

# Free resources available for parents trying to homeschool children during shutdown

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
NEWS EDITOR

The six-week school closure announced by Gov. Kate Brown last week has suddenly given some parents a lot more time with their children than they were expecting.

For some, it might be a time for relaxation or chores, but others are looking for ways to continue their child's education at home.

Kari Goodheart, of Hermiston, said she is currently working on picking out a curriculum for her 12-year-old twin boys to study for the foreseeable future. There are a lot of homeschooling options out there, she said, from secular private schools to public online charter schools to Christian-based homeschooling.

She said she is excited to turn her home into a learning environment, and to be a part of her children's learning experience.

She thinks the experience will allow her sons, who often get bored at school, to work at an accelerated pace, but said she thinks once school is back open they will choose to return for social reasons.

"I will let them decide, but I have a feeling they will want to see their friends again," she said.

Amber Street, of Hermiston, who has homeschooled in the past but hadn't been doing so this year, suggested that parents forcing children to sit at a desk all day going through a structured curriculum might not be the way for stressed-out parents to go right now.

"I made a list with my son of what he wants to learn about, and of course, there are dinosaurs, but there are also things like the country of Israel," she said. "That's what we're going to be working on, and theoretically he'll be more cooperative."

She said there are ways to incorporate learning naturally throughout the day — learning measuring and cooking skills while helping in the kitchen, for example, or learning through reading and games. And even if parents are holding more for-



HH file photo

Oregon Connections Academy students work on projects in 2014. Online schools are one option parents are turning to in order to keep their children busy during the six-week school closure.

*"WHEN YOU'RE HOME, A LESSON THAT MIGHT TAKE AN HOUR AT PUBLIC SCHOOL MIGHT TAKE 20 MINUTES WITH YOUR KID BECAUSE THEY HAVE THAT REALLY GOOD ONE-ON-ONE TIME."*

Amber Street, of Hermiston, who has homeschooled her children in the past

mal lessons with students, the "school day" can be much shorter.

"When you're home, a lesson that might take an hour at public school might take 20 minutes with your kid because they have that really good one-on-one time," she said. "You don't need to explain things multiple times for the kids not paying attention in the back."

Street said if parents are just looking for ways to temporarily provide educational opportunities for their children, and not committing to a homeschooling lifestyle permanently, there are plenty of free resources online they can use instead of investing in expensive textbooks and other materials.

One of those resources, locally, is the Hermiston Public Library. While the library building is currently closed to visitors, people

can still call to order books for pickup outside, and the library offers a long list of digital resources, found at <https://hermistonlibrary.us/os>.

Library director Mark Rose said it's not too late for Hermiston residents to get a library card to access such services — just call the necessary information and be issued a library card number. For people who don't live in the city, some of the resources listed on the library's website don't require a library card to access.

"Because of the state library and other things of that nature, we have huge amounts of resources," Rose said.

Those resources go beyond just audiobooks and e-books and include services, such as Bookflix, which help young children

read a digital picture book along with a narrator, and offer questions afterward to gauge their understanding.

"We've had pretty good use of it, and I think it will be a good resource for people now," Rose said.

TumbleBook, an online library that also includes videos and comic books, is making its services free to all Americans during the current outbreak, along with a collection of math activities on TumbleMath.

Another resource for families is Beanstack, a reading challenge service that allows people to track their reading hours.

Rose said now is the time for parents to get creative about keeping their children informed and entertained. He said if people are looking for a specific resource on the internet to help them do so, but haven't been able to find it, librarians at the Hermis-

ton library are happy to take their call and help them out.

"Finding things online is supposed to be easy, but it's not always, and our staff have experience in that," he said.

As families wait to hear whether Oregon students will actually return to the classroom on April 29 as planned, some parents have written in community forums on Facebook that they plan to withdraw their child's enrollment from their local school completely and switch to a virtual charter school, such as Connections Academy. It is unclear yet how the Oregon Department of Education will handle that phenomenon, as schools usually get funding from the state on a per-student basis, meaning drops in enrollment hurt districts financially.

Hermiston School District has put together a list of some educational resources parents can use on their website, at [bit.ly/2UaOaXn](http://bit.ly/2UaOaXn). District communications officer Maria Duron stated in an email that the list was not the answer to questions about what learning will look like for students throughout the outbreak, but is meant to be a resource for

## ONLINE RESOURCES

**hermistonlibrary.us/os**

While the library building is currently closed to visitors, people can still call to order books for pickup outside, and the library offers digital resources including audiobooks, e-books and services such as Bookflix

**TumbleBook and TumbleMath**

Both are making services free to all Americans during the current outbreak, including rearing materials and a collection of math activities.

