



FROM THE
STARS TO
FORT WORTH

PAGES 4-5

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DONATION FUNDS SEMESTER OF FREE TUITION

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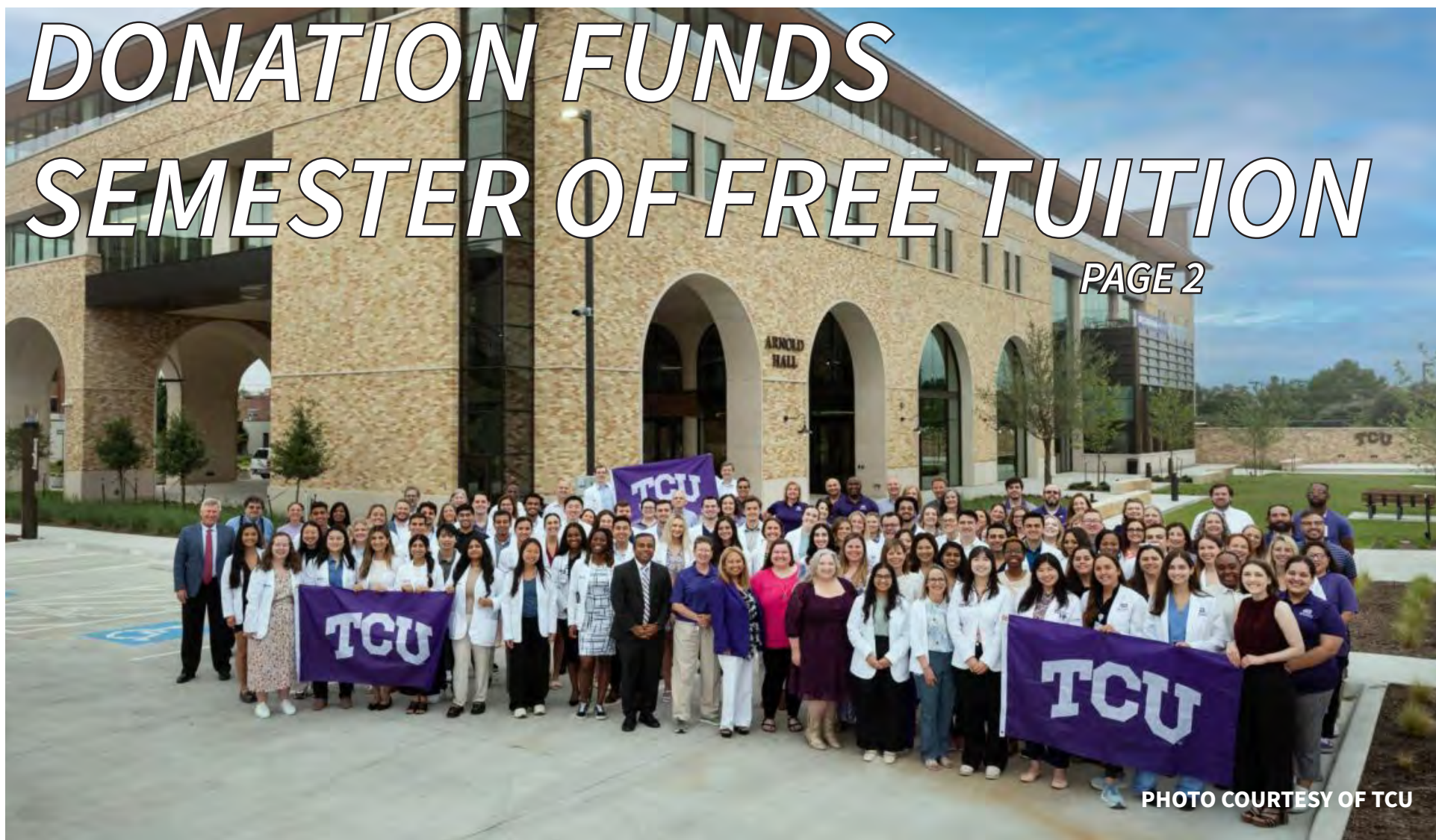


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PEER PROGRAMS

TCU SUPPORTS STUDENTS'
MENTAL HEALTH WITH COMMUNITY

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TCU 360 NEWSLETTER

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CAMPUS NEWS

Tradition of giving continues with gift to cover tuition

By **BUD RILEY**

STUDENT WRITER, TCU 360

The TCU Burnett School of Medicine at TCU Class of 2026 received an early graduation gift of \$1.8 million.

