.

The city built demonstration water quality sites at Denton

OBITUARIES



Elvin Mouriece Baker

Elvin Mouriece Baker, 83, of Denton, passed away on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at Denton Regional Medical Center. He was born June 19, 1930, in Denton to Arthur B. Baker, Sr. and Inez (Coberly) Baker. He attended Denton Public Schools and was a charter member and deacon of Lake Shore Baptist Church. He was married to Velma Jewell Williams on February 15, 1952, in Gainesville, TX; she passed away on September 28, 2011. He was retired from Moore Business Forms as maintenance supervisor. He served in the U S Navy.

Mr. Baker is survived by daughters, Patricia Lynn Baird and husband Danny of Denton, Laura Ann Boxell and husband Jay of Ponder, son Arthur M. Baker of Corinth, sister Effie Inez Kelly of Denton, and grandchildren Amber, Art, Jr. and Austin Baker, Megan and Sam Baird, Kristin and Grant Boxell.

A visitation will be held on Friday, January 10, 2014, from 6 P.M. until 8 P.M. at the Mulkey-Mason Funeral Home, 705 N. Locust, Denton, TX, followed by a funeral service on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at 10:00 A.M. at Lakeshore Baptist Church, 276 E. Hundley Dr., Lake Dallas, TX, with Rev. Homer Walkup officiating. Burial will follow in Roselawn Memorial Park. Online condolences may be left at [www.mulkeymasondenton.com](http://www.mulkeymasondenton.com).

MULKEY MASON  
FUNERAL HOME  
Jack Schmitz & Son



Elizabeth "Bettye" Harper

Elizabeth "Bettye" Harper of Lewisville, formerly of Denton, passed away at her home on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 after a courageous three-year battle with cancer. She was 89. Born on October 10, 1924 in McAlester, Oklahoma, she was the youngest of one son and seven daughters born to John and Emma Heathcock. She grew up in Sherman, TX and moved to Denton after her marriage to Alvin Harper. She was employed as a proofreader at Moore Business Forms until she retired and moved to Lewisville. Never one to sit idly around, she held a variety of jobs, including cafeteria worker at both elementary and middle schools, attendance clerk at Lewisville High School and Marcus High School, and salesperson at Cracker Barrel and Merle Norman. She continued working and being active well into her late 80's, holding the position of "Popcorn Lady" at the Lewisville branch of DATCU Credit Union until shortly before her death.

Affectionately known to all as "Miss Bettye," she had two passions in life: tending to her plants and flowers, and watching, reading about, and discussing University of Texas football. She was blessed with countless good friends and kind neighbors with whom she enjoyed chatting, exchanging jokes, and talking about the Longhorns.

She was preceded in death by son Stephen Harper, and grandson Matthew Harper. She is survived by son and daughter-in-law Ron and Karen Harper of Flower Mound, TX; daughter-in-law, Barbara Harper of Bullard, TX; many extended family members; and a legion of wonderful friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

The family will be at DeBerry Funeral Directors on Friday night January 10, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 pm for Visitation. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 10:00 am in the Chapel of DeBerry Funeral Directors. Burial will be at Roselawn Memorial Park in Denton following the service.

The family wishes to extend thanks to the staff members of Texas Oncology Clinic; Timothy Beste, MD; Ardent Hospice; Home Helpers; and all her wonderful neighbors for their care and support. If desired, memorials may be made to Lewisville Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 299002, Lewisville, TX 75029 or to a charity of choice.

Bill DeBerry Funeral Directors

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[www.deberryfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.deberryfuneraldirectors.com)

Enterprise Airport, Denton Fire Station No. 7, Wiggly Field Dog Park, Cross Timbers Park, the Denton County Road and Bridge facility on East McKinney Street, and at South Lakes Park downstream of a gas well pad site on neighboring land at Acme Brick.

In addition, a rain garden at the Pecan Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility was constructed in cooperation with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The more complicated site at Rayzor Ranch serves as a large-scale example of integrated storm water management standards and practices. Denton's goal is to make such projects a normal part of development, according to David Hunter, the

city's watershed protection manager.

"When developers come to town, the first thing they should ask is, 'What do I need to do for water quality?'" Hunter said. "It is a process where you have to not only educate developers, politicians and the decision-makers in your city, you have to start making your citizenship aware of it."

Lessons learned

With lessons learned at Rayzor Ranch, the city hopes for bigger and better water quality systems to accompany larger projects.

The low-impact development keeps the land functioning more naturally while people continue to build for their needs, officials said. Implementing such designs that mimic the natural cycle of water through the land minimizes pollution and the cost of keeping local waters clean.

"There is an environmental component but it has a huge economic component to it as well," Viera said. "When we talk about protecting streams, creeks and lakes, it is seen as damage to valuable infrastructure that will be costly to repair, and it is something we'll pay for in water quality down at the lake."