**artsandculture.google.com**

Offers virtual tours of now-closed museums and zoos around the world.

**www.americandairy.com**

Provides virtual tours of farms for children.

caregivers looking for ideas.

For parents who are just looking for ways to keep their child entertained in an educational way over the break from school, many companies and nonprofits are stepping up.

Scholastic, for example, has launched a free Learn at Home program that offers "20 days" worth of active learning journeys designed to reinforce and sustain educational opportunities for those students who are unable to attend school," according to their website.

Students can take a virtual tour of now-closed museums and zoos around the world by visiting [artsandculture.google.com](http://artsandculture.google.com), which uses the same technology as Google Street View to allow users to "walk" the halls of everything from the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art to the Australian National Surfing Museum. Or they can use street level mapping technology through [www.geoguessr.com](http://www.geoguessr.com) to race to guess where in the world they have been "dropped."

The American Dairy Association North East is offering virtual tours of farms, catered to different age levels.

## 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: U equals T

UX VXGN EIYYQVD LNXLJN, LANVV  
ZNTVXAVDQL GQYDU KN RNVZAQKNR  
IV EAQUNA'V ZJIGL.

To some waggish people, press censorship might be described as writer's clamp.

answer  
**Cryptoquip**

HERMISTON  
LIBRARY  
OFFERS  
DIGITAL  
RESOURCES  
INCLUDING  
AUDIOBOOKS  
E-BOOKS  
AND SERVICES  
SUCH AS  
BOOKFLIX  
TUMBLEBOOK  
AND  
TUMBLEMATH  
BOTH ARE  
MAKING  
SERVICES  
FREE TO  
ALL AMERICANS  
DURING  
THE  
CURRENT  
OUTBREAK  
INCLUDING  
READING  
MATERIALS  
AND A  
COLLECTION  
OF MATH  
ACTIVITIES  
ARTSANDCULTURE.  
GOOGLE.COM  
OFFERS  
VIRTUAL  
TOURS OF  
NOW-CLOSED  
MUSEUMS  
AND ZOO  
AROUND  
THE  
WORLD  
WWW.AMERICAN  
DAIRY.COM  
PROVIDES  
VIRTUAL  
TOURS OF  
FARMS FOR  
CHILDREN

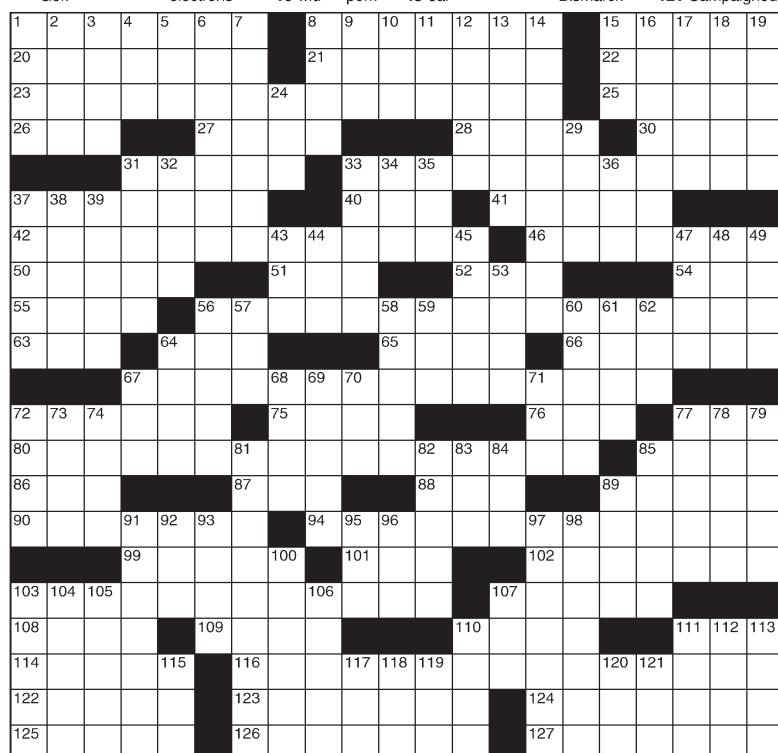
ANSWERS

## Super Crossword

For Hermiston Herald information  
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333 E. Main St. • [HermistonHerald.com](http://HermistonHerald.com)

