Christmas Express

Staff photos by Jessica Pollard

1) Molly Golter of Hermiston wraps presents at the Hermiston Community Center in preparation for Christmas Express on Dec. 17. The annual event spearheaded by the Hermiston Police Department delivers food and gifts to hundreds of local families in need. 2) Reserve officer at the Hermiston Police Department, Jared Zumwalt, said he's been participating in Christmas Express for years, but last week was his first time wrapping gifts for the event. This year, 100 city employees and family members helped wrap gifts and build food boxes for 500 families, according to Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston. 3) "I love volunteering where I'm needed," said City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong while wrapping gifts for Christmas Express last week. She and other staff rushed to wrap piles of new toys for kids in the area. This year, the program received almost $7,500 from the community and $8,000 from the Hermiston Rotary Club to help provide gifts and food to families in need. 4) Heather LeBeau, zoning clerk in the planning department of Hermiston, said that the number of donated gifts this year was into the thousands. Due to a furnace fire, city staffers were evacuated from City Hall on Tuesday afternoon before heading over to wrap gifts."I was going to grab more tape at the office, but now I can't," LeBeau said.

Illustrations by Vecteezy

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: **Z** equals **T**

ZCVZ QGEI PVXB'M XSO

VNPKH "SPP VXB TNGO"

JXENKBSM V ZKXS GT ZCS MVHS

XVHS. JZ'M ZCS ZJBVN ZQVEI.

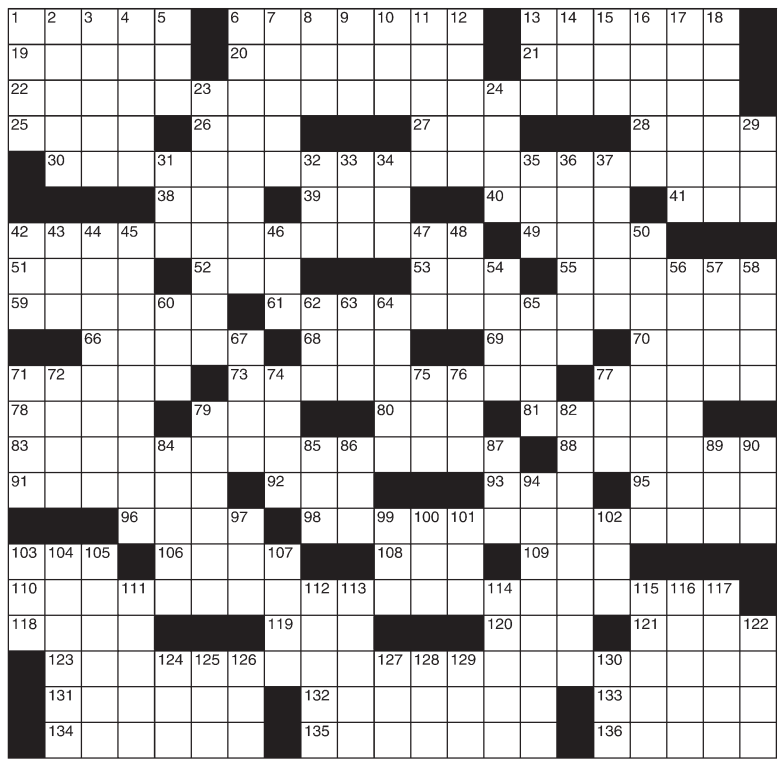
Cryptoquip answer

That rock band's new album "Ebb and Flow" includes a tune of the same name. It's the tidal track.

SUPER CROSSWORD: ON THE EVE

ACROSS
1 Will, in the Bible
6 Sang like a bird
13 Modify
19 Pages, e.g.
20 Stone Age tool
21 Simple shack
22 "Well ... hop to it!"
25 Pa's ma
26 Mega-years
27 Big record label, once
28 Angers
30 "Hamlet" monologue exhortation
38 Singer DiFranco
39 Skeletal bit
40 Told fibs
41 Fancy resort
42 "Very sorry to hear that"
49 Skidded
51 Penn of film
52 Compass pt.
53 Divested (of)
55 Intl. cultural gp.
59 Like lambs
61 Voicing a question of curiosity
66 Bush barb
68 Misery
69 Battery size
70 Suffix with convert
71 Army sites
73 "Look ahead," to a drill instructor
77 Wicked acts
78 Regarding
79 Downed
80 Charged bit
81 — Lauder
83 Was the right thing, but didn't happen
88 Steeds
91 Set of seven
92 That dude's
93 Ad about DUI, maybe
95 Just makes, with "out"
96 Prune a bit
98 Be published
103 — Moines
106 "Back in Black" band
108 Actress Poehler
109 Many a charity gp.
110 Poem that's the source of the phrase comprising the first words of 22-, 30-, 42-, 61-, 73-, 83- and 98-Across
118 Viral GIF, e.g.
119 Sci-fi saucer
120 — Party
121 Cookie giant
123 Alternate title of 110-Across, with "The"
131 Director May
132 Shady giant
133 Island ring
134 Expunge
135 More diluted
136 Body of art?

