



FEATURING PUZZLES BY

Christopher Adams
 Erik Agard
 Tracy Bennett
 Eric Berlin
 Patrick Berry
 Evan Birnholz
 Patrick Blindauer
 Derek Bowman
 Laura Braunstein
 Zhouqin Burnikel
 Nate Cardin

Debbie Ellerin
 Sam Ezersky
 Rachel Fabi
 Rebecca Falcon
 Victor Fleming
 Neville Fogarty
 Lily Geller
 Juliana Tringali Golden
 Amy Goldstein
 Peter Gordon
 David Harris

Francis Heaney
 Brooke Husic
 Matt Jackson
 Jesse Lansner
 Wyna Liu
 Todd McClary
 Will Nediger
 Rich O'Malley
 Joon Pahk
 Doug Peterson
 Brendan Emmett Quigley

Amanda Raffkin
 Caitlin Reid
 Claire Rimkus
 Anna-Marie Ruoff
 Mike Selinker
 Sid Sivakumar
 Robin Stears
 Ken Stern
 Matthew Stock
 Ross Trudeau
 Robyn Weintraub

ORGANIZED AND EDITED BY
 Evan Birnholz

FOREWORD

On March 12, 2020, I sent out an email to other crossword constructors to gauge their interest in building a set of charity puzzles to raise money for COVID-19 relief. Many of these constructors had contributed to previous charity puzzle collections such as [Puzzles for Progress](#), [Queer Crosswords](#), and [Women of Letters](#), and this felt like a good way to get involved during a crisis that none of us had ever experienced before. The response was both gratifying and overwhelming — so many puzzle makers were eager to participate that it soon became a much larger project than I had ever anticipated. Within a few weeks, dozens of constructors had submitted puzzles of all sorts.

Over the next couple of months we worked hard at building, editing, testing, and fine-tuning each puzzle that you'll find in these pages. But though we remained committed in our original goal to raise funds for coronavirus-related charities, the nationwide protests against police brutality in late May gave us an opportunity to reconsider our project's mission. By then there was no doubt about how we would proceed — we agreed to use this puzzle collection to benefit groups such as Black Lives Matter, bail fund charities, and racial justice organizations as well. I'm very proud to have worked with a group of people who are not only highly talented puzzle makers, but share a commitment to using their talents to support worthy causes.

Grids for Good is the result of that commitment. Inside you will find 42 puzzles of varying difficulty by 44 different constructors. The set includes themed crosswords, themeless crosswords, variety puzzles, and metapuzzles, identified for your convenience in the Table of Contents. The puzzles come from a wide range of interests and constructor voices, some of whom you may recognize from various crossword publications, while others are fairly new (some constructors' contributions to this set are among their first-ever published puzzles!). We were even fortunate enough to be given some extraordinary artwork by the talented illustrator Charles Montpetit. Everyone involved in this project approached it with a love of puzzles that we hope you'll see reflected throughout the collection. Most importantly, we hope that Grids for Good can brighten your day just a little bit and provide you with some laughs, some pleasure, and some comfort during an increasingly turbulent period of our lives.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the puzzles.

Evan Birnholz



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

GIVING BACK *by Caitlin Reid*

ACROSS

- 1 March 14 observance
- 6 Bouquet holders
- 11 Beast of burden
- 14 Caribbean vacation destination
- 15 Humble ____
- 16 Subway scurrer
- 17 Citrus-scented household cleaner
- 19 Acting prompt
- 20 Bounce, slangily
- 21 Madrid's land, to locals
- 23 Ower's onus
- 25 Sunset's direction
- 27 Cheese with a wax coat
- 28 Utilize
- 29 ____ school (requirement for 60-Down)
- 30 Fades, as a storm
- 33 ____ top (sleeveless shirt)
- 35 Some jazz combos

- 36 18th U.S. president
- 40 Funny Poundstone
- 41 Get
- 43 Potato chips, across the pond
- 45 Chemical in some plastics, briefly
- 46 Shape of some necklines
- 47 Eschew
- 48 Each
- 50 Many a Hill worker
- 51 Part of an area calculation
- 54 In neutral
- 56 "If that's not the cutest thing!"
- 57 Dubious Hollywood honor

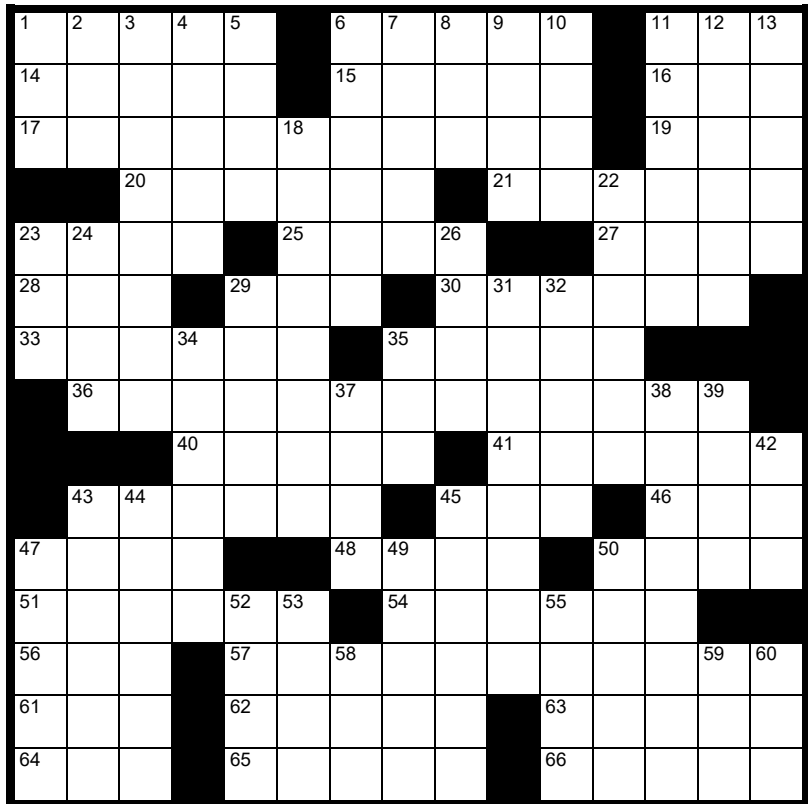
- 61 Secretive govt. agency
- 62 Leave stunned
- 63 University of Florida athlete
- 64 It's got all the answers
- 65 Some workout spots, for short
- 66 The cookies of "Cookies 'n' Cream"

DOWN

- 1 Gal ____
- 2 Wrath
- 3 Piece of lifting equipment
- 4 Estimating word
- 5 Andrew who ran for president in 2020
- 6 Treasured

- 7 Helps in a bad deed
- 8 Some nursery stock
- 9 Barely best
- 10 Catches a glimpse of
- 11 Place to play Pac-Man
- 12 Sweat shops?
- 13 12-Down filler
- 18 Charges, as a phone
- 22 Watched a neighbor's dog, perhaps
- 23 "Why didn't I think of that?!"
- 24 Biblical birthright seller
- 26 Road-repairing goos
- 29 Flat-topped land formations

- 31 NYC moniker
- 32 This is from the heart
- 34 Using a keyboard
- 35 Gp. known to get frisky?
- 37 Sister in "Frozen"
- 38 Lead the way
- 39 Made a bow in, maybe
- 42 Wedding announcement word
- 43 Han Solo's sidekick, informally
- 44 Catwalk
- 45 Celestial ____
- 47 "Cut me some ____!"
- 49 Parlor product
- 50 Egyptian Nobelist Sadat
- 52 Server's tool
- 53 Soccer great Mia
- 55 "Othello" villain
- 58 Actor Efron
- 59 Friend to Pooh and Eeyore
- 60 Some ER professionals



EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE *by Peter Gordon*

ACROSS

- 1 Exaggerated kissing sound
- 5 Barrett of gossip
- 9 Hugely, informally
- 13 "Give me a break!"
- 15 Mine extracts
- 16 What can cause a game between grandmasters to be drawn
- 18 Somewhat sugary
- 19 Life-simplifying strategies
- 20 Ceiling spinner
- 21 Book in the do-it-yourself section
- 22 Singer with the 1965 hit "Downtown"
- 27 Carrier since the year 5708
- 28 Offers for a fee, as services
- 32 Beach ball filler
- 33 Organs that produce secretions
- 35 Pro bono TV ad

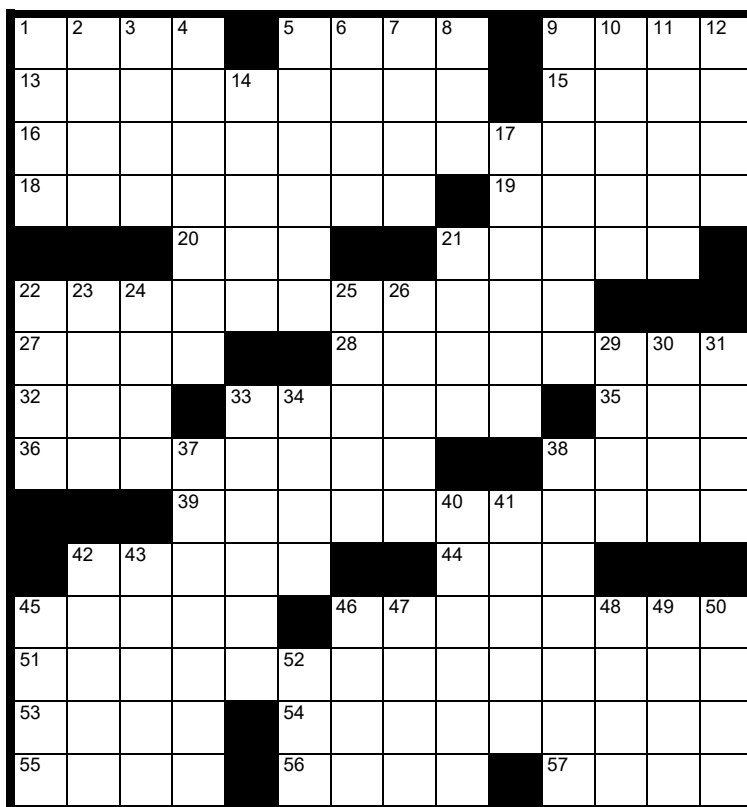
- 36 Unfinished detail
- 38 Jessica of "Total Recall"
- 39 Person who works with letters
- 42 Coats, as a margarita glass rim
- 44 Water after going through the Chunnel?
- 45 Skylit courtyards
- 46 Exchanged for a newer model
- 51 Features of salaried jobs ... and of 16-, 22-, and 39-Across
- 53 Symbol of silence to a musician

- 54 What patients need to have patience for
- 55 Is in the red
- 56 Cube inventor
- 57 Digs of twigs

DOWN

- 1 Swabs the deck
- 2 "That was a close one!"
- 3 Farming unit
- 4 Optimistic
- 5 Part of the eye with rods and cones
- 6 Burden
- 7 Biblical boat builder
- 8 Leatherworker's tool
- 9 High hairstyles
- 10 Like Westies' ears
- 11 Lizard seen in car insurance ads
- 12 Poses a question
- 14 "Heavy" rock genre
- 17 Emptying the dishwasher, bringing the recycling to the curb, etc.
- 21 Difficult
- 22 Sound of laughter
- 23 Oliver's lover in "Call Me by Your Name"
- 24 Source of poi
- 25 Repeated singsong phrase at a spectator sport

- 26 "You're No Good" rocker
- 29 Sheriff Taylor's son
- 30 ___-friendly
- 31 Discussion
- 33 Mark with a location, as a digital photo
- 34 Subtraction word
- 37 Immobilizers of broken bones
- 38 Large tuna
- 40 Simple shack
- 41 Military academy student
- 42 Scatter
- 43 "___, fair sun, and kill the envious moon": Romeo
- 45 Hendrix hairstyle
- 46 Kind of ski lift
- 47 Harness strap
- 48 10¢ coin
- 49 Sport ___ (rugged vehicles)
- 50 "Yo! Over here!"
- 52 Baaing female



THEMELESS 1 *by Debbie Ellerin*

ACROSS

- 1 Challenge to a bluffer
- 6 Candidate with a lot of likes
- 9 Hang on by fingernails
- 14 Extremely competitive
- 16 Good sense for a comedian?
- 17 Safe bet
- 18 Soy sauce flavor
- 19 Quick pick-me-up
- 20 Kiboshed
- 21 ___ 51
- 22 Party or punch ending
- 24 Bygone marketplaces
- 27 Anonymous one in court
- 30 Place to get a CD
- 31 Structure used during recess
- 33 Aesopian equine
- 34 Model debuting in 1979
- 35 Yahtzee cube
- 36 Hotel room security features

- 39 Former White House advisor
- 41 Constitutionals
- 42 Tines
- 43 Good name for a chauffeur?
- 44 Town in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
- 45 “___ cooking?”
- 48 Bossa nova saxophonist
- 52 Tree house?
- 53 Coding get-together
- 55 Lightning site
- 56 First novel of the Great Plains trilogy
- 57 Assniation
- 58 Palindromic New Year word

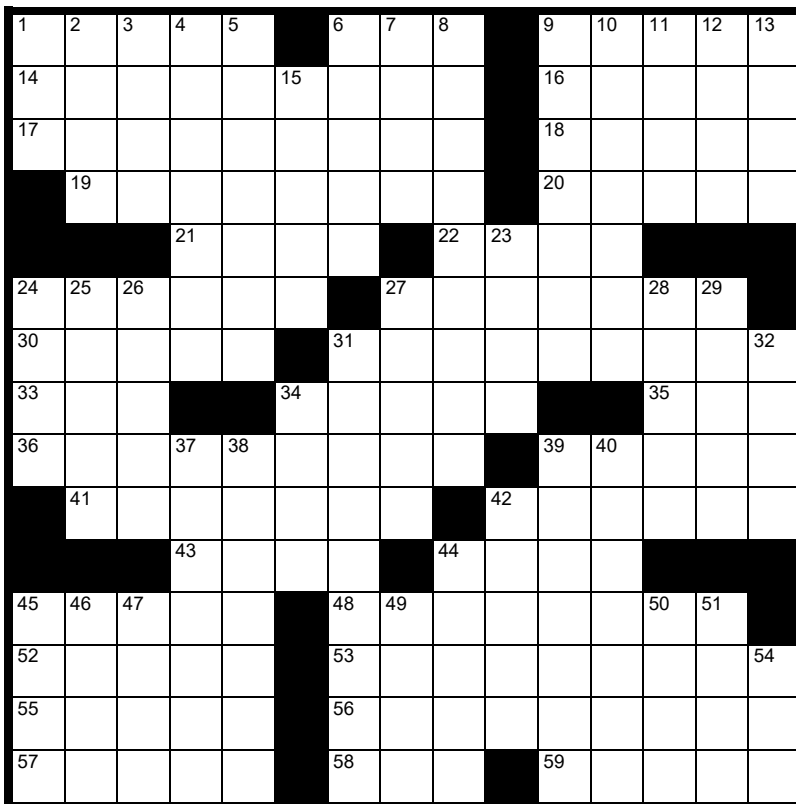
- 59 Capital over 7,200 feet above sea level

DOWN

- 1 Bartenders may require them
- 2 Clever action
- 3 Start for a farmer
- 4 Downwind
- 5 It may be part of a flea flicker
- 6 Menzel of “Uncut Gems”
- 7 Big Island district
- 8 Sabich ingredients
- 9 Passage with the longest undersea section in the world

- 10 Disney’s singing candelabra
- 11 Big name in big screens
- 12 Balto’s destination
- 13 Cruciverbalist’s design
- 15 III
- 23 Role in “Young Frankenstein”
- 24 Stat
- 25 Hydrogen and helium, e.g.
- 26 The beginning
- 27 Invaders along with Angles and Saxons
- 28 “Candy / Is dandy / But liquor / Is quicker” poet Nash

- 29 Giving the once-over
- 31 Swig that wiggles and jiggles
- 32 Queens team
- 34 Super-caffinated cola
- 37 Bits of expert advice
- 38 Uncomfortable spot
- 39 Heavy-duty shoes
- 40 Brew made with petals
- 42 Bread crumbs
- 44 Expressed sans words
- 45 W on a bulb
- 46 Words to second, when doubled
- 47 “Seven Nation ___” (song by the White Stripes)
- 49 Present need
- 50 Now’s counterpart
- 51 “Barracoon” author ___ Neale Hurston
- 54 Clandestine org.



FUN THINGS TO DO INSIDE *by Francis Heaney*

ACROSS

- 1 Adam Yauch's nom de beastie
- 4 Nutritional info relevant to dieters: Abbr.
- 8 Eruption that might be quelled with water
- 14 Throw in
- 15 Hodgepodge
- 16 Disconcerted feeling
- 17 Decided was a total loss
- 19 To the ___ born (yes, this is the correct version of the phrase)
- 20 Chicken intended for cooking + a fun thing to do inside = Batman's cry when he needs his sidekick to drink an enlargement potion?
- 22 "I Hate ___" ("Kiss Me, Kate" song)
- 23 Aloof quality
- 24 Discount booth for Broadway shows
- 27 And so on: Abbr.
- 28 Org. founded in Detroit in 1935
- 31 See 6-Down
- 34 A lente de contacto might be in one
- 35 Hybrid citrus
- 36 Broken equipment's state + a fun thing to do inside = Prominently place one's AI and Tipper figurines on the shelf?
- 39 Fraudulent

- 40 Device for playing "Super Mario Bros. 3"
- 41 Ordained body
- 42 Hung out on the couch
- 43 Location of the word "Juicy" on some sweatpants
- 44 A guard might cover one
- 45 It holds a paddle in place
- 48 Soft & ___ deodorant
- 51 Sweet stuff on a cake + a fun thing to do inside = Statement refusing to move a certain aircraft off the runway, ever?
- 55 Asimov book with the "Three Laws"
- 56 "Sounds like a ding-dang plan!"
- 57 Hybrid citrus

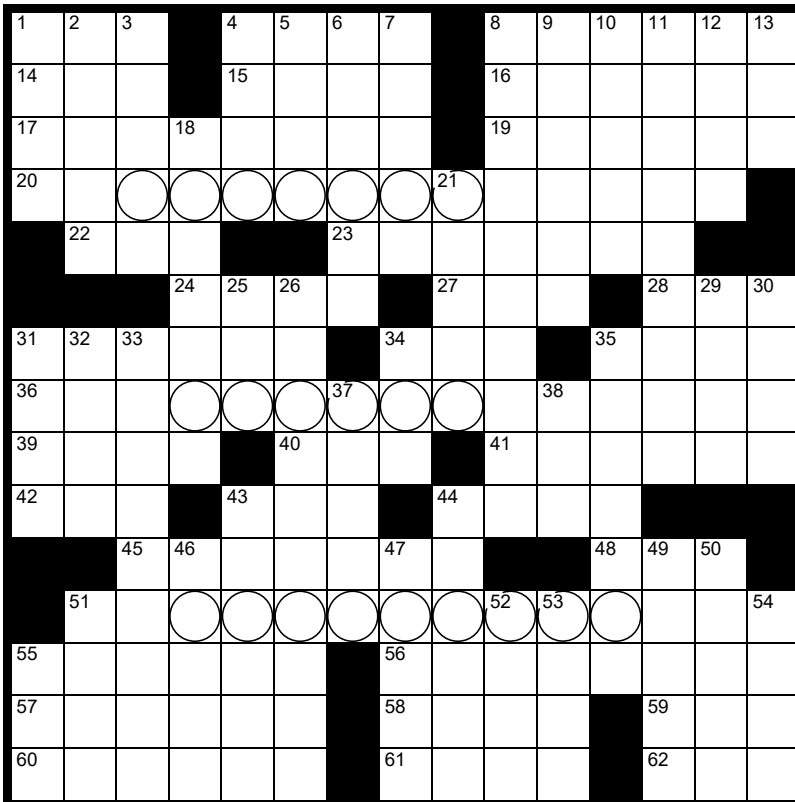
- 58 Prepare for planting
- 59 Buddy's role on "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- 60 Counterpart of "the other," for the inattentive
- 61 "My hovercraft is full of ___" ("Monty Python" quote)
- 62 Things I normally fast-forward through, unless I'm watching a YouTube compilation of ones from the 1970s for 30 minutes straight

- 3 Building material that's common in Santa Fe
- 4 Filmmaker Joel or Ethan
- 5 Bump on ___ (inert thing, proverbially)
- 6 First words heard in Madonna's "Like a 31-Across"
- 7 Municipal center?
- 8 Superhero who says "Flame on!"
- 9 "Be right there!"
- 10 What change is measured in
- 11 Natural sweetener
- 12 Computer operator
- 13 According to
- 18 Old-timey style of photo
- 21 Mission ___, California
- 25 Kenan's comedy partner, once

- 26 Person credited on the title page of a Murakami novel, perhaps
- 29 HBO title character who asked Buzz Aldrin, "Do you think man will ever walk on the sun?"
- 30 Thin but muscular
- 31 Downloaded docs, often
- 32 Org. responsible for those parental warning labels on album covers
- 33 Invite along
- 34 Ice-T and his peers, e.g.
- 35 Turned on its head
- 37 "Answer ___ no!"
- 38 Whitney or Wallach
- 43 Circle near a piercing, perhaps
- 44 City just north of Chicago
- 46 Edward who wrote the play "A Delicate Balance"
- 47 It's worth ten sawbucks
- 49 Red wine from Spain
- 50 Put one's signature on
- 51 Skillet material
- 52 Instrument that might be played with a rope
- 53 Cartoon family that includes Olive, Castor, and Cole
- 54 Alternatives to H.S. diplomas
- 55 NASDAQ debut

