



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Food for Canutillo

The Canutillo Independent School District is partnering with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank to feed entire families, in addition to children ages 18 and under. “The district cares for the well-being and nourishment of our entire community, so when families are going to the school district, there may be others in the household who need food as well,” said Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “Schools are trusted and highly accessible locations that families are used to visiting.” The district, in partnership with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank will be distributing boxes of groceries curbside at Bill Childress Elementary, every Monday and Friday, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. 1,000 families will be served on a first come first serve basis. The breakfast and lunch program provided to children ages 18 and under will continue as scheduled. Please visit the district’s website for times and locations at [http://www.canutillo-isd.org/COVID19/free\\_breakfast\\_and\\_lunch\\_schedule](http://www.canutillo-isd.org/COVID19/free_breakfast_and_lunch_schedule).

— Liza M. Rodriguez

### SISD plans July graduation dates

The Socorro Independent School District remains committed to having commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020. SISD is planning to celebrate graduation with rescheduled ceremonies on July 24 and 25, 2020 at the Don Haskins Center. The proposed dates are contingent on COVID-19 restrictions as per state and local authorities. “We know the current situation has been especially hard on our seniors,” said SISD Superintendent Jose Espinoza, Ed.D. “We want to assure the Class of 2020 that we will make every effort to ensure they enjoy that magical moment of receiving their high school diploma.” SISD will work toward those projected dates with the guidance of the Texas Education Agency commissioner and the local public health department. The utmost importance is the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and community. SISD assures seniors and their families that the district will do everything in its power to find a way to recognize and celebrate our graduates. The new proposed dates and times for SISD graduation ceremonies at the Don Haskins Center are:

**Friday, July 24**

See BRIEFS, Page 3

*Any government big enough to give you anything you want is big enough to take everything you’ve got.*

— Quips & Quotes



— Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**OUTSTANDING IN HIS FIELD** – Arthur Ivey, owner of Rio Bravo Farms, above, stands in a pecan orchard that includes trees that are more than 60 years old. Ivey said that the key to pecan orchard profits in West Texas depends on many factors that must work together to yield at least 1,000 pounds of high-quality pecans per acre. This year, although a good harvest, the biggest challenges have been the U.S.-China tariffs and the worldwide coronavirus-19 pandemic.

## Moving pecans from tree to kitchen has new challenges

By Alfredo Vasquez  
Special to the Courier

ELPASO COUNTY – It seems that no El Paso area industry has been left unscathed by the coronavirus-19 pandemic... not even the pecan growers.

A thriving business in recent years, pecan orchards up and down the Paso del Norte valley along the Rio Grande – from T or C, NM to McNary, TX – have been flourishing for the past few years and have been able to sell their shelled nut throughout the world.

As a matter of fact, a recent New Mexico

agriculture department report indicated that the state has been the country’s largest pecan producer for the past couple of years. In 2018, Texas’s northwestern neighbor produced 91 million pounds, and last year the yield was about 97

See PECANS, Page 4

## San Elizario HS nationally ranked

By Jeannie Meza-Chavez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario High School (SEHS) has once again ranked among the finest in El Paso. In the *U.S. News & World Report* of Best High Schools, SEHS ranked 120 out of the 2,075 Texas high schools ranked. In the national ranking, SEHS ranked 1,041. Locally, in the El Paso region, SEHS ranked 8.

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked approximately 17,790 public high schools out of more than 24,000 reviewed. Review of data was from the 2017-2018 cohort, which included statewide math and reading level assessment tests as well as high school graduation rates in order to arrive at the 2020 rankings.

SEHS has a total minority enrollment of 99%, and 91% of students are economically

See SEHS, Page 2

### Ranking criteria

- College Readiness: College Readiness Index (CRI), which measures the proportion of a school’s 12th graders that took and passed AP or IB exams.
- College Curriculum Breadth: College Curriculum Breadth Index (CCBI), calculates a school’s 2017-2018 12th graders from the percentage who took and the percentage who passed multiple AP or IB exams.
- Math and Reading Proficiency: Each state issues standardized tests measuring student proficiency in subjects related to mathematics and reading to determine student performance
- Math and Reading Performance: Obtained from math and reading state assessments compared with what U.S. News predicted for a school with its demographic characteristics in its state.
- Underserved Student Performance: Assess learning outcomes only among black, Hispanic and low-income students by evaluating how well these underserved subgroup score on state assessments compared with the average for non-underserved students among schools in the same state.
- Graduation Rate: Based on students who entered ninth grade in the 2013-2014 academic year and is proportionate to those who graduated four years later by 2017-2018.

