

Off Our Rockers

by Dan Katz

Each of the cards in the second group says to add or remove a particular letter and anagram the result. This operation can be applied to a clue answer from the first group to get a clue answer in the third group. Two facts help with the clue solving: the clue answers are in alphabetical order, and the answers from the third group are all the names of bands.

A SIMPLE FLING: One uncomplicated romantic dalliance (1 6 5) - Box 7

[Remove E, anagram] - E

FLAMING LIPS: Place to put a fire-extinguishing Chapstick (7 4) - shifted 4 earlier

BAT BACKLASH: Negative reaction to a vampire in animal form (3 8) - Box 1

[Insert B, anagram] - B

BLACK SABBATH: Country singer Clint's Saturday (5 7) - shifted 1 later

DECIPHER HELIPORTS: Crack encoded places where whirlybirds take off (8 9) - Box 3

[Insert P, anagram] - P

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS: Extremely spicy ingredients like cayenne and habanero (3 3 5 7) - shifted 3 later

EVIL JOCK FANS: Malevolent people who root for non-nerdy athletes (4 4 4) - Box 10

[Remove L, anagram] - L

JACKSON FIVE: A bill that would normally have Abraham's face but has Andrew's instead (7 4) - shifted 1 earlier

FOOLS NECKING: Jesters making out with each other (5 7) - Box 6

[Remove C, anagram] - C

KINGS OF LEON: The royal men who reign over Trotsky (5 2 4) - shifted 2 later

GORILLA SONNETS: 14-line poems about large African apes (7 7) - Box 12

[Remove A, anagram] - A

ROLLING STONES: Objects that gather no moss? (7 6) - shifted 8 later

LIFEGUARD DATE: Dinner and a movie with an extra from Baywatch (9 4) - Box 2

[Remove I, anagram] - I

GRATEFUL DEAD: Corpses that appreciate what they've been given (8 4) - Shifted 8 earlier

LLAMA EDICT: Official proclamation concerning an Andean pack animal (5 5) - Box 11

[Remove D, anagram] - D

METALLICA: First letter of the alphabet made of gold, silver, or bronze? (9) - shifted 9 later

NEED ZIP SPELL: Require a magical incantation to finish putting on jeans (4 3 5) - Box 13

[Remove S, anagram] - S

LED ZEPPELIN: Had a higher score than a dirigible (3 8) - shifted 5 later

PAYBACK NEEDLES: Small sharp objects used by tailors seeking revenge (7 7) - Box 8

[Remove N, anagram] - N

BLACK-EYED PEAS: Bean-like legumes frequently eaten in the South (5-4 4) - Shifted 10 earlier

RAIN FIEND THREAD: A series of online posts about a precipitation demon (4 5 6) - Box 4

[Insert W, anagram] - W

EARTH WIND AND FIRE: The three elements that aren't water (5 4 3 4) - shifted 3 earlier

SANDAL EIGHT: The summertime shoe that comes after the first seven (6 5) - Box 9

[Insert K, anagram] - K

TALKING HEADS: Lettuce having a conversation (7 5) - shifted 7 earlier

WELFARE DOT COM: For-profit website providing social services to the disadvantaged (7 3 3) - Box 5

[Remove R, anagram] - R

FLEETWOOD MAC: Golden Arches burger made from speedy cedar or teak? (9 3) - shifted 6 earlier

Applying these shifts to the given letters and placing them in the given boxes spells out "CASTLE, ADD K, MIX." This is one more instruction to add a letter and anagram, and the result is **TACKLES**.