

VOL. 47, No. 19

SERVING ANTHONY, VINTON, CANUTILLO, EAST MONTANA, HORIZON, SOCORRO, CLINT, SAN ELIZARIO AND TORNILLO

MAY 7, 2020

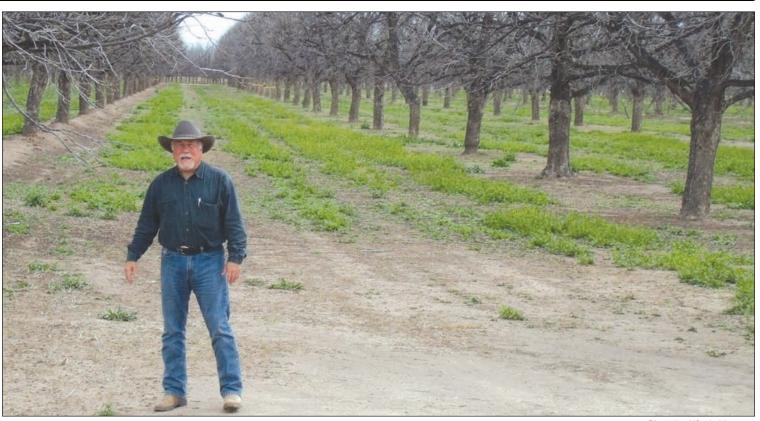
## **NEWSBRIEFS**

**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.

- 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



- 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

ELPASOCOUNTY-It seems that no El Paso area industry has been left unscathed by the coronavirus-19 pandemic... not throughout the world. even the pecan growers.

pecan orchards up and down the Paso del that the state has been the country's Norte valley along the Rio Grande - from largest pecan producer for the past couple T or C, NM to McNary, TX – have been of years. In 2018, Texas's northwestern flourishing for the past few years and neighbor produced 91 million pounds, have been able to sell their shelled nut and last year the yield was about 97

As a matter of fact, a recent New Mexico

A thriving business in recent years, agriculture department report indicated

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

## **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

## **First homes connect to** new wastewater system

By Carlos A. Brianos Special to the Courier

resident Abraham Rascon wastewater service to nearly

reach his neighborhood. On Monday April 20, 2020, that wait was over. Rascon was the fifth home to EAST MONTANA - connect to the new Montana Thirty-four years. That's Vista Wastewater System, how long Montana Vista which will bring first-time

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

See SEHS, Page 2

measuring tests 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.

has been hoping wastewater system infrastructure would

#### See CONNECT, Page 5



Photo by Carlos A. Briano

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.

# **Injecting embarrassment**

who dare contradict him, to say nothing of outright heckling him, all else fails, blame the media.

And this one was a doozy. He had become a national embarrassment with his stream of unconsciousness questions a warning statement. 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 We have now gotten all too check that. So, that, you're going familiar with the ways that the to have to use medical doctors Trumpster lashes out at those with. But it sounds – it sounds

interesting to me."

for something that he said: When that. Doctors, to say nothing of had killed so many thousands poison control experts, were of Americans and ravaged the horrified. Manufacturers of these products were, too. The people who make Lysol put out hydroxychloroquine had gutted

> 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 it might cause fatalities, they 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."

either, particularly since he before with his speculation about

"miracle" cures that would There were two reactions to stifle the deadly virus, which economy. His persistent musings about the anti-malaria drug the supply of the medication and forced researchers to take valuable time to examine the obscure possibility that it worked. found, if it was not used for its intended purposes. So Trump moved on to injecting household disinfectants.

another briefing. They have about the media? That didn't quell the jeering often lasted two hours, featuring mainly Donald Trump, treating has pulled these harmful stunts his assembled experts as his (c) rambling supporting cast, and treating the Distributed by King Features possible national tragedy as a political Syndicate, Inc.

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 Not only does it not work, but 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 Then it was another day, will always find scapegoats. How

> 2020 Bob Franken.

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

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

SAN ELIZARIO – The continues to SEISD has

#### 3,379 students enrolled.

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

According to Child Nutrition Since the San Elizario ISD 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.