DOWN

- 1 Bryn ___
- 2 Shiny storage medium



WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

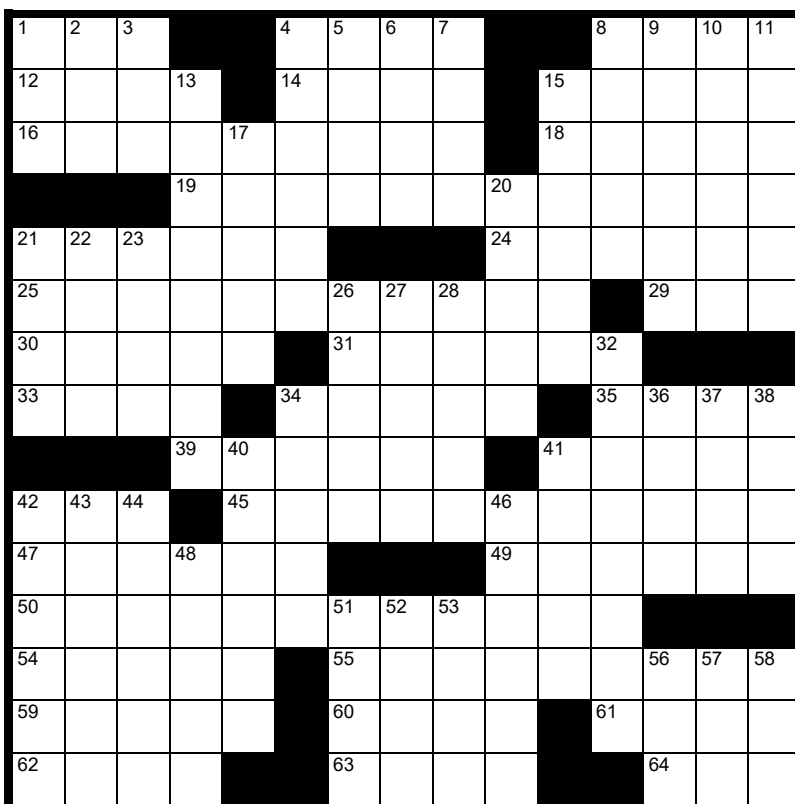
by Robyn Weintraub

ACROSS

- 1 Address not found on a GPS
 4 "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" group
 8 Fuzzy fruit
 12 Abbey in London, e.g.
 14 "I ___ a dream"
 15 Contents of a stingray's stinger
 16 Phrase on unrecyclable soda bottles, once
 18 Adele and Cher, e.g.
 19 Greeting to the Millennium Falcon pilot upon his arrival in Honolulu?
 21 Water park attractions
 24 Classic toy train manufacturer
 25 Offal dish recipe that includes coffee and chocolate?
 29 Come to a conclusion
 30 Orchestra woodwinds
 31 Something a writer is often advised to avoid
 33 Actress Rowlands
 34 Pass along, as a Facebook post
 35 Contents of red Netflix mailers (yes, they still use those)
 39 Juggling, say
 41 Talk LIKE THIS
 42 Roll at a nursery
 45 Three-line poem about an ancient spiritual leader?
 47 Sculptures missing heads, legs, and arms
 49 Like non-mobile telephones
 50 Small pet with first dibs on the exercise wheel?
 54 HBO host Bill
 55 Sits down and makes a call?
 59 Worked at, as a trade
 60 Squander, as a paycheck
 61 "Any minute now..."
 62 Golden Ticket winner Veruca
 63 ___ TBonz (Purina product)
 64 Reaction to something funny in a text, or what you do four times in this puzzle

DOWN

- 1 Large coffee dispenser
 2 Joey in some Disney films
 3 Young chap
 4 Sound of something speedy flying by
 5 Stovetop concoction
 6 Nike alternative
 7 "Breaking Bad" drug
 8 "That '70s Show" character
 9 Recite, as a mantra
 10 Like some mittens
 11 "You've convinced me!"
 13 Race that's too close to call
 15 Disappear into thin air
 17 "Guilty" and "not guilty"
 20 Wonderland visitor
 21 Pollution portmanteau
 22 Where you might put a 38-Down
 23 Desktop image
 26 Yearned (for)
 27 Thyroid, for one
 28 Measurement around one's middle
 32 "Westworld" actor
 34 Post-snowfall mess
 36 Word on an invalid check
 37 Title for Prince William
 38 Basic bit of jewelry
 40 "All ___!"
 41 Protected, as a horse's feet
 42 Items in a philatelist's collection
 43 "Faaaaaancy!"
 44 Self-help star of daytime TV
 46 When John Adams becomes president in "Hamilton"
 48 Basic toga party attire
 51 "Mamma Mia" quartet
 52 Consider, with "over"
 53 Red light's meaning
 56 Early email pioneer
 57 Bathroom, to Brits
 58 Whence we get the line "more cowbell!"



MASKED ACTION *by Tracy Bennett*

ACROSS

- 1 Melville's mad mariner
- 5 Personal moral code
- 10 Barrels with taps
- 14 Dance performed to "Maxwell's Rant" or "Rakish Paddy"
- 15 Something shared on Snapchat
- 16 Brainchild
- 17 The root of all poi
- 18 Brand of breath mints made with Retsyn crystals
- 19 Split
- 20 Hold up
- 22 Slammed the door at a crossroad, say
- 24 "I gotta have ___" (George Michael lyric)
- 25 Hold up
- 26 Dance performed to "Hoop-Dee-Doo" or "On Your Toes"
- 28 "Becoming" author Michelle
- 30 "Yes We ___"
- 31 Daub to consecrate
- 33 Alter, as text
- 35 "___ Zoom!" (online meeting slogan)
- 36 Hold up

- 38 Where you might hear that song about Muscat love?
- 42 Vodka brewed in Latvia, familiarly
- 44 Your moment of zen?
- 46 Kick-___ Women (book series by Karen Karbo)
- 49 Breed with a curly tail and a double coat
- 51 Amino acid aiding neuro-transmission
- 52 Hold up
- 54 Hose material
- 56 Nancy in the House
- 57 Hold up
- 60 "Sacred" nester in the wetlands
- 61 Reptilian

- 63 Scuttlebutt
- 64 It's worth every penny
- 65 Divided land of rivers and mountains and cherry trees
- 66 Mount ___ (Greek or Tasmanian landmark)
- 67 Math groups
- 68 Constellation points
- 69 Nursing scrubs shade, at times

- 4 Show affection from six feet away, say
- 5 Theme park in Bay Lake, Florida
- 6 "Love, Reign O'er Me" band
- 7 Trumpet, for one
- 8 1965 TV episode "Cousin ___ Visits the Addams Family"
- 9 "Hamilton" outfitters, perhaps
- 10 Name still linked to the Mariinsky Ballet
- 11 So nice, like paradise
- 12 Swiss headquarters for the Red Cross
- 13 Make melancholy

- 21 "The Trimates" colleague of Jane and Birutė
- 23 Kellogg's Cracklin' Oat ___
- 25 "Ditto"
- 26 Friend indeed
- 27 Word repeated in "Each ___ teach ___"
- 29 Suit
- 32 Played it unsafe
- 34 ...
- 37 Maneuver like moths
- 39 Lunar event in a Wes Anderson title
- 40 Jean a.k.a. Hans who had Dada issues
- 41 Actress Long or Vardalos
- 43 High desert town in New Mexico
- 45 Friend in deed
- 46 Savory jellies
- 47 Name on a honey bear
- 48 Device used after orthopedic surgery
- 50 Stag's growth
- 53 Starts a thread
- 55 Wild oats of a sort
- 57 "The Blessed Unrest" artist Bareilles
- 58 Bear made of 68-Across
- 59 List-ending abbr.
- 62 Camp bed

DOWN

- 1 Fine or dark practices
- 2 Recover with time
- 3 It's flying out of Moscow

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THEMELESS 2 *by Doug Peterson*

ACROSS

- 1 Meteorologist's graphic
- 9 Flying colors over an Air Force base, briefly
- 15 Spot for a search box
- 16 Rita Hayworth title role
- 17 "Don't worry, you've got this!"
- 18 In the least
- 19 Brand with GlowLight models
- 20 "Family Feud" rating
- 22 Prepares to reuse, with "off"
- 23 Its "Four Pillars" include Peace and Social Justice
- 25 World capital on the edge of the Great Rift Valley
- 29 Word with "gag" or "fly"
- 30 ___ Air (Taiwanese airline)
- 32 Indicate the hour
- 33 Title that means "commander"

- 34 Ideal for 7-Downs
- 35 Minnesota's state fruit
- 38 Cork's spot, in literature
- 39 Curry et al.
- 40 "A Confederacy of Dunces" author
- 41 "One ___!"
- 42 Marginal mark
- 43 Troll, for example
- 44 Fizzles
- 47 Where the boy band BTS got its start
- 48 Holiday poem opener
- 49 Get behind something, say
- 53 Like some salaries

- 55 Check from the Feds?
- 57 Maker of Absolutely Ageless products
- 58 Opposite of a pitchers' duel
- 59 Earthling, in sci-fi novels
- 60 Franklin Gothic, e.g.

DOWN

- 1 Place for a pad
- 2 Yacht rockers spoofed on "Family Guy" and "South Park"
- 3 Stubborn retort
- 4 It resists warping

- 5 Certain indie releases
- 6 Rig Veda verse
- 7 Fleshy-leaved plant
- 8 Early '60s dance hit
- 9 Care Package Program gp.
- 10 Jimmy Choo creation
- 11 Tulipe or orchidée
- 12 Trap attached to a buoy
- 13 Long Island locale popular with horror fans
- 14 Catches on to
- 21 Metamorphic rock
- 23 Christian in E.L. James novels

- 24 ___ walk (humiliating and unnecessary media event)
- 25 Reasons for postgame complaints
- 26 Time when hands are off
- 27 Beetle alternative
- 28 Mass declaration
- 31 Phrase after "doe"
- 33 Frank's pal in the comics
- 34 PFCs' addresses
- 36 2019 film that won six Razzies
- 37 Captain ___ (DC Comics hero)
- 42 Pop star with the surname Quintanilla
- 43 Say no to
- 45 First-rate
- 46 Too quickly
- 47 Emulate Dizzy Gillespie on the title track of the 1988 album "Oop-Pop-A-Da"
- 49 Bad fit
- 50 Nascent plan
- 51 ___ golf
- 52 Lay back?
- 54 Slip into
- 56 Go along with the times?

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PICK ME *by Anna-Marie Ruoff*

The answer to this meta is a food.

ACROSS

- 1 Reaction of surprise
- 5 Pool measurement
- 10 Ova
- 14 Stomach woe
- 15 Reduce, ___, recycle
- 16 Circle
- 17 *Like some workers
- 19 ___ fide (genuine)
- 20 Catch some rays
- 21 Pops the question
- 23 Iowa State's city
- 25 Wonderment
- 26 "Miss Being ___" (Loretta Lynn song about divorce)
- 29 It's been around the block
- 33 EMT's skill
- 36 Tiny bits

- 38 Campus bigwig
- 39 Fragrant tea
- 40 A shore thing?
- 41 *Hoarse
- 42 Make the grade
- 43 ASAP in the ER
- 44 Calligrapher's supplies
- 45 Ctrl-V or Command-V command
- 46 Evergreen tree
- 47 Chatty, especially with rumors
- 49 Canal zone?
- 50 ___ smear
- 52 Shadowy
- 54 Familiar octagon
- 59 Roving vacuum often featured in cat videos
- 63 Pottery oven

- 64 *Familial misfit
- 66 At rest
- 67 Film
- 68 More than LOL, less than ROFL
- 69 City near Phoenix
- 70 Pledge
- 71 Salad alternative

DOWN

- 1 Prattles
- 2 Rights advocacy gp.
- 3 Give the cold shoulder to
- 4 One of Katniss's loves
- 5 Unmanned planes
- 6 Slippery, long fish
- 7 Orange juice option
- 8 Title based on the name "Caesar"
- 9 Courageous person
- 10 Macaroni shape
- 11 *Wild, futile search
- 12 Departed
- 13 Relaxing resorts
- 18 "The Stranger" author
- 22 Golf course standard
- 24 Four-door vehicles
- 26 "Get Ur Freak On" rapper Elliott
- 27 Course, as given by a 47-Down

- 28 *Informal measures of politicians' popularity
- 30 Classroom fixtures
- 31 Protein shell
- 32 Unspecified amount
- 34 Some noodles
- 35 Stage platform
- 37 Not fore
- 39 Tax pro
- 41 2016 Olympics host
- 45 Firebugs
- 47 Nav. device
- 48 Sarah Jessica of "Sex and the City"
- 51 Sleep disorder
- 53 Department store chain
- 54 Glance over
- 55 Ocean motion
- 56 Some old PCs
- 57 Radiate
- 58 Part of a church
- 60 Office message
- 61 Sweetheart
- 62 Each
- 65 U.S. spy agency

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NO WORRIES *by Rich O'Malley*

ACROSS

- 1 Scheme
- 5 Big-eared, feather-holding film star
- 10 "Hey, you!"
- 14 Civil rights activist Guinier
- 15 Like Gujarati or Sichuan cuisine
- 16 Made like
- 17 Human rights attorney Clooney
- 18 Baked dinners I'm making an awful lot of these days
- 20 Final Four airtier in even years, but not this one :(
- 21 Chart topper
- 22 Jeff Lynne's rock gp.
- 23 Positive thinker's proclamation
- 26 "By Jove, you *must* be joking!"
- 30 ___ facie (legalese)
- 31 Russian fighter jet
- 32 Lang. in Frankfurt
- 33 Positive message that we need to keep in mind
- 38 Possible current response to "Why don't we take a walk together while maintaining proper social distancing?"
- 39 1997 Roberto Benigni movie whose title is also important to keep in mind
- 45 ___ Maria
- 46 Sick, personal, or vacation days, in modern bizspeak
- 47 SNL alum Cheri who often shows up in crosswords

- 48 Author of the quote "On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron"
- 50 Bro-ey paragon of masculinity
- 52 ___-eyed
- 53 Himalayan beast
- 54 Press
- 55 Cheery disposition
- 59 Top 10 hit for Sarah McLachlan
- 60 Lead-in for Romeo
- 61 My favorite Pixar film and my favorite film in general with a hyphen in its title

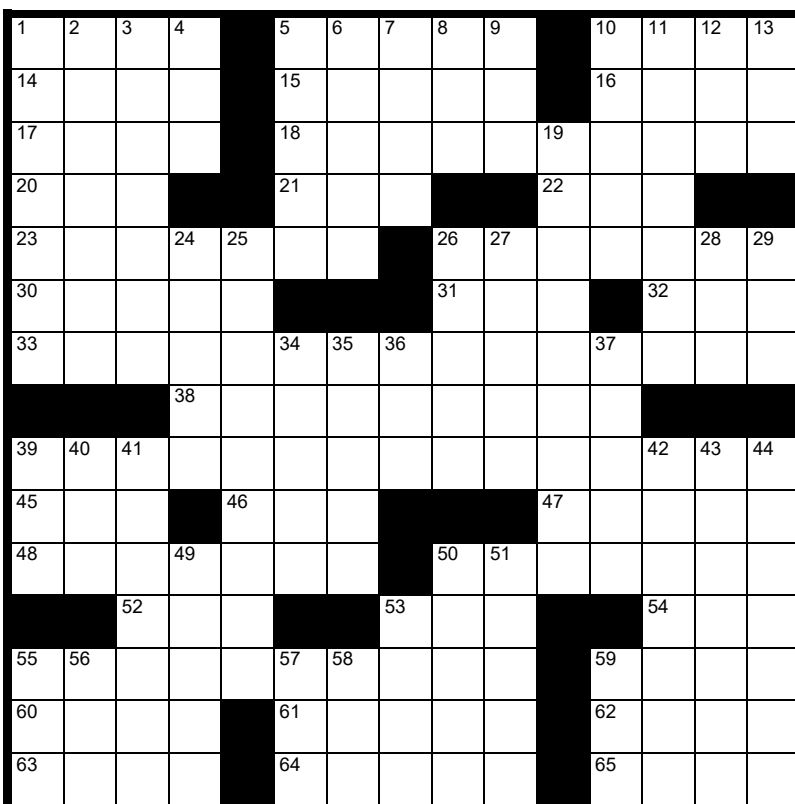
- 62 "Human Beatbox" pioneer ___ E. Fresh
- 63 Callers of many double dribbles in youth hoops leagues
- 64 Option for stealthily opening a letter
- 65 J.Lo's daughter with a palindromic name

DOWN

- 1 The absolute best plural of any animal out there (oh, it's an egg-laying mammal, if that helps)
- 2 Country star Miranda
- 3 The "O" of Jackie O.

- 4 "___ It Happens to You" (Lady Gaga song)
- 5 Russian retreat
- 6 Lightning Bolt?
- 7 Navigation hazard
- 8 ___-relief
- 9 Mega-ginormous single for U2 that's not even, like, the fifth best song on "Achtung Baby" IMHO
- 10 Cruciverbalist and inaugural Crossword Tournament From Your Couch second-place finisher ___ Pasco
- 11 Irregularly shaped stain, as you might hear in England

- 12 Match
- 13 QB goals
- 19 Combined Latin/Jamaican/hip-hop genre
- 24 Mental picture
- 25 Holder of baseball's Iron Man record, with 2,632 consecutive games played
- 26 ___ vincit amor
- 27 Mahatma Gandhi, for one
- 28 Figure at the center of "The Matrix"
- 29 Place where "nanu nanu" means both hello and goodbye
- 34 Democratic Republic of Timor-___
- 35 Libreville's land
- 36 Suffix with Capri-
- 37 Goats
- 39 Fly the coop
- 40 "___ seen worse"
- 41 Battle back, as with Emergen-C versus a cold
- 42 Internal prophylactic
- 43 Radioactive element
- 44 Connection
- 49 Final passages
- 50 Actress Gibbs of "227" and "The Jeffersons"
- 51 Eddie Murphy's role in "Coming to America"
- 53 Winter time
- 55 Needle-nosed fish
- 56 "Rah," in fútbol
- 57 Responses to many cat videos
- 58 Body image, for short
- 59 Summer cooler



THEMELESS 3 *by Brendan Emmett Quigley*

ACROSS

- 1 Creators of big splashes
- 7 Put on a par (with)
- 13 Tasmania's capital
- 14 Bad move indicated by "???" in chess notation
- 15 Locked up
- 16 Guacamole ingredient
- 17 Stop feeling creative, say
- 19 Home Depot section
- 20 Urge
- 21 Hair weave?
- 23 ___ Penh
- 25 Take from lots of different sources
- 26 De bene ___ (conditionally, in law)
- 30 Land of Mercury?
- 31 Breakfast made in a pan
- 33 Makeshift stabber
- 34 Higher education, in the U.K.

- 35 Resident of Monte Carlo
- 37 Letters on an Aquafresh box
- 38 Where to learn an area code?: Abbr.
- 40 "I Didn't Know My Own Strength" singer ___ Morgan
- 41 Kutaragi who invented the PlayStation
- 42 Line (up)
- 43 Peacetime symbol
- 44 Sharpens
- 46 Evil activity
- 49 Bother
- 50 Metaphorical enormous span
- 53 With stylish confidence

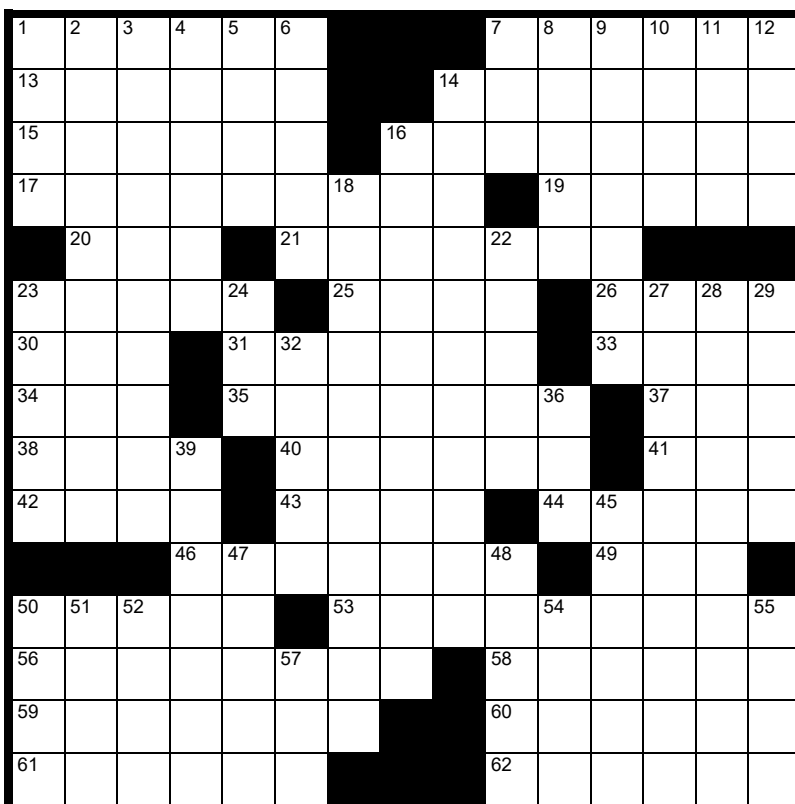
- 56 Classic rock band whose name was once Mammoth
- 58 Came up short
- 59 "It's ___ guess"
- 60 George who played a record 26 pro football seasons
- 61 Tilted
- 62 1994 Peace Prize co-winner with Shimon and Yitzhak

DOWN

- 1 Millard Fillmore, e.g.
- 2 1974 Abba single
- 3 Pass in Congress?