"We have a responsibility to be good stewards of the resources at our disposal, that includes the environment and financially."

OBITUARIES

Dean Theodore Miller

Dean Theodore Miller, age 87 years 364 days, passed away at his home on Monday, January 6, 2014. Dean was born the son of William and Ella (Dettmer) Miller on January 7, 1926, on the family farm east of Agra, KS. He was baptized on February 7, 1926, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Dean attended grade school at a country school east of Agra, and high school at Agra High School. Dean joined the U.S. Navy and served aboard the destroyer escort U.S.S. Thaddeus Parker from 1944-1946. Dean loved to reminisce about traveling through the Panama Canal on his 19th birthday. After completing his service to our country he attended Kansas State University, was a member of Beta Sigma Psi fraternity, and graduated from KSU in 1950 with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture.

On May 11, 1952, Dean married Darlene Rahjes and soon thereafter began a family farming operation southwest of Kensington. Dean moved the family to the farming operations current location south of Agra in 1960 and retired in 2001. In 1968 Dean also started Miller Income Tax Service and with the help of Darlene and nephew Ron Rahjes served the area until 2008.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, an older brother LeRoy Miller and an infant grandson, Jason Phillip Hagedorn.

He is survived by his wife Darlene of Kensington; son Stan (Lisa) Miller of Denton, TX, daughter Janese (Ed) Erickson of North Platte, NE, daughter Mary (Steve) Hagedorn of Oro Valley, AZ, son Kent (Denise) Miller of Gage, OK, and son Tim (Denise) Miller on the family farm; 13 Grandchildren, 8 Great Grandchildren, and siblings Leland (Audrey) Miller of Phillipsburg, Charlotte (Doyle) Rahjes of Agra, and David (Jolinda) Miller of Lakewood, CO.

A "Celebration of Life" service was held at 10:30 am, Saturday, January 11, 2014, at St. John Lutheran Church in Kensington with Pastor Lorna Paulus officiating. Burial followed in the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery in Kensington, KS.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Dean Miller Memorial Fund in care of the Simmons-Rentschler Mortuary. The family plans to distribute memorials to various organizations within the area.

For online condolences visit [www.simmons-rentschler.com](http://www.simmons-rentschler.com).

OBITUARIES

Mr. James "JM" Simpson

Mr. James "JM" Simpson passed away Sunday, January 5, 2014 at Denton Regional Medical Center. A visitation will be held Friday, January 10, 2014 at Peoples Funeral Home and Chapel. Funeral Services are scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 11AM at St. Andrew C.O.G.I.C. Interment will immediately follow funeral services in Oakwood Cemetery.



Peter C. "Woody" Kern

Peter Carlson "Woody" Kern, 66, of Pilot Point, passed away Tuesday, January 7, 2014, in Plano, Texas. Peter was born April 20, 1947, in Canton, OH, to Peter and Dorothy (Raush) Kern. He attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, majoring in biochemistry and minoring in psychology.

In 1970 he entered the family business of nursing homes. Once in charge he began to expand the company and purchased homes outside of Ohio. He moved to Pilot Point, TX, in 1986. In the 90's he was the sole owner of Texas Health Enterprises, the largest nursing home chain in the state of Texas with over 100 homes.

He was a lover of baseball and owned minor league baseball teams in North Carolina, Washington, California, New Jersey, and New York. The Ashville Tourist, an affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, was regarded as one of the best-run minor league franchises in the country.

He began his career with the Arena Football League as the owner of the Fort Worth Cavalry in 1993. This team only operated for a single season. In 1994 he purchased the Arena Football team, Tampa Bay Storm, in Tampa Bay, FL. Under his watch the team won three championships. The Storm is noted as having won more games than any other team in AFL history. In 2010 he founded the Texas-based Dallas Vigilantes Arena Football Team. The team played at American Airlines Center from 2010-2012.

In 2012 he welcomed the addition of Cheer's Liquor and Spirits to his list of business ventures. Cheer's has many locations around Texas. Also, he was the president of PCK Management located in Pilot Point, TX.

He is survived by his two sons, Ryan Kern of Denton, TX, Bo Kern of Frisco, TX; five daughters, Jennifer Walter of Columbus, OH, Cari Gilliam of Princeton, TX, Lindsay Kern of Whitesboro, TX, Blair Kern of Aubrey, TX, Kristin Kern of Cross Roads, TX; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be held 10:00 AM, Saturday, January 11, 2014, at Slay Memorial Chapel in Aubrey, TX, with a funeral service following at 11:00 AM officiated by Rev. Luther Slay. Burial will be at Belew Cemetery in Aubrey, TX. On-line condolences may be shared at [www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center Aubrey.

[www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com)



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