

# Friendship and food



/East Oregonian  
**Dallin Smith, 10, and his older brother bring leftovers to diners at the Community Fellowship Dinner on Christmas Day at Hermiston High School. A group of friends started offering the free holiday meal in the 1980s.**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Waiter Noah Espinoza, 8, hands a loaded plate to a diner at the Community Fellowship Dinner on Christmas Day at Hermiston High School.**

Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Hundreds flocked to the Community Fellowship Dinner on Christmas Day at Hermiston High School. A group of friends started offering the free holiday meal in the 1980s.**

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
NEWS EDITOR

The coffee and conversation were flowing freely at Hermiston’s Community Fellowship Dinner on Christmas Day.

The holiday meal, which has been an annual tradition since the 1980s, is free and open to anyone, for any reason. The widespread invitation draws an eclectic crowd, from those who don’t want to spend Christmas alone to extended families enjoying the chance to skip doing dishes and cooking.

Frances Howard said she came by herself to the dinner in the Hermiston High School commons, but was able to meet “a lot” of people there.

“I’m living in a camper trailer and there’s no oven, so there’s no way for me to cook a turkey dinner,” she said.

Caleb Jacobs and his mother Cindy Clark,

both of Hermiston, met up on Tuesday afternoon to enjoy their choice of ham or turkey dinner. Jacobs, who has been to the dinner the last six years, said he’s a movie buff and likes to entertain the servers and people sitting near him with movie trivia. Clark said sometimes she and her son get treated like “outcasts,” but not at the Community Fellowship Dinner.

“The people are friendly here,” she said.

Joetta Wallace, her mother Bonnie Phillips and her aunt Gloria Lampkin were all seated together as they laughed and talked over dinner. Wallace and Phillips were in town visiting Lampkin, who lives in Echo, and the three decided the community meal would be better than cooking.

“Any time someone else cooks it, it’s delicious,” Phillips said.

Wallace said she appreciated how hard the volunteers, who put the dinner together, must have worked behind the scenes.

Some of the people sitting at the tables

were also volunteers who were enjoying the fruits of their labor after working a shift in the kitchen or out with the guests.

David Lawson had volunteered for the Thanksgiving meal for the first time in November, and liked it so much he came back and washed dishes at the Christmas meal. While he was grabbing a bite to eat with a friend sitting at one of the tables, he said he is retired and his grandchildren were at his ex-wife’s house this Christmas, so he liked being able to come and help out with the dinner.

“It gives me something to do,” he said.

Rachael Higgins was also enjoying a meal after volunteering. She said she used to attend the meal when she was a child, and came this year with her sister and her mother to help serve up food.

“I like that you get to talk to a lot of people while serving,” she said.

Some people at the high school on Tues-

day were first-timers. Sharon McKim came with her father and her husband — who would usually cook Christmas dinner — to try out something new for the holiday this year. She said they heard about the dinner through a banner on Highway 395 and thought they would come and check it out instead of eating at home.

They said they approved of the atmosphere, the dinner choices and the service.

“It’s good food,” McKim said.

The Christmas dinner usually feeds 700-900 people, and on Tuesday afternoon the tables at the commons area remained mostly full as people were coming and going. Transportation or meal delivery was also available to those who needed it. The free community event was made possible by a long list of volunteers, donations and sponsorships, and after it was over, a clean-up party for decorations and chairs and tables was planned for Wednesday morning.

## 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: **K equals S**

KVUURKX L UXZKRF MK

RUXZLSMFW WZXW IRVWLFMK’

HXPMQIX ... QRVIN GRV KLG

PX’K MF SPX NMHXZ’K KXLS?

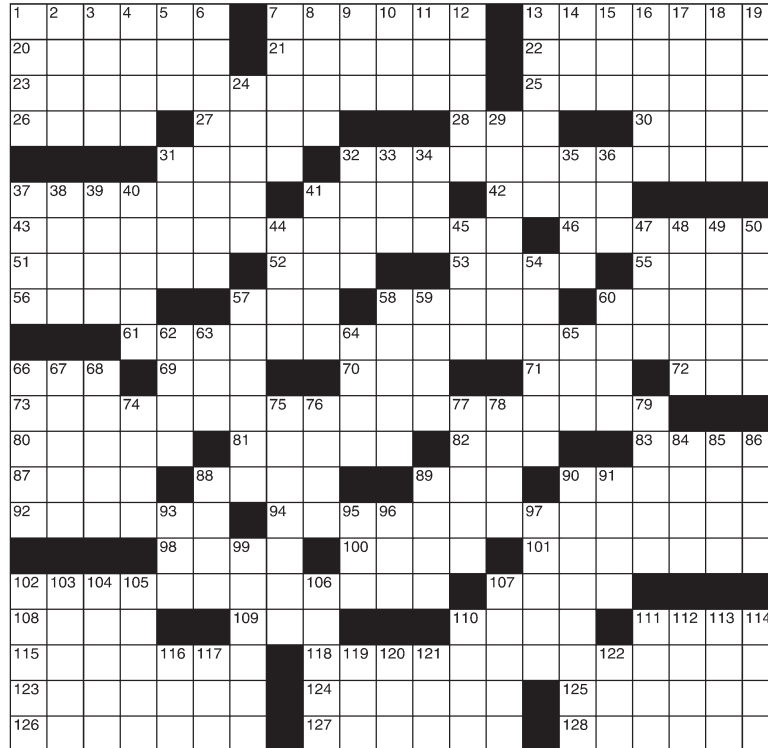
Suppose a person is  
operating Greg Louganis’  
vehicle ... Could you say  
he’s in the diver’s seat?