The \$1.8 million anonymous gift will cover the final semester of tuition for all 60 students in the class of 2026.

This contribution continues a growing tradition of donor-funded tuition support that has been common since the Burnett School of Medicine was founded in 2019.

Students, many of whom are working across the country in preparation for residency

matches this March, learned about the gift during a Zoom call with Dean Stuart D. Flynn, M.D.

“Most of them are traveling around the country doing away rotations to compete for residency spots,” said Prescottte Stokes, the assistant director for digital development and content strategy for the Burnett School of Medicine.

According to the Education Data Initiative, the average medical school debt balance in the United States has increased over the past decade. In 2024, the U.S. number climbed to \$212,341, while the average debt of Burnett

School of Medicine students sat at \$170,393, according to an MSAR report.

The total cost of attendance for a single student’s full academic year in the Burnett School of Medicine class of 2026 is \$111,506.

This anonymous gift lifts a heavy burden, according to fourth-year Burnett School of Medicine student Courtney Franz.

“This is just one less thing that you have to carry with you every day. I can just really focus on caring for patients,” said Franz.

Since its 2019 inaugural class, the Burnett School of Medicine has seen

an ongoing pattern of scholarship contributions.

In 2019, the class of 2023 was provided full first-year tuition through the H. Paul Dorman Charter Scholarship Program.

In 2021, an anonymous couple funded full tuition for the 2021-22 academic year for all 60 students in the class of 2024. An anonymous family donation also covered the class of 2024’s next academic year, 2022-23.

Another anonymous donor family introduced merit-based awards in 2024. Eligible students enrolled in the Burnett School of Medicine were able to receive up to



PHOTO COURTESY OF TCUBURNETTMED INSTAGRAM

The anonymous donation allows students to focus on professional development, especially residency matches.

\$20,000 to help cover tuition.

These gifts sparked a tradition of giving that runs strong through the Burnett School of Medicine and motivates its current students.

Cort Ewing, a fourth-year Burnett School of Medicine student, said, “I think that it’s really inspiring, and I’m really grateful that we have people here to support us. I can’t wait until I’m in a position one day to do that for the school and for future students.”

Another fourth-year student, Mariah Drown, said, “It’s just something I’ve never experienced

in any other place I’ve lived, and I just feel really fortunate to be a part of that community.”

Tuition support allows students to fully focus on their professional development while alleviating financial stress. In turn, the Burnett School of Medicine has successfully matched 100% of previous classes to residency programs, according to a TCU press release.

With this year’s donation, the pattern of selfless gifts continues to empower future doctors at the Burnett School of Medicine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TCUBURNETTMED INSTAGRAM

The TCU Burnett School of Medicine Class of 2026.



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College of Science & Engineering*

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FEATURE

How a world-class meteorite collection landed at TCU

By BAILEY BATES

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

When the phone in his office rang, he didn't think twice as he reached to answer it. Dr. Ken Morgan was chair of the geology department at TCU. He was used to routine calls.

This one wasn't routine.

A bank employee told him Oscar Monnig had passed away, then asked Morgan to come to Monnig's home immediately.

To longtime Fort Worth residents, the Monnig name is likely

familiar.

Oscar Monnig's father, William, and uncle co-founded a dry goods business that grew into a successful chain of department stores. At its peak, Monnig's Department Store was a Fort Worth staple, with six locations across the city before closing in 1990.

Today, William Monnig's legacy continues through the middle school that bears his name.