## SEHS

From Page 1

rate for SEHS is 88% with a 79% for college readiness. Principal and community!"

Maribel Guillen states, "We are proud to receive this award yet again because the methodology they use is so indicative of disadvantaged. The graduation the population we serve. I am happy for our teachers, students

West Texas Count

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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.

Additionally, the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFHFB) began a mobile food pantry distribution on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at San Elizario High School located at13981 Socorro Rd, in San Elizario, TX 79849. Approximately 586 families received a box of food. will benefit families by providing every Wednesday from 2:00 to San Elizario, please contact relief and reducing anxiety for 5:00 pm until further notice. families already having difficulty



Photo courtesy San Elizario ISE

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.

trying to balance everything. They volunteering to assist with

300

briefing:

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

"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!"

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Letter must not be more than 250 words in length. They should be dated, must be signed and have an address and daytime phone number. Only the name and city will be printed with the letter. The West Texas County Courier reserves the right to edit or reject letters to the editor or other submitted material it considers inappropriate.

considers inappropriate.

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A partnership with EPFHFB will be providing food boxes the food bank distribution in the SEISD offices for possible If you are interested in opportunities at (915) 872-3900.

## **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 2020 graduation ceremonies on July 23, 2020, at the Don

Haskins Center.

is graduation. Walking across priority. The proposed date the stage is a memory most of us is contingent on COVID-19 cherish forever," Superintendent restrictions as per state and local Galaviz Dr. Pedro "Graduation ceremonies enable students to experience both self and group fulfillment and we will do everything in our power for our

outstanding accomplishment."

students, staff, and community "A significant milestone in life continue to remain our highest stated. authorities.

The new proposed date and times for Canutillo ISD graduation ceremonies at the Don Haskins Center are on Thursday, graduates to experience the elation July 23. The Northwest Early The district plans to celebrate of being together to recognize this College High School will walk at 10:00 a.m. followed by Canutillo The health and safety of our High School at 2:00 p.m.

# Social distancing isn't a religion

for it has sinned.

partly reopened its beaches, course, random strangers don't and it became something of a hold hands, but people who are national scandal. CNN ran a disapproving segment, and the they are enjoying a stroll or not. hashtag #FloridaMorons trended on Twitter.

"The scene at Jacksonville Beach wasn't one of caution throughout the United States, in the middle of a worldwide and the closures are at times 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 old daughter on a softball field. shown to be dangerous at all. A recent study examined hundreds inability to make distinctions, in of outbreaks and traced only one to an outdoor environment.

Surfers and bikers are the least that takes it as its responsibility to scold and shame anyone who dares go out and get a little fresh air.

anchors spent 20 minutes inveighing against people walking, running, biking and rollerblading along San

people were holding hands, Jake The largest city in Florida Tapper called it "enraging." Of likely in close proximity whether

Despite there being no indication that outdoor spaces As the CNN report put it: abet the spread of the disease, parks have been shut down 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-

A sure sign of fanaticism is the this instance between risky and non-risky activities and between places hard hit and places not. of our worries. Yet, there is a It's one thing to hold a day-long, segment of American opinion 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 Early on in the crisis, CNN than 10,000 deaths, and another to begin opening in Montana, where there have been 14.

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

Forgive Jacksonville, Florida, Embarcadero. Noting that some population of nearly a million people, the county has had 17 COVID-19 deaths. It is hardly a hot spot.

> would be taken out of the 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 officials and commentators who, National Review. (c) 2020 by states are the same.

