

Solution to Previous Issue's Puzzle—Island Rings

Across

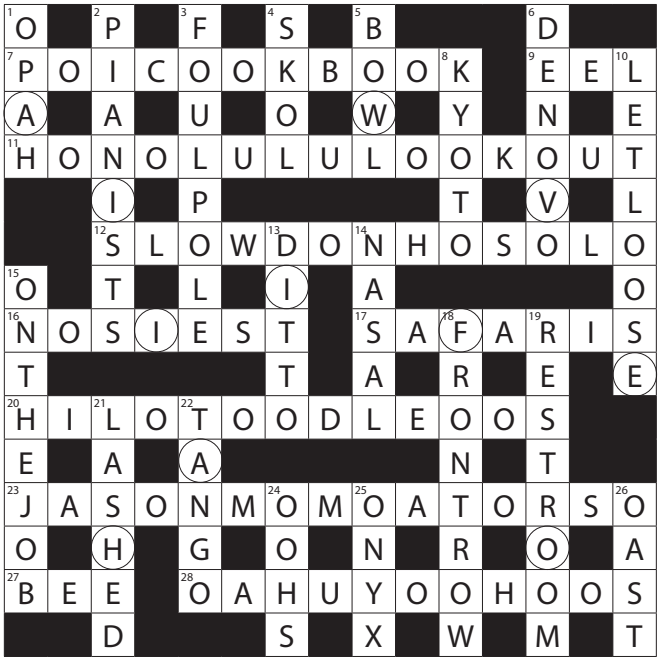
7 POI COOKBOOK—Theme Pun (Unlikely luau souvenir?)
9 EEL—Homonym/Pun ("That's Amore!" hom.)
11 HONOLULU LOOKOUT—Theme Pun (Diligent Diamond Head defender?)
12 SLOW DON HO SOLO—Theme Pun (Tiny bubbles?)
16 NOSIEST—Anagram ("On-sites" anag.)
17 SAFARIS—Insertion (A + FAR) inside SIS
20 HILO TOODLEOOS—Theme Pun (Alohas upon departure?)
23 JASON MOMOA TORSO—Theme Pun (Body of work displayed on "Aquaman" movie posters?)
27 BEE—Homonym ("B" hom.)
28 OAHU YOOHOOS—Theme Pun (Alohas upon arrival?)

Down

1 OPAH—Hidden (sh)OP AH(ead)
2 PIANISTS—Anagram ("sit in spa" anag.)
3 FOUL POLE—Homonym ("fowl poll" hom.)
4 SKOL—Hidden (a)SK OL(af)
5 BOWL—Simple Charade (B + OWL)
6 DE NOVO—Simple Charade (DEN + O + V(igenère) + O)
8 KYOTO—Letters Shifting (TO)KYO --> KYO(TO)
10 LET LOOSE—Anagram ("Tools Lee" anag.)
13 DITTO—Insertion (ITT inside DO)
14 NASAL—Hidden Initial Letters (N(ew) A(ge) S(ingers) A(re) L(oud))
15 ON THE JOB—Anagram ("John to be" anag.)
18 FRONT ROW—Hidden Odd Letters (F(o)R (n)O(o)N (s)T(a) R(t) O(f) W(e))
19 RESTROOM—Comb. Anagram/Container ("termors" anag. around O)
21 LASHED—Container (LAD around SHE)
22 TANGO—Simple Charade (TAN + GO)
24 OOHS—Homonym ("ooze" hom.)
25 ONYX—Simple Charade (ON + Y + X)
26 OAST—Comb. Deletion/Pun (r)OAST

The theme-relevant TV Show: HAWAII FIVE-O (AWIVIIFEHOW anag.)

All six of the Across theme entries have exactly five letter Os.



Solvers

Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Steven Berman, Jack Brauner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Jared Dashoff, Todd Dashoff, Christopher Dickens, Mick Diede, Deb Edwards, Phil Gollance, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Max Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Patrick Jou, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, George Levine, Tim Luker, Ben Lynch, David McGarry, Jon Michelson, Molina Team (Michael Manos and Erik Whitescarver), Becky Moody, Jim Muza, Todd Pierce, Ram Raman, Zig Swistunowicz, T.O.C.E. (Josh DenHartog and Sam Donohoe), Tim Tebbe, and James and Betsy Uzzell.

TOM TOCE is an FCAS and a seasonal director at KPMG. He is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to ttoce@nyc.rr.com. In order to make the solver list, you should send him your solutions by Dec. 1, 2026.