Oscar Monnig graduated as valedictorian of Fort

Worth Senior High School, now R.L. Paschal High School, before attending the University of Texas.

After earning his degree in 1925, he returned home to practice law for several years, eventually joining the family business in 1928.

He remained with the company for the rest of his career, helping it expand and later serving as CEO.

Meteorites: A passion that came from the stars

Monnig had no formal scientific training.

He enrolled in an astronomy course at the University

of Texas, but it was canceled due to low enrollment. But that didn't stop Monnig.

In the 1930s, he founded the Texas Observers astronomy club and began collecting meteorites. He traveled to fall sites, handed out brochures explaining how to identify meteorites and offered to buy them by the pound.

To encourage future finds, he often purchased duplicates, never wanting to discourage someone from bringing him a rock that just might be from space.

In the early 1960s Monnig was given a rock that turned out not to be a meteorite. His search to find someone who could tell him what it was led him to the home of Dr. Art Ehlmann, a geologist who had recently been hired at TCU. Ehlmann was mowing his lawn when a well-dressed Monnig pulled up.

"Are you the new 'rock man' at TCU?" Ehlmann recounted in his essay, "My Friend Oscar Monnig," which is included in "The Oscar E. Monnig Meteorite Collection Catalog."

'The greatest geological Easter egg hunt ever'

After Monnig's death, Ehlman and Dr. Nowell Donovan were also summoned to Monnig's modest south Fort Worth home.

Before his death, Monnig had hinted at the possibility of leaving his meteorite collection to TCU, along with some financial support.

But what the three men learned was staggering.

Monnig had left not just his lifetime collection of meteorites, but his entire estate to the TCU geology department.

Morgan tells the story with detail and wonder, as if it's some sort of urban legend.

Meteorites were not just kept in the Monnig residence; they decorated it.

Along the walkway, ordinary-looking rocks were tucked neatly into the landscape, except these weren't just rocks.

"He had them lined up like steppingstones," Morgan said. "Little retaining walls around flowerbeds made entirely of meteorites."

The shed contained crates upon crates of space rocks, each unique and documented. Living room drawers flung open to reveal more.

One meteorite, which was about the size of a small watermelon, was beside the mailbox. The large brown rock wasn't much to look at. Just a dusty, unremarkable lump that never caught the eye of the mail carrier or a passerby.

That unremarkable lump would go on to be sold to a group of German scientists for half a million dollars.

Despite calls from the Smithsonian requesting ownership, TCU kept the meteorites. The funding received from the state would be used to create a display worthy of the world-class collection.

The Monnig Meteorite Gallery opened in 2003, tucked away inside Sid



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. MORGAN

Dr. Ken Morgan was the chair of the geology department when the donation was made.

Richardson Science Building, which is known for its low ceilings, winding hallways and twisting stairwells.

Visitors can step into what Dr. Tim McCoy, curator of meteorites at the Smithsonian, has called "a true treasure for TCU."

"It is certainly the best meteorite museum at any university in the world."

DR. TIM MCCOY
CURATOR OF METEORITES AT THE SMITHSONIAN

Dr. Rhiannon Mayne, now the curator of the Monnig Gallery, first heard about the position in 2008 from McCoy, who had been her

postdoctoral advisor. For her, the memory is still vivid.

"We were on a walk," Mayne said. "We'd probably gone to get snacks, and he said to me, 'Your job has been advertised.' And I was like, 'What are you talking about?' And he said, 'There's a job coming up at Texas Christian University, and it's your job.'"

It was. And it still is.

"I can put Mars in one hand and moon in the other, and there's just something awe inspiring about that for most people," Mayne said.

Now, as both a professor and curator, Mayne continues to expand the collection that started because of one man's lifelong hobby.

The Monnig Gallery is located in the Sid Richardson Science Building and is open Mon-Sat from 1-4 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU MAGAZINE

Dr. Rhiannon Mayne is now the current curator of the Monnig gallery.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UT ARLINGTON LIBRARY

Oscar Monnig points out star positions to junior astronomers at Fort Worth Children’s Museum.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UT ARLINGTON LIBRARY

Oscar Monnig with his telescope outside of his home.