## First homes connect to new wastewater system

By Carlos A. Brianos  
Special to the Courier

EAST MONTANA – Thirty-four years. That’s how long Montana Vista resident Abraham Rascon has been hoping wastewater system infrastructure would

reach his neighborhood. On Monday April 20, 2020, that wait was over. Rascon was the fifth home to connect to the new Montana Vista Wastewater System, which will bring first-time wastewater service to nearly

See CONNECT, Page 5



— Photo by Carlos A. Brianos

**THANKFUL** – Abraham Rascon is grateful for the new wastewater system infrastructure. On April 20, 2020 his home was hooked up to the system by an EPWater crew.





There is Twitter and there is Nitwitter. You decide which this is as the president of the United States was tweeting why he didn’t hold his daily coronavirus briefing:

“What is the purpose of having White House News Conferences when the Lamestream Media asks nothing but hostile questions, & then refuses to report the truth or facts accurately. They get record ratings, & the American people get nothing but Fake News. Not worth the time & effort!”

We have now gotten all too familiar with the ways that the Trumpster lashes out at those

# Injecting embarrassment

who dare contradict him, to say nothing of outright heckling him, for something that he said: When all else fails, blame the media.

And this one was a doozy. He had become a national embarrassment with his stream of unconsciousness questions about using household cleaning products meant to disinfect counters and injecting them into humans:

“And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in a minute. One minute. And is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning? Because you see it gets in the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs. So it would be interesting to check that. So, that, you’re going to have to use medical doctors with. But it sounds – it sounds

interesting to me.”

There were two reactions to that. Doctors, to say nothing of poison control experts, were horrified. Manufacturers of these products were, too. The people who make Lysol put out a warning statement.

But even worse for Trump was the laughter that came raining down, threatening to drown his fragile ego. True to form, he and his White House flunkies were flailing, putting out ever changing explanations. By the next day, it was POTUS’ turn: “I was asking a question sarcastically to reporters like you just to see what would happen.”

That didn’t quell the jeering either, particularly since he has pulled these harmful stunts before with his rambling speculation about possible

“miracle” cures that would stifle the deadly virus, which had killed so many thousands of Americans and ravaged the economy. His persistent musings about the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine had gutted the supply of the medication and forced researchers to take valuable time to examine the obscure possibility that it worked. Not only does it not work, but it might cause fatalities, they found, if it was not used for its intended purposes. So Trump moved on to injecting household disinfectants.

Then it was another day, another briefing. They have often lasted two hours, featuring mainly Donald Trump, treating his assembled experts as his supporting cast, and treating the national tragedy as a political

opportunity. This briefing lasted all of 22 minutes. It consisted mainly of the president reading a statement and then departing without reporter questions, looking to all the world like he was fleeing.

Then the next day, nothing. No briefing. Trump had retreated to his Twitter refuge – or Nitwitter, if you prefer – where he can fire off invective without questions from pesky newspeople.

Meanwhile, the national resolve to beat this deadly invader is starting to crumble. Efforts in some states to reopen prematurely have already begun and could cause new flare-ups of COVID. Meanwhile, President Trump will always find scapegoats. How about the media?

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# San Elizario ISD, food bank provide meals for San Eli community

**By Jeannie Meza-Chavez**  
*Special to the Courier*

SAN ELIZARIO – The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) Child Nutrition Services Department continues to provide nourishment for the children of the San Elizario Community. SEISD has approximately

3,379 students enrolled.

Since the San Elizario ISD announced the district’s closure due to the COVID-19, the Child Nutrition Services Department has provided approximately 2,100 breakfast and lunch meals to children on a daily basis every Monday through Friday at Garcia Enriguez Middle School (GEMS) located at 12280 Socorro Rd, San Elizario, TX 79849.

According to Child Nutrition Director Raul Jacques, “We have a successful system set up that abides by the guidelines required by Texas Department of Agriculture.” The meals being provided to children are now easier for parents to obtain. The TDA approved guidelines for parents to be able to pick up food without having to have children present in the car.

SEISD plans to continue providing breakfast and lunch for the children in San Elizario through the month of May with a modified schedule. Beginning June 1, 2020, the Child Nutrition Services will operate Monday through Thursday. Employees will prepare food distribution on Thursday to also include the food distribution for Friday.



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**FOOD TO GO –** From left, Brisia Marín, Hortensia Torres and Margaret Flores work on meals to distributed to community members in San Elizario. They are part of the staff of the Child Nutrition Services Department at San Elizario ISD.

**SEHS**  
From Page 1

disadvantaged. The graduation rate for SEHS is 88% with a 79% for college readiness. Principal

Maribel Guillen states, “We are proud to receive this award yet again because the methodology they use is so indicative of the population we serve. I am happy for our teachers, students and community!”

1973  
47  
Years  
2020

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# Canutillo ISD plans July graduation date

**By Liza M. Rodriguez**  
*Special to the Courier*

CANUTILLO – Canutillo Independent School District revealed a new date for the Class of 2020 graduation ceremonies that were postponed due to the current situation related to COVID-19.