- 4 Telenovela actor, e.g.
- 5 Actress Darke
- 6 Bass player's aid
- 7 Camel's butt?
- 8 Kinda sorta
- 9 Folds, as laundry
- 10 Port city near the Red Sea
- 11 Running fundraiser
- 12 Child archer
- 14 Michigan city that Sojourner Truth called home after becoming free
- 16 Major blood vessel
- 18 Pad thai base
- 22 Kazakhstan mountain range

- 23 Charging stations?
- 24 Homeschooler, maybe
- 27 Extortions through blackmail
- 28 How a swing can swing
- 29 Actor Chris of the Marvel Cinematic Universe
- 32 Gives shape to
- 36 Never-before-seen
- 39 World Wrestling Entertainment chairman Vince
- 45 Literally "have," in law
- 47 Rattlepated
- 48 Actress ___ Ryan of the Netflix movie "Horse Girl"
- 50 Earring shape
- 51 Third leg?
- 52 Singer who bought a castle in Killiney, Ireland
- 54 "It's ___ misunderstanding"
- 55 Rating measure
- 57 Was on first



GOING OFFLINE *by Lily Geller and Ken Stern*

Since we weren't able to have our annual gathering to share paper puzzles, Across answers in this cryptic crossword have been altered to recall the pre-digital solving experience; the wordplay portion of the clues reflects this change. Down clues and answers are normal.

ACROSS

- 1 Antelope is oddly learned
- 4 Satisfactory Uber returns to an Antarctic volcano
- 7 Each change is pronounced
- 9 Turns up gems, er, rocks
- 10 Perfect place to make an impression with no time
- 11 Lack of physical education leads to run to the chapel
- 12 Builder with real estate near Connecticut and Oregon
- 14 "Supernatural" series without premiere or finale
- 17 Congers and morays of Ellis, not Long Island
- 20 Six campus cadets go west and south, dislodging landlords
- 22 Satellites take note of feelings
- 23 Alienate with angry rants, e.g.
- 24 Iverson: "I moved past the middle, turning inside out"
- 25 Hydrogen is missing from that French state

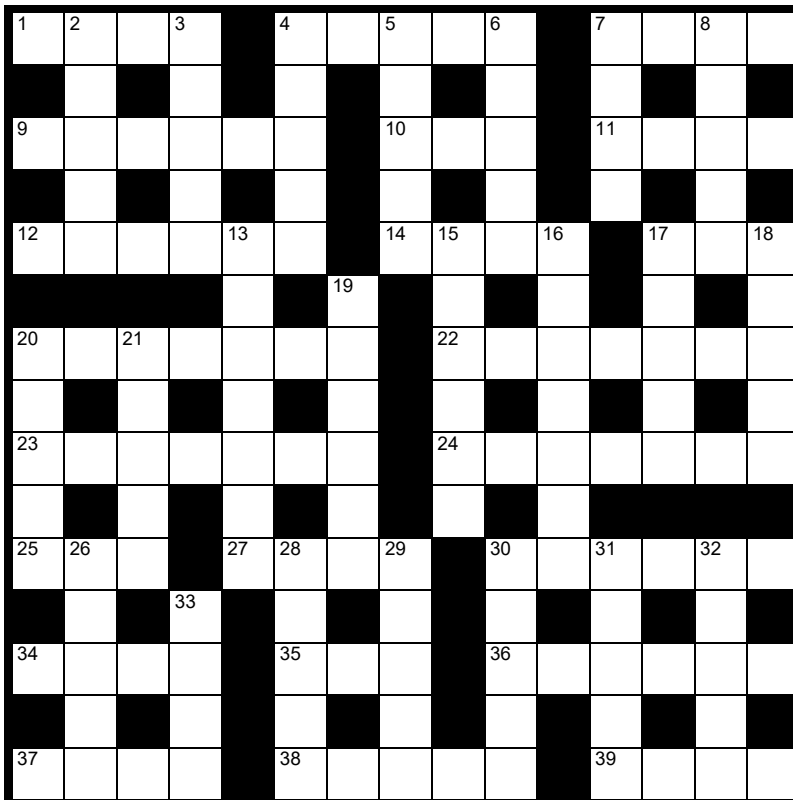
- 27 Eat away at the street, fer cryin' out loud
- 30 One cowriter of this puzzle is on New York time?
- 34 Actor Hirsch smiles on the inside
- 35 Spanish stream is just top singles from BBC Radio One
- 36 Gaga sheds skin, rents out baby birds
- 37 Baltimore & Ohio goes to the Big Apple for an alternative to ivory

- 38 Hydrocarbon in comparison with electron
- 39 Dueling equipment for #1 and second

DOWN

- 2 British pop star singing of a computer company (5)
- 3 Figure or finger, know what I mean? (5)
- 4 Gentleman returned and expressed hesitation to stage platform (5)
- 5 A rental company loses time to move (5)
- 6 Singer Janis is climbing a mountain (5)
- 7 Levi is awful, just awful (4)
- 8 Hire Peloton essentially to offend (5)
- 13 Sandra Day who tried nothing near Connecticut and Oregon (7)
- 15 Get out and wander about, Mr. Forster (6)
- 16 Extracts money from swimming otters taking ecstasy (7)

- 17 Record label acquires Tropicana for mobile poops, maybe (5)
- 18 South and North embrace America for suffragette Anthony (5)
- 19 Rise up and choreograph dances (6)
- 20 Come see Trevi's Italian essence (5)
- 21 6 shifted on keyboard when burlesque act openers are removed from nightclub revue (5)
- 26 Naomi mixes organic acid (5)
- 28 In overtime, run batted in produces round trip (5)
- 29 Bomber namesake, unescorted, flies back (5)
- 30 Surprise! A labyrinth (5)
- 31 Tip: acquire Unilever stock for Dutch obsession (5)
- 32 Periodically, priest likes to knot again (5)
- 33 Refuse in Camden Yards (4)



THEMELESS 4 *by Amanda Rafkin*

ACROSS

- 1 Subdued gesture of sarcastic support
- 9 Korn/Bread mix, say
- 15 Certain past time
- 16 Spill the beans about
- 17 Mollified
- 18 Hang around
- 19 Put off
- 20 Part of an iconic Madonna look
- 21 I dropper, at times?
- 23 Forbid
- 24 Uncontrolled appetite, of sorts
- 25 Mulligans
- 26 Word associated with dips, in more ways than one
- 28 "I really didn't need to know that"
- 29 Beginning on
- 30 Worked the land
- 31 "It can be regarded as the mother of the world," per Lao Tzu

- 32 Annual period when there's an increase in coupling, in modern lingo
- 35 Nickname
- 36 "Most assuredly"
- 37 Letter-shaped fastener
- 39 Unagi roll ingredient
- 40 Actress Shire of "Rocky" and "The Godfather"
- 41 Prickly one
- 42 ___ sheet
- 44 Chaney of horror films
- 45 Contemptibly inadequate
- 46 Unlawful, slangily

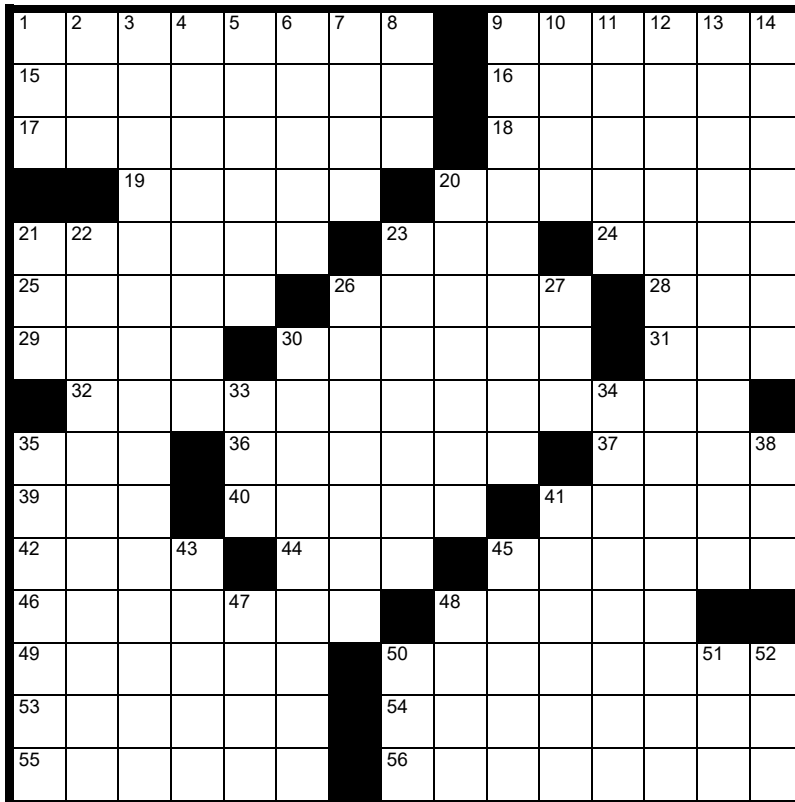
- 48 Goes green, in a way
- 49 Puts more chips out
- 50 "Radical, bro"
- 53 ___ terrible
- 54 American from Venice, perhaps
- 55 Popular tractors
- 56 Convincingly mimics

DOWN

- 1 Grand opening, perhaps?
- 2 Olive of comics
- 3 Work at the bank by day and fight crime at night, say
- 4 Competes
- 5 Packing units for produce

- 6 Popular word for a procrastinator
- 7 Cigarette or tanning booth, e.g.
- 8 One keeping the peas?
- 9 Cantaloupe's or honeydew's origin
- 10 One acting on impulse?
- 11 It might be a long story
- 12 Topics to be avoided at family gatherings, ideally
- 13 How-to book
- 14 Important Wall St. number
- 20 It makes for smooth sailing

- 21 Victorian or Edwardian, e.g.
- 22 Part of a Coast Guard fleet
- 23 Enter without knocking
- 26 Setting for a rough diamond
- 27 Computer science pioneer Lovelace
- 30 Contestants near the end of a competition
- 33 In good condition
- 34 Be on both sides
- 35 Experienced 24-Across
- 38 Stab
- 41 Ball girls?
- 43 French film award
- 45 Certain synthesizers
- 47 One in the pool?
- 48 Address of the portrait subject believed to be Lisa del Giocondo
- 50 Lid
- 51 Personal code
- 52 Goddess of the dawn



FOLLOWING RULES *by Victor Fleming*

ACROSS

- 1 Units of a farm's "back forty"
- 6 "Thor" role for Anthony Hopkins
- 10 Aid for building sand castles
- 14 Dish with an alarm rating
- 15 Verboten activity
- 16 Puerto ____
- 17 Spontaneous bit of wit?
- 19 Mid-month day
- 20 Stretches named for the noteworthy
- 21 Lean one way (or the other)
- 22 Dodge, as payment of taxes
- 23 Any of four grand dukes of Muscovy
- 25 Be dependent
- 27 Army of angels?
- 33 Makes more effective
- 34 German pronoun
- 35 ____ Mega Stuf (Nabisco product)
- 36 Novelist Rand
- 37 App Store entry requirement
- 41 Diminish the state of

- 42 Homer's hangout
- 44 Energizer specification
- 45 "Putting that issue ____ ..."
- 47 Actor Eddie's fig cookies?
- 51 Former senator Feingold
- 52 "____ All That" (1999 romantic comedy)
- 53 Latte maker's need
- 56 Skeeter's attack
- 58 Sch. behind gojoebruin.com
- 62 Like a crossword solved quickly
- 63 Cato's iced tea garnish?
- 65 ____ Variety Snaps (Purina product)
- 66 Blazer, for one

- 67 Lover's emotion, in Venice
- 68 Where Dolly Parton was born: Abbr.
- 69 Scottish Highlands island
- 70 Norm's portrayer George

DOWN

- 1 Troubling spots?
- 2 Scorch
- 3 "Oz" actress Moreno
- 4 Like some who dodge payment of taxes
- 5 Kingsley's title
- 6 Like Zoom and Webex meetings
- 7 "Best in Show" stars and extras
- 8 Quite quickly

- 9 Seasonal egg beverage
- 10 Knowing about
- 11 Opera set in the Old Kingdom of Egypt
- 12 Put frosting on
- 13 Shake, as a chaser
- 18 Astronaut Bean, Poindexter, or Shepard
- 22 Shiloh-based Old Testament priest
- 24 International traveler's need
- 26 Ed-speak term for K-12
- 27 "I believe" reply
- 28 Word before circle or sanctum
- 29 Fashion center in northern Italy
- 30 "Shine" actor Mueller-Stahl

- 31 Makes a study of
- 32 Days of ____
- 33 Soccer's Mia
- 38 Ponies up
- 39 Bank customer's obsolete mini-record
- 40 Fruit on one's palm?
- 43 Apply, as Windex
- 46 Abrasive mea culpa
- 48 Fan noise
- 49 It may be left to you
- 50 Timely inquiry?
- 53 Ticket spec
- 54 Folk following?
- 55 Where Cari Champion and Linda Cohn work as anchors
- 57 "Perhaps"
- 59 "Be serious!"
- 60 John Grey's title in "Outlander" novels by Diana Gabaldon
- 61 Work without ____ (be daring)
- 63 Colas customarily consumed with moon pies
- 64 What can follow each word of 17-, 27-, 47-, and 63-Across

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SPELLBOUND *by Robin Stears*

ACROSS

- 1 Home to Katniss in “The Hunger Games”
- 6 Gobbles (down)
- 11 Purring prowler
- 14 Ghana’s capital
- 15 Stand by for
- 16 Firepit powder
- 17 Most fortunate existence
- 19 Google Maps suggestion: Abbr.
- 20 Leaves in water?
- 21 House of Commons VIPs
- 22 More prepared
- 24 Dish of roasted taro roots
- 25 “Fahrenheit 9/11” director Michael
- 26 Episodes of a 1960s–1970s sitcom that once aired on TV Land
- 33 The “blue marble” of a 1972 photograph
- 34 Home of many a zoo bird
- 35 Oenophile’s “sec”
- 36 On the ceiling
- 37 Like romantic mood lighting, stereotypically
- 40 Harsh-sounding bird that immobilizes its prey by impalement

- 42 Flora eaters, maybe
- 44 “Once Upon a Time” setting
- 48 “Beyond the Sea” singer Bobby
- 49 A deer, a female deer
- 50 Do a bit of cowboying
- 53 “Cop a squat!”
- 54 Go downhill fast?
- 57 “Life of Pi” director Lee
- 58 Aladdin’s ride
- 61 Oil-drilling platform
- 62 “The Darjeeling Limited” actress ___ Karan
- 63 Clock innards
- 64 Word before break or camp

- 65 Activist associated with “Raiders”
- 66 Contestant’s mail-in

DOWN

- 1 Formal agreement
- 2 Aspercreme target
- 3 March Madness gp.
- 4 Incur a penalty, e.g.
- 5 Beast in many a natural history museum diorama
- 6 Bundles of bills
- 7 “Give a hoot! Don’t pollute!” speaker Woodsy ___
- 8 The Batcave or the Fortress of Solitude
- 9 High-pitched tooter
- 10 Certain vegetable cooker
- 11 “Sweeney Todd” star opposite Lansbury
- 12 In the wake (of)
- 13 “___ no ‘I’ in team!”
- 18 Legendary
- 23 Forgetful fish in two Pixar films
- 24 Prepare for a pie, as cherries
- 26 Crash site?
- 27 Holder of many kernels
- 28 Droll
- 29 Hard thing to break
- 30 Conjure up

- 31 Did a full gainer
- 32 “Norma ___”
- 36 Prince Valiant’s adopted son
- 37 Expected any second
- 38 “I know people” people
- 39 Floor exercise surface
- 40 Target of a brat’s kick
- 41 Inspiration for “Wheel of Fortune”
- 42 Material that may end up on the cutting room floor
- 43 Is for you?
- 44 Name of eight English kings
- 45 C.S. Lewis kingdom
- 46 Like a mountain goat’s domain
- 47 Abbr. on a bank door
- 51 Dalai ___
- 52 “Great googly-moogly!”
- 53 Harry Potter’s lightning bolt, for one
- 54 Minor squabble
- 55 Victoria’s Secret model Miranda with a skin care line
- 56 ___-bitsy
- 59 Intense vexation
- 60 Dog who cries “You eediot!”

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THEMELESS 5 *by Christopher Adams*

ACROSS

- 1 Daring, slangily
- 7 On the boundary
- 14 Elevator innovator Otis
- 15 Tormented, and then some
- 16 “___ Hour” (Grammy-winning Kacey Musgraves album)
- 17 Difficult situations
- 18 “I’ve got it!”
- 19 Can album whose Turkish name anagrams to “eBay images”
- 21 Tuesday fare for many
- 23 Cries made by corvids
- 24 Sigur ___ (“Ágætis byrjun” band)
- 25 Boorish fellows
- 27 Splinter’s crew, for short
- 28 “That’ll do, Pig. That’ll do” film
- 31 Captain Morgan or Admiral Nelson, e.g.
- 32 Traffic tracker
- 33 New York City subway carriers to Far Rockaway
- 35 Electric truck company that’s not part of Tesla, despite their name
- 36 Casual cotton pants
- 37 “Fingers crossed!”
- 38 “On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal” author Naomi

- 39 Southeast Asian language
- 40 Dreamcast manufacturer
- 41 Ward of “FBI” and “CSI: NY”
- 42 Container for someone being let down for the last time
- 44 ___ Fail (palindromic Irish attraction)
- 45 “I’m really impressed!”
- 46 Relocation specialist?
- 50 Members of the Twelve Tribes
- 53 Yo La Tengo guitarist Kaplan
- 54 Garbage site, to Brits

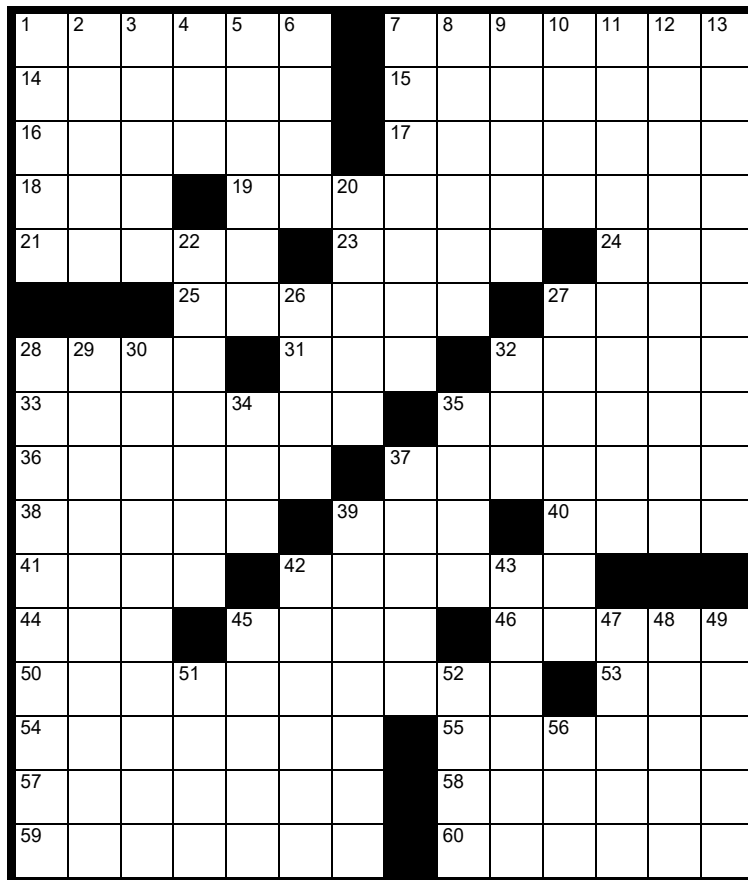
- 55 Either collaborator of Abrahams for comedies such as “Airplane!” and “The Naked Gun”
- 57 Blue art?
- 58 College board member
- 59 Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren, e.g.
- 60 Sneaker brand for Run-DMC

- 3 Flower featured at an annual Rochester festival
- 4 Psychedelic popularized in the 1960s
- 5 “Come on!”
- 6 Humanity Forward leader Andrew
- 7 ChapStick or Burt’s Bees product
- 8 Members of the extended family
- 9 Kneecaps, say
- 10 “Black Widow” rapper Azalea
- 11 “Everything’s fine, thankfully”
- 12 Snack consisting of celery, peanut butter, and raisins

- 13 Aristophanes comedy with the line “We must refrain from every depth of love” (in translation, at least)
- 20 Beige shades
- 22 Superstate in “1984”
- 26 Receptacles that “range up to \$3,000,” per the funeral director in “The Big Lebowski”
- 27 Becomes fond of
- 28 Loses progress, in a way
- 29 Fashion/fitness portmanteau
- 30 Actress who starred in two Marvel movies in 2019
- 32 Name with Torn or Taylor (or, a tear that makes you visit a tailor)
- 34 It carries a charge
- 35 Sheltered spot
- 37 Is lacking, briefly
- 39 Like flow that isn’t turbulent
- 42 Cat pattern akin to tortoiseshell
- 43 Consequently happened
- 45 Credit alternative
- 47 Prepared to be aired
- 48 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
- 49 They’re often shot at bars
- 51 “___ girl!”
- 52 Cornell University namesake
- 56 Oft-criticized “Cats” content, briefly

DOWN

- 1 Sired, biblically speaking
- 2 “How’s it going?” in Honolulu



I HAVEN'T AN INK *by Rachel Fabi*

ACROSS

- 1 SEC school in Oxford
- 8 Some uproarious laughter
- 11 Fitting
- 14 USWNT star Megan
- 15 Husband of Desdemona
- 17 Pilot, perhaps
- 18 Labors over
- 19 Question in response to an "omw!" text
- 20 Ten-gallon hats
- 21 Invasive bird species brought to America because it was mentioned (once!) in a Shakespeare play
- 24 Stew
- 26 ___ XING
- 27 "Battle Hymn of the Republic" verb
- 28 Superstitious activity while passing a graveyard
- 33 Wicked cool
- 34 This place
- 35 From that place
- 36 "Insecure" star
- 38 Billie Eilish won five in 2020
- 39 Made post-taxes