## 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

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 At least some of the spleen spread of the disease, but at an enormous economic cost. We coronavirus debate if people are going to have to show some flexibility and be willing to adopt a patchwork approach to opening up around the country.

to paraphrase H.L. Mencken, King Features Synd., Inc.

have the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be

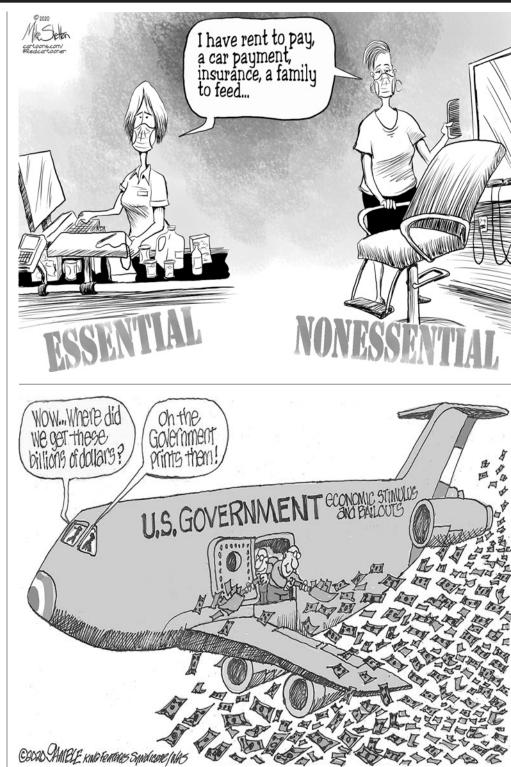
rollerblading.

We can't be beholden to public Rich Lowry is editor of the

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







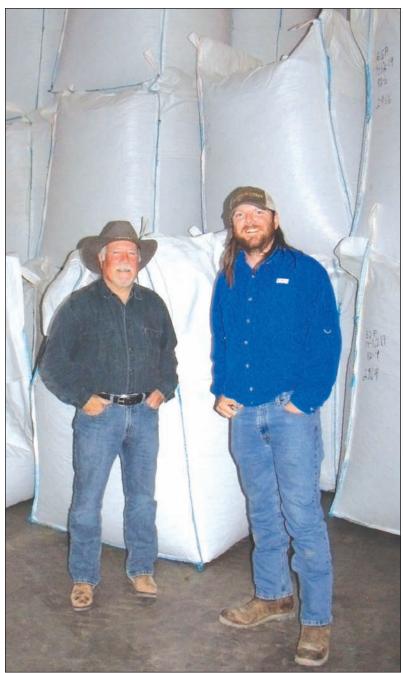


Photo by Alfredo Vasquez

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



#### 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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VI JAVA NI JAVA SHOULDN'T REQUIRE A MEMBERSHIP.

### T MEMPLACHING

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Average out-of-pocket

cost for Texas patients





• On May 4, 1965, San Francisco Giants outfielder Willie Mays hits his 512th career home run to break Mel Ott's National League record. Mays would finish with 660 career home runs, good for third on the all-time list at the time.

 On May 5, 2002, the comic book adaptation of "Spider-Man" becomes the fastest movie ever to earn more than \$100 million at the box office. Its \$39 million opening day bested the previous record of \$32 million, set by "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in 2001.

• On May 6, 1937, the airship Hindenburg, the largest dirigible ever built and the pride of Nazi Germany, bursts into flames upon touching its mooring mast in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 36 passengers and crewmembers.

May 7, • On 1902, Martinique's Mount Pele begins the deadliest volcanic eruption of the 20th century. The city of Saint Pierre was buried and virtually everyone died instantly when a cloud of superheated gas sent an avalanche of boiling ash down the mountain.

 May 8, 1988, Stella Nickell is convicted of murder by a Seattle jury. She was the first person to be found guilty of violating the Federal Anti-Tampering Act after putting cyanide in Excedrin capsules in an effort to kill her husband. She began planning his death after their 1976 honeymoon.

 On May 9, 1671, in London, Thomas Blood, an Irish adventurer better known as "Captain Blood," is captured attempting to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. King Charles II was so impressed with Blood's audacity that he made him a

## Connect

From Page 1

800 homes in a first phase. The project was made possible by \$12.9 million in funding from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) through the Economically Disadvantaged Assistance Program (EDAP) and collaborative efforts over many years between El Paso Water, El Paso County and

#### elected officials.

finally arrived," Rascon said. "We can now shower with lots won't overfill."