## SUPER CROSSWORD: OUT OF THE ORDINARY

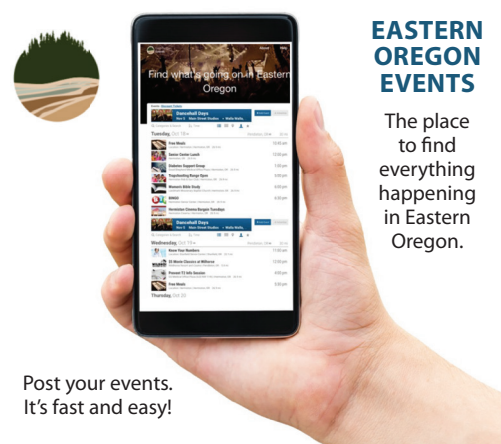
- ACROSS**  
1 It may begin "Here lies ..."  
8 Like fables with morals  
15 Sprayed like a firefighter  
20 Composer Saint-Saëns  
21 Maui tourist town  
22 Wash away  
23 Like overly harsh punishment  
25 Consolidate  
26 Suffix with prophet  
27 Calc prereq  
28 Hosiery hitch  
30 Transmission option  
31 Coil of yarn  
33 1985 hit for Sheila E.  
37 Female graduates  
40 Middle: Abbr.  
41 Cello bow rub-on  
42 Monkey of kid-lit  
46 Upholstered footstool  
50 Country singer Travis  
51 Inits. on a navy vessel  
52 Neighbor of Ger.  
54 Apple pie mode  
55 Just makes, with "out"  
56 1965 Marvin Gaye hit  
63 Dial-up alternative, for short  
64 Fall away  
65 Cube inventor  
66 Feeble  
67 Noncircular paths around bodies  
72 Homeland, affectionately  
75 Big name in dog food  
76 108-card game  
77 Toque or fez  
80 1967 hit for the Doors  
85 Infrequent  
86 "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.  
87 Pillar from  
88 Singer Yoko  
89 Leaks slowly  
90 To no extent  
94 Mismatched collection  
99 Knife of old infomercials  
101 — Kippur  
102 Stream of electrons  
103 Witches in "Macbeth"  
107 Cantaloupe or honeydew  
108 Body gel additive  
109 "There's — haven't heard!"  
110 — prayer for  
111 Univ. Web site suffix  
114 Beach hills  
116 "77 Sunset Strip" actor, familiarly  
122 Mrs. Bunker  
123 Use an umbrella, say  
124 Posts again  
125 Hunter's lure  
126 Fusible alloys  
127 Bad-mouth  
**DOWN**  
1 "Lo!, to Livy  
2 Golf norms  
3 Don of radio  
4 Deadlock  
5 100%  
6 Tableland  
7 Units of inductance  
8 Chug — (guzzle)  
45 "... wife could — lean"  
47 Injure badly  
48 Jai —  
11 Western treaty inits.  
12 Pope before Gregory XIII  
13 More nonsensical  
14 Prison, informally  
15 — and haw  
16 Pizza herb  
17 More irritated  
18 Rocker  
19 Plow pioneer  
24 Noisy clamor  
29 Basic idea  
31 Actor Jimmy  
32 Granny, e.g.  
33 At — of (priced at)  
34 Item in a P.O. box  
35 Part of NATO: Abbr.  
36 Acne spot  
37 Performed on stage  
38 Lies in wait  
39 Apocryphal archangel  
43 With 115-Down, nervous and apprehensive  
44 Part of i.e.  
45 "... wife could — lean"  
47 Injure badly  
48 Jai —  
49 DEA agent  
53 "Shape — ship out!"  
56 Alphabet opener  
57 "May — of service?"  
58 Burglar's job  
59 Missile's path  
60 "Deathtrap" star Michael  
61 "For — us a child is born"  
62 Guitarist Paul  
64 "Green" sci.  
67 Sci-fi power  
68 Robert De —  
69 1990s exercise fad  
70 Bldg. units  
71 Virus, e.g.  
72 Not closed  
73 Jay of NBC  
74 Biblical verb  
77 Belittling frat brother  
78 Circus venue  
79 Touchy  
81 Bohemianism  
82 Meanders  
83 Question's opp.  
84 Turndowns  
85 Like Brutus  
89 Prince — von Bismarck  
91 Go along with  
92 Christie's cry  
93 — many words  
95 Coloring stuff  
96 Caméra —  
97 Ones toeing the line  
98 Tag anew  
100 In the habit of  
103 Crossed a ford  
104 Get by  
105 Like a charged atom  
106 Cyclical, at the beach  
107 — tai (drink)  
110 "The — the limit!"  
111 Markey of Tarzan films  
112 Nixing mark  
113 Stalin's land  
115 See 43-Down  
117 English dramatist  
118 Lyrical verse  
119 Bruin  
120 Peru's Sumac  
121 Campaigned



## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK ★



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

ANSWER  
**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Hermiston Herald**

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