The district plans to celebrate the 2020 graduation ceremonies on July 23, 2020, at the Don

Haskins Center.

“A significant milestone in life is graduation. Walking across the stage is a memory most of us cherish forever,” Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz stated. “Graduation ceremonies enable students to experience both self and group fulfillment and we will do everything in our power for our graduates to experience the elation of being together to recognize this outstanding accomplishment.”

The health and safety of our

students, staff, and community continue to remain our highest priority. The proposed date is contingent on COVID-19 restrictions as per state and local authorities.

The new proposed date and times for Canutillo ISD graduation ceremonies at the Don Haskins Center are on Thursday, July 23. The Northwest Early College High School will walk at 10:00 a.m. followed by Canutillo High School at 2:00 p.m.



# Social distancing isn't a religion

Forgive Jacksonville, Florida, for it has sinned.

The largest city in Florida partly reopened its beaches, and it became something of a national scandal. CNN ran a disapproving segment, and the hashtag #FloridaMorons trended on Twitter.

As the CNN report put it: “The scene at Jacksonville Beach wasn’t one of caution in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Crowds cheered and flooded the beach when police took the barriers down. People were seen swimming, biking, surfing, running and fishing.”

None of these activities has been shown to be a vector for the spread of COVID-19. In fact, no outdoors activities have been shown to be dangerous at all. A recent study examined hundreds of outbreaks and traced only one to an outdoor environment.

Surfers and bikers are the least of our worries. Yet, there is a segment of American opinion that takes it as its responsibility to scold and shame anyone who dares go out and get a little fresh air.

Early on in the crisis, CNN anchors spent 20 minutes inveighing against people walking, running, biking and rollerblading along San Francisco’s

Embarcadero. Noting that some people were holding hands, Jake Tapper called it “enraging.” Of course, random strangers don’t hold hands, but people who are likely in close proximity whether they are enjoying a stroll or not.

Despite there being no indication that outdoor spaces abet the spread of the disease, parks have been shut down throughout the United States, and the closures are at times enforced with rigor. No less than Tom Brady was chased from a closed Tampa Bay park after he was discovered working out, apparently alone. A father in Colorado was briefly detained by police for the alleged offense of playing T-ball with his 6-year-old daughter on a softball field.

A sure sign of fanaticism is the inability to make distinctions, in this instance between risky and non-risky activities and between places hard hit and places not. It’s one thing to hold a day-long, 100-person family reunion in a public park, quite another to jog through one. It’s one thing to begin opening up in New York City, where there have been more than 10,000 deaths, and another to begin opening in Montana, where there have been 14.

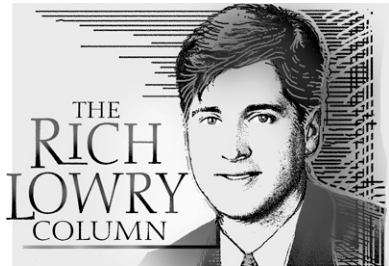
Jacksonville, Florida is the seat of Duval County. With a

population of nearly a million people, the county has had 17 COVID-19 deaths. It is hardly a hot spot.

At least some of the spleen would be taken out of the coronavirus debate if people acknowledged that we live in a vast continental country, with radically different ways of life. Not only are not all states the same, not all counties within states are the same.

But such is the lockdown zealotry that any thought that these kinds of places should be treated differently is considered heresy sure to get people killed. It seems indisputable that the lockdowns have slowed the spread of the disease, but at an enormous economic cost. We are going to have to show some flexibility and be willing to adopt a patchwork approach to opening up around the country.

We can’t be beholden to public officials and commentators who, to paraphrase H.L. Mencken,



have the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be rollerblading.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.

## Briefs

From Page 1

- 8 a.m. - Mission Early College High School
- 11 a.m. - El Dorado High School
- 3 p.m. - Pebble Hills High School
- 7 p.m. - Socorro High School

**Saturday, July 25**

- 9 a.m. - Montwood High School
- 1 p.m. - Eastlake High School
- 5 p.m. - Americas High School

