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# Eastern Tent Caterpillar Hatch

F. Their preferred food plants are wild cherry, apple and crabapple, but they may appear on hawthorn, maple, cherry, peach, pear and plum as well.

When mature, the 2- to 2.5-inch long, hairy caterpillars have a habit of wandering from their host trees to seek protected areas to spin their cocoons, or to seek additional food if their natal tree becomes defoliated. At such times, they may crawl along fence lines and into pastures.

Consumption of large numbers of caterpillars by pregnant mares caused staggering foal losses in the Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome outbreak of 1999-2001. MRLS can cause early- and late-term foal losses or weak foals.

UK researchers conducted studies that revealed horses will inadvertently eat the caterpillars when present in pastures and feedstuffs. It is the caterpillar hairs, specifically the cuticles of those hairs that embed into the lining of the horse's alimentary tract. Once that protective barrier is breached, normal alimentary tract bacteria may gain access to and reproduce in sites with reduced immunity, such as the fetus and placenta.

If practical, farm managers should move pregnant mares from areas where wild cherry trees are abundant to minimize the chance of caterpillar exposure. The threat is greatest when the mature caterpillars leave trees and wander to find places

to pupate and transform to the moth stage.

Eastern tent caterpillars are also a nuisance to people living near heavily infested trees. The nests and defoliation are unsightly, and the caterpillars may wander hundreds of yards in search of protected sites to spin cocoons and pupate.

"Managing ETC in small ornamental trees, such as flowering crabapples, is easy. Just wear a pair of grocery store plastic bags like mittens, climb a step-ladder, pull out the tents, turn the bags inside out to 'bag' the caterpillars and stomp them," said Daniel Potter, UK entomology professor. "Pruning out nests in ornamental trees sounds great, but in reality, by the time they are noticed, they're often in branch crotches where pruning will compromise the symmetry of the tree."

"Spraying the flowering fruit and decorative trees preferred by the caterpillars can be a bee hazard - and with some products, a label violation - because the trees are in bloom with bees visiting them at the same time eastern tent caterpillars are active," he said.

According to Potter, caterpillar management around horse farm paddocks comes down to keeping pregnant mares away from infested trees and either removing or not planting preferred host trees near paddocks. In addition to those preventive measures, controlling

the caterpillars with insecticides may be warranted in some settings. That may require treating tall trees that are difficult to spray.

For the latter scenario, professional arborists treat via trunk injection. Products labeled for eastern tent caterpillar control include Tree-age (emamectin benzoate), Inject-A-Cide B (Bidrin), Abacide 2 (abamectin) and Lepitect (acephate). Applicators should read and follow all label instructions. All four of those injectable products are labeled for use on horse farms.

For farms that are interested in prevention over the winter months, Larson recommended farms search for and destroy egg masses before they hatch. "Egg masses can be seen over the winter; they look like sparkly, pyrite gum wrapped around twigs and branches," he said.

For more information about how to assess trees for egg masses, the UK Entomology publication, Checking Eastern Tent Caterpillar Egg Masses, is available at <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef449> or contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557.

For all horticulture and agriculture information needs, contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557.

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## Wishing Well®

3	2	3	2	6	5	6	3	6	3	2	7	2
A	Y	T	O	V	E	A	T	L	A	U	L	C
8	3	8	4	3	4	8	4	5	2	6	2	5
A	I	N	H	N	A	E	R	X	O	U	P	P
8	6	4	7	4	8	7	4	6	7	4	5	2
W	E	D	O	S	L	O	T	F	K	U	E	E
8	2	4	2	5	3	8	6	4	6	7	2	7
I	B	D	E	C	H	F	R	Y	I	A	T	H
4	5	4	5	4	6	3	2	8	6	7	6	3
P	T	A	S	Y	E	U	T	E	N	E	D	M
4	5	7	3	4	6	3	7	5	4	8	3	2
S	U	A	I	O	S	L	D	C	F	B	I	E
8	5	4	2	8	3	8	3	8	5	8	5	5
E	C	F	R	G	T	I	Y	N	E	S	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## 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: G equals T

XOGQW GNQ OXGNQW HQG NDL

MQQ BDYL NXEQ LQEQWXH OQHG-  
GDC CQTL, NQ MXL X SXWBQY SXT.

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## CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

YUWNXZNDN, YUWNQZJRB

JRHDNAJMPN JY XEJQJRB

QU MN GRUXR.

- HEDP YEBER

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## Puzzle Answers

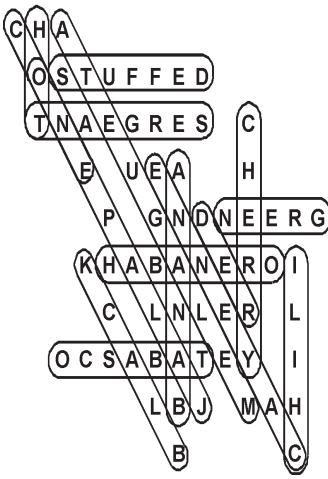
March 31, 2021

### Puzzles4Kids

Answer

- |        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| WHIRLS | H | SWIRL |
| DASHES | A | SHED  |
| MARRED | R | DREAM |
| RODEOS | E | ODORS |
| OODLES | O | LODES |
| BLAMES | B | MALES |
| RISING | I | GRINS |
| SCARCE | C | CARES |
| TASSEL | S | LEAST |

- PEPPERS



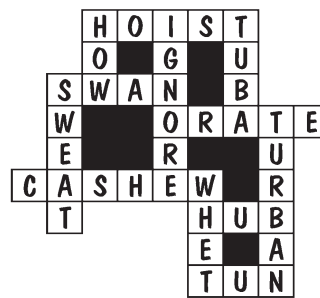
### Letter Box

Solution

O	L	Y	T	U	I	E	P	G
E	I	G	P	L	Y	U	O	T
T	P	U	G	E	O	Y	L	I
Y	G	T	L	O	U	P	I	E
I	U	E	Y	G	P	O	T	L
P	O	L	I	T	E	G	U	Y
G	Y	I	O	P	T	L	E	U
L	E	O	U	I	G	T	Y	P
U	T	P	E	Y	L	I	G	O

### FEAR KNIGHT

answer



### Even Exchange

answers

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Clover, Clever | 6. Ledge, Lodge   |
| 2. Notion, Potion | 7. Storm, Store   |
| 3. Older, Odder   | 8. Lather, Father |
| 4. Harry, Hardy   | 9. Margin, Martin |
| 5. Expand, Expend | 10. Ellen, Allen  |

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.



### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



### "Christ's Thorn" plant

The *Ziziphus spina-christi* is an evergreen tree found in the valleys and lowlands of countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea along its southern coasts. Wood from this plant appears to have been in use during the times of the pharaohs, as well as parts of the plant used for medicine, and its fruits were used to make a type of bread which is still made in these lands today. Traditions say that these trees are sacred, and no harm from the spirit world will befall any who sleep beneath them.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

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Spring Has Sprung!

I heard the Northern Parula the other day, which tells me that spring is almost here. Soon summer will be here with the whoop-whoop call from the great crested flycatcher and the migrating cat birds will leave till the fall. What birds let you know of the changing seasons?

E-mail: [birdingbits@cfl.rr.com](mailto:birdingbits@cfl.rr.com)

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## UK Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays Continue

Eric Baker, Estill County Extension

The free Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays continue on Zoom each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. ET/11:30 p.m. CT. University of Kentucky extension specialists and horticulture agents teach the 45- to 60-minute sessions, covering a variety of topics that will be of interest to those tending large or small gardens or landscapes, no matter their expertise level.

Topics for April and May include: Using Native Plants in the Landscape - April 7, Companion Planting - April 14, How to Start a Community Garden - April 21, Common Vegetable Diseases - April 28, From My Head Toma Toes - May 5, Japanese Art of Kokedama - May 12, Begonias - May 19, and Summer and Fall Lawn Care - May 26.

Those interested in joining the webinars should register for one or more of the sessions at <https://tinyurl.com/UKY-HortWebWed21>. Last year's webinars are available for viewing at <https://kentuckyhortnews.com/horticulture-webinar-wednesdays/season-one/>.

## Stickeler's Answer

## Stickelers Answer

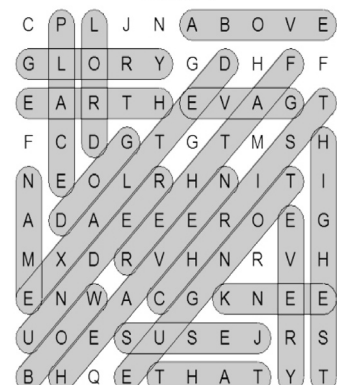
1-d, 2-b, 3-e, 4-a, 5-c

## Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 11

## Puzzle Answers

### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers



Bible Word Search on Page 11

tip pens, he was a marked man

After the father let his  
wee kids have several felt-

answer  
**CryptoQuip**

- Carl Sagan

to be know.  
Incredible is waiting

answer  
Somewhere, something

answer  
**CryptoQuote**

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### Bible Trivia Answers

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

ANSWERS (1) Old; (2) Striped instruments; (3) Yahu; (4) 9; (5) Shushan; (6) Gershom