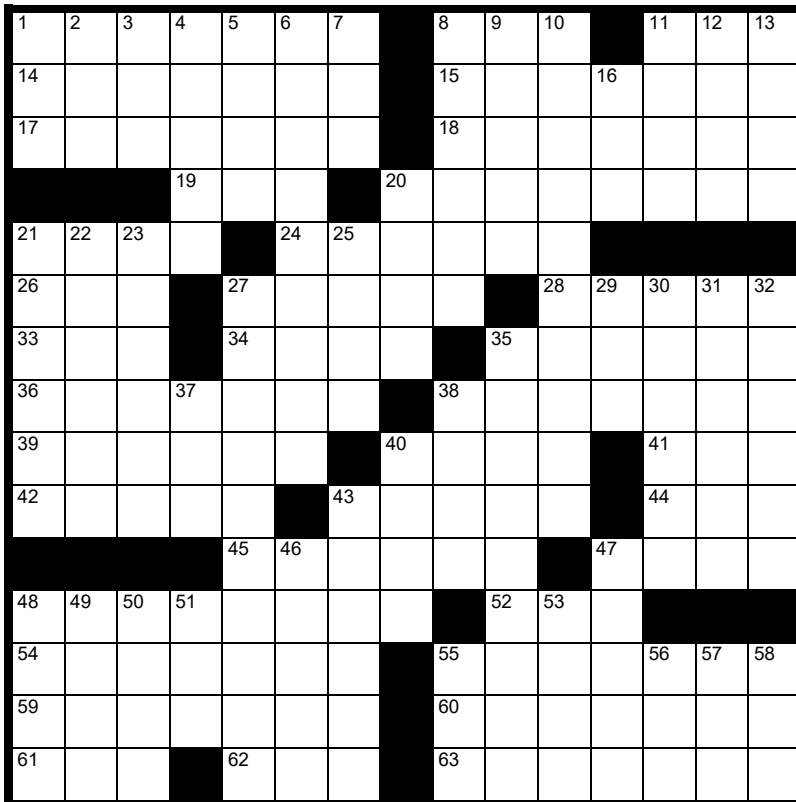
- 40 Naughty-list stocking stuffer
- 41 Initials on some phone bills
- 42 On bended knee
- 43 Gravedigger's task
- 44 Cars or Doors lead-in
- 45 Fruit that is botanically a berry
- 47 Verbal provocation
- 48 Offset with good deeds
- 52 "YMMV, but ..."
- 54 Changed hands?
- 55 Chinese retail giant
- 59 Look down on
- 60 Resident of Switzerland's "Peace Capital"

- 61 Invaders in a classic H.G. Wells novel
- 62 Fashionable
- 63 Utterly confusing ... or directions for making sense of eight entries in this puzzle and its title

DOWN

- 7 Call, as a poker bet
- 8 Inside scoop
- 9 Speakers of Chiwere
- 10 Object of obsessive pursuit
- 11 Too
- 12 Prepare
- 13 "Napoleon, gimme some of your ___!" (Randy's food demand in "Napoleon Dynamite")
- 16 Golfer Ernie
- 20 Identical
- 21 Word with chicken or forward
- 22 Preview
- 23 Heaps on
- 1 One resource of Catan
- 2 Pass from ahead
- 3 Commercial prefix for Pen
- 4 Cheapskate
- 5 Running to the 5th qtr., say
- 6 Loaf made without yeast

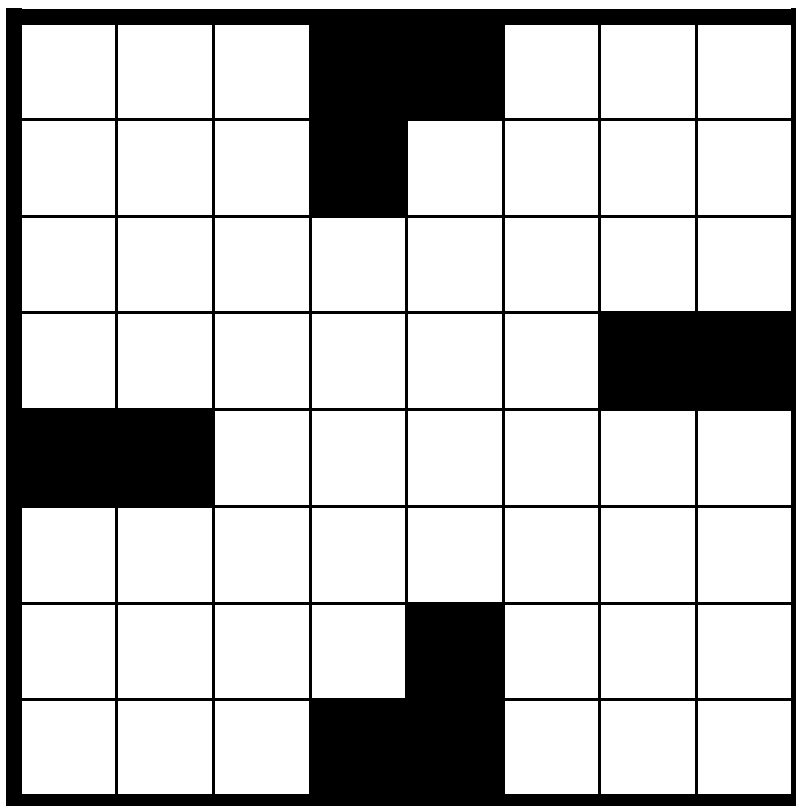
- 25 Highly unusual
- 27 Fairy tale family with vastly different tastes
- 29 Shorten, as pant legs
- 30 Resident of a penitentiary
- 31 Wheat chopper
- 32 Put into beta
- 35 Agonized (over)
- 37 Off-roader, for short
- 38 "Say more about that"
- 40 Burn
- 43 Haughty
- 46 Apt musical key for songs about tire trouble?
- 47 Prize that Marie Curie won twice
- 48 British bum
- 49 Table ___
- 50 Poetic praises
- 51 Born in Bordeaux
- 53 Take issue with
- 55 ___ Khan
- 56 Newbery Honor winner for "The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle"
- 57 Forbid
- 58 "Brokeback Mountain" director Lee



PANGRAM MIDI *by Sid Sivakumar*

The clues for this crossword puzzle have been sorted alphabetically by answer. It is up to you figure out where each answer goes. The correct solution will be a pangram, i.e. each letter of the alphabet will be present in the grid at least once.

- Pose a question
- Org. depicted in the film “Spy Game”
- Archery weapon with a locking mechanism
- “Finished!”
- “Used to Love You” singer Stefani
- Quechua speaker
- Drip bar supply (2 wds.)
- “Hustlers” star who was Forbes’s most powerful celebrity in 2012, familiarly (2 wds.)
- Alternative to a Capri Sun pouch (2 wds.)
- Impose, as a tax
- Capital of Tibet
- Mason jar topper
- Imaginary
- Number that’s neither composite nor prime
- Weight units at a dispensary: Abbr.
- Counterpart to “thx” in a text
- Overly formal
- Throws in the towel
- “Pop” surprise for a student
- Like many Disney movies (2 wds.)
- Onetime maker of Speed Wagon autos
- Hospital employees who work with MDs: Abbr.
- Precursor to adult contemporary music (2 wds.)
- Alien world in the game “Half-Life” that becomes a prefix meaning “alien” by adding an O to the end



THE VINE COMEDY *by David Harris*

ACROSS

- 1 Apollo's was giant
- 5 Banquets
- 11 Complain, or a horse
- 14 Second, for time
- 15 Top 10 song for Etta James and Beyoncé
- 16 Commotion
- 17 Star of "Scrubs" who likes a red with notes of mint and pepper?
- 19 Non-Rep. rep.
- 20 Schoolyard game
- 21 One thing or two people
- 22 Use TurboTax, perhaps
- 24 Initials next to some politicians' names
- 26 Star of "White Men Can't Jump" who likes a pale pink with strong fruit flavors?
- 29 Seven kings of Denmark from 1095 to 1439
- 31 Sch. with an environmental studies course called "Where's My Beach?"
- 32 Nixes
- 34 Noob's opposite

- 35 Scratchy voice
- 39 Hilarious ... and an especially apt description of the funny ladies at 17-, 26-, 48-, and 61-Across
- 42 Complain, or a fish
- 43 Cleverness
- 44 Winged figure ... briefly
- 45 "Interesting ..."
- 47 Ecumenical council site
- 48 Two-time Emmy winner for "Orange Is the New Black" who likes an anise-flavored aperitif?
- 53 Actor Sheridan of "X-Men: Dark Phoenix"

- 54 Hardly leaping off the page
- 55 Some
- 57 Boom device
- 60 Big head
- 61 Five-year veteran of "Saturday Night Live" who likes a dry fortified white?
- 65 Stage of sleep
- 66 Shelter
- 67 "I've got this"
- 68 Butt or butthead
- 69 Actually existing
- 70 Site for the crafty

- 3 Instrument that is neither electric nor acoustic
- 4 Bake sale gp.
- 5 Fiction alternative
- 6 Void
- 7 ___ Drafthouse (cinema chain)
- 8 Actor Mineo
- 9 Syllable repeated while head-shaking
- 10 Soaks to brew
- 11 Rock bottom
- 12 "Skyfall" singer
- 13 Wednesday's father, full of woe [Editor's note: Actually he's rather jolly]
- 18 Snake or Parselmouth, e.g.

- 23 Shortest of 12
- 25 Halloween deliveries?
- 27 Waves, maybe
- 28 Colon resident
- 29 Get out, quickly
- 30 "One Promise Too Late" singer McEntire
- 33 Hemmed in?
- 34 Kettle accuser
- 36 Meeting of the minds
- 37 Ostracize
- 38 Sound from someone with a secret
- 40 Tenant opening?
- 41 Intermission follower
- 46 Waves, maybe
- 48 Phantom location
- 49 Cherry pie or chocolate cake cravings, e.g.
- 50 Some modern meetings
- 51 Stinging jabs
- 52 Natural styles
- 56 Rochester's match
- 58 Colorful flower or goddess
- 59 "Babe: Pig in the ___"
- 62 Character in "Star Wars" or "Fast & Furious" films
- 63 Frost's "before"
- 64 One of ten

DOWN

- 1 One of a deadly septet
- 2 Ireland's best-selling solo artist

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THEMELESS 6 *by Will Nediger*

ACROSS

- 1 Leaves the party, slangily
- 5 Socialist activist Beatrice
- 9 Resource for student filmmakers
- 14 Home of many ancient empires
- 15 Hot spot
- 16 "A Separation" costar Hatami
- 17 Felipe and Matty's younger brother
- 19 Union officer McDowell
- 20 Like the play "Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread"
- 21 The sound of silence?
- 23 Like some of John Cage's and Yoko Ono's art
- 25 Muscular
- 26 ___ Xtra
- 28 Chaebol that went bankrupt in 2000
- 31 Port hand

- 36 Chalkboard display, often
- 37 "Don't be a jerk!"
- 40 Summit
- 41 Hair metal
- 42 He wrote many of his books in prison
- 45 Don't spoil
- 46 Reserve players
- 48 Pie charts, scatterplots, and such, casually
- 53 Affliction caused by watching too much TV, supposedly
- 56 Mark up
- 57 Artificial silk
- 58 Does some long-distance chatting

- 60 ___ poisoning (affliction for the extremely online)
- 61 Sign that things are bad
- 62 It's no nailbiter
- 63 Children's doctor?
- 64 Dust makers
- 65 Spot

DOWN

- 1 Yellow alternative
- 2 ___ Jacob of "Three Colors: Red"
- 3 Leisurely stroll
- 4 Friend group
- 5 "Don't look at me!"

- 6 Animal that Aristotle thought emerged spontaneously from the mud
- 7 Group that sticks together during a race
- 8 It may judge a book on its cover
- 9 Keys on a piano
- 10 All choked up
- 11 Create a thread about, perhaps
- 12 Came down
- 13 Declares off-limits
- 18 Garlic ___ (edible stalks)
- 22 T-shaped protection
- 24 Nuke
- 27 Crack

- 29 Word in many limericks
- 30 Diamond count
- 31 Fish cooked on a plank
- 32 It's on a roll
- 33 1997 Kasi Lemmons film starring Samuel L. Jackson
- 34 Annoyances
- 35 Slipped
- 38 They're spineless
- 39 Belle and Sebastian, e.g., currently
- 43 Chain selling the Grand Slamwich
- 44 Temple neighbor
- 47 Bastards
- 49 Being consumed, as in a conflagration
- 50 Spanish "Let's go!"
- 51 Need scraping
- 52 With a kick
- 53 Eighth-day ritual
- 54 Still mooing
- 55 Trick follower
- 59 It might be still mooing

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DOWNSTREAM *by Laura Braunstein & Jesse Lansner*

The answer to this meta is a ten-letter phrase for something you might do to pass the time.

ACROSS

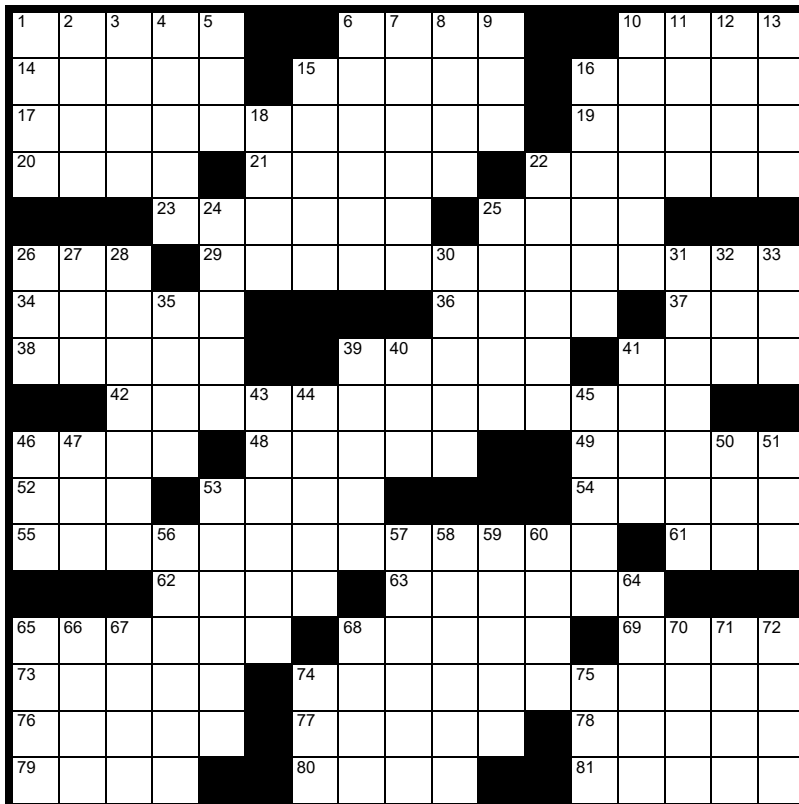
- 1 Hanukkah potato treat
- 6 Annual event held in Stamford, CT
- 10 Maintained
- 14 "The Zoo Story" playwright
- 15 What that is, when the moon hits your eye
- 16 Rot
- 17 Head mafioso?
- 19 Passé
- 20 Year after frosh
- 21 Man who made a Pooh
- 22 "Have a sample"
- 23 "Clueless" star Silverstone
- 25 Pet that just needs water
- 26 It may be bad
- 29 Guardian who lacks self-confidence?
- 34 Drives the getaway car for, maybe
- 36 "Blame It on the ___" (song lip-synched by Milli Vanilli)
- 37 Gardner or DuVernay of film
- 38 "The Good Place" character who can be Good, Bad, Neutral, or Disco
- 39 College officials
- 41 Positive votes

- 42 Uber alternative in Music City?
- 46 "___, this is an [45-Down]"
- 48 Shield of Athena
- 49 Post in "Television Without Pity"
- 52 Nightmarish street
- 53 Eric of Monty Python
- 54 Guv'nor
- 55 A very happy neighborhood?
- 61 Word with cat or wet
- 62 Seabird antagonist in "Happy Feet"
- 63 Naturalist's practice
- 65 Cry after solving a metapuzzle
- 68 ___ Park, Colorado
- 69 Band that was once known as Festfolk (the Swedish term for "party people")
- 73 Something to clear when browsing
- 74 What every "Avengers" movie seems to have?
- 76 Modify
- 77 Go bad, as milk
- 78 Material in a heap
- 79 Close
- 80 "At the ___..." (where Lola was a showgirl)
- 81 She-___ (counterparts to man caves)

DOWN

- 1 They may be black or chocolate
- 2 ___ gobi (Indian potato dish)
- 3 Recipe meas.
- 4 "Praying" artist
- 5 "Yuuuuuck!"
- 6 2001 French film
- 7 Snifter's contents
- 8 Leith of "The Great British Bake Off"
- 9 "The Daughter of Time" author Josephine
- 10 Like Lupita Nyong'o's parents
- 11 Alexa's home
- 12 Hurt feeling
- 13 Key in
- 15 New Balance rival
- 16 Pungent fruit
- 18 "Sounds good"
- 22 Believer
- 24 Itemizes
- 25 Frasier or Niles
- 26 Friend of Sheldon and Leonard on "The Big Bang Theory"
- 27 Lawyers' org.
- 28 George Eliot, for Mary Ann Evans
- 30 Russian range
- 31 Lady Gaga, for one
- 32 "Killing ___"
- 33 Lead-in to Vegas
- 35 Lions or Tigers or Bears

- 39 Official spokesfrog of Kellogg's Honey Smacks
- 40 Horror director Roth
- 41 Skater's jump
- 43 Borrowed, as a library book
- 44 "Scooby-Doo" character whom one of this puzzle's constructors dressed up as for Halloween
- 45 "[46-Across], this is an ___"
- 46 Character in "Little Women" or "A Wrinkle in Time"
- 47 Era competitor
- 50 Alias initials
- 51 Oomph
- 53 More yucky
- 56 Purim heroine
- 57 Clear, as a drain
- 58 Burrowing South American rodent
- 59 Best possible
- 60 "Addams Family" nickname
- 64 2005 Geraldine Brooks novel about the father in "Little Women"
- 65 "___ See for Miles" (the Who song)
- 66 Oz surname
- 67 Tetra-, twice
- 68 Trade fair
- 70 Snoozer
- 71 Necklace adornment
- 72 Nile snakes
- 74 Exit button
- 75 Double curve



WORK IT... MAKE IT... DO IT... MAKES US... *by Matthew Stock*

ACROSS

- 1 Going to, in slang
- 6 Two away from bases loaded
- 11 Driver's license fig.
- 15 Vicinities
- 16 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
- 17 Lunchtime, often
- 18 Oz's capital ... but harder?
- 20 "Sounds good to me!"
- 21 Hyperbolic suffix
- 22 Sasha ____ (Beyoncé alter ego)
- 23 Part of a marshmallow gun
- 24 Croc, for one
- 26 1990 Scorsese film ... but better?
- 29 Exclamation from a Super Mario villain, perhaps
- 31 Most recent, as news
- 32 Poodle or schnoodle
- 35 About, time-wise
- 39 Mirror ____ (internet replica)
- 40 "But what if Andy gets another dinosaur, a mean one? I just don't think I could take that kind of rejection!" speaker from "Toy Story"

- 41 Electronic music duo whose 2001 hit "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" inspired this puzzle's theme
- 44 Paper mate?
- 45 Computer science pioneer Turing
- 47 Skier's digs
- 48 Taking a break, say
- 50 "Havana" singer Cabello
- 52 School-supporting gp.
- 53 Neighborhood champion ... but faster?
- 58 Muscle stretched in a downward dog pose
- 62 Grohl of 46-Down
- 63 Eagles' nests: Var.
- 65 Run out of juice
- 66 Cocoon dweller

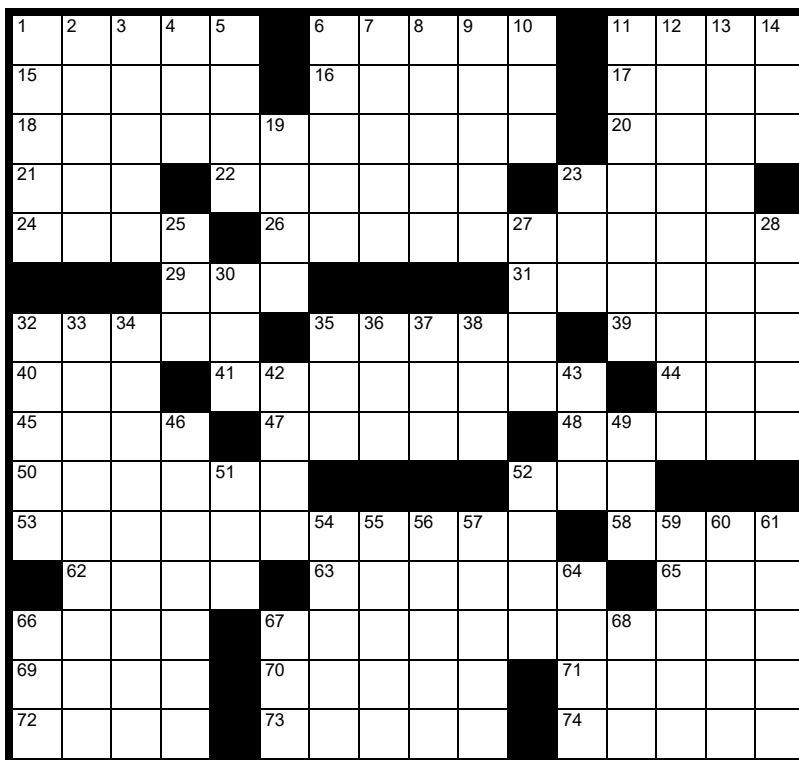
- 67 Seat of Westeros ... but stronger?
- 69 First place?
- 70 Sixteenth of a pound
- 71 Rowed, rowed, rowed, as your boat
- 72 Page's "Juno" costar
- 73 Little arguments
- 74 Annoyances for mowers