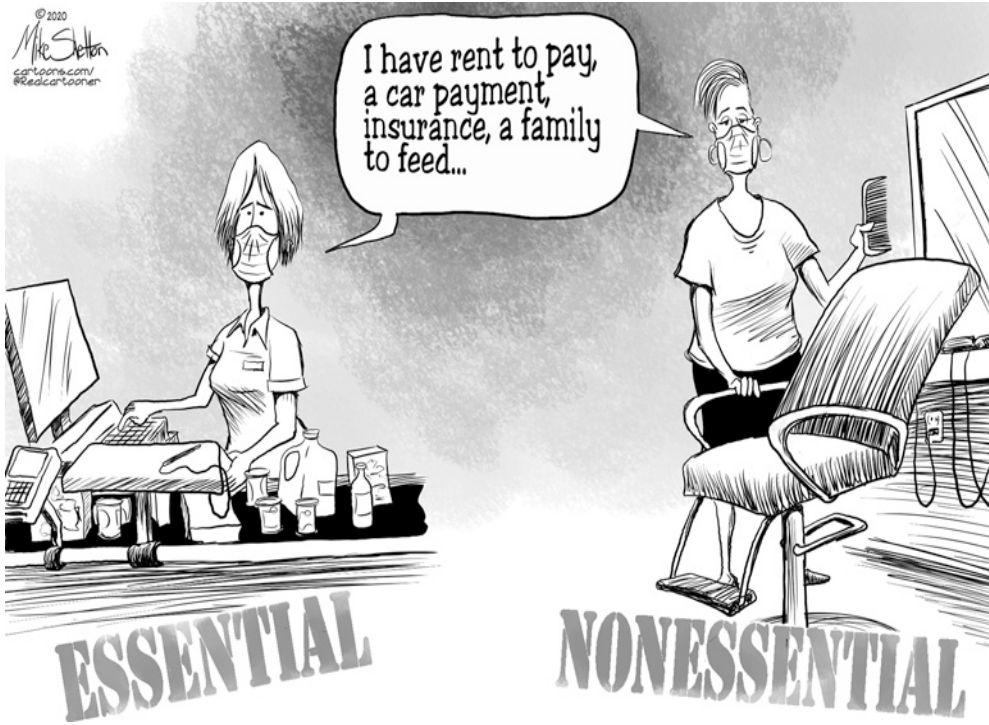
— Christy Flores-Jones

### Principals Harvard bound

Canutillo ISD Principals Jessica Carrillo, Christopher Judge, and Jesica Arellano, are heading to Harvard the summer of 2021 thanks to Raise Your Hand Texas, a nonprofit advocacy organization. Carrillo from Reyes Elementary School, Judge from Canutillo Middle School, and Arellano from Northwest Early College High School, were selected to

participate in the summer leadership program at The Principals’ Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The three will join campus leaders from around the globe to engage in training and workshops led by national and international experts in the fields of education and leadership. Carrillo, Judge, and Arellano are among 62 out of 200 school leaders selected because of their potential to affect significant change at their campus, within their district, and throughout their region. “This is a prestigious institute that directly supports student learning,” said Superintendent Dr. Pedro Galaviz. “It will not only build capacity but continue to put Canutillo ISD on top.” The principals will attend either the Improving Schools: Art of Leadership or the Leadership: An Evolving Vision institutes. Each institute is a week-long professional development summer course taught in Cambridge, MA by faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. All expenses are covered by Raise Your Hand.

— Liza M. Rodriguez







– Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

**NUTS** – Arthur Ivey, left, and cousin Jeffery Ivey, stand in front of some of the large bags of pecans that are currently stored in the Rio Bravo Farms cold storage facility. The storage unit is able to hold up to four million tons of the huge bags of pecans.

## Pecans

From Page 1

million pounds of the tree nut. And, the state’s biggest portion of those pecans came from the large corporate farms that have taken root in Dona Ana County, located in New Mexico’s southwestern corner, adjacent to Texas’ state-line.

El Paso County, which merges with Dona Ana County at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, has seen its farmers gradually switch from planting cotton, wheat, and alfalfa to pecans also. But El Paso area pecan growing efforts apparently are more family-owned operations, as approximately 60 separate, sizeable family-run pecan farms dot the county’s lower and upper valley region. Nonetheless, these West Texas farmers also bring-in an abundant harvest when times are good.

This year’s pecan season started out great, according to Arthur Ivey, owner of Rio Bravo Farms in Tornillo, Texas, which is in the heart of El Paso County’s lower valley farm land. “We had a productive harvest and were able to complete the pecan-gathering in late December, early January,” he related.

Ivey stated that by the beginning of February they were

See PECANS, Page 6

### Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Humans are the only primates without pigment in the palms of their hands.
- American alligator blood contains a serum that is so effective at combating bacteria and viruses, even alligators that lose limbs in mucky swamps often avoid infection.
- Irish author James Joyce was a great fan of Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen’s plays. How great? He learned basic Norwegian just to send Ibsen a fan letter.
- Philematology is the scientific study of kissing.
- There’s a Facebook group called “Best Day of My Life: When I Realized the Old Brewers Logo Was a Ball & Glove AND the Letters M & B.”
- China has the largest population of smokers in the world – 316 million people – accounting for nearly one-third of the world’s smokers and 40% of tobacco consumption worldwide. But just more than 2% of Chinese women smoke, compared with more

than half of all Chinese men.