PHOTOS BY BAILEY BATES

Photos above and below show displays and sections in the Monnig Meteorite Gallery, which is located in the Sid Richardson Science Building.





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Horoscope

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

- ★★★★★-Dynamic
- ★★★★-Positive
- ★★★-Average
- ★★-So-so
- ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Today you will be triumphant in discussions about shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances because you will speak with confidence and authority. You will also have the mental determination to research these same areas and clear up any confusion that might exist, especially about the expectations of others. Tonight: Cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Discussions with close friends, partners and spouses will be lively today — be prepared for this. Possibly, you will attract someone to you who is emphatic and convincing. To avoid conflict, listen to what is said before you speak. Be smart. Be courteous. Tonight: Get organized.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Like yesterday, you are emboldened with your ideas at work or with anything to do with your health or a pet. Certainly, you won't hesitate to speak up. This emotional confidence will encourage upbeat times socializing with others, as well as exploring sports events and fun activities with kids. Tonight: Socialize.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ This is a powerful

day working with children, or working in the entertainment world or show business, or in anything sports-related. You will express yourself with dynamic energy! Tonight: Relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Lively debates and discussions within the family or at home continue to take place. These might concern home repairs, renovations or real estate possibilities. Of course, for Leos, your home is your castle, which is why you have strong opinions about where you live. Tonight: Conversations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Because you are so convincing right now, you can use this time to espouse your views or successfully sell, market, teach, act or write. Without question, you will be persuasive and convincing if you want to be. This is also an excellent time to enjoy a short trip. Tonight: Check your belongings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

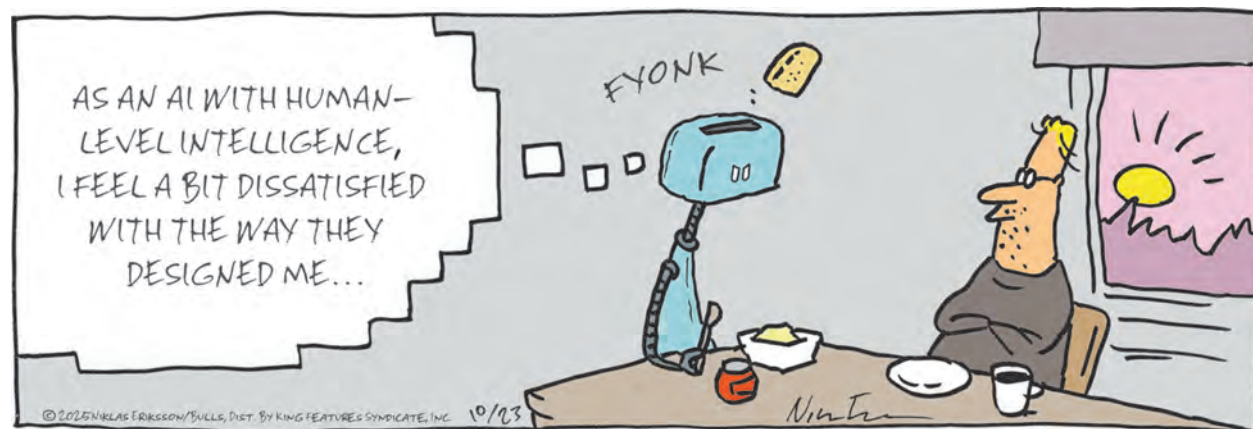
★★★★ You have the upper hand today because the Moon is in your sign and it is favored by its dance with lucky Jupiter. Furthermore, when it comes to earning money or financial associations, you are confident, articulate and commanding. Make use of these advantages today! Tonight: You're in charge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

