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Eastern tent caterpillars have begun to hatch, with the first instances being seen in Lexington on March 24, according to Daniel Potter, professor of entomology, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

According to Potter, after spending about nine months as eggs in masses on twigs of wild cherry and related trees, the first tiny eastern tent caterpillars of the season are now leaving their eggs.

The larvae are among the first insects to become active in the spring and are well-equipped to cope with Kentucky's erratic temperature swings.

According to UK's entomology researchers, egg hatch occurs over several weeks in early spring. This increases the chance for survival in case of late freezes. The caterpillars grow and develop when the temperature is above 37 degrees F. Their preferred food plants are wild cherry, apple and crabapple, but

Eastern Tent Caterpillars Hatching

they may be found 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, and the caterpillar hairs embedded 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 stepladder, pull out the tents, turn the bags inside out to 'bag' the caterpillars and stomp them," Potter said. "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.

"Except for *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which is not all that effective once the ETC are about half-grown, the only spray product I know of that controls ETC and is bee-compatible is *Acelepryn* (chlorantraniliprole). That is available in a formulation used mainly by professional grounds managers and arborists,

but has not yet found its way into homeowner spray products."

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). End users should read and follow all label instructions. All four of those injectable products are labeled for use on horse farms.

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 the Estill County Cooperative Extension office.

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Wishing Well®

6	8	5	4	2	4	2	4	6	8	2	6	5
R	O	A	I	P	M	L	P	E	F	A	S	C
6	3	5	2	8	4	5	7	3	8	3	8	5
O	A	L	N	F	O	E	U	P	E	E	R	V
4	3	4	5	4	5	8	4	5	4	5	8	4
R	R	T	E	A	R	C	N	T	T	H	O	M
6	5	3	2	4	2	3	5	3	2	7	6	2
U	O	F	Y	A	O	E	U	C	U	S	R	R
4	8	7	3	4	6	7	5	8	3	8	2	3
I	M	E	T	L	C	T	G	F	U	O	F	N
6	8	6	2	7	6	5	8	5	2	7	2	6
E	R	F	U	A	U	H	T	T	T	L	U	L
3	2	7	2	6	7	3	7	6	7	6	3	6
I	R	E	E	N	O	T	E	S	S	N	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: J equals R

UYGS EJPFRQCRSD URKY T

UGFF-EGH UGI-EPPKGH IRJH,

R BVNNPBG MPV'JG NFTMRSD

URKY T EVFF HVQC.

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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.

KLT YHWDK DKTO KBVGWQ

FTKKHMF DBRTVLTWT HD KB

QTUHQ T KLGK CBJ GWT MBK

FBHMF KB DKG C VLTWT CBJ

GWT. — DBJWUT BXDUJWT

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The Garden Bug

Home-made bug spray

- ½ cup witch hazel
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 40 drops of an essential oil
(eucalyptus, lemongrass, citronella, tea tree or rosemary)
- one 8-ounce glass spray bottle

Mix all ingredients well and pour into the glass spray bottle. Spray directly on any area of your skin EXCEPT eyes and mouth. - Brenda Weaver

Source: draxe.com

Birding BITS

BY Cindy Brook

Welcome to Birding

If you are new to backyard birding and want to attract colorful songbirds to your backyard, fill a tube feeder with black oil sunflower seed. Most birds love this seed, and the shell is soft enough for little birds to crack. Look for cardinals, wrens, titmice, chickadees, finches and more.