- The term “deadline” dates to the American Civil War. Lines in the dirt would be drawn around prisoners. If they crossed one, they would be executed by their guards. Not surprisingly, both prisoners and guards soon took to calling such a line the “deadline.”
- Research has shown that men who kiss their wives goodbye live about five years longer, make up to 30% more money and are involved in fewer car accidents than those who don’t.
- The longest time between the births of twin siblings is 87 days. Amy Ann Elliot debuted prematurely on June 1, 2012, and Kate Marie Elliot followed on Aug. 27, at Waterford Regional Hospital in County Waterford, Ireland.
- As if that weren’t enough, kissing even helps keep your teeth healthy, by causing an increase in saliva, which helps wash away plaque.

Thought for the Day: “Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.”

– James Arthur Baldwin

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# Pro sports leagues busy planning for safe returns

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

With Texas slowly opening up its doors to businesses this week, there’s a definite hint of optimism in the air.

It was a strange sight, seeing cars parked in front of restaurants and department stores again. I can’t count how many “open” signs I saw hanging from storefront windows as I drove around town last weekend.

And though everyone is proceeding with caution, it felt good to see what may be the start of our return to life as we knew it a few short months ago.

But it isn’t only Texas – states all over the country are doing the same. Opening their doors to limited occupancy, sanitized counters, wearing masks and gloves, making sure patrons keep a safe distance,

and above all – giving their employees a chance to go back to work.

With most of America beginning to venture outside again, it only goes to figure that American professional sports leagues can’t be far behind.

And the three big boys, the National Football League, Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association, are all busy coming up with the best way to start their seasons.

Baseball is already a month late in starting its season; the NBA had to stop things in the middle of theirs, and the NFL is hoping it can get things underway as scheduled in September.

The NBA, which shut things down when the teams had about 20 regular-season games remaining, has made no plans on whether it will finish the year at all.

Commissioner Adam Silver has said that it’s likely that the 2021 season will

start sometime in late December, about two months later than usual.

The one thing that has been mentioned is if the current season starts up again, it will likely do so without any fans in the stands. What will Jack Nicholson, Spike Lee, Drake, Billy Crystal and Jay-Z do with themselves during those games?

Major League Baseball should have thrown out its first pitch about a month-and-a-half ago.

And though no definitive plans have been made on how to start the season, some wild ideas are being considered.

The latest idea has been to possibly start the season in late June. It also includes a plan to get rid of the whole American-National League concept.

The plan, for now, is to split teams into three 10-team divisions according to geographic location.

The East, West and Central division members would only play teams within their own division. The hope is to eliminate travel.

The plan also calls for the possible 100-game schedule to be played with no fans in the stadiums.

The NFL just held its most popular draft show ever and is also making plans for the upcoming season.

The timing was kinder to the NFL – the virus hit after February’s Super Bowl and football doesn’t get underway again until September.

Well, at least the regular season starts in September. There is still training camp, which opens in July, and the preseason games in August.

The NFL is going to release the full season schedule for 2020 this week. Games should get underway on Sept. 10, with the Super Bowl scheduled for Feb. 7, 2021.

## Pecans

From Page 4

shopping around for a buyer that would give them the price they were asking for. He said that they felt that they had a very good crop this year and was worth the “number one” pecan price that they were asking for.

In the pecan industry, it’s all about the meat to shell ratio, according to Ivey. A so-called “number one” pecan is about 55 to 58 percent meat to shell that means the sale price is higher; this year they were looking at nearly \$1.90 per pound. A “number two” has 50 or less percent meat, thus a lower price; this year that was about \$1.45 per pound, he explained.

As the world market is now, the selling of this year’s crop was going to be a challenge because of the tariff war that the United States and China are engaged in. Before the trade war, China was the largest foreign buyer of U.S. pecans, consuming about a fifth of the U.S. supply. After Beijing levied a 47 percent tariff on U.S pecans in July 2018, U.S.

pecan exports to China and Hong Kong dropped by more than half, according to American Pecan Council data. China now buys increasingly from Mexico and South Africa.

To make matters more difficult, the coronavirus-19 pandemic hit, and all normal channels of commerce came to a screeching halt. Two months later, Ivey’s pecans are still in storage.

“We have probably about 2 million pounds of four different Ivey family pecan crops in the cold storage facility, plus another million or so that we have in there that belong to other farms. Full capacity is about 4 million pounds... They are all from our most current harvest,” Ivey affirmed.

Consequently, Ivey said that selling the pecans at a good price depends on the market and how they read it. “Each farmer will have to make their own determination as to when and if to sell,” he surmised. Current tariff and pandemic restrictions are hampering domestic transportation services and export operations, making it difficult to negotiate with buyers from throughout the world, especially Asia, he

said.

Eventually, a deal will have to be made, Ivey asserted. This year’s crop will then be moved from the Rio Bravo Farms facility by a truck line company and usually go straight to the buyer’s plant, Ivey noted. Sometimes, the pecans may be transported by truckload to a rail container, or in the event of a China sale, for example, they may be moved to an ocean dock and put in ship freight containers, he said.