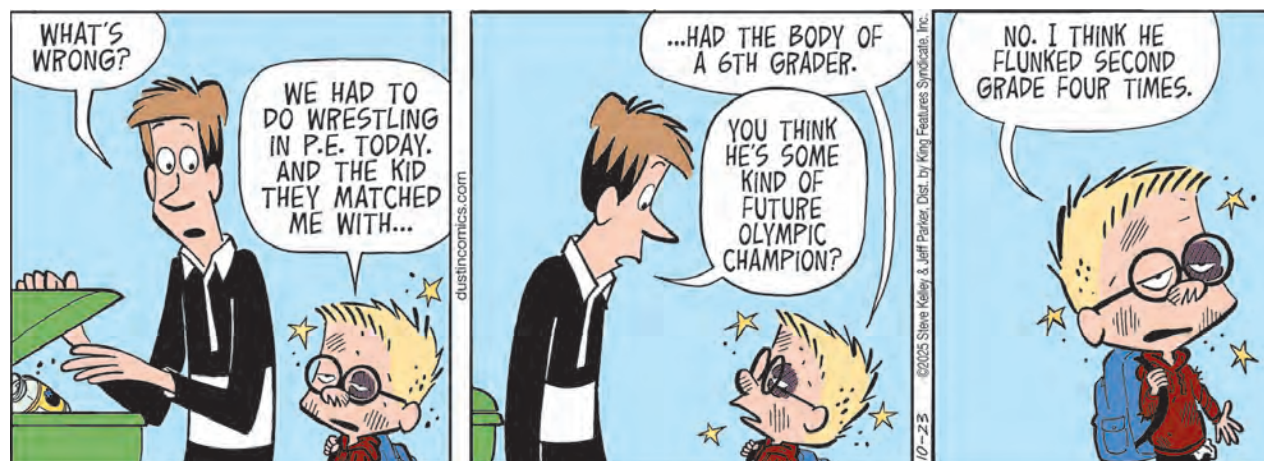
★★★★ This is the kind of day where you can steer things in the direction you want because

Comics

Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson



Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



others will listen to you. You are confident, focused and convincing — all qualities that can be harnessed to go after what you want today. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Not only are you the traveler of the zodiac, you are also the truth-seeking philosopher. Today you have the mental energy to do productive research and seek answers to big questions or

solutions to old problems. You will leave no stone unturned. You'll be like a dog with a bone. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ This is the perfect day to rally your forces and set them marching! Your style of relating to friends, groups and organizations will be successful because you are convincing, even inspirational. Use your verbal talents today to make things happen! Tonight: You're