DOWN

- 1 Straight-sided hairdos
- 2 Like Saoirse Ronan
- 3 "Cool beans!"
- 4 Setting for "Platoon" and "Full Metal Jacket," colloquially
- 5 Since
- 6 More eccentric

- 7 Mother-of-pearl
- 8 Actress Durance of "Smallville"
- 9 Large jazz combo
- 10 Bronx Bombers, on scoreboards
- 11 Yo mama jokes, e.g.
- 12 Trendy hoppy brew
- 13 Storm slamming Stamford, say
- 14 Number of Oscar wins for Lupita Nyong'o (so far)
- 19 The end is ____
- 23 Drink sipped by Kermit the Frog in a popular meme
- 25 Female attending the "sheep health classes" of a Gary Larson cartoon
- 27 Taqueria dessert
- 28 Cardiologist's concern
- 30 Tack on

- 32 "____ yourselves!"
- 33 "Take it easy, brochacho"
- 34 Where you'll be asked to give your final answer?
- 35 Corp. cash overseer
- 36 "____ be nice ..."
- 37 "World of Warcraft," e.g.
- 38 Pool tool
- 42 "Oh well ..."
- 43 Kit ____
- 46 Band behind "Come as You Are" and "Stay Away"
- 49 Sometimes-super org.
- 51 Philanthropist Sara for whom a dessert brand was named
- 52 Maya Angelou, e.g.
- 54 Punch line preceder
- 55 Scar subordinate
- 56 Build, as a monument
- 57 Angers, with "up"
- 59 Gush over
- 60 Notebook specification
- 61 Treats to treats, say
- 64 Demonstrate
- 66 "Dancing" muscle for Terry Crews, briefly
- 67 "Help us!"
- 68 "Insecure" creator Issa ____



THEMELESS 7 *by Sam Ezersky*

ACROSS

- 1 Fox's head, for example
- 7 "Oh no" feeling
- 13 Fastener with a six-sided head
- 15 Arctic mass bound to a coast
- 16 Deutschland or Nederland, to linguists
- 17 In a stir
- 18 Potato ___ (Utz product)
- 19 Cap for a smartphone user
- 21 [Gasp!]
- 22 Each of the results from a Punnett square, in biology
- 23 Childish retort
- 25 Enter IS NOT at 23-Across, say
- 26 Like clothes on a clothesline
- 30 "Follow me"
- 33 Detroit-based labor org.
- 35 Relative of a fjord
- 36 Creature such as the paper nautilus
- 37 With courage and determination
- 39 Sarcastic response to a smug name-dropper

- 40 "I ___ you"
- 41 Whom Juliet asks "What's in a name?"
- 42 Woman's name sometimes spelled with an "h" at the end
- 44 ___ root (math class calculation)
- 46 Athlete carrying a stick, in slang
- 47 High and dry
- 51 Historic map inits.
- 52 Mother country?
- 54 Diet
- 55 Last king of the Visigoths
- 56 Farming industry, informally
- 58 Holier-than-thou
- 59 Flavor that pairs with meringue

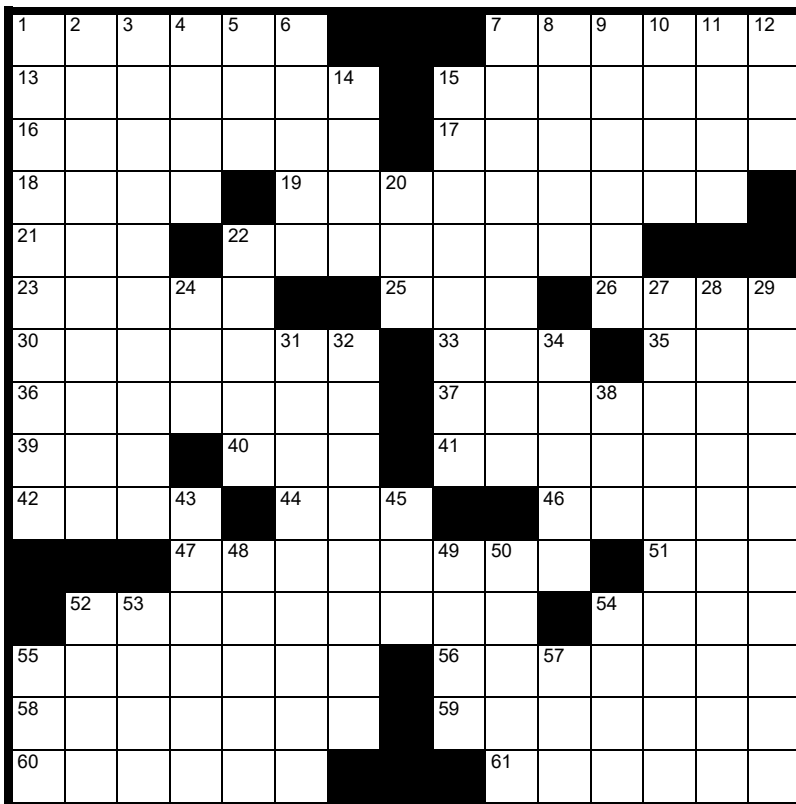
- 60 Like some old-timey streetlamps
- 61 Expensive rentals at a stadium

DOWN

- 1 What mysterious figures might emerge from
- 2 Large Starbucks order
- 3 One who's lost power
- 4 Brand owned by Microsoft
- 5 Period of interest to a geologist
- 6 One of the Pac-Man ghosts
- 7 Parking garage info

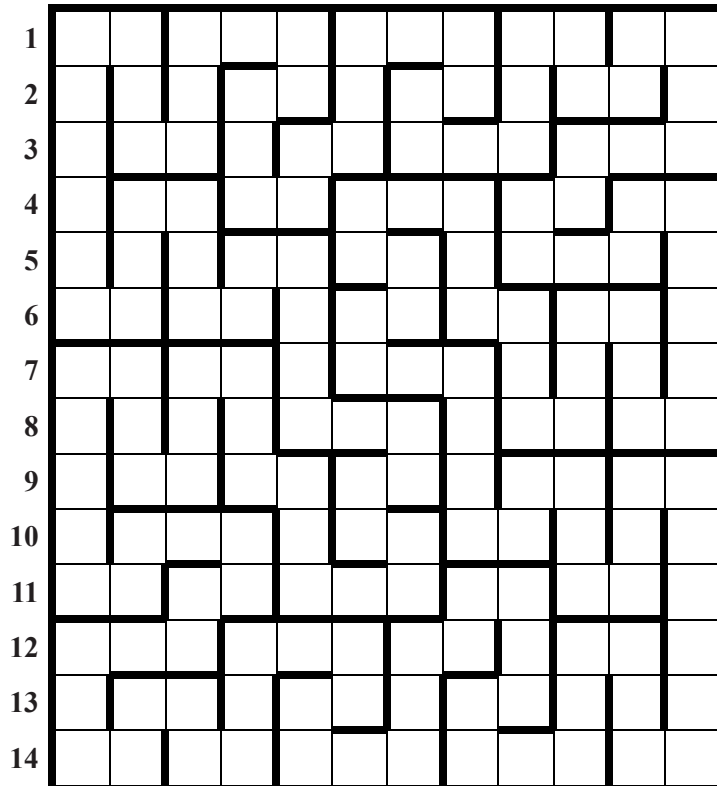
- 8 New York town that includes part of Fire Island
- 9 Interdisciplinary learning approach for the non-humanities, briefly
- 10 1970s fashion item
- 11 ___ above
- 12 "You got it"
- 14 Counterfeiter investigator
- 15 Greek Week event
- 20 What dancers are often on
- 22 Start issuing stocks, in Wall Street lingo
- 24 ___ hormiguero (anteater: Sp.)
- 27 Highlight at the Met

- 28 Beer o'clock, per a famous ad slogan
- 29 Company holdings?
- 31 Utter
- 32 Piece taught in beginner piano lessons
- 34 See 38-Down
- 38 2019 34-Down Cup winner
- 43 Machiavellian
- 45 AFC South team, on scoreboards
- 48 Friends, in Firenze
- 49 Home of Theodore Roosevelt National Park: Abbr.
- 50 Starting points for jigsaw puzzles
- 52 Woman's name sometimes spelled with an "h" at the end
- 53 Punch kin
- 54 Actress Reinhart of "Riverdale"
- 55 Diversion that often involves character creation and quests, briefly
- 57 Hyun-Jin ___, 2019 MLB leader in ERA (2.32)



LABYRINTH *by Eric Berlin*

Each row in this puzzle contains two answers, the second immediately following the first. The “Path” answers wind their way through the labyrinth, starting in the upper-left corner and snaking around until the path finishes in the box below your starting point. Clues for these answers are given in order.



ROWS

- 1 Location of a small labyrinth (2 wds.)
Minnesota’s state bird
- 2 Said “Tsk, tsk” to _____ Beach (South Carolina city)
- 3 Candelabra who sings “Be Our Guest”
Office notes
- 4 Make changes to
Genesis baddie
- 5 Most adorable
Boxes
- 6 Dancer Duncan
Very skilled (at)

- 7 Actuality
Selection of colors
- 8 Awoke after being out (2 wds.)
Filter, as one’s phone calls
- 9 Competitor for Vogue
Actress Mirren
- 10 Legendary Olympian
Jim
Desert pack animals
- 11 Opposite of “cut”
Nearly beyond repair (2 wds.)
- 12 All reptiles have them
Doesn’t connect

- 13 Skip the big wedding
Ads sent via the post office
- 14 Face
Nice little snooze

PATH

- Beyond cruel
- Note on the fridge, maybe
- Exclamation of surprise, in British English (2 wds.)
- Red option
- In need of company
- Good inventors might have a lot of them
- Core belief
- Diminished, with “out”
- Slap the cuffs on
- Related to the wrist
- Hard-to-spot rainforest critter
- Telescope parts
- Bowling achievements
- Requires
- Purple resident of McDonald-land
- Jewelry adornments
- City two miles from the Mexican border (2 wds.)
- Draws breath
- Leader who retired in 2011
- _____ feedback (video-game technology that provides a tactile sensation)
- Change from one element to another
- Decision for a layout artist
- Neighbor of South Africa (no matter which way you travel)
- Administer a tranquilizer to
- Many Tony nominees

CARETAKERS *by Zhouqin Burnikel*

ACROSS

- 1 Wines and dines
- 6 Trash-hauling boat
- 10 Concertgoer's souvenir
- 14 In the least
- 15 ___ seeds (ingredients in many açai bowls)
- 16 Euro fraction
- 17 Author of "The French Chef Cookbook"
- 19 Contact lens cleaner brand
- 20 Reply before taking the witness stand
- 21 Cry out loud
- 22 ___ colada
- 23 Look after
- 25 First daughter born in Chicago on July 4, 1998
- 29 Cash or stock, e.g.
- 31 Minuscule amount
- 32 "Holy Toledo!"
- 34 Gp. that often meets on a school night

- 35 Summer hrs. in Baltimore
- 36 "The Silence of the Lambs" Oscar winner
- 40 Silicon Valley scientific exec.
- 42 Rug cleaner, casually
- 43 "Do you follow me?"
- 44 One who settles disputes
- 47 CoverGirl competitor
- 51 "Criminal" Grammy winner
- 55 Umpire's call
- 56 [Give me a break!]
- 57 Granola bar bits
- 59 Refund check org.
- 60 ___ Romeo

- 61 "The Guild" creator
- 64 Overflow (with)
- 65 Taiwanese PC giant
- 66 Central idea
- 67 Nativity scene figure
- 68 Throw out
- 69 Wonderbra sister brand

DOWN

- 1 Food served in a sizzling skillet
- 2 Piano practice pieces
- 3 Hawk's claws
- 4 ___ Lilly (Prozac maker)
- 5 Hunk of bacon
- 6 The "a" sound in "about"

- 7 "Calm down!"
- 8 Vinaigrette ingredient
- 9 Roll of cash
- 10 Site dubbed the "Netflix for books"
- 11 Many a TikTok user
- 12 Like some news sources
- 13 A/C measure
- 18 Nanny ___
- 22 Pasty luau dish
- 24 Trade show presentation
- 26 Analogy words
- 27 Stock up on
- 28 Tiny colony resident
- 30 Wee bit
- 33 Classic cold cream in a blue tin

- 34 Cpl.'s subordinate
- 36 Good news for an employment seeker
- 37 Wyatt of the Old West
- 38 Drink at a sukiyaki restaurant
- 39 Fish with no pelvic fins
- 40 Half-___ latte
- 41 Baseball designation for the Toledo Mud Hens
- 45 Disrepute
- 46 Pic from a parlor artist
- 48 First, as a voyage
- 49 Common chalet shape
- 50 "Absolutely!"
- 52 Flag supports
- 53 Bears' hangouts
- 54 "And so forth," for short
- 58 Foe of the Jedi
- 60 24/7 cash cache
- 61 Coconut butter, e.g.
- 62 ___-friendly
- 63 "Now I get it!"

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THEMELESS 8 *by Juliana Tringali Golden*

ACROSS

- 1 Sweeping
- 5 One who might do the "Lawn Mower" on the dance floor
- 8 BBC show with the catchphrase "sweetie darling"
- 13 Antique market?
- 15 Species in Disney's "Penguins"
- 16 They see a glass of water. Period.
- 17 Honda Hobbits, e.g.
- 18 Painter Tamara de Lempicka's style
- 19 Blow away
- 20 Move it!
- 22 Physical foundations?
- 26 MLB playoff round
- 27 Course for talented writers, for short
- 31 Sub culture figure?
- 33 "___ attention to that man behind the curtain"
- 34 "Hang in there, baby!"

- 37 German fashion photographer whose name is one letter off from that of an animal
- 38 Theater section that's French for "on the ground"
- 39 Big Red and Mello Yello, e.g.
- 40 Character who said, "Play it, Sam"
- 41 Aarhus resident
- 42 Keeps from falling
- 45 Roland the Farter and Jane Foole, e.g.
- 48 Comes to light
- 53 Stuffy affirmation

- 54 Height of glamour, in slang from "RuPaul's Drag Race"
- 55 Without bias
- 56 Chicago team in the National Women's Soccer League
- 57 Blue states
- 58 Gloss finish?
- 59 Postings at LAX

DOWN

- 1 Actress Farmiga of "Annabelle" and "The Conjuring"
- 2 Tenn. spot
- 3 Workaday dispute
- 4 Tattled (on)

- 5 Short rest before partying at night
- 6 Hot rod body?
- 7 RPG leaders
- 8 Rescue operation?
- 9 Girl Scout's motto
- 10 Get the hell outta Dodge
- 11 ___ Memorial Quilt
- 12 Gershwin protagonist
- 14 Capital of Cambodia
- 15 Rambo rounds
- 19 Brief chats
- 21 Significantly increase
- 22 Scotch reservoirs
- 23 Blessed sound?
- 24 Bizarro

- 25 Arguable winner of the Game of Thrones
- 28 Fiber used in yoga pants
- 29 Enshrine, as ashes
- 30 Safari helmet
- 32 Containers of almonds?
- 35 Fringe artist?
- 36 Portmanteau describing a show like "Fleabag" or "Dead to Me"
- 40 It funds the Fed
- 43 Air France destination
- 44 Categorizes
- 45 Two shakes of a lamb's tail
- 46 Seesaw guy from a tongue twister
- 47 Body part revealed at the Moulin Rouge
- 49 ___ × time = distance
- 50 Unwanted summer visitor
- 51 "Good" band Better Than ___
- 52 Back talk
- 54 Ours is Cenozoic

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A BITE-SIZE PUZZLE *by Mike Selinker*

ACROSS

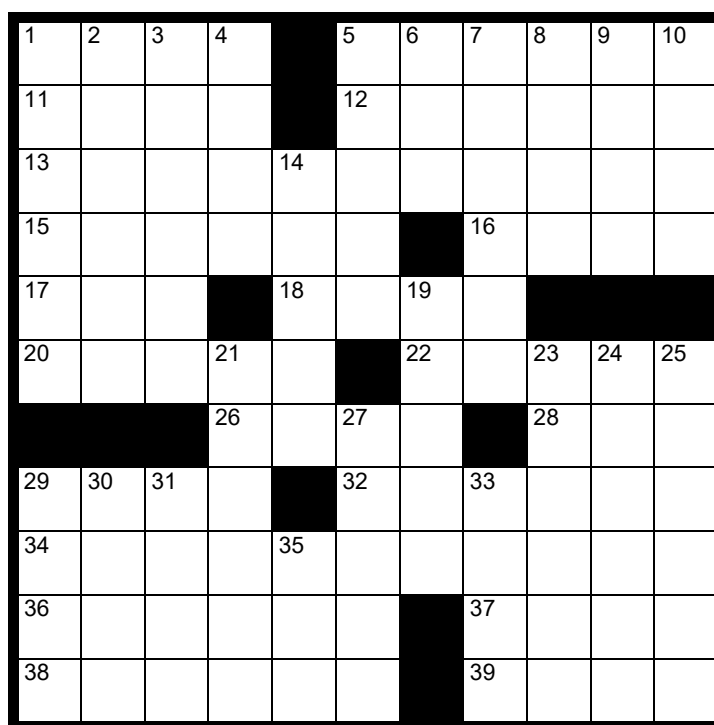
- 1** Band whose name is an acronym of its singers' first names
5 Play kickoff
11 "A God in Ruins" novelist Uris
12 Urged on
13 TV figure who delivers sound bites
15 Private command
16 Game played while looking out a car window
17 Palindromic sci-fi play
18 Pre-JD exam
20 Part of a bike wheel
22 Team with four NFL championships but no Super Bowl appearances
26 Ratio words
28 Hit with an ax

- 29** Disney reindeer
32 Slightly freaked
34 TV figure who delivers unsound bites
36 Counting word
37 Stat guy Silver
38 Sewn up
39 Villain in the 2017 "Wonder Woman" film

DOWN

- 1** Tables inside temples
2 Pound with fists, say
3 Ravel piece accompanying Torvill and Dean's 1984 gold medal-winning skate
4 "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" singer Paul
5 "Release Me" singer Carlsson
6 Machine part

- 7** South Pacific locale visited before the mutiny on the HMS Bounty
8 Heartfelt tributes, often
9 Type of tide
10 Whirlpool in a river
14 Features of Hawaii
19 "Maybe the real puzzles are the friends we made ___ the way"
21 Having tiny bends
23 Frequent lament for Piglet
24 Offset
25 5-Down, 31-Down, members of 1-Across, etc.
27 Well-developed
29 Emulated Olympians like Katie Ledecky
30 Use an e-cig
31 Former model Nordegren
33 Costume designer Mode
35 Sew up



ESCAPE ROOMS *by Todd McClary*

ACROSS

- 1 “___ Andy Warhol” (1996 film about Valerie Solanas)
- 6 Forest youngster
- 10 Don’t go
- 14 Warms to room temperature
- 15 Twistable snack
- 16 Book club glassful
- 17 Friend of Barbie’s performing in Nashville?
- 19 Lawmakers’ creations
- 20 Finish up on a golf green
- 21 Immense
- 23 Tachometer abbreviation
- 24 Southern California’s ___ Valley
- 25 Maple tree extract
- 28 Hoedown ladies
- 31 Door answering servant’s use of a crowbar?
- 34 Govt. agency that sponsors the WaterSense program
- 35 Apt surname for a lawyer
- 36 “Sunday in the Park With George” painter
- 37 Member of an Indian faith
- 39 Grazing spot

- 41 Colt’s comment
- 42 Accomplishment chronicled by Guinness
- 44 Quantities: Abbr.
- 46 As well
- 47 Marketing promo for a dairy dessert?
- 49 Southernmost Ivy League school, informally
- 50 Understand
- 51 Auto pioneer
- 52 One of les éléments classiques
- 54 “Like that’ll ever happen!”
- 55 Causing the pulse to quicken
- 59 Slightly open
- 62 Luxurious ride for a witch?
- 64 Greet enthusiastically
- 65 Ship’s navigation station

- 66 Irritated interminably
- 67 Pile of snowballs, perhaps
- 68 Conference introduction?
- 69 Egg parts

DOWN

- 1 Allergy symptom [ESCAPED FROM THE COOK’S LAIR!]
- 2 “Go away!”
- 3 Transport by truck
- 4 Title holders
- 5 Ice skater’s braking maneuver
- 6 Racing legend A.J.
- 7 Biblical boat
- 8 Cotton field pest
- 9 Unfamous folks
- 10 Police jacket letters

- 11 Symptom of nervousness
- 12 Tiny marcher [ESCAPED FROM THE CUPBOARD OF FRESHLY SHARPENED KNIVES!]
- 13 Intercom response
- 18 Cha-cha relative
- 22 Tempresses in Homer’s “Odyssey”
- 24 Courses for canoes
- 25 “Obey Your Thirst” sloganeer
- 26 Catherine of ___ (role in the musical “Six”)
- 27 Squeezing snake
- 28 Yankee great called “The Iron Horse”
- 29 Each

- 30 Tool used for surgical incisions
- 32 One shortened by Bitly
- 33 WNBA star Bird
- 35 Gold rush pack animals
- 38 Google Drive file
- 40 Karaoke system component
- 43 Jubilation
- 45 Market analyst’s discovery
- 48 Like paid video-on-demand services, often
- 49 ___ Rico
- 53 In an unthreatening position
- 54 “The Good Dinosaur” dinosaur [ESCAPED FROM A CHILLING RECEPTION!]
- 55 “Stick a fork ___ . I’m done.”
- 56 December holiday
- 57 Enjoy the Jacuzzi
- 58 Some FD rescue workers
- 59 Cry from a puzzle solver
- 60 English muffin spread
- 61 Archer’s skill
- 63 One-hundred percent [ESCAPED FROM THE DANCE OF DEATH!]