Ivey, who is a third-generation West Texas farmer, presently oversees 400 acres in Tornillo and just recently acquired another 170 acres of pecan trees. He took over running the original family farm after his father, Harold Ivey, passed away in 2009. The Ivey clan ownership of the lower valley farmland goes back to the beginning of the 1900’s. Back then, the fertile soil was used to grow cotton, wheat, alfalfa, onions, milo, and chile, among other crops.

Ivey and his wife, together with their seven children, have been able to sustain

See PECANS, Page 7

## Super Crossword

TAKING OUT THE MIDDLE ACROSS	63	Pep rally cry	Ginsburg	24	The Lone	69	Antique cars			
	65	Tarot card reader, e.g.	123 Highway with a no.	Ranger's companion	71	"_ Nagila"				
1	Musical pace	66	Singer Donny	25	Par for the course	72	Sooner than			
6	_you note	67	Folk knowledge	30	Hindu prince	75	Nasty bits of dirt			
11	Looker's leg	70	JESSICA	31	Mobil rival	78	Nebraska Sioux			
14	LaBelle with a	73	In the matter of	32	Settle the tab	80	Ill-bred guy			
Grammy		74	Assembly with all	33	Boozing sort	81	Barbecue spice mix			
19	Oak seed	members present	127 Sun _-sen	34	Fr. ladies with	83	Beijing's land			
20	Perfume queen		(old ABC soap)	haloes	84	Judge's seat				
Lauder		76	Language of	36	Early 20th-cen.	85	Epic tales			
21	Pal, to Gigi	Bangkok		conflict	88	Cotton deseeders				
22	One of the Three	77	Pastor's talk	42	Architect Saarinen	90	Less chubby			
Musketeers		79	WASHINGTON	43	"Stop talking!"	92	Ontario's capital,			
23	LOUIS	82	Wren's home	44	IRS ID	on scoreboards				
26	Painter Dufy	83	"Mike & Molly" airt	47	More like a hoarse	94	Grassland			
27	Co. heads	86	Adams of	voice	95	Resident maids				
28	Zero in (on)	photography	4	District police	96	Wholly				
29	What a white flag	87	Small carpet	station	97	Melon type				
signifies		89	"Ulysses" star Milo	5	How right turns are	98	Place to sculpt in			
30	Speed	91	Cumulative pay	often allowed	50	Grow dim	school, say			
35	LLOYD	abbr.	6	Mosaic tile	52	Financial tipster	99	Dependable		
37	Make _ out of	93	JEAN	7	DDE's forerunner	100	English river			
(toughen up)		97	Cuba's Fidel	8	Lunched, e.g.	101	"Blaze" actress			
38	Jogger's gait	101	Some jeans,	9	It's east of Calif.	Aires	Davidovich			
39	Pre-_ (bump, so to	familiarly	10	Painter Georgia	54	Faxed, say	102	Tennis shoe hole		
speak)		105	"No, mein Herr"	O'-	55	Prefix with spore	103	Israel's flag carrier		
40	Candle blowers'	106	Peruvian of long	11	It's removed for a	58	Response to	104	12th grader	
secrets		ago	107 CONAN	fill-up	"Who's there?"	59	See 125-Across	108	Bride's property	
41	CAROL	109	Tropical grassy	12	Total number	60	Dentists scrape it	110	Nick of "Cape	
44	Caesar of old	plains		13	Capital of Belarus	off	Fear"	116	_ old way	
comedy		111	Kettle output	14	Pheasants'	62	Houses for	117	Actress	
45	Severe	112	Brand of fat	cousins	15	1980s video game	students	Wasikowska		
46	Hides from view	replacer		15	1980s video game	63	Music style	118	Gained	
51	Swan's kin	113	University in North	consoles	16	Despite the fact	64	Skier Phil	119	Firefighter's tool
56	Copy a bunny	Carolina		16	Despite the fact	that	67	Women's links org.	120	Freddie -
57	"Nuts" director	114	1836 siege setting	17	"Clever	68	Steinhauer	121	Onetime jet-set jet	
Martin		115	CARLOS	comeback!"	who wrote the 2009					
61	CHRISTIAN	122	Justice Ruth -	18	Florida keys, e.g.	bestseller "The Tourist"				

Answer Page 5

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Comix

OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



TIGER

By Bud Blake



Pecans

From Page 6

a comfortable life amidst the rows of pecan trees that sprawl for miles along the Rio Grande. The close-knit family of four sons and three daughters all play a role in their family farming endeavor, as the 70-year-old family patriarch has decided to slow down.

Ivey has been active in several organizations that promote the farming industry – pecan growing in particular.

Nonetheless, he said that he realized that he needed to slow down and recently resigned from the Western Pecan Growers Association (WPGA) board when his most recent term ended in March. Shortly afterwards, his son, Shannon, was voted onto the board. WPGA encompasses pecan growers from California, Arizona, New Mexico, and the five westernmost counties of Texas. The elder Ivey had been on the board for over 40 years.