admired.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

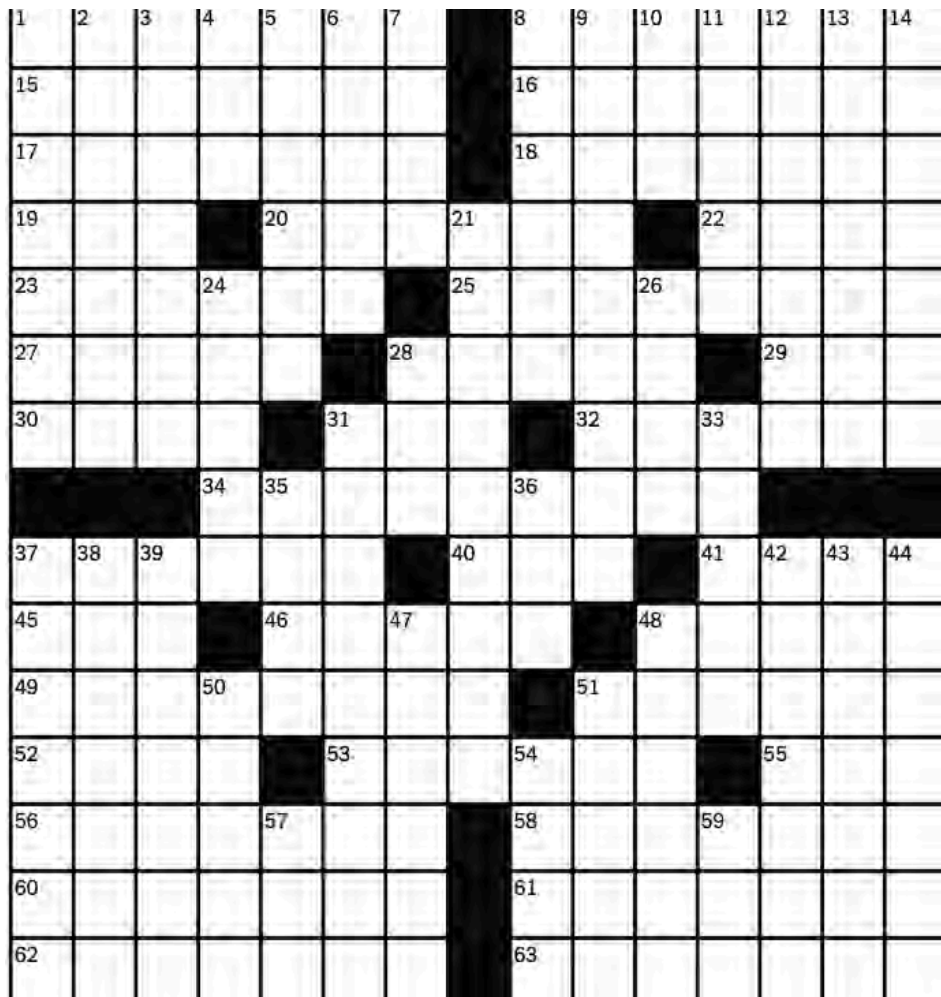
★★★★ This is a tricky day when dealing with authority figures - parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs and the police. Although you are ready to speak up and express your views, you will also encounter strong-minded individuals. This could create an impasse. Tonight: Explore and expand your world!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ This is the perfect day to research travel plans as well as explore opportunities related to publishing, the media, medicine and the law. You have the mental energy to write, learn and teach. Yesterday and today are excellent times to finish major writing projects, or at least make good headway. Tonight: Check paperwork.