DOWN
1 Like cut wood
2 Pair of drum-kit cymbals
3 "A Bell for —"
4 Unleash on
5 Airport org. flagging bags
6 Parody-filled newspaper
7 Gretzky of hockey
8 Brian of rock
9 School URL ender
10 "... — a puddy tat!"
11 Orals, e.g.
12 Clear, as a windshield
13 Boxing great
14 Bear's home
15 Bender
16 Not suited
17 Town that's home to the University of Connecticut
18 Shredded
23 Blitzen, e.g.
24 6'6", say
29 Brine source
31 Solo in films
32 Mine find
33 Game aim
34 It aired "ER"
35 Hi- — (stereos)
36 Caviar fish
37 Suburb of Minneapolis
42 "Umami" taste source
43 "— -haw!"
44 Simply must keep going
45 At variance
46 Dr. Kildare player Ayres
47 "I heard him exclaim, — he drove out of sight ..."
48 "Fine fellow"
50 Paperboy, for one
54 Gorilla guru Fossey
56 Actress Leelee
57 Pick out from others
58 Some poems
60 Plural of "el"
62 Be in debt
63 Some votes
64 Zapping ER treatment
65 Silver of statistics
67 Neighbor of Belg.
71 Party
72 Netman Arthur
74 "Uh-huh"
75 Caviar base
76 Inseparable
77 DDE's WWII sphere
79 Chocoholic, e.g.
82 Chinese port
84 Oahu patio
85 Road, in Italy
86 Seer's "gift"
87 "Fresh Air" network
89 Dusk, to a bard
90 Old Brit. Airways jet
94 More heartfelt
97 PC file that's shareable
99 Fathers
100 First-aid pro
101 Writer Rand
102 Nanki- — ("The Mikado" son)
103 Block up
104 Made level
105 "Good as gold," e.g.
107 Mötley —
111 "Love Story" author Erich
112 "He's a man — words"
113 Dinero
114 "With this ring — wed"
115 Keno's kin
116 Knight's mail
117 Some pups
122 Norway port
124 Make haste
125 Blast stuff
126 Flying stinger
127 Apartment divs.
128 Archaic verb ending
129 Dernier —
130 Used a pew



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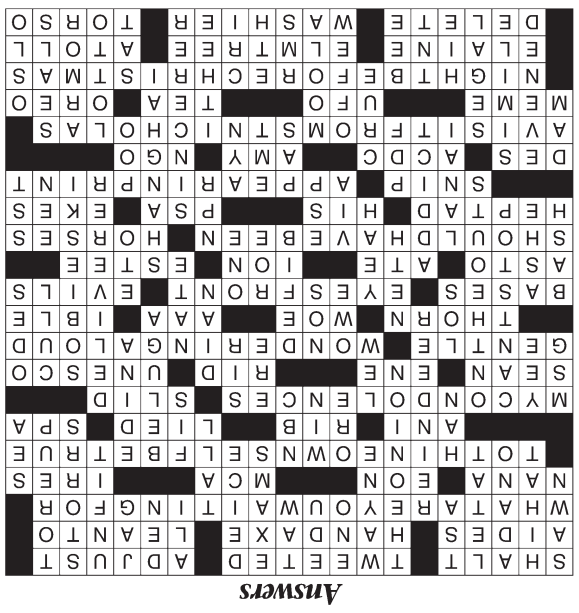
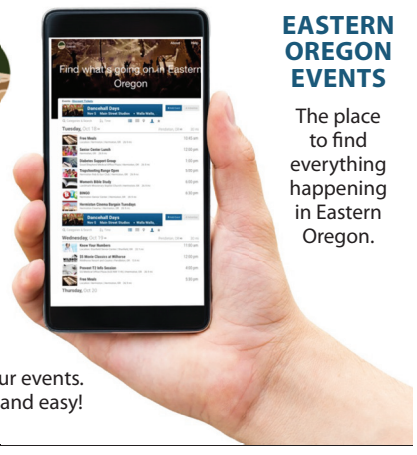
Super Crossword answers



SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK ★



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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

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