

PLAINLY IN THE MAINE by Tinhorn

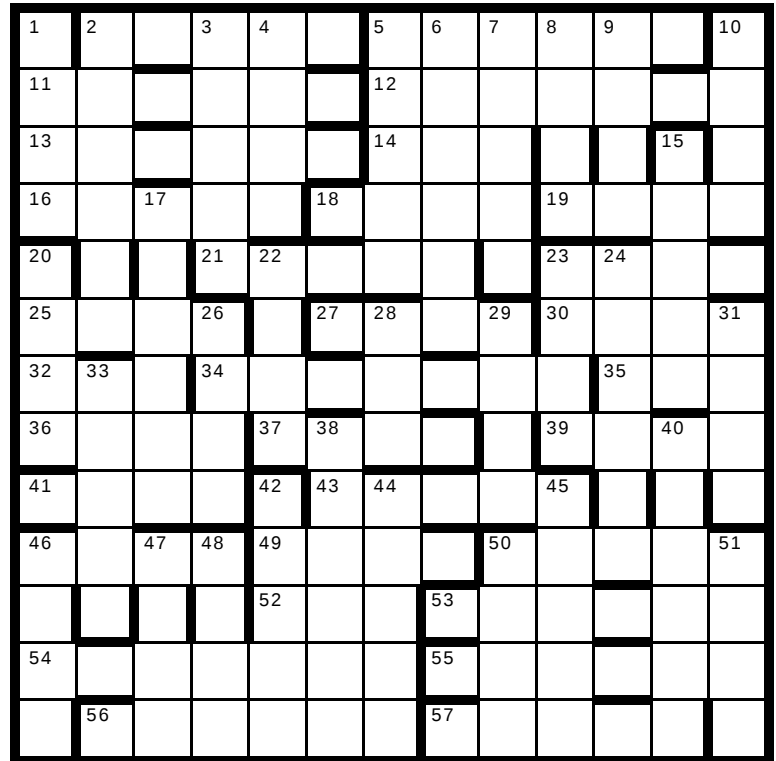
Welcome to Portland! In honor of our location this year, this puzzle has several themes. In alphabetical order, they are:

1. LOW MAINE
2. MAINE DECK
3. MAINE EVEN(T)S
4. REMEMBER THE MAINE
5. SPANISH MAINE
6. WATER MAINE

Each theme will apply in the same number of places (though not necessarily the same number of times). Each theme will either operate solely on entries, enabling them to be properly placed into the grid, or solely on clues, enabling them to work properly. What each theme does is for you to determine. All clues for which neither the clue nor its associated entry is affected by one of the above six themes are Mainstream (that is, completely standard).

Once you have completed the grid, then in each of the first 23 Mainstream clues (Maine being the 23rd state to join the Union) circle the letter corresponding to the theme number (see above) of the non-Mainstream clue most nearly following it. This will lead you to a final message that concludes the puzzle.

Mainey happy returns!



ACROSS

2. Liquid rocks parent, consuming last of grog
5. Spider victim gets extremely undone after error in the field
11. A whole bunch of dogs started late
12. Crooked man comprehends where to find the Taj Mahal resort
13. One mere drawing in dial part of telephone's current unit
14. Skiers lacking guts, without oxygen, call for help
16. Raucous beer lady is revolting person
18. Starting to convert? Make a choice for Egyptian Christian
19. Stage of history following introduction of sterilized transfusion fluids
21. It can help remove paint error interrupting theatrical start
23. Unhealthy need for first place
25. Home of the Great Israelite Lake trout, a hatchery to some extent
27. Sean, on a ship, in the singular bridge collection
30. Connect large tattoos
32. Ultimately, Republican infiltrates Washington political party organization (*abbr*)
34. Defeater of Sphinx from wordy book repelled Greek character and decapitated Greek characters
35. Couple from reception admitted to inferior toast some time ago
36. Firm deal closer rejects hot sushi accompaniment
37. Insolence results from termination, upon reflection leaving sadness
39. Lead character passing south, close to the church recess
41. Football team relatives implicated in gambling charges
43. Medicine dose follows second tumble
46. Actor best known for boozy role left a heckler unfulfilled
49. Fanatic units, having lost incitant, distributed group of flyers (*abbr*)
50. Bike parts specified in knots divided by radius
52. Flying machine of intense ebony
53. Fencing finally circles land associated with a building
54. Chests of pertussis sufferers listened to
55. Found Greek island harboring area
56. One of the Spice Girls (soprano) left on a ship, yes?

57. French cocktail nervously sent to actress Dunst

DOWN

1. RI cheer about love on the rise
2. Backed trademark involving cartoon fish for a while
3. Lug celebs all over to form harmonious groups
4. *Wordplay* constructor, to friends, is lamer after missing a broadcast
5. Brick setter's pair of family members
6. International peace-keeping organization keeps informal denial still sealed
7. Look in animal's coat for milled wheat
8. Gasp! Somehow Nicklaus has won more of these August events than Woods, informally speaking
9. Deco artist rendered tree
10. For starters, you might consider any popular disco song
15. Answers about animated canine's bowl
17. Unfortunately smack dab in old ski runs meant for experts
20. Tide, perhaps, to discourage chap
22. Group of faith reexamined number of wise men
23. Author pursues additional tailless, storied lion
24. Disagree Olympiad's final, provided sports official returns
26. Reportedly what a gardener might purchase one of or what a gardener might purchase two of
28. Sloths uncovered white-petaled flower
29. Pointless inauguration of dignitary, at capacity without fail
31. Check needle holding allergy component
33. Legendary swimmer, one who swam from Cuba to a place in Florida by the sound
38. Maintain a lock toward the ceiling
40. State where cooking school produces honeys
42. Eve was the first adult to do certain yardwork around noon
44. Compensation covers raising of Saint Mark
45. Long-term prisoner upset, not quite put back in designated place
46. Turning in early, Californians like lingerie
47. Hewlett-Packard swallows up eponymous automaker
48. Put up nothing for each seized vehicle
50. Spelling, on the screen, some geometric shapes
51. Understands forwards and backwards