The New York Times

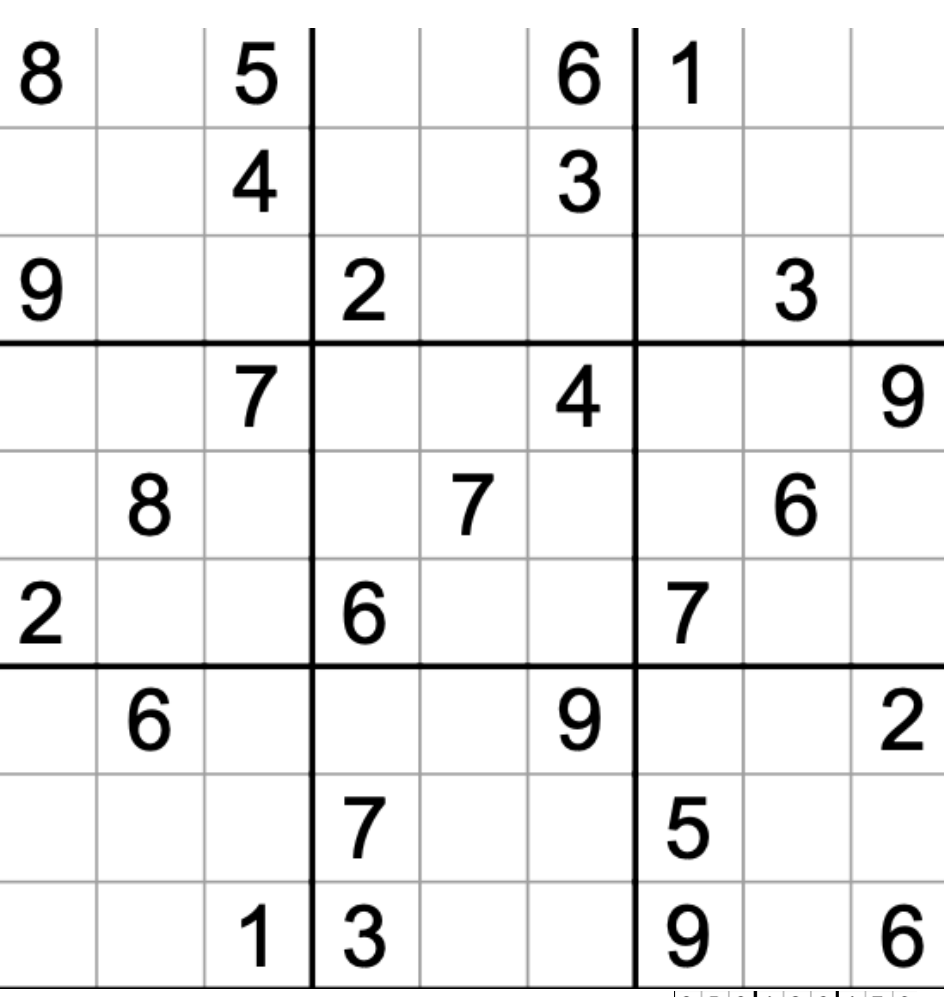
Edited by Will Shortz



- ACROSS**
1 Customizable, all-in-one internet digest
8 Shoots for the stars
15 Game played on an 8x8 board
16 “Thumbs down from me”
17 Meditation chant, in a sense
18 Sought-after
19 Variety of bark?
20 Something you might change on a bed
22 ___ Ulrich, Metallica drummer
23 Gave a sneak preview of
25 Tennis do-over, in a way
27 Counterparts of countesses in British peerage
28 Equine hybrid
29 One in Bonn
30 Sch. with a satellite campus in Calxico
31 Terse reply to “Why?”
32 Thingum
34 Superman portrayal
37 Christopher, in so many words
38 Heart-pumping stuff?
40 Goal to shoot for
41 ___ Kong
45 Steeplechase unit
- 46 Bar from the bank?
48 Borderer of the Indian state of Sikkim
49 Passport or driver’s license, in a manner of speaking
51 Who wrote “Existentialism Is a Humanism,” 1945
52 First person?
53 Spread some dirt
55 Gershwin brother
56 Muscle car whose name evokes a U.S. road trip
58 Action star Jet, in a nutshell
60 “Don’t worry about the check”
61 Close contemporary
62 O-O and O-O-O, in chess notation
63 Like some shoes at a cobbler’s
- DOWN**
1 Takes turns
2 One might say “Big savings all week!”
3 Rosh Hashana horns
4 Like some nouns: Abbr.
5 Gets away from
- 6 Nickname for the medieval Spanish knight Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar
7 Mideast capital
8 Victorious military underdog in the Bible
9 Sports bet based on total points scored
10 Sister of Helios, in Greek myth
11 Barrier to entry, perhaps
12 Chewed out
13 Slothfulness
14 Fortuitous gift
21 Holdings of winnings
24 Curved lines on sheet music
26 France’s third- largest city, after Paris and Marseille
28 Quality to which a unique six- character code is assigned, in graphic design
31 Arcade staple with a joystick
33 Multiple-choice catchall
35 Inside of
36 Large chemical container
37 Credit cards, so to speak
38 Constellation whose name is Latin for “lizard”
39 U.S. History or Calculus BC, e.g.

Sudoku

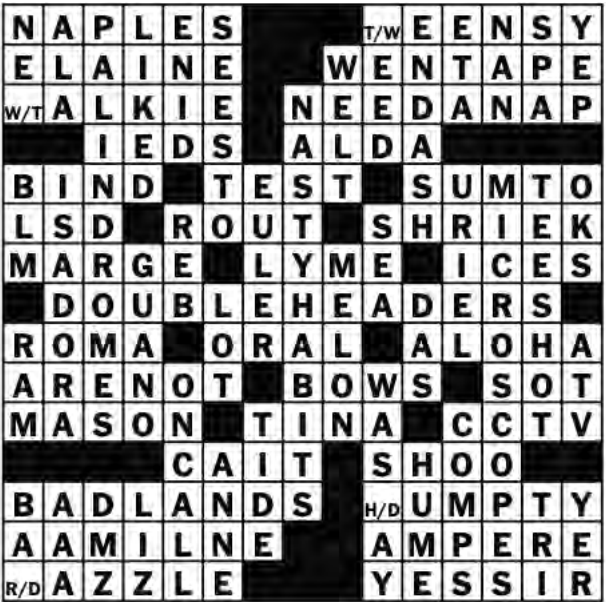
DIRECTIONS Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating.