Currently, Ivey remains on the board of West Texas Pecan Growers Association (WTPGA) for whom he served as

president for more than 20 years. WTPGA consists of Texas farmers whose properties are west of the Pecos River. Ivey also continues to serve on the El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 board of directors as its vice-president. He has been on the board for more than 20 years.

“In today’s world it is very difficult to get into the pecan business, unless you have a large source of financial backing,” Ivey commented. Otherwise, “if you farm pecans you must have a good relationship with a banker, as not all years deliver a

profit and your banker has to know that,” he pointed out.

“Present-day challenges make it rough on a youngster who wants to farm and get his or her foot-in-the-door, acknowledged Ivey. But, because owning land and being one’s own boss are such strong desires, individuals – that can demonstrate great perseverance to ride the ups and downs of being a farmer – will always be able to make growing food for his or her family, community, country, and the rest of the world a very satisfying adventure,” he added.

Husband’s radiation treatment

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband is about to start radiation treatment for stage one cancer on his vocal chord. Does radiation negatively affect the immune system the same way chemotherapy does? Should I be looking out for people who don’t vaccinate? – H.T.



Radiation can affect the immune system when it is given to large areas of the body, since the immune system cells are largely sensitive to radiation. Whole-body radiation rarely is used now, except in people planning for bone-marrow transplant. By contrast, localized radiation does not adversely affect the immune system to anywhere near the degree that chemotherapy can, since the bone marrow, where the immune system cells live, is diffuse throughout the large bones of the body.

As far as avoiding unvaccinated individuals, people who are unvaccinated and who are healthy do not pose a risk. It is in an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease (there have been localized outbreaks of measles and mumps in the past year, and there are seasonal outbreaks of influenza) that unvaccinated people are much more likely to be infectious. So anyone with immune system disease (such as chemotherapy or whole-body radiation) should avoid people with potentially infectious illness. Caregivers of people with severe immune disease certainly should be immunized according to current guidelines. Even elderly people whose caregivers are immunized for flu get flu less than those whose caregivers are not.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I know women who have had double mastectomies in order to reduce the risk of cancer. It seems extreme, but I guess it depends on the evaluation of risk. Are prophylactic hysterectomies done for similar reasons? It used to be routinely done when a woman had passed her reproductive years. I’m interested in your take on this. Will health insurance cover these types of surgeries, and if not, how expensive are they? – S.B.

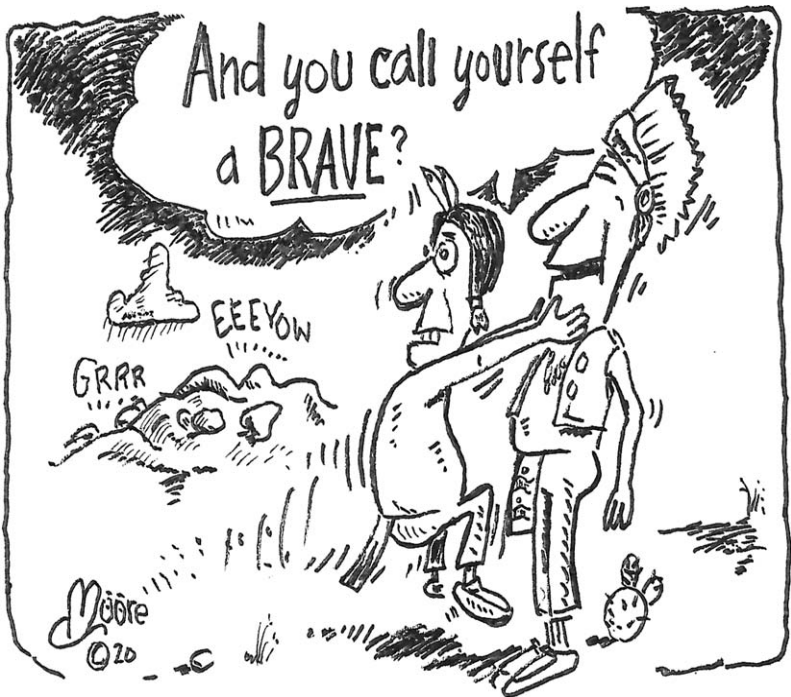
Prophylactic mastectomies – that is, surgery to remove the breasts in order to avert a breast cancer diagnosis – are a reasonable choice for some women at very high risk of breast cancer, especially those with a family history of breast cancer who have an identifiable genetic predisposition, such as one of the BRCA gene mutations. This decision should be made carefully and in consultation with her doctors, usually an oncologist and a genetic counselor. I have very little experience with this in my own patients, fortunately, but I understand that in the case of women with very high genetic risk, it usually is covered by insurance, if it is the consensus of the treating physicians and the patient that she should proceed.

Hysterectomy – the removal of a uterus – is not done routinely today, the way it was decades ago. They are removed for disease, either benign or malignant. However, the removal of both ovaries and Fallopian tubes, called a bilateral oophorectomy and salpingectomy, is performed in some women at high risk for ovarian cancer. In fact, women with the BRCA mutations may consider both a prophylactic double mastectomy and a prophylactic bilateral oophorectomy and salpingectomy, since BRCA mutations increase risk of breast cancer and ovarian cancer (as well as other cancers).

The cost of surgery in the United States varies dramatically depending on where it is done, but in general it is very expensive.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2020 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.





**Moore Texas** by Roger MOORE  
The eerie moaning caused by temperature changes made Indians sure Enchanted Rock near Llano was haunted.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: O equals P

ZC UTJ OXJOWX YBX  
GXNYUZVQ UDX RXBZUI JC  
UDXBRJIUYUI, TJSWG ZU  
NX Y DXYUXG YBQSRXVU?

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	7		5			2		
		2		6			4	
9					1			3
7					6	9		
		3	8				2	
	4			5				7
	6		7				1	
		8		1		3		
2					5			8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

Answer Page 5

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Pharmacist convicted in huge fraud scam



by Freddy Groves

A federal jury in Texas spent a week finding a pharmacist guilty of all manner of charges.

The 75-year-old Houston pharmacist, dubbed the “Compound King,” had owned Piney Point Pharmacy. He was convicted on all charges: conspiracy to pay and receive kickbacks, conspiracy to commit health care fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, as well as 11 counts of health care fraud and three counts of wire fraud, beginning in September 2009.

Sounds like this pharmacist had been a busy boy. For his efforts, he’d nabbed \$21.8 million... although maybe he’d had to split some of that with his partner in crime, Anoop Kumar Chaturvedi, age 48, a legal permanent resident from India.

The pharmacist and his buddy cooked up a scheme to

bill the government and health care programs for compounded gels and creams that they sent to injured state and federal employees through fake prescriptions. They did this through a front, Wellington Advisors, and got the cash from billing the Department of Labor Workers Comp and Federal Employees Compensation Act programs. The pharmacist claimed that the illegal kickbacks were actually “marketing” expenses. Chaturvedi allegedly wrote out hundreds of prescriptions at a time, which the pharmacy filled.

The investigation, started in early 2018, was conducted by a large group of Offices of Inspectors General of various departments, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the IRS, the Department of Labor and the U.S. Post Office.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 27 for the pharmacist. He could get 20 years, plus 10 years, plus five years for all the charges. His wife, a real estate agent, hasn’t been sentenced yet.

Meanwhile, Chaturvedi is

still on the run. The government wants to find him. If you know of his whereabouts, call the OIG of the U.S. Post Office at 1-888-877-7644. He’s presumed innocent... for now.

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• If you’re able to, fold and hang clothing straight from the dryer. The warmth of a cycle can set wrinkles that occur from being stuffed into a laundry basket.

• “I really abhor bar soap, but my husband prefers it. After cleaning the soap dish, I smear it with petroleum jelly. I do the underside too. There’s a little lip that will keep the soap from sliding off, but the petroleum jelly keeps the inevitable sludge from sticking to the soap dish, making my cleaning routine much easier!” – A.D. in Idaho

• For maximum effectiveness, spray, then wait, then wipe. Spray cleaners need contact time to both cut through grime and to kill germs. Give surfaces a light mist, then wait up to 10 minutes before wiping clean.

• To make an avocado rose as a garnish, place half an avocado cut side down and slice. Fan the slices out into a long line, then wrap around into a spiral shape.

• Chef’s secret: If you sprinkle salt from 12-14 inches above the food you’re seasoning, it’s called “raining,” and it helps the salt crystals to distribute evenly across the food’s surface. Plus it will make you look cool.

• “If your pup has an upset stomach, you can try giving him kefir. It’s packed with probiotics and is especially good if Fido is on antibiotics or has a yeast problem. Not too much. Just a tablespoon as a treat once a day.” – B.T. in Texas

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 5

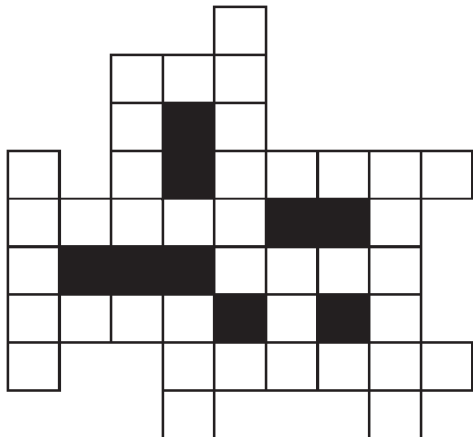
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♥ TIXESS  
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♥ ASMH  
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VEE  
PLEMIA  
♥ EHRIS  
HETE



Answer Page 5

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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