### Answers

Answers  
ALCAPSNER DEFIES TRALALA  
HOMBARACLES RALALALA  
COLSALSOUID RALALALS  
SPARSHOT ASHINIT  
AFARLIGNANT SAU  
ASUSLTPOKY ESASU  
AVASTDIFERENCES  
EMERILIRE OPALVALER  
REDOLOMADOLOM  
MAMMAMMAMMAM  
HASTPARIARS  
SSEISNOITARS  
MASSIVELTARL  
NOITAKYAV  
ETAV  
SODAVLHERBEREL  
SICRAVNONENON  
SIVRANTIONON  
SITERNON  
MONTERTERTRON  
AVAVAVAVAVAVAV  
WSTESLEHHEISITS  
NESTLEHHEISITS  
NEDEDED

## SUPER CROSSWORD: THIS IS REALLY BIG

- ACROSS**
- 1 He drew “Li’l Abner”
- 7 Stands up to lip-curler
- 13 Disdainful
- 20 Roving vacuum cleaner
- 21 Delphi diviner
- 22 Lilted song syllables
- 23 Big mollusk of Antarctic seas
- 25 Birds such as emus
- 26 Box gently
- 27 Golf stroke
- 28 Ending for enzymes
- 30 Cue or clue distance
- 32 Big tree of California
- 37 Per routine
- 41 Super-slow
- 42 Red-haired biblical twin
- 43 Big dissimilarity
- 46 Rarely
- 51 “Bam!” chef
- 52 Cholera
- 53 Nashville’s Grand Ole —
- 55 Gutter place
- 56 Work over
- 57 Big fuss
- 58 Trump’s wife after Ivana
- 60 One laying down asphalt
- 61 Big project
- 66 “I’ve got it!”
- 69 Motor oil brand
- 70 Actress Meyers
- 71 W-2 org.
- 72 Boise-to-Las Vegas dir.
- 73 Big military counterstrike
- 80 Author Loos
- 81 Revolt
- 82 Cloud setting
- 83 Jazzy singer
- 87 Coke, e.g.
- 88 Deviate
- 89 Boxing legend
- 90 Knocks off
- 92 — Nevadas
- 94 Big job
- 98 “Nay” caller
- 100 Slaughtering of
- 101 Categorizes
- 102 Big pickup in an exhibition
- 107 Pot builder
- 108 See 86-Down
- 109 Yank’s home scene trio
- 110 Nativity
- 111 Gulf country
- 115 Facial looks
- 118 Big home loan
- 123 Hillary’s peak
- 124 Kindle
- 125 More greasy
- 126 Snuggles
- 127 Robbing jobs
- 128 Requisite
- DOWN**
- 1 Pop-up paths
- 2 Lariat end
- 3 Coke, e.g.
- 4 Love, in Peru
- 5 “NewsHour” network
- 6 Two-choice grading system
- 7 Melancholy
- 8 Once, in the past
- 9 E-help sheet
- 10 Hosp. section
- 11 Drug mogul
- 12 Biggish car
- 13 PTSD part
- 14 Big D.C. lobby
- 15 Dig into
- 16 Former state secretary
- 17 Secant, e.g.
- 18 1985 Kate Nelligan drama
- 19 Worshiper of Jah, in brief
- 24 “Two and — Men”
- 29 Church part
- 31 “Friday the 13th” staple
- 33 Eisenhower, informally
- 34 Objectivist
- 35 Unhurried
- 36 “— Sera, Sera”
- 37 State firmly
- 38 Unaltered
- 39 Well-trodden
- 40 Thurmond of politics
- 41 Ross of politics
- 44 Classic canine name
- 45 Power strip attachment
- 47 Plumbing problem
- 48 Bet of film
- 49 Cakes bake in them
- 50 Form a union
- 54 Infrequently seen thing
- 57 Coulomb per second
- 58 Big wall painting
- 59 Deep blue dye
- 60 El —, Texas
- 62 Big continent
- 63 “Scream” network
- 64 Totally dislike
- 65 Prefix with oxide
- 66 Heap up
- 67 Capital northeast of Vientiane
- 68 Parenthetical remark
- 74 Symbol on many flags
- 75 Gives off again
- 76 River in Spain
- 77 Rizzoli’s TV partner
- 78 Similar (to)
- 79 “Nifty!”
- 84 Russian ruler of yore
- 85 PSAT part
- 86 With 108-Across, demands much (of)
- 88 Fan blade
- 89 Hectically
- 90 Skillet alloy
- 91 Apart from that
- 93 Squealer
- 95 Opposite of old, in Ulm
- 96 Pop’s bro
- 97 Dance that “takes two”
- 99 Believes (in)
- 102 Master
- 103 Antipasto bit
- 104 Snouts, e.g.
- 105 Opening
- 106 Kingly
- 107 Willie of “Charles in Charge”
- 110 Over half
- 111 Stare at rudely
- 112 — of honor
- 113 “A Death in the Family” writer
- 114 Uncool type
- 116 Salon stuff
- 117 Suffix of dialects
- 119 Ending with script
- 120 Me, to Fifi
- 121 Greyhound fleet unit
- 122 Game draw



## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK ★★



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

### Answers

### Weekly SUDOKU

For Hermiston Herald information  
541-567-6457 • info@hermistonherald.com  
333 E. Main St. • HermistonHerald.com

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