

TRAVEL

Southwest lands in Hawaii with drinks, hula dancers

Dawn Gilbertson
USA TODAY

Southwest Airlines' Hawaii service debuted Sunday, finally giving the nation's largest domestic carrier a footprint in the vacation hot spot.

Southwest Flight 6808, a 5½-hour nonstop flight from Oakland, California, to Honolulu, landed at 2 p.m. local time. It was met by Hawaii Gov. David Ige and Southwest Airlines President Tom Nealson.

Passengers on the inaugural flight were treated to leis and in-flight hula dancing and were the first to sample the expanded snack pack that will be served on the no-frills airline's Hawaii flights. In addition to the airline's standard red bag of pretzels, passengers were given Wheat Thins, Welch's fruit snacks, Tic Tacs and a white-cheddar cheese spread. New drinks include Longboard Island Lager from Kona Brewing Company, Minute Maid pineapple orange juice and Blue Chair Bay coconut spiced rum.

"It's been a big hole in our network," Southwest Airlines Executive Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer Andrew Watterson said. "We fully expect because of our new service that more people in California will be able to enjoy warm water in the Hawaiian islands and also the people of Hawaii, to be able to come to the mainland for education, jobs and also for their vacation time."

Southwest has talked about adding Hawaii to its route map for years and made it a priority in late 2017 when it applied for Federal Aviation Administration certification for long over-water flights with its Boeing 737s. A slew of competitors, including United, Alaska, Delta, American and Hawaiian Airlines, long have had flights to the bucket-list destination.

Southwest's approval from the FAA arrived in late February, and the airline started selling tickets to Hawaii on March 4, with fares as low as \$49 each



Hula dancers perform during Southwest's first Hawaiian flight. SANDY HOOPER

way. The cheapest seats sold out within hours, and some flights sold out completely.

The airline is starting small, with one flight each way daily between Oakland and Honolulu.

Southwest will add a second daily flight between Oakland and Honolulu this weekend.

In April, the airline will add daily flights between Oakland and Maui and begin inter-island flights.

In May, the airline begins flights between San Jose and Honolulu and Maui.

These are the starting dates for those routes:

- Oakland-Maui: April 7.
- Oakland-Kona May 12.
- San Jose-Honolulu: May 5.
- San Jose-Kona: May 12.
- San Jose-Maui: May 26.

Southwest plans to fly nonstop from San Diego and Sacramento to Hawaii and also plans to serve the island of Kauai, but it has not announced when those flights will begin.

Travelers pepper the airline daily with questions about when those routes will begin and when tickets will go on sale.

Southwest CEO Gary Kelly repeatedly has called Hawaii a big opportunity for the airline, especially given its

strong presence in California.

The airline's initial Hawaii flights are on the Boeing 737-800, but Southwest has said it plans to use the newer, more-fuel-efficient Boeing 737 Max 8 on flights to Hawaii.

But that's the plane that was grounded by the FAA last week in the wake of two fatal crashes in less than five months.

The grounding won't affect Southwest's Hawaii plans in the near term because the airline hasn't even had the plane certified for long over-water flights. Spokesman Brian Parrish said last week that Southwest has no timetable for seeking ETOPS certification for the Max 8. ETOPS stands for extended range twin engine operational performance standards.

ETOPS certification, a lengthy process involving new flight manuals and procedures, training and exercises and test flights with FAA officials, is required for twin-engine planes on routes where alternate airports aren't in close range should flight troubles arise.

The grounding did affect some Hawaii flights on competitor United Airlines. The carrier uses the Boeing 737 Max 9 on some flights between Los Angeles and Hawaii.



Author S.A. Lelechuk
ELI BURAKIAN/DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Save Me

Continued from Page 1D

Pretty cut-and-dried. Or so it seems.

When Nikki witnesses Li being threatened by a pair of men, her worlds collide. Instead of staying on the case, she acts to save this woman from dangerous men. As a result, she becomes a target in a conspiracy that she has yet to get a handle on.

Lelechuk has written a suspenseful page-turner. Perhaps with an eye on an eventual series, the author makes Nikki and her back story the book's focus; the plot, at times, seems secondary. But that is not to say the plot is second-rate.

Rather, it is original and inspired. The who-done-it and why are meticulously built, with bread crumbs carefully laid out to give the reader an aha moment not a moment too soon.

Nikki Griffin is anything but boring, and is totally believable. Even the fact that she does not own a cellphone makes sense once you get to know her. Throw in the book's eclectic cast of supporting characters—a possible love interest, a troubled brother and a skeptical therapist—and Lelechuk has set the stage for both a heroine and a world to which we will gladly return.