- 42 Kind of illusion
43 Do some storytelling
44 Ascertained bit by bit
47 Garden guardians
48 Italy’s third-largest city, after Rome and Milan
50 Words before a contingency plan
51 Invader’s tactic
54 Play-fight
57 Its youngest host was a 7-year-old Drew Barrymore in ’82
59 “If u ask me ...”
- 8 5 9 | 1 2 6 | 4 7 3
3 7 1 | 4 9 5 | 8 6 2
4 2 6 | 8 3 7 | 5 9 1
1 8 7 | 3 6 4 | 9 2 5
6 3 4 | 2 5 9 | 1 8 7
2 9 5 | 7 1 8 | 6 3 4
7 1 8 | 6 4 2 | 3 5 9
9 6 3 | 5 7 1 | 2 4 8
5 4 2 | 9 8 3 | 7 1 6

LAST WEEK’S
SUDOKU SOLUTION

LAST WEEK’S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



HEALTH & WELLNESS

TCU's community-centered approach to mental health



PHOTO COURTESY OF TCU ARCHIVES

The TCU Counseling and Mental Health center is located in Jarvis Hall.

By RYLAND SCOTT
STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

Eric Wood, director of Counseling and Mental Health at TCU, believes that mental health is “not a clinical issue but a campus community issue.”

The TCU Counseling Center offers both individual and group counseling. Tuition covers all costs for these services, ensuring accessibility for every student in need of support.

According to Wood, TCU’s counseling model is unique. More than 100 schools nationwide are being trained to replicate aspects of its approach.

“Our triage and crisis counselors don’t carry caseloads but instead focus entirely on students wanting access to our services or experiencing urgent needs,” Wood said.

Beyond clinical care,

TCU partners with community providers to bring specialized services on campus. These services foster peer support communities for students to connect with like-minded peers.

Wood emphasized the role of departments such as Campus Wellness, Student Success Coaching and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life in student well-being.

According to the American Psychological Association, mental health among college students remains a major concern nationally. Post-pandemic symptoms of anxiety and depression remain elevated.

Wood said that TCU mirrors these statistics: “Anxiety is by far the most commonly presented issue from students.”

The 2024–2025 Healthy Minds survey

showed that over 30% of college students report experiencing moderate-to-severe symptoms of anxiety, reflecting ongoing mental health challenges in higher education.

Students’ limited availability because of fast-paced academic and digital lifestyles is a growing challenge, Wood said.

“Since the pandemic, we’ve seen a significant rise in students who give us less than four hours a week for scheduling sessions,” Wood said.

To address this, TCU is analyzing data from the past three years related to major, classification and workload.

Wood connected this to the broader “AI and digital evolution,” which may be increasing academic pressure and the need for human connection.

Peer support communities have

become a vital response, offering spaces for students to build genuine relationships outside of therapy settings.

Faculty and peers are also key, with 85% of students seeking counseling after being encouraged by someone else.

“Counselors can’t solicit clients — it often takes a friend, professor or coach to help a student take that first step”

- ERIC WOOD
DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Looking ahead, Wood encourages awareness

in the next generation of college students those who were in middle school during

the pandemic — as they bring unique emotional experiences to campus life.



TCU Collegiate
RECOVERY COMMUNITY

Students for Recovery

.....

Open and Anonymous Meeting
Every Thursday
6:00-7:30pm
Jarvis Hall 204

Open to any TCU student who has the
desire to change their substance use.

.....

COURTESY OF WHAT2DO@TCU

The Counseling and Mental Health Center promotion of one of their many peer support communities.