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THEMELESS 9 *by Derek Bowman*

ACROSS

- 1 Rotor grippers at repair shops
- 9 Former NHL star Ciccarelli
- 13 No longer remain accessible
- 15 Do some mugging, maybe
- 17 Forks
- 18 “___ Love” (1978 Nicolette Larson hit)
- 19 With 34-Down, “Ooh la la!”
- 20 Water lilies
- 22 It’s tough to write with
- 25 Verdi opera that premiered at Rome’s Teatro Apollo in 1853
- 27 Touch, e.g.
- 29 “Tarzan of the Apes” Jane portrayer Markey
- 30 Roll call taker, at times
- 38 Like crosswords or “I Love Lucy”
- 39 Emmy-winning program with an “And now, this” segment
- 40 Diggs on screen

- 41 “Strong Enough” singer
- 42 Quickly settled, say
- 49 Cagey
- 50 Phrase after “Not only that”
- 51 Tip jar stuffers
- 53 Monitor display
- 54 Maintained the lead
- 59 Tiger stroke
- 60 Praiseworthy
- 61 On its way
- 62 Parqués is played there

- 3 Frequent text reply
- 4 “Do you really think that’s the case?”
- 5 ___ dish (plate for studying cultures)
- 6 Car with a “horse collar” grille
- 7 Settle for the night
- 8 Certain woman, in personals shorthand
- 9 She’s “41 and her daddy still calls her baby,” in a Helen Reddy classic
- 10 “Too rich for me”
- 11 “Bullpucky”

- 12 Furry father in “The Wind in the Willows”
- 14 1990s Sunday night cable sports show
- 16 Become less of a burden
- 21 Spanish Cathedral of San Salvador site
- 22 Nothing: Lat.
- 23 “Once ___ Dream” (song from “Maleficent”)
- 24 Low points in a career
- 26 “A Star Is Born” versions with Garland, Streisand, and Lady Gaga

- 28 Muscle worked in dumbbell raises
- 31 Natural ability
- 32 A whole heap
- 33 “Why, certainly!”
- 34 See 19-Across
- 35 Good times
- 36 Kennedy matriarch
- 37 Hear again
- 42 Tribute in the Tribune
- 43 Drift Cat or Prowl Alt shoes, e.g.
- 44 Tour de France stage
- 45 Former New Orleans mayor Ray
- 46 “Come on, shake a leg!”
- 47 “___ It Sleeps” (1996 Top 10 single for Metallica)
- 48 Phrase from a Latinx lover
- 52 Pillow cover
- 55 Key used to exit a window?
- 56 “Chicago” lyricist Fred
- 57 “American Gladiators” cohost Laila
- 58 ___ agent (buster)

DOWN

- 1 Includes in an email, briefly
- 2 Peak near Grenoble or Innsbruck

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DO YOU SUPPOSE WE'LL MEET ANY WILD ANIMALS? *by Matt Jackson*

ACROSS

- 1 Former South Bend mayor Buttigieg
- 5 Egypt dam locale
- 10 Fulfill by filling up
- 14 Yearn
- 15 Din
- 16 "I really need your help," e.g.
- 17 Alhambra pavilion whose fountain is ringed by animal statues
- 20 Shady tree
- 21 Good will
- 22 Got out of bed
- 23 Home region of the Buryat and Samoyed people
- 25 Irritates the skin
- 26 Scruff of the neck
- 27 Reveal too soon, as an ending
- 29 Trade blows
- 31 Cut, as wool
- 32 Affix
- 35 Ivy League team with an animal mascot
- 39 Co. bought by Verizon in 2015
- 40 President who tried to veto the 1878 Bland-Allison Act

- 41 Types
- 42 Gets licked, in a way
- 43 Humanoid monster of folklore
- 45 Speechless, in a bad way
- 48 Liquid metal mixture
- 51 Tenant's agreement
- 52 Of the bone next to the radius
- 54 One of 2,297 for Hank Aaron, for short
- 55 Animal family in children's books by Stan and Jan
- 58 Manual reader, perhaps

- 59 Argentine soccer great Lionel
- 60 Figs. running from 0.0 to 4.0
- 61 Military food
- 62 Guides to one's seat, slangily
- 63 Fearful reaction to the ends of 17-Across, 35-Across, and 55-Across

DOWN

- 1 Steps
- 2 GI tract bacterium
- 3 Small image on a computer screen
- 4 Always, archaically

- 5 Alienation from social norms
- 6 Capital of Bulgaria
- 7 Figure skater Katarina
- 8 Pale as a ghost
- 9 Born
- 10 Nautilus shell shape
- 11 Icy, figuratively
- 12 Past, present, or future
- 13 Alleviates
- 18 Water-resistant ground covering
- 19 "Interpreter of Maladies" author Jhumpa
- 24 Make, as money
- 25 Outer layer
- 27 Mary Janes in Mary Jane's closet

- 28 Paper Mate implements
- 29 Peel place
- 30 Paid athlete
- 31 Eye ailment
- 32 Morse code communiqué
- 33 Incense
- 34 It comes before tee
- 36 Selected
- 37 "___ of Eden" (John Steinbeck novel)
- 38 Lass
- 42 Focused photon beams
- 43 Muscat denizens
- 44 Clothing
- 45 Weezer's "Make Believe," for one
- 46 Honking birds
- 47 Lanky lagomorphs
- 48 Herb that flavors licorice
- 49 Birth name of Isaac's dad in Genesis
- 50 "Work It" rapper Elliott
- 52 Mountain West natives
- 53 Mascara target
- 56 Dallas sch. where Laura Bush went
- 57 Swollen sense of self

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THEMELESS 10 *by Rebecca Falcon & Ken Stern*

ACROSS

- 1 Homeland of some elephants
- 5 "I can help!"
- 10 "___ do"
- 14 Menacing tooth
- 15 Sitcom character whose wife Maris was never seen
- 16 Pet you might find where plants are sold?
- 17 Get into a lather
- 18 Take
- 19 Jabbers away
- 20 Civil rights and women's rights icon ___ B. Wells
- 21 Make use of in-and-out privileges
- 23 Not yet on the sched.
- 24 Automaker whose models include the C1, C2, C3, C4, and C5
- 26 Sexual reaction
- 28 "Hasta la vista!"
- 29 Daily Daly program, for short
- 31 Certain internet asshole
- 32 "With pleasure!"
- 35 Like ratty clothes, or fancy clothes
- 36 One-on-one with the queen, say
- 44 "Weird Al" Yankovic song that mentions Raisin Bran, tuna casserole, Spam, and bananas

- 45 Best Director winner between Michel and Alfonso
- 46 Source of the 2005 headline "CIA Realizes It's Been Using Black Highlighters All These Years," with "The"
- 47 "Innocent until proven guilty," for the American legal system
- 49 Hamstrings
- 51 Curry, for one
- 52 Shows a pop-up, maybe
- 54 Familiar Hollywood nickname for father-and-son actors Leonidas and Creighton

- 55 Working hard
- 57 Insta influencer, maybe
- 58 Mids' org.
- 59 Sprawl out on the couch
- 60 Flavor that ouzo oozes
- 61 Start to do well?
- 62 It might be taken in protest
- 63 The USA's last one was Operation Julin in 1992
- 64 Chip in?

DOWN

- 1 Like some elephants
- 2 Altar-ed one's marital status?
- 3 Like over 20 state mottos
- 4 Progress
- 5 "Cannot ___" (slangy expression of mock horror)
- 6 Avoiding punishment?
- 7 Vim
- 8 Brainpower?
- 9 Chemical compound commonly found in essential oils and crosswords
- 10 ___ Hot (pain relief brand)
- 11 "Don't worry about it!"
- 12 Stick near the checkout counter
- 13 Eriq of "ER" and "Coming to America"
- 21 Common ingredient in rice pudding and Turkish delight

- 22 Early clinical experiences for med students
- 25 Masago, tobiko, or ikura
- 27 Mud container?
- 30 Youngest person with four Oscar nominations for acting (at age 25)
- 33 Agcy. whose secretary is 14th in line for the U.S. presidency, usually
- 34 Agcy. whose secretary is 13th in line for the U.S. presidency
- 36 Introduction to a rally, maybe
- 37 Lenape group and eponym of a bay, river, and township in New Jersey
- 38 Eschew the standard deduction
- 39 Old ___
- 40 Close
- 41 #1 in ratings?
- 42 It's between the helmet and shield on a coat-of-arms
- 43 Bag
- 48 Texas's state tree or Alabama's state nut
- 50 "Odds are ..."
- 53 "Nasty" on the court
- 56 Stick in the ground
- 58 Italian one?

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SEEK YOUR FORTUNE *by Evan Birnholz*

The answer to this meta is a four-letter noun.

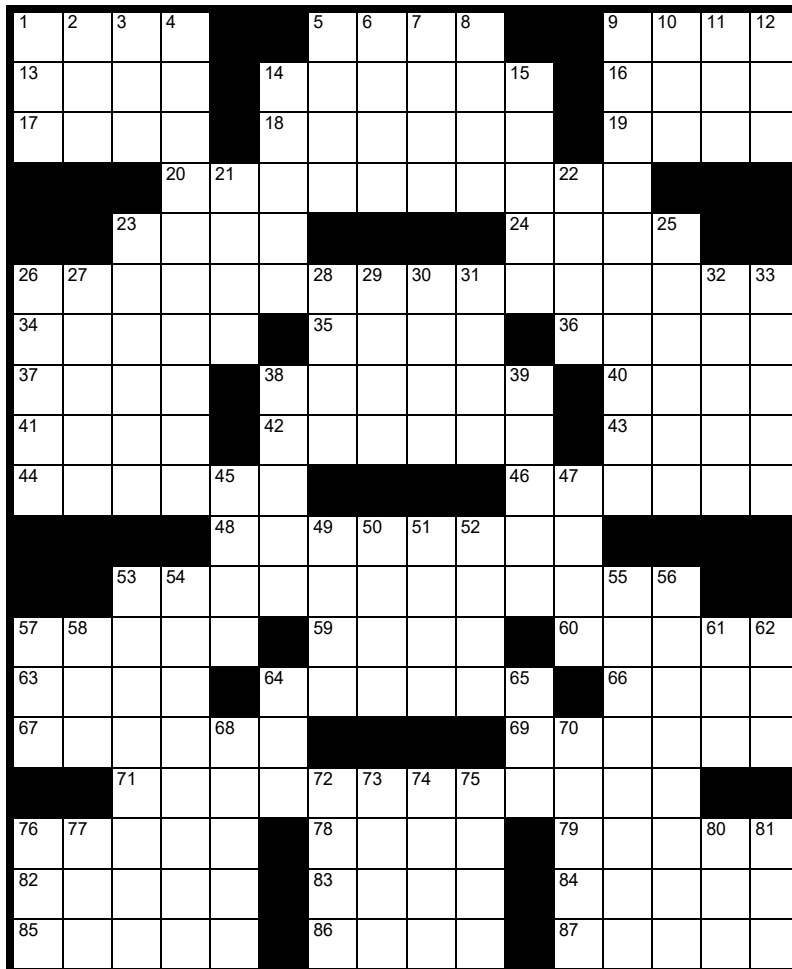
ACROSS

- 1 Knighted Guinness
- 5 "I'm right ____"
- 9 Throw for a loop
- 13 Guitar god's shining moment
- 14 Reggie Miller and Rik Smits's team
- 16 False ____
- 17 Peevish state
- 18 "How do you feel about that?"
- 19 One defending, or attacking, a king
- 20 *CARD: You must avoid apathy, that cursed chalice that makes you feel emptier the more you drink from it.*
- 23 Burning Man shelter
- 24 Fishing equipment
- 26 *CARD: You are a master at your craft. The symbols represent the respect given to you by your peers.*
- 34 Mansion's many
- 35 Literary governess
- 36 Pellets from above
- 37 Language of Bano Qudsia's novels
- 38 What's the difference?
- 40 Mystical glow
- 41 French at Oxford University?
- 42 Like some gumbo
- 43 Mix things up
- 44 Less loose
- 46 Fits together well
- 48 Totally lost control
- 53 *CARD: These rods symbolize your creativity, effort, and leadership. You look forward to new challenges and opportunities.*

- 57 Foils' alternatives
- 59 "You've got it"
- 60 Up
- 63 Structure by a silo
- 64 Instruments for conductors
- 66 "That's my cue"
- 67 Deity in the Trimurti
- 69 Epic on which Berlioz based his opera "Les Troyens"
- 71 *CARD: Take time to rest and reflect after you suffer a loss. Remember that your greatest weapon is your resilience.*
- 76 Equivalent of 100, perhaps
- 78 Fredo's film father
- 79 Name of a plant?
- 82 Shut
- 83 Not quite shut
- 84 "Gotta go!"
- 85 Uses keys, say
- 86 tarot.com/tarot/cards/minor-arcana, e.g., if you wanted to learn more (but you don't need it to solve the meta)
- 87 The E of Ford's MEL engine series

DOWN

- 6 Fashion designer Marc
- 7 Underwater ecosystem
- 8 "House" character Foreman or "That '70s Show" character Forman
- 9 United front?
- 10 Fuss, to the Bard
- 11 12-Down locale
- 12 Deer family beast
- 14 Subject of NASA's New Horizons mission in 2015
- 15 Barrel roll at an airshow, e.g.
- 21 "We Are the ____ We Have Been Waiting For" (2006 Alice Walker book)
- 22 Tidbits in pods
- 23 Walked over
- 25 Case handler
- 26 ____ fall (team-building exercise)
- 27 NAACP Image Award winner Lena
- 28 Slasher film feeling
- 29 Combustible stack
- 30 Conclusion word
- 31 Diamond valued by many music fans
- 32 Like "Resident Evil" games
- 33 The Philippines flag shapes
- 38 Jazz singer Carmen
- 39 Herculean labor site
- 45 Has the wrong idea
- 47 "Girl" author O'Brien
- 49 Rise in the Southwest
- 50 Display frustration
- 51 Do sported by Dr. J in the 1970s
- 52 Newscaster Ifill
- 53 Unit of computer speed
- 54 Fowl territory?
- 55 Depleted gradually
- 56 "I totally do too!"
- 57 Go back, at the beach
- 58 2, frequently, on mini-golf holes
- 61 Japanese carp
- 62 Conclusion
- 64 Cosmopolitan site ____ Paulo
- 68 Classical nonet
- 70 Wipe out
- 72 Rink shape
- 73 Nation that's home to the University of the South Pacific's main campus
- 74 Wawrinka of tennis
- 75 Salary source
- 76 Be in a cast
- 77 Paper towel layer
- 80 Vote in the Senate
- 81 ____ Minella (Muppet with a punny name)



RIGHTO! by Nate Cardin

ACROSS

- 1 Edgar ___ Poe
- 6 TV ads
- 11 Disallow, as single-use plastics
- 14 Spoil, as a parade
- 16 Shire of "The Godfather"
- 17 Somme summer
- 18 A low bar for ghosting?
- 20 "... take the train to the club and you know the ___ should stand for Motherf**ers Touching my Ass": "Let's Have a Kiki" by the Scissor Sisters
- 21 Marie Antoinette, par exemple
- 22 "I told you!"
- 23 Janelle Monáe outfit, sometimes
- 24 Vehicle that Kate McKinnon and Kristen Wiig have been in
- 26 Dance club for make-up influencers?
- 29 What equal pay would result in for most women
- 31 This place is a pig sty
- 32 Tributes
- 33 Nation whose flag is a red, white, and black tricolor with green script in the center
- 34 Not a
- 35 Assuage
- 37 Swimwear worn while out looking for an anonymous gay hookup?
- 42 Little devils
- 43 Deadly snake

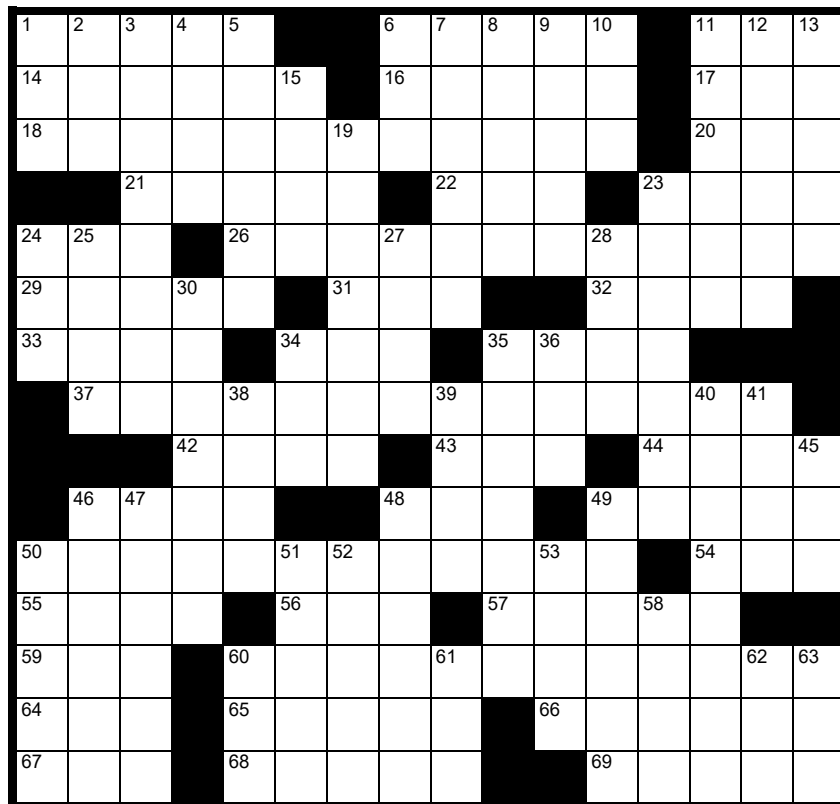
- 44 Yin's counterpart
- 46 "¿Qué ___?"
- 48 Pale brew, perhaps
- 49 Borscht base
- 50 The state of being too baked for briefs?
- 54 Put on
- 55 "South Park" co-creator Parker
- 56 Surface for a Microsoft Surface, often
- 57 Deadly snake
- 59 Word heard right before "You're it!"
- 60 Instrument that works when no one thought it would?
- 64 Org. for which parents might bake cupcakes
- 65 Well-balanced person?

