

"Connect Five" a metapuzzle by Peter Washington

ACROSS

1. "Thundercats" comic relief
6. Witch hunt milieu
11. Pre-Easter purchase
14. Rocker Bob
15. It's positively charged
16. Enforcer
17. "___ Teenage Werewolf" (early Michael Landon vehicle)
18. Some Scandinavian women
19. Taylor's partner
20. Biblical seed-spiller
22. Self-flagellating line for an angsty teen
24. Sleep-inducing
27. Miler Coe or bloviator Gorka
28. Up to
29. By way of
31. Mufti's proclamation
35. Hoard
36. Ballpark
38. Den
39. Thing, in legal pleadings
40. Franchise featuring forensics
43. Maker of many kid-safe toys
45. Letters after Air
46. Globe
47. They can be rolled or cut
49. "Deacon Blues" album
50. Japan's largest active volcano
51. Actor Rudd
53. Isthmus
55. Song w/o words
57. Punching bag for Bugs
59. Inside look?
60. Maker of many baby products
61. Big bird of old
63. Toil
65. Sports mega-owner Stan
68. Script language originated for Unix
69. Image preceding many old films
70. Summer camp conveyance
72. Umbrella
76. The thing, per Hamlet
77. "Goodnight, ___"
78. Motivated
79. Common partner for one approaching retirement
80. Ciphers
81. Big name in cosmetics

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The answer to the metapuzzle is a phrase formed by connecting two entries in the grid.

DOWN

1. Certain disability benefits
2. Previously unheard
3. ___ Khan
4. Vacation destinations
5. Paco, in long form
6. Humanitarian
7. Commentator Coulter
8. Proof reader?
9. Rinded cheese
10. Plateaus
11. Word with stop or step
12. Chocolate mint maker
13. Wrap up
16. Worldwide
21. Early ISP
23. ___ Jam Recordings
24. It may be Roman or Arabic
25. Ambiguous words preceding "cover" in a well-known SNL skit
26. Blue Carter's middle name
30. Kind of rug
32. Cholula alternative
33. Big Three member, with Franklin and Joseph
34. Bower
35. A soap might be on it
37. High-flying Sixer
41. Common Japanese honorific
42. One in a list
44. Ethically sourced
48. Did a background check on
52. Half of a kid-lit pen name
54. Spheroid cereal
56. Some air guns
58. Norma McCorvey, as she is best known
60. Test for aspiring advanced degree seekers
62. Croatian tennis star Mario
64. Fencing weapons
65. A little over two pounds
66. Salt-and-pepper horse
67. Corn syrup brand
69. Spinning platters
71. Together
73. Understood
74. "___ fallen and I can't get up!"
75. Date