PUZZLES

Report puzzle problems to us at feedback@usatoday.com or 1-800-872-7073

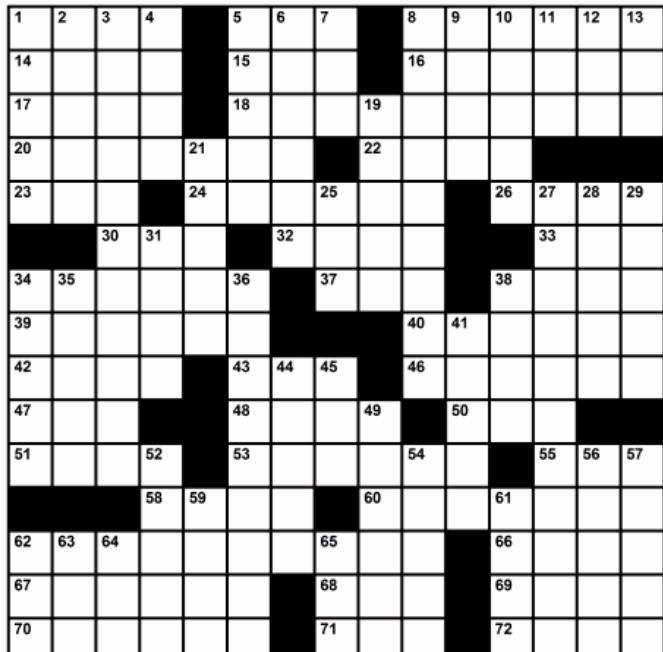
CROSSWORD

EDITED Fred Piscop
BY Zhouqin Burnikel

TOP CHEFS

ACROSS

- 1 Bench-press muscles, for short
- 5 "You there!"
- 8 Takes along
- 14 Stadium sound effect
- 15 Cheer to a matador
- 16 "Say You, Say Me" singer Lionel
- 17 Muddy up
- 18 Dip with a citrusy flavor
- 20 "Count on me!"
- 22 Wilson of "Cars" movies
- 23 Mason jar topper
- 24 "I Hope You Dance" singer Womack
- 26 Reusable bag
- 30 Cooling units, for short
- 32 Hardly a neat freak
- 33 Shepherd's milieu
- 34 William Tell, notably
- 37 Leave slack-jawed
- 38 Nectarine discards
- 39 Eva Longoria or Salma Hayek
- 40 Home of the "Mona Lisa"
- 42 Sports car roof option
- 43 Puppy's sound
- 46 Series of online comments
- 47 Bounce-house filler
- 48 Like the Sabin vaccine
- 50 Guard dog's warning
- 51 Diana of the Supremes
- 53 Lynx or lion
- 55 "Cake Boss" network
- 58 "Very funny" plans"
- 60 Orange Free State conflict
- 62 They're ungracious in defeat
- 66 ___ Field (Shea replacement)
- 67 Take a refresher course, say



© Andrews McMeel

- 68 Issa of "Insecure"
- 69 Seeks answers
- 70 "I need proof"
- 71 Obstinate equine
- 72 Part of a recovery program

DOWN

- 1 Thin ice, to a skater
- 2 Cause for a lettuce recall
- 3 Julia's favorite thespians?
- 4 Gavel-banger's shout
- 5 Neighborhood 45-Down
- 6 Makes euphoric
- 7 Kyoto currency
- 8 Alton's karate rank?
- 9 Await an anthem
- 10 "Sorry, made other plans"
- 11 Minnesota Wild's org.
- 12 Beneficiaries of a 1944 bill
- 13 Pirate's domain
- 19 "Get out this instant!"
- 21 Griddle-turned-actor Merlin
- 25 In the manner of
- 27 Dickens novel enjoyed by Jamie?
- 28 Colorful aquarium denizen
- 29 Made less harsh
- 31 Shot from the apron
- 34 Place to tie the knot
- 35 9-11, e.g.
- 36 Encouraging sign from Rachael?
- 38 Pet's contented sound
- 41 "My goodness!"
- 44 Fields of study
- 45 Best bud
- 49 Many October babies
- 52 Molelike mammal
- 54 Body parts that may be counted
- 56 Pancake served with applesauce
- 57 Crunchy, like an apple
- 59 Homecoming attendee
- 61 Some HDTVs
- 62 "American Experience" broadcaster
- 63 "Impressive!"
- 64 Lennon's bed-in mate
- 65 Baseball's Steroid



3/19

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle:

- Movie
- Three six-letter rodents
- Three words with ZZ in the middle
- Three reptiles
- It's equal to 39.37 inches

Tuesday's answer: MCCARTNEY NEWMAN REISER HOGAN ANKA RUDD / STREAM BROOK CREEK / CELTICS KNICKS BULLS / PENGUIN / PRAGUE

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

3/20

Find and Circle:

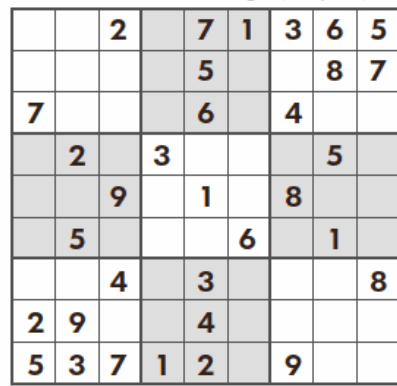
- Iowa vegetable
- Acid type
- ZZ Top hit
- (Goal [?] Malone)
- Actor Robert
- Nabisco cookie brand
- Tractor trailers
- Wolfpack of DI football

Tuesday's Answer

3/19

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).



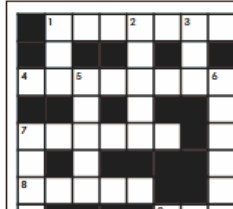
3/20

SUDOKU FUSION

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).



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TXTPERT

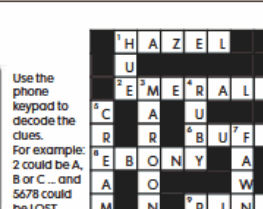
- Across
- 1. 7272645
- 4. 73276633
- 7. 256243
- 8. 53239
- 9. 748
- Down
- 1. 743
- 2. 27684
- 3. 423
- 5. 27662
- 6. 332268
- 7. 2653

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Today's theme

Cooking

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5/6/7 could be LOST



3/19

DON'T QUOTE ME

Author E.B. White offers this advice.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

DO EVEN GIVES JOY LAUNDRY PICKING SHOULD SORTING

WE ___ ALL ___ WHAT, IN THE LONG RUN, ___ US ___ IF IT IS ONLY ___ GRAPES OR ___ THE ___

Tuesday's Answer: "Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know." - Daniel J. Boorstin

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