- 66 Not automatic
- 67 Not the 7th month, oddly: Abbr.
- 68 California's Point ___ National Seashore
- 69 Thompson of "Thor: Ragnarok"

DOWN

- 1 Dadaist Jean
- 2 "Well ___-dickin'-dah!"
- 3 Late '90s Jim Carrey comedy
- 4 Hathaway of Hollywood
- 5 Catch sight of
- 6 Cardinals, on scoreboards
- 7 "Fellow countryperson!"
- 8 Talking statue on "Legends of the Hidden Temple"
- 9 Free ___
- 10 ___ Tomé and Príncipe
- 11 Flummox
- 12 Storage facility alternatives
- 13 "Far out!"
- 15 Double negative that's not a positive
- 19 City on the Nile or the Mississippi
- 23 Scornful glance
- 24 Indian honorific
- 25 Traffic stopper
- 27 Hilariously named part of a hammer
- 28 Bit of reality?
- 30 "I shall call him ___ and he shall be mine!": Dory in "Finding Nemo"
- 34 Adding a "B" multiplies this by 3

- 35 Magazine with an annual music festival in New Orleans
- 36 Grindr or Bumble
- 38 Popular variety of Apple
- 39 Popular variety of apple
- 40 Creator of the Labyrinth and father of Icarus
- 41 Suspicious of
- 45 Airer of "Family Feud" and "Hollywood Squares" reruns
- 46 Get media through less than legal means
- 47 Controversial feature of the romance in "Call Me by Your Name"
- 48 Current unit
- 49 Ohio University athlete
- 50 URL intro for a site that ensures data sent by the user is encrypted
- 51 Skateboarding leap
- 52 ___: "Do you guys know where I could get one of those gold necklaces with the T on it?" Michael Bluth: "That's a cross." ___: "Across from where?"
- 53 College digs
- 58 Actress Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"
- 60 Camera type
- 61 A kid with no mas might have two of these instead
- 62 Acapulco article
- 63 Brazilian bonjour



THEMELESS 11 *by Wyna Liu*

ACROSS

- 1 Siouxsie Sioux style
- 5 Down or inclined
- 14 Units of measure derived from the Old English for "open field"
- 16 "To be continued ..."
- 17 Leather worn after napping?
- 18 Cabs, in some places
- 19 Miss someone a lot, in a way
- 21 Have
- 22 Large cask
- 23 Solo piano compositions
- 27 Subtle, deadpan jokes
- 30 "Take your time"
- 31 Acting on the spot
- 33 Shampoo directive
- 34 Vehicle with real horsepower?
- 37 Novelist Anya
- 39 They're found under rims

- 40 Spill accidentally
- 42 You might do this to concentrate
- 44 Workers that deliver
- 46 Underlines
- 50 Places for seconds and thirds
- 52 Boulder hrs.
- 53 La hermana de mi madre
- 54 Gangly Arctic cutie
- 57 Works often erroneously labeled as contemporary
- 60 Writer who received three Pulitzer Prizes for Drama

- 61 Counter offer?
- 62 Valleys
- 63 Unit of distance that sounds like a unit of time
- 64 Kept down, with "up"

DOWN

- 1 Reacted to a shock
- 2 Vision-related
- 3 One of many signed in Paris
- 4 Lamarr, inventor of a precursor to Wi-Fi, GPS, and Bluetooth
- 5 Contradictory-sounding way to express humility
- 6 High ___
- 7 Aligns

- 8 Chef Blumenthal whose restaurant The Fat Duck is one of only five restaurants in the U.K. to be rated three Michelin stars
- 9 Activist Roosevelt
- 10 Plant butters, before they were cool
- 11 Capri suffix
- 12 Crowdsourced work first published in full in 1928, briefly
- 13 Ruth and Laura, for example
- 15 Place for a ring, maybe
- 20 They're seen in a pack of camels

- 24 Change a flat?
- 25 Abbr. for some professors
- 26 "___ Gotta Have It"
- 28 One way to update a window?
- 29 Indian flatbreads
- 32 Electrical engineer's tool
- 34 Iconic dive
- 35 Diamond family name
- 36 Spot's sound
- 38 Nightingale, notably
- 41 Squirrel, unflatteringly
- 43 Quartet
- 45 Unwilling to give
- 47 Stockholder?
- 48 Fisher of fashion
- 49 Most secure
- 51 Trap
- 55 Emmy winner de Matteo of "The Sopranos"
- 56 Use two hands to give a hand
- 57 Big chunk of change
- 58 "___ et amo ..." (Catullus poem opening)
- 59 Make a hole

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TWO OUTTA THREE AIN'T BAD *by Joon Pahk*

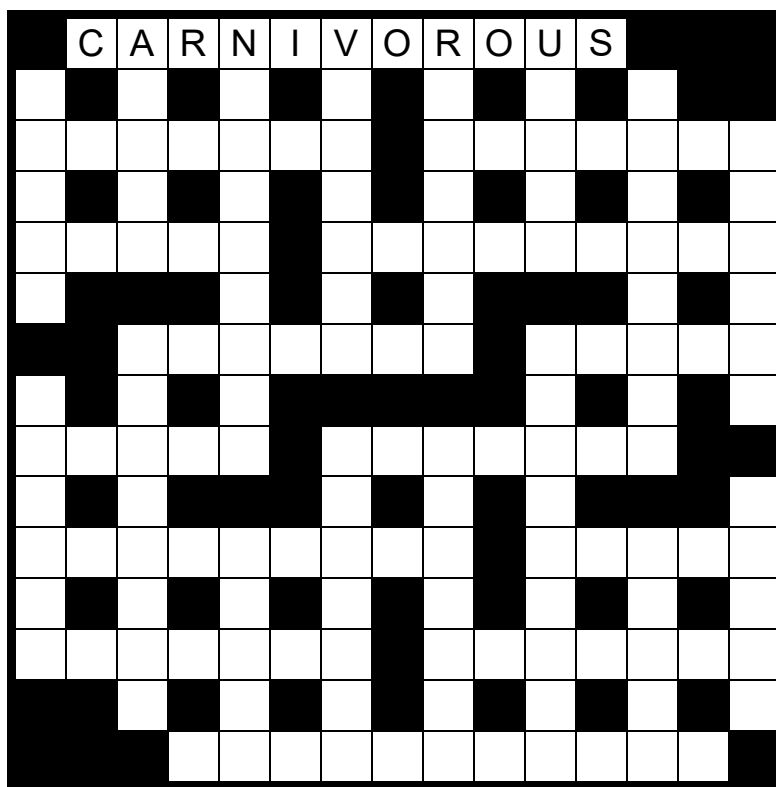
Each answer in this puzzle is a lowercase dictionary word. Clues come in three types: anagrams, rhymes, and synonyms of the answer word. However, for each answer, only two of the three types of clues are given. It is up to you to determine which clue is which type.

For example, the clue

CORONAVIRUS / ZOOPHAGOUS

leads to the answer CARNIVOROUS, which is a synonym of ZOOPHAGOUS and an anagram of CORONAVIRUS. In this instance, there is no rhyme clue.

The answer words all fit into the crossword grid at right. Across and Down clues are given in separate lists, but within each list, the clues are not given in order. The first Across answer has been placed for you.



ACROSS

BITS / INTERMESHES
 BIZARRE / GRILL
 BLUES / OILS
 CHASED / REFINEMENT
 COMPLAIN / VULGAR
 CORONAVIRUS / ZOOPHAGOUS
 EMBRACE / TERRACE
 ENLACES / PENS
 EROTICISM / OBSTETRIC
 FEIGNING / POURING
 FENCE / TEENS
 INSPECTORS / MANAGERS
 LEADER / RACED
 PIVOTS / SHRIVELS

DOWN

ALLURE / MARCH
 BEARCATS / NIGHTCLUBS
 CONDESCEND / PLANE
 DEBUGGER / FUDGE
 DEMUR / POTTERS
 DESCENDANT / ICONS
 EDITION / PERSIAN
 ENSURE / ENSURE
 GIRDLE / SPIDER
 IMPLORER / REINSTATE
 KLUTZ / TUBAS
 LIONESSES / SILENT
 OVER / TEN
 POLITE / UNTIE
 SECTIONAL / SHORE
 UNNERVE / VERBOSE

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE *by Anna-Marie Ruoff*

ACROSS

- 1 Osaka who defeated Serena Williams in 2018
- 6 Island nation that's home to Rainmaker Mountain
- 11 TV sitcom alien
- 14 Arctic pad
- 15 Flapjack franchises
- 16 Short, for short
- 17 Dutch scientist Antonie van ____, called the "Father of Microbiology" for his pioneering work with microscopes
- 19 Chi follower
- 20 Corkboard item
- 21 Founding member of the ACC and home of the Wolfpack
- 23 German physician Robert who shaped modern microbiology with his postulates linking specific microorganisms to specific diseases
- 26 Hind end
- 28 Taiwanese PC maker
- 29 Psychic skill, for short
- 30 Pack animals
- 32 Auto show sights
- 33 __ apso (dog breed)
- 35 Second-longest river in Africa
- 37 French biologist Louis who helped develop germ theory and create vaccines for rabies and anthrax

- 40 Scottish bacteriologist Alexander who discovered the world's first antibiotic, penicillin
- 44 Positive attribute
- 46 Country estate
- 47 Close to closed
- 50 Rescues from the humane society
- 53 Corporate VIP
- 54 Toward the sunset
- 55 Ancient stringed instrument
- 56 American virologist Jonas who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines and chose not to patent it, believing public health was a "moral commitment"

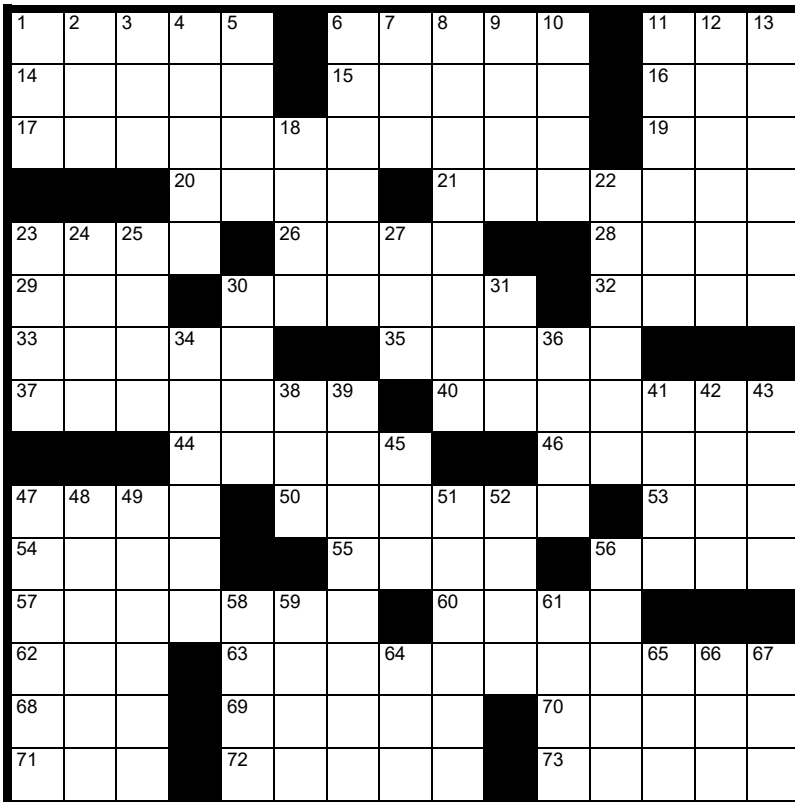
- 57 Navajo for "enemy ancestors"
- 60 One of the Great Lakes
- 62 Quaint lodging
- 63 English social reformer Florence who founded modern nursing and expanded the role of women in the workforce
- 68 Brewed beverage
- 69 Perfectly pitched
- 70 More adorable
- 71 Some H.S. students
- 72 On edge
- 73 Follows, as advice

- 5 First state to vote in the presidential primary season
- 6 Hook, line, and ____
- 7 Contented sigh
- 8 Certain tinted top
- 9 Oil acronym
- 10 Inquires
- 11 Camelid relative of a guanaco
- 12 British surgeon Joseph who pioneered the use of carbonic acid as an antiseptic to sterilize instruments and clean wounds during surgery

- 24 Worker protection org.
- 25 No. crunchers
- 27 Circle segment
- 30 Sweethearts, slangily
- 31 NBC sketch show
- 34 Begins
- 36 Precious and semi-precious stones
- 38 Miley Cyrus anthem "Party in the ____"
- 39 It stops traffic
- 41 Member of the largest empire in pre-Columbian America
- 42 Yuletide tune
- 43 Thoroughly understand
- 45 Plaything
- 47 Anticipates
- 48 English physician Edward who helped develop the smallpox vaccine and popularized vaccination
- 49 Yoga poses
- 51 Quite
- 52 Garr of "Young Frankenstein"
- 56 Seamless transition
- 58 "Black Beauty" author Sewell
- 59 National park in Utah
- 61 Part of a foot
- 64 He/him/ ____
- 65 Consumed
- 66 Headed
- 67 Hosp. areas where dedicated professionals practice medicine, thanks to the efforts of the people featured in this puzzle (and many others)

DOWN

- 1 Squat, in soccer
- 2 Historical period
- 3 Stadium cheer
- 4 Oral cavity



MALE BOXES *by Patrick Blindauer*

ACROSS

- 1 Civil rights leader Parks
- 5 Reference book
- 10 Place for a post
- 14 Part of an Arabian's diet
- 15 Brand in the candy aisle
- 16 Orphan of literature
- 17 Dos Passos novel and the namesake of a New York City-based singing group
- 20 Kama ____
- 21 Agnus ____
- 22 Dog raiser?
- 23 Pinochle card
- 25 Part of 27-Across
- 27 Storm heading, perhaps: Abbr.
- 28 Snore
- 32 Brown, for example
- 34 Friendly introduction?
- 35 Imitated a wailing ghost
- 38 "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" madame
- 42 Song that hit #1 in 1966 and 1991

- 45 Costner role in "The Untouchables"
- 46 Home of Cornell
- 47 Chap
- 48 Letters before a phony identity
- 50 "Russian Doll" star Lyonne
- 52 Pole position?
- 55 Chills
- 58 Templeton in "Charlotte's Web," for one
- 59 "One Voice" singer
- 61 Denial in Dundee
- 63 Acknowledge with a gesture
- 67 Legendary creature that inspired a 2019 animated feature
- 70 "It is so!"

- 71 3M kitchen brand
- 72 Yours, mon amour
- 73 Make
- 74 Phrases said over and over
- 75 List ender?

DOWN

- 1 Members of Mark Antony's audience
- 2 "Lost" location
- 3 Pronto
- 4 Pertaining to the stars
- 5 "Got it!"
- 6 "... ____ me your ears": Mark Antony
- 7 Florida county named for a marine mammal
- 8 Courts

- 9 Repeated, a dance
- 10 Academy Award word
- 11 Uber alternatives
- 12 They may be Golden or Fudge-Dipped
- 13 Relevant
- 18 City on Puget Sound
- 19 Parental punishment, perhaps
- 24 Opposite of an altruist
- 26 Motorcycle attachment
- 28 Put in stitches
- 29 Massage target
- 30 Sorrows
- 31 Margarita option
- 33 Singer Sumac
- 36 Japanese style of theater

- 37 2017 Tony winner "Dear ____ Hansen"
- 39 Hogwarts mail carriers
- 40 Captain of a notable cruise for couples
- 41 "Death in a Tenured Position" author Cross
- 43 Crackers, say
- 44 "To save us all from ____ power ..."
- 49 National symbol of New Zealand
- 51 Without a key
- 52 Issue
- 53 Sign of fall
- 54 Baking staple
- 56 Vote into law
- 57 Civil War weapon
- 60 Eclipse, once
- 62 First name in the Jazz Hall of Fame
- 64 Overindulge, with "on"
- 65 "Terrible" times
- 66 Muscat residents
- 68 "I am ____": Eowyn of "The Lord of the Rings"
- 69 Camera seen in video stores?

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THEMELESS 12 *by Erik Agard & Claire Rimkus*

ACROSS

- 1 Foul line?
- 6 Havanese “but”
- 10 Mineral found in some foundations
- 14 Something made to scale in a treehouse
- 16 “Because of this...”
- 17 Staying over?
- 18 Havanese healers
- 19 “Make some room”
- 20 Mario’s Mushroom Kingdom friend
- 22 Part of LGBTQIA, briefly
- 23 Onomatopoeia that can also be a past participle
- 24 Not rightly
- 26 “Despite this ...”
- 27 Device used in many a medical drama
- 31 Speak in Elizabethan English
- 32 Beaver’s creation
- 33 Wide wear
- 34 2019 miniseries for which Jharrel Jerome, playing Corey Wise, won an Emmy
- 37 Mars

- 38 Brooding productions
- 39 Recipient of duas
- 40 Try to bat
- 41 Saskatchewan Roughriders’ org.
- 44 Taken control
- 46 Apt surname for a geneticist
- 48 ___ Exsalonce (day spa in Kansas)
- 49 Tricky action
- 51 Telephone substitute
- 52 Its first letter sounds like what it’s a part of
- 54 Meet up
- 56 One might be self-directed

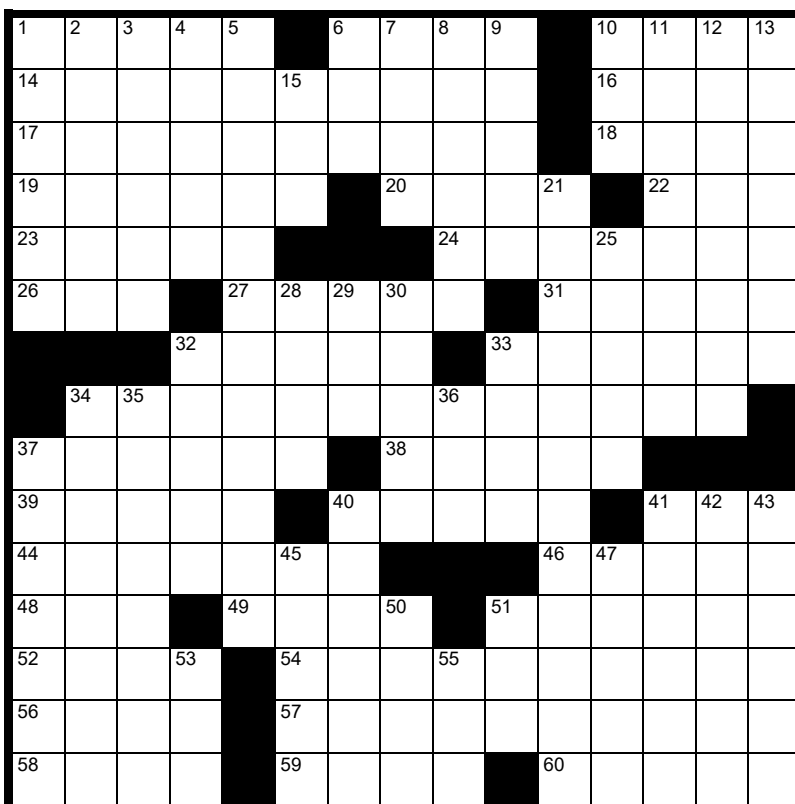
- 57 Wallis who starred in “Annie”
- 58 Largest Hispanic-owned food company in the U.S.
- 59 “Game of Thrones” assassin ___ Stark
- 60 Right-hand ppl

DOWN

- 1 Wendy’s offering since 1969
- 2 Mouth of the Marne
- 3 Click “unsubscribe,” say

- 4 Baller’s target
- 5 T’Challa’s superhero name, in the eponymous film
- 6 Hollywood summer hrs.
- 7 Resolve a tense situation, say
- 8 Cassatt contemporary
- 9 Cavity filling
- 10 Longtime Rock the Vote partner
- 11 “Loud and clear!”
- 12 Balanced budgets
- 13 Makes known
- 15 Alternative to platinum
- 21 Chocolate pie, e.g.
- 25 House hunts?

- 28 Venus flytrap prey, more often than flies
- 29 Aggravated cry
- 30 Delle Donne in basketball’s 50-40-90 club
- 32 “Medicine for Melancholy” star Wyatt
- 33 Home of some Georgians
- 34 Midsize marsupial
- 35 Snickers producer
- 36 Reaction to stepped-on toes
- 37 Like a metrical foot?
- 40 One with a false identity
- 41 Post-sledding drinks
- 42 Display flagrantly, maybe
- 43 Progressives, e.g.
- 45 Long garment
- 47 Like many ’80s movies
- 50 Pocket watcher’s feeling
- 51 Composite number hidden in this clue
- 53 Bass parts?
- 55 Office of National Narcotics Intelligence successor, for short



MAKING ENDS MEET *by Ross Trudeau*

ACROSS

- 1 Salary bump
- 6 Org. for Clarice Starling
- 12 Insinuates
- 13 Wu of "The Joy Luck Club"
- 14 Heroic end zone denials
- 16 Pairs
- 17 Melodramatic cry
- 18 Over again
- 19 "Put your wallet away"
- 21 Vietnamese New Year
- 23 Egg foo yung pan
- 25 Lance Bass's old boy band
- 26 "Matilda" author Roald
- 28 Give a job to
- 29 Curry of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"
- 31 Corporate bigwig
- 32 Chris Pratt's "Parks and Rec" role
- 33 What folks on different pages might be talking at, and a hint to the circled letters
- 37 One who's no neatnik

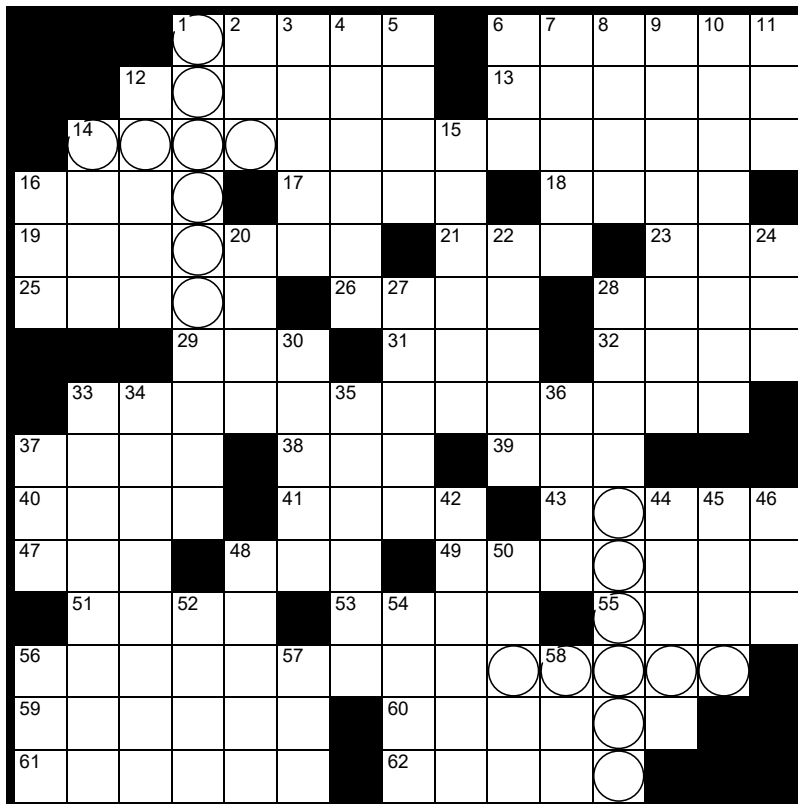
- 38 D.C. ballplayer
- 39 Period of historic significance
- 40 Food from a paddy
- 41 ___ cheese
- 43 Texted eggplant, maybe
- 47 Medium for confident solvers
- 48 Cubes at a bar
- 49 Bent down
- 51 Niger neighbor
- 53 PlayStation maker
- 55 Puente of "The Mambo Kings"
- 56 "I don't see why we're doing this"
- 59 Long-legged waders

- 60 Veer to avoid a duckling, e.g.
- 61 ___ out (one without a partner, say)
- 62 Oklahoma people

DOWN

- 1 Kansas song on their 1979 album "Monolith"
- 2 Georgia's capital: Abbr.
- 3 Religion practiced by Rep. Ilhan Omar
- 4 "Well, that ship has ___"
- 5 Sicilian smoker
- 6 LGs and RCAs, e.g.
- 7 Try to swipe
- 8 Actress ___ Rachel Wood
- 9 Bottleful at a fancy-schmancy bistro
- 10 "Damn" and "hell," per some strict parents
- 11 Outs' partners
- 12 Foolish
- 14 What the tough have in spades
- 15 Dufflo who's the youngest-ever winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics
- 16 Ruckus
- 20 Longtime TV procedural
- 22 Avoid having to send out wedding invites