West Texas County Courier

area. Rascon says regularly maintaining his tank was logistically and financially of what can happen when III of the project.

difficult, causing serious health people come together to help "I thank God this day has hazards. But through the TWDB a community," Gonzalez said. financial assistance, his now "The residents, community obsolete septic tank has been leaders and El Paso Water fought of joy knowing our septic tank cleaned and decommissioned.

The 2,400 plus homes in Gonzalez, who represents the And we have finally realized it; Montana Vista have relied area and was instrumental in I'm so grateful." primarily on septic tanks since acquiring the financial assistance on Ekery Avenue.

the address below.

ONLINE.

details

for decades so these folks could State Rep. Dr. Mary E. have wastewater infrastructure.

Phase I of the project is they are outside the city limits for the project, witnessed the scheduled to be completed and El Paso Water service connection of the first six homes in summer of 2021. EPWater continues to seek additional "This day is a testament funding to begin phases II and

LEGALS

TEXAS **C**OMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF **RECEIPT OF** APPLICATION AND

INTENT TO **OBTAIN WATER** QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

the

PERMIT NO WQ0014529001

APPLICATION.

El Paso County Water Tornillo Improvement District, P.O. Box has Tornillo, 136, Texas 79853 has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental review Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas PollutantDischarge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014529001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0126772) to authorize the of discharge treated wastewater at a volume not published to exceed a daily average flow of effluent shall not 730.000 exceed gallons per day. domestic The wastewater treatment facility is located at 695 Henderson contain Road, Tornillo, in deadline El Paso County, comments. Texas 79853. The discharge route

Improvement about District business office. 19225 will hold a public Highland Street. meeting Tornillo, Texas. Executive Director This link to an determines electronic map of that there is a significant degree the site or facility's general location of public interest is provided as a in the application public courtesy or if requested by and not part of a local legislator. application A public meeting or notice. For the is not a contested case hearing. exact location, refer to the application.

OPPORTUNITY FOR https://tceq.maps. CONTESTED arcgis.com/apps/ webappviewer/ CASE HEARING. <u>index.html?id=d</u> After the deadline b5bac44afbc46 for <u>8bbddd360f816</u> public <u>8250f&marker=-</u> the 106.105421%2C3 Director 1.43454&level=12 consider all timely comments ADDITIONAL prepare a response NOTICE. TCEQ's to Executive Director

all relevant and material, or determined significant public the application is comments. Unless administratively the application is complete and will directly referred conduct a technical for a contested of the case hearing, application. After the response to technical review comments. and Executive of the application the is complete, the Director's Executive Director decision on the may prepare a application, draft permit and will be mailed issue a preliminary everyone decision on the submitted public application. Notice comments and of the Application to those persons and Preliminary who are on the Decision will be mailing list for and this application. mailed to those lf comments who are on the are received, countv-wide the mailing will provide mailing list and to also those who are on instructions the mailing list for for requesting this application. reconsideration That notice will of the Executive the Director's for decision submitting public for requesting а contested

**Classified Ads** phone and permit the your activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be affected by the facility in a way not to public; a list of all Α disputed issues of fact that you submit during the submitting comment period comments. and.thestatement Executive "[l/we] request will contested а case hearing." If the request for and contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group association, or the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual will member of the group who would to who be adversely affected by the proposed facility oractivity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected: and explain how and the interests the group seeks to protect are case hearing. A relevant to the

their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently

the

for

of

withdrawn. If a for this application, hearingisgranted, which is provided the subject of at the top of this hearing will notice. limited to AGENCY disputed issues CONTACTS AND of fact or mixed INFORMATION. questions of fact

and law relating All to relevant and comments material water requests must be quality concerns submitted either submitted during electronically at comment https://www14. period. tceq.texas.gov/

epic/eComment/, TCEQ may act on or an application to to Commission on renew a permit discharge Environmental wastewater Quality, Office of without providing the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box an opportunity for a contested case 13087. hearing if certain Texas 78711-3087. criteria are met. Please be aware that any contact

MAILING LIST. lf you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or а reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices by the mailed Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request or visit their website to be placed on: at www.tceq.texas. (1) the permanent gov/goto/pep. Si

INFORMATION AVAILABLE Issuance Date: April 22, 2020 For about the status of the WTCC: 05-07-20 application, visit the Commissioners Integrated Village of Database at www. Vinton, Texas tceq.texas.gov/ PUBLIC goto/cid. Search NOTICE the database using the permit number Public hearings will be held at 6:30pm

District at (915)

764-2966.

on Tuesday, May 26. 2020 and Monday, June 1, 2020 during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting; and on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 during the Regular Council Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

public

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will become part

public record. For

about this permit

Public Education

Program, Toll Free,

at 1-800-687-4040

and

the following item: The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding the following item:

A request to Re-Zone Lot Trinidad Jacques Sur 158 TR 7-C-38 (481 Chicken Farm Rd.) currently in R-1 to R-2 zoning, Vinton, Texas, 79821.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Administrator at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas Persons 79821. with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-

Village of Vinton, Texas

WTCC: 05-07-20

Administrator

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public hearings will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 during the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, and on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 during the Regular Council Meeting at Vinton Village Hall, 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas.

The purpose of the public hearings is to allow any interested persons to appear and testify regarding

А request to amend the Unified Development Code to allow truck stops by special use permit in M-1 zoning districts. Vinton, Texas 79821.

Those who are unable to attend may submit their views in writing to the Village Administrator at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton. Texas Persons 79821. disabilities with that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall at (915) 886-5104 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for

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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.

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,

chance to go back to work.

With most of America beginning to figure that American professional sports it will likely do so without any fans in leagues can't be far behind.

And the three big boys, the National It was a strange sight, seeing cars parked 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

and above all - giving their employees a start sometime in late December, about two months later than usual.

The one thing that has been mentioned venture outside again, it only goes to is if the current season starts up again, 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 monthand-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.

Pecans

From Page 4

shopping around for a buyer that would give them the price they were asking for. 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 pounds of four different Ivey family 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. capacity is about 4 million pounds... A "number two" has 50 or less percent They are all from our most current He took over running the original family meat, thus a lower price; this year that was harvest," Ivey affirmed. about \$1.45 per pound, he explained.

of this year's crop was going to be a market and how they read it. "Each farmer challenge because of the tariff war that will have to make their own determination the United States and China are engaged as to when and if to sell," he surmised. in. Before the trade war, China was the Current tariff and pandemic restrictions largest foreign buyer of U.S. pecans, are hampering domestic transportation consuming about a fifth of the U.S. services and export operations, making supply. After Beijing levied a 47 percent it difficult to negotiate with buyers from tariff on U.S pecans in July 2018, U.S. throughout the world, especially Asia, he

pecan exports to China and Hong Kong dropped by more than half, according to American Pecan Council data. China made, Ivey asserted. This year's crop now buys increasingly from Mexico and South Africa.

He said that they felt that they had a very coronavirus-19 pandemic hit, and all normal channels of commerce came to a may be transported by truckload to a screeching halt. Two months later, Ivey's rail container, or in the event of a China pecans are still in storage.

> pecan crops in the cold storage facility, plus another million or so that we have in there that belong to other farms. Full

As the world market is now, the selling pecans at a good price depends on the

said.

Eventually, a deal will have to be will then be moved from the Rio Bravo Farms facility by a truck line company To make matters more difficult, the and usually go straight to the buyer's plant, Ivey noted. Sometimes, the pecans sale, for example, they may be moved "We have probably about 2 million 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. farm after his father, Harold Ivey, passed Consequently, Ivey said that selling the 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.

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

> > See PECANS, Page 7

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 100game 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.

But league spokespersons have been quick to add that this is the best-case scenario.

They say plans are already in place, in case the virus threat fails to subside.

Some of those plans include starting the season in mid-October, and starting the season with no fans in attendance.

There's no doubt that people are clamoring for life as once they knew it.

And tons of fans are eager for the return of athletic competition. I guess most feel that once they see that, they'll have confidence that the world is returning to normal.

A return of the big three sports leagues also means a ton of jobs returning. It's amazing how many staff members make up every pro franchise's payroll.

As it has been throughout, the emphasis will be on safety. I mean that's why almost everything was closed, right?

The leagues will advance with caution and the absolute norm is probably another year away.

But Americans are resilient. If the best thing to do is wait another year, we'll be ready.

#### Super Crossword TAKING OUT THE 24 The Lone 69 Antique cars 63 Pep rally cry Ginsburg Ranger's companion MIDDLE 65 Tarot card reader, 123 Highway with a no. "\_ Nagila" 71 ACROSS 124 Leek relative 25 Par for the course 72 Sooner than 19 20 22 e.g Musical pace 66 Singer Donny 75 Nasty bits of dirt 125 With 59-Down 30 Hindu prince 26 31 Mobil rival 23 24 25 6 \_-you note 67 Folk knowledge crude oil. in slang 78 Nebraska Sioux 70 JESSICA 11 Looker's lea 126 Deep pit 32 Settle the tab 80 Ill-bred auv 29 14 LaBelle with a 73 In the matter of 127 Sun -sen 33 Boozing sort 81 Barbecue spice mix 128 "\_ Hope" (old ABC Grammy 74 Assembly with all 34 Fr. ladies with 83 Beijing's land 30 31

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JAKE FROM

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KERRYAS

STATE PRISON

## 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



## 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



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. (WTPGA) for whom he served as

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

president for more than 20 years. WTPGA consists of Texas farmers whose properties are west of the Pecos River. Paso County Water Improvement District #1 board of directors as its vice-president. He has been on the water 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," with a banker, as not all years deliver a satisfying adventure," he added.

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. (c) 2020 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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

"Present-day challenges make it Ivey also continues to serve on the El rough on a youngster who wants to farm and get his or her foot-in-thedoor, 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 Ivey commented. Otherwise, "if you farm food for his or her family, community, pecans you must have a good relationship country, and the rest of the world a very



**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



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## Pharmacist convicted in huge fraud scam



### by Freddy Groves

guilty of all manner of charges.

The 75-year-old Houston pharmacist, dubbed "Compound King," had owned Piney Point Pharmacy. He was convicted on all charges: conspiracy to pay and receive kickbacks, conspiracy filled. to commit health care fraud, conspiracy to commit money in early 2018, was conducted laundering, as well as 11 counts of health care fraud and three counts of wire fraud, of beginning in September 2009.

Sounds like this pharmacist had been a busy boy. For his efforts, he'd nabbed \$21.8 million... although maybe Anoop Kumar Chaturvedi, age from India.

The pharmacist and his sentenced yet. buddy cooked up a scheme to

bill the government and health still on the run. The government care programs for compounded wants to find him. If you know gels and creams that they sent to of his whereabouts, call the injuredstateandfederalemployees OIG of the U.S. Post Office through fake prescriptions. at They did this through a front, Wellington Advisors, and A federal jury in Texas spent got the cash from billing the a week finding a pharmacist Department of Labor Workers Comp and Federal Employees

Compensation Act programs. The pharmacist claimed that the the illegal kickbacks were actually "marketing" expenses. Chaturvedi allegedly wrote out hundreds of prescriptions at a time, which the pharmacy

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

Sentencing is scheduled for he'd had to split some of that May 27 for the pharmacist. with his partner in crime, He could get 20 years, plus 10 years, plus five years for 48, a legal permanent resident all the charges. His wife, a real estate agent, hasn't been

Meanwhile, Chaturvedi is

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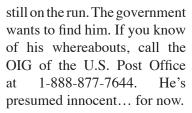
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· If you're able to, fold and hang clothing straight from the dryer. The warmth of a cycle can set wrinkles that occur from being stuffed into a laundry basket.

• "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

· Formaximumeffectiveness, 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.

#### by Linda Thistle **GO FIGURE!** The idea of Go Figure is to arrive × +

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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.



### \* \* \* GO FIGURE! Answer Page 5



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 ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY! Answer Page 5

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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 ( V) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. **VRATHE** becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART ). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

• "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.

**Send Your Newsbrief To:** wtxcc@wtxcc.com