E-mail: birdingbits@cflrr.com

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Puzzle Answers

April 3, 2019

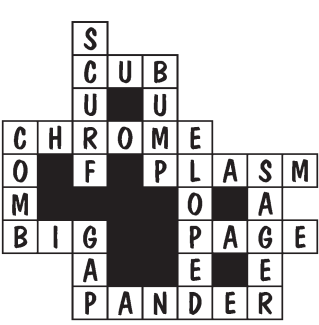
Puzzles4Kids

Answer

JOSTLE	J	STOLE
ESTEEM	E	MEETS
BLAZER	L	ZEBRA
LITERS	L	TRIES
PASTRY	Y	PARTS
EBBING	B	BINGE
ECHOER	E	CHORE
SEATER	A	STEER
FINDER	N	FRIED
HASSLE	S	SHALE

FEAR & KNOT

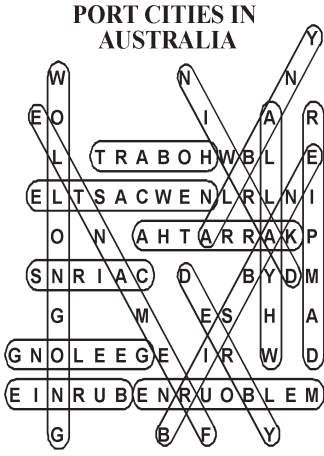
answer



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



CryptoQuip

answer

When frolicking with a well-fed web-footed bird, I suppose you're playing with a full duck.

CryptoQuote

answer

The first step toward getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are. — Source obscure

Even Exchange

answers

1. Pantry, Pastry
2. Twain, Train
3. Solar, Sonar
4. Faster, Easter
5. Nobel, Novel
6. Steam, Steal
7. Closet, Closed
8. Plank, Prank
9. Regent, Recent
10. White, Write

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	T	M	L	E	S	M	O	P	U
T	H	E	A	L	P	E	R	O	S
T	E	D	B	A	R	B	A	R	I
I	I	I	S	T	I	L	T		
C	R	A	M	E	G	O	T	T	P
			A	N	D	W	A	H	O
E	P	O	X	Y			G	R	U
E	T	H	I	C	S	M	O	E	
L	A	M	S		P	E	A		W
			L	A	D	L	E		O
L	I	B	R	A	R	I	A	N	I
A	L	I	A	S		C	G	I	S
C	L	O	G	S		T	A	D	T
									T

Bible Trivia Answers

Now available by Wilson Casey! 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers.

ANSWER: (1) Neither; (2) Gourd; (3) Long hair; (4) Esau; (5) 1 (Isaiah); (6) 14:12

Farming News

Kentucky Heritage Group

Do you remember your Granny's recipes? Soap making and quilting techniques? The Twin City Homemaker Club, along with the Estill County Homemakers would like to start a Kentucky Heritage group where locals bring a light to cherished traditions and mountain arts of our heritage. If you would be interested in being a part of this group, please contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Office at 606-723-4557.

Thursday, April 4th - 9am-6pm

Tree Seedling Giveaway

The Estill County Conservation District will have a variety of tree seedlings to give to Estill County landowners on Thursday, April 4th. Seedlings will be given on a first come limited basis, as long as the trees last.

Seedlings may be picked up at the Estill County Conservation District office building located at 1505 Richmond Road, Irvine, across from Bunt Gross Auto between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 11th @ 6:00pm

Livestock Traceability Update

Cooperative Extension and Estill County Cattlemen's Association will have a cattle producer meeting on Thursday, April 11th, 6:00 p.m., at the Estill County Extension office. Dr. Chris Craig, DVM with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services will give a U.S. livestock traceability update. Bluegrass Stockyards of Richmond will sponsor our catered meal. Please call 723-4557 to pre-register so we can adequately plan for the meal.

Stickeler's Puzzle



There are five books side by side on a shelf. Their colors are gold, black, purple, brown and blue. The following information is known about the order of the books:

- 1) The black book is between the blue and the brown.
 - 2) The gold book is not first and the brown is not the last.
 - 3) The purple book is separated from the brown book by two books.
- A. What is the position of the gold book?
B. If the gold book is not next to the purple book, what is the order, from first to last, of the five books?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

DANNY NEWMAN

Now Hauling Gravel for Tipton Ridge Quarry

Single-Axle Dump Truck

Loads Range From 1 to 12 Tons

(606) 723-9816 or (606) 643-6118