- 24 Instrumental
- 27 Not right or obtuse
- 28 Is a suitable suspect in a whodunit, say
- 30 Chris Hayes's network
- 33 Secured, as a playoff berth
- 34 Like ripped abs
- 35 Most ashen
- 36 Snack featured in a Peyton Manning "Double Stuf Racing League" ad
- 37 ___ Lanka
- 42 "Best Colleges" list publisher
- 44 Think out loud
- 45 Blackhearts frontwoman Joan
- 46 "A thousand times, yes!"
- 48 Actress Menzel of "Frozen"
- 50 Like workaholics
- 52 Tiny matter split during WWII
- 54 Very, very
- 56 "Is that name supposed to be familiar to me?"
- 57 Tax ID
- 58 Non-profit URL ender



THEMELESS 13 by Sid Sivakumar & Brooke Husic

ACROSS

- 1 Poke bowl tuna
- 4 Tube : London ::
___ : Berlin
- 9 Often-dried chili
- 14 Title for RBG
- 17 Kicks out for good
- 19 Diet inspired by
stone-age humans
- 20 Athenian pioneer of
democracy
- 21 "I'm bringing ___
back" (lyric from
Justin Timberlake)
- 22 Quality of incisive
satire
- 23 Renaissance faire
costume piece
- 25 Açai tree
- 26 Tina's "30 Rock"
costar
- 27 Left-right or
right-left sequence
- 28 Falco who played
Carmela Soprano
- 29 Important keys in
many computer
games
- 31 Goddess who turned
Tiresias into a woman
- 32 Like the floors while
Cinderella was at the
ball, probably
- 34 Creates an infusion
- 35 Adzuki, for one
- 36 Pass from Colin
Kaepernick, e.g.:
Abbr.
- 38 Cups' caps
- 39 Food critic's asset
- 40 "___ Stop Believin'"
(Journey classic)
- 41 Well, well?
- 43 Outsides
- 45 Open a bunch of tabs,
perhaps?
- 46 Best-ever initials?
- 49 Err dramatically
- 50 Hybrid swimsuit
- 51 Reply to a sick burn
- 52 Living quarters in
"The Martian," with
"the"
- 53 Take a spill
- 54 "... except it didn't
happen, did it!"
- 55 "High School
Musical" anthem
expressing unity
- 61 Kick out
- 62 Covers up

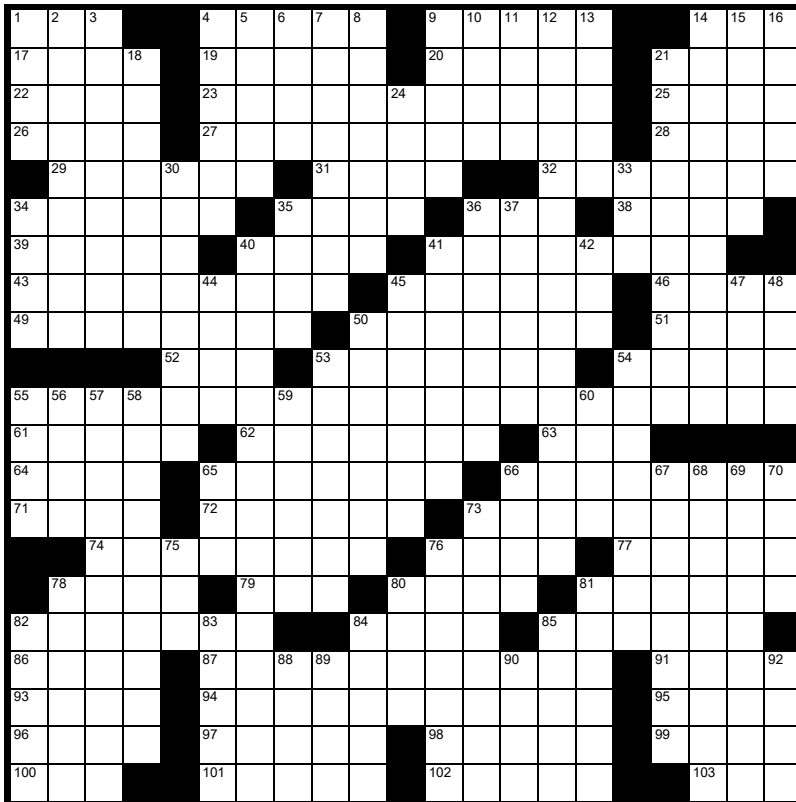
- 63 Stroller, for short
- 64 One-named Velvet
Underground singer
during the 1960s
- 65 Gender gap data
- 66 Dap
- 71 Bit of info, in slang
- 72 "Own that with pride!"
- 73 Like fake accounts
- 74 Some products with
woody-spicy scents
- 76 Nemo's asymmetrical
appendages
- 77 Sierra ___
- 78 Talk up
- 79 Kick-___ (fantastic)
- 80 Draw in
- 81 Old Madrid money
- 82 Cursed
- 84 What there are lots
of?
- 85 One that may flake
on you at a cafe?
- 86 Name in Norse
mythology
- 87 What some hobbies
may turn into
- 91 Flo Rida song with
an emotional title
- 93 Leaves slack-jawed
- 94 Green party
contributions?

- 95 Bupkis
- 96 Word in many sequel
titles
- 97 Taj Express terminus
- 98 Princess ___ (Puerto
Rican rapper who
shares a name with a
telecom giant)
- 99 Grasp
- 100 ___ admin
- 101 Nancy who was the
British Parliament's
first woman
- 102 One reaching out to
the stars
- 103 Pings on Twitter, for
short

DOWN

- 1 1974 Eurovision
winner
- 2 Raise your hand
while outside, maybe
- 3 Information on some
dating apps
- 4 V's, to violinists
- 5 Buildings with lofts
- 6 Onboard direction
- 7 Epithets that atheists
may use jokingly to
describe themselves
- 8 "Easy"
- 9 Humane org. with
ads featuring Sarah
McLachlan
- 10 "___ contendere"
(bit of legal
terminology hidden
in "terminology")
- 11 Mollusk that's happy
at high tide
- 12 Party issues that
might cause issues at
parties?
- 13 Result after dropping
a hit single, perhaps?
- 14 Went downhill
- 15 Flowers that sound
like animal features
- 16 HR hitter in Queens
- 18 Emits gently
- 21 Emitting forcefully
- 24 Divided
- 30 Accessory brought to
a theater
- 33 Camera using a
mirror and prism
system, for short
- 34 Acronym in many
educational initiatives
involving women
- 35 One unlikely to give
a memorable speech

- 36 It's blown at a
distance
- 37 Projectile fired out of
a cannon, at times
- 40 Linguistic intensifiers
- 41 Whoppers, but not
Big Macs
- 42 Prefix with "center"
- 44 Onetime scheduling
app for MacBooks
- 45 Spa gift option
- 47 Salicylic acid target
- 48 Name in Norse
mythology
- 50 Dojo surfaces
- 53 Concert codas
- 54 Retirement windows
- 55 Meander
- 56 Woman's name that
sounds like its first
two letters
- 57 Kitchen appliances
sometimes used to
make thick pancakes
(Google it!)
- 58 Green visitor
- 59 Ancient road builders
- 60 Knightly deed
- 65 Site honored by the
Marine Corps War
Memorial, informally
- 66 Penalty for some
flagrant fouls
- 67 Proudly possessing
- 68 Program before the
main event
- 69 State for Joan of Arc
- 70 Court retort
- 73 Buddy or Bo, e.g.
- 75 4G ___ (Verizon
offering)
- 76 Anthropomorphized
animal identity
- 78 Like some roads and
radios
- 80 Extol
- 81 Volkswagen model
that's German for
"trade wind"
- 82 Is a musical banger,
in slang
- 83 Carne choice at
Chipotle
- 84 Department manager
- 85 Jacques who won
an Emmy with Julia
Child
- 88 Doofus
- 89 Pedalboard effect
- 90 Word used similarly
as "you know"
- 92 Himalayan bovines



PUBLIC WORKS *by Neville Fogarty*

Eight of the Down clues in this variety cryptic puzzle are composed of straight clues for two different answers. The central shaded entry at 22-Across, which you might think of as a sort of “public works,” indicates how to get from one of those answers to the other. In each case, enter the resultant answer into the grid.

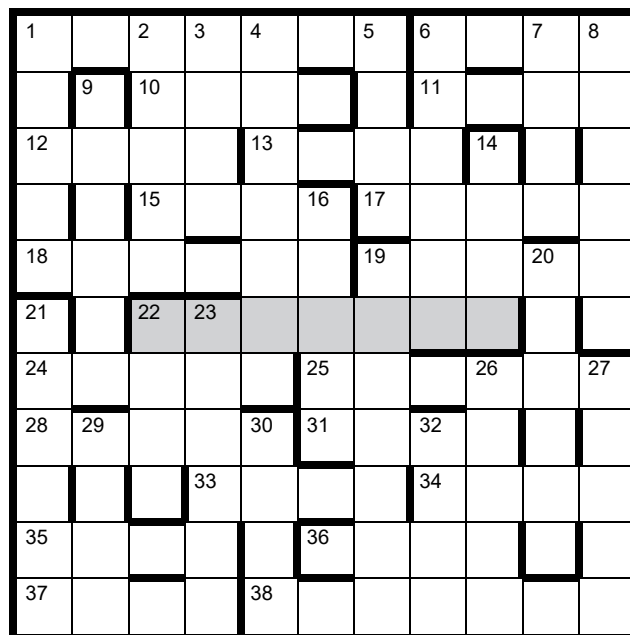
ACROSS

- 1 Oppressive rulers keep last of munitions in military warehouses (7)
- 6 Self-important person returned all but a fourth of investment instruments (4)
- 10 Dab of indigo in explosive color (4)
- 11 Overhang edges away from paradise (4)
- 12 Blade cuts through orange peel (4)
- 13 Like six or seven heading off (4)
- 15 Pass slippery snakes (4)
- 17 Energy in unrestrained exercise (5)
- 18 Played out icy tête-à-tête without leading captains (3,3)
- 19 Gang poses awkwardly (5)
- 22 *See instructions*
- 24 Parent, needing no introduction, is something else (5)

- 25 A tomato’s nice smells (6)
- 28 YouTube.com, e.g., phasing out ad for clothing (5)
- 31 Shelled part of a flower’s not wild (4)
- 33 Food used to make Christmas pudding (4)
- 34 Ancient American in California (4)
- 35 Imitation white chocolate ingredient (4)
- 36 Sell five and be done (4)
- 37 College administrator put down without me (4)
- 38 Shock about Caesar returning for buff people? (7)

DOWN

- 1 Finish and start with Maradona (5)
- 2 Drunken date’s place (5)
- 3 Bashes desserts (4)
- 4 Open-air resort’s lowly hand (3,4)



- 5 Worry lifestyle expert Martha (4)
- 6 “I snore,” snarled elder (6)
- 7 Erasure dropping opening band’s track (4)
- 8 Mixologist event with a lot of drinking (6)
- 9 Website offering fruity baked good (6)
- 14 Monster without a top (4)
- 16 Stop at nothing, missing Irish icon (2,3)
- 19 Showed off dad with terrible dread (7)
- 20 Stiffen map of the night sky (6)
- 21 Avoided compact car of the ’60s and ’70s (6)
- 22 Leader loses one worker in the kitchen (4)
- 23 Fewer working class (6)
- 26 Fixes conclusion in manuscript (5)
- 27 Drenches trees after start of spring (5)
- 29 Take penny off of cost of staple food (4)
- 30 Austere period (4)
- 32 Wee cocktail (4)

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EDITORS

Christopher Adams	Wyna Liu
Eric Berlin	Todd McClary
Patrick Berry	Will Nediger
Evan Birnholz	Anna-Marie Ruoff
Laura Braunstein	Mike Selinker
Victor Fleming	Ken Stern
Juliana Tringali Golden	Matthew Stock
Francis Heaney	

TEST-SOLVERS

Christopher Adams	Amy Goldstein	David Plotkin
Erik Agard	Peter Gordon	Andrew Ries
Richard Allen	Matt Gritzmacher	Claire Rimkus
Tracy Bennett	Francis Heaney	Anna-Marie Ruoff
Debbie Ellerin	Jeremy Horwitz	Mike Selinker
Rachel Fabi	Wyna Liu	Ken Stern
Victor Fleming	Will Nediger	Matthew Stock
Juliana Tringali Golden	Jon Olsen	

ARTWORK

Charles Montpetit

PDF FORMATTING

Patrick Berry

WEBSITE

Jesse Lansner

CHARITY RESEARCH AND OTHER PROJECT SUPPORT

Eric Berlin	Vicki Jones
Laura Braunstein	Doug Peterson
Ori Brian	Ken Stern
Nate Cardin	Allison Uttaro
Brian Cimmet	Patti Varol
Chris King	



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Christopher Adams (he/him/his) is an indie puzzle maker currently living in Iowa City, Iowa. In addition to his own site, arctanxwords.blogspot.com, he has had puzzles published via the American Values Club Crossword, The New York Times, the The Wall Street Journal, and The Los Angeles Times, among many other outlets.

Erik Agard (he/him) helps with the [Crossword Puzzle Collaboration Directory](#), a resource for puzzle makers from underrepresented groups.

Tracy Bennett (she/her) is a managing copy editor for Mathematical Reviews/MathSciNet in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is the cofounder, with Laura Braunstein, of The Inkubator: puzzles by women — cis women, trans women, and woman-aligned constructors (inkubatorcrosswords.com/).

Eric Berlin is the author of the middle-grade novel “The Puzzling World of Winston Breen” and its sequels. His crosswords have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, and many other outlets. His most recent book is the puzzle collection “Puzzlesnacks” (more information at puzzlesnacks.com). His other charity puzzle project is “The Social Distancing Puzzles” (socialdistancing.ericberlin.com/).

Patrick Berry is a professional puzzle constructor whose work has appeared in Harper’s, The New Yorker, The New York Times, and many other publications. He is also the author of the “Crossword Constructor’s Handbook,” a how-to book on crossword construction available at www.aframegames.com.

Evan Birnholz (he/him) is a professional puzzle constructor who has written the weekly crossword in The Washington Post Magazine since 2015. He lives in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, with his wife Vicki Jones and their cat Leeloo Dallas Multipass. Outside of puzzles, he sings in the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia. You can find him on Twitter at [@evanbirnholz](https://twitter.com/evanbirnholz).

Patrick Blindauer (he/him) is an actor and puzzle maker living in St. Louis, where he can also be found playing tabletop games with his wife, Rebecca, and his daughter, Magnolia. He published his first crossword in 2005, and has since written hundreds of puzzles, many crossword books, and seven suites of puzzles which can be found on his website, patrickspuzzles.com. Patrick is honored to be a part of this awesome project.

Derek Bowman (he/him) is an avid crossword constructor from Winnipeg, Manitoba. He has constructed puzzles for his local gay publication Outwards and the Canadian queer-focused news publication Xtra, and he has a regular, bimonthly puzzle in Reader’s Digest Canada.

Laura Braunstein (she/her) is a librarian in northern New Hampshire and the cofounder, with Tracy Bennett, of The Inkubator: puzzles by women — cis women, trans women, and woman-aligned constructors (inkubatorcrosswords.com). Find her on Twitter at [@laurabrararian](https://twitter.com/laurabrararian).

Zhouqin Burnikel grew up in Xi’an, China. She worked in Guangzhou for six years before moving to the U.S. in 2001. She became a U.S. citizen in June 2010.

Nate Cardin (he/him/his) is a high school chemistry teacher in Los Angeles, where he lives with his husband and puppy. He is the founder and organizer of Queer Qrosswords (queerqrosswords.com), which has released two sets of LGBTQ+-themed puzzles written by LGBTQ+ constructors to benefit LGBTQ+ charities. His crosswords have appeared in The New York Times, the American Values Club Crossword, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Universal Crosswords, and Matt Gaffney’s Weekly Crossword Contest. Find him on Twitter ([@naytnaytnayt](https://twitter.com/naytnaytnayt)) talking about crosswords, “Survivor,” and being super gay.

Debbie Ellerin lives in Los Angeles. She is a long-time crossword solver who began constructing in 2014. She has been published in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and The Wall Street Journal, as well as other sites. She is a former computer programmer. She enjoys reading and traveling.

Sam Ezersky, associate puzzles editor for The New York Times, was thrilled by this opportunity to construct his first “indie-style” themeless in years. In addition to being part of the Times crossword’s editorial team, he is the editor/creator of the digital word games Spelling Bee and Letter Boxed, and a cohost on Wordplay’s weekly “Crosswords Live” series. You can follow him on Twitter at [@thegridkid](#).

Rachel Fabi (she/her/hers) is a longtime solver, newish constructor, and bi-weekly blogger of crossword puzzles. She is a professor of bioethics and “Jeopardy!” champion who enjoys bad puns, good trivia, and arguing about health policy and ethics on the internet ([@faBioethics](#) on Twitter).

Rebecca Falcon (she/her) lives in New York and works in operations for Broadway and film festivals. Her puzzles have been published in various outlets and she was the organizer of this year’s [Crosswords Women’s March](#). She’s on Twitter at [@rebeccafalcon18](#).

Victor Fleming is a judge in Little Rock, Arkansas, and an adjunct faculty member at Bowen School of Law. As author or co-author, he’s had 46 crosswords in The New York Times. He was in the 2006 documentary “Wordplay,” performing his song “If You Don’t Come Across, I’m Gonna Be Down.” He has published 1,000+ crosswords in Simon & Schuster and Random House books, Games, The Rotarian, The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Daily Record, Universal Press Syndicate, and other venues.

Neville Fogarty lives alone in Newport News, Virginia, where he works as a math professor. He sold his first crossword puzzle in 2008.

Lily Geller (she/her/hers) lives in Brooklyn, New York. She enjoys puzzles of most kinds and has a perpetual backlog of those, books, movies, and TV shows which will never get cleared.

Juliana Tringali Golden (she/her) lives in Oakland, California. She is a full-time editor and mother of two, and she contributes to The Inkubator as a managing editor. She has had puzzles published in The Inkubator and the American Values Club Crossword, with more to come in Crosswords Club and The New York Times.

Amy Goldstein is a puzzle writer whose solo and collaborative work for kids and adults has appeared in many books and major newspapers and magazines. Currently, The Week Junior magazine features weekly puzzles for kids by Amy and her partners at Puzzability. Amy runs the Bryant Park Crossword Tournament with Mike Shenk every September, though perhaps not in 2020. She also tests and checks all the puzzles for The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post Magazine, and Fireball Crosswords.

Peter Gordon started [Fireball Crosswords](#) in 2010. He has been a puzzle book editor for Sterling Publishing for 23 years. He’s had New York Times crosswords in five straight decades from the 1980s to today. On Twitter he’s [@XWORDS](#).

David Harris (he/him) is an IP attorney living in New York City with his husband. He’s excited for this collection to have one of his first ever published puzzles, but no pressure to praise it or anything, he’s totally not self-conscious. He recently started [GridProQuo.blogspot.com](#), where he posts puzzles too nerdy or goofy to fly anywhere else.

Francis Heaney (he/him) is a regular contributor to the [American Values Crossword Club](#) and the organizer and editor of 2017's [Puzzles for Progress](#), a fundraiser for progressive causes created as a response to Trump's election. His puzzles have appeared in Games magazine, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Wired, Entertainment Weekly, Time Out, and numerous others. Besides having written a bunch of puzzle books, he is also the author of "Holy Tango of Literature," a collection of anagram-based literary pastiches, which sold exactly as well as you imagine. He's [@fheaney](#) on Twitter and [@heaneyf](#) on Instagram (where he mostly posts pictures of cats and ties).

Brooke Husic (she/her/hers) is a postdoc in math & computer science in Berlin, Germany. She contributes crossword puzzles to USA Today. You can find her on Twitter at [@brookehus](#) or her alter ego [@xandraladee](#). Her Erdos number is 3.

Matt Jackson is a native of Washington, D.C. and past champion on the game show "Jeopardy!" on which he won 13 games in a row (as of now, the sixth-longest winning streak in the show's history) and was recently a runner-up in the 2019 "Jeopardy! All-Star Games." This is his debut published puzzle.

Jesse Lansner lives in Rochester, New York, with his wife, kids, cats, and dog. When not solving or constructing puzzles, he works as a web developer and volunteers with the Rochester Community Players. You can find his puzzles at [jklcrosswords.com](#), and you can find him on Twitter at [@jesselansner](#).

Wyna Liu makes jewelry and crosswords in New York City, and is an assistant editor for the American Values Club Crossword. Her puzzles have appeared in that publication, as well as The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Inkubator, among other venues. When she's not puzzling, she enjoys teaching yoga and hanging out with her dog, Polo. Find her on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) at [@wynaliu](#).

Todd McClary is a game designer from Aurora, Colorado. His design work includes escape rooms, immersive experiences, corporate puzzle events, murder mystery parties, parlor games, and crosswords. Todd is a regular contributor to Crosswords With Friends. His latest book is "Fresh Freestyle Crosswords."

Will Nediger (he/him) is a puzzle and trivia writer who lives in London, Ontario, whose crosswords can be found at [blog.bewilderinglypuzzles.com](#).

Rich O'Malley (he/him) is a writer and editor who lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Christy. A former executive editor of The New York Daily News, Rich published his first book, "One Lucky Fan: From Bleachers to Box Seats, Chasing the Ultimate Sports Dream to Visit All 123 MLB, NBA, NFL & NHL Teams" in June 2019. He made his cruciverbalist debut last year during guest constructor month for Matt Gaffney's Weekly Crossword Contest. He's on The Tweeties ([@richomalley](#)) and The Intertubes ([richomalley.com](#)).

Joon Pahk (he/him) is a puzzle maker who lives in Somerville, Massachusetts. His crosswords have appeared in the usual newspaper sources, along with tournaments like Lollapuzzoola and Boswords. He now constructs Rows Gardens and other variety puzzles for his subscription puzzle service, Outside the Box Puzzles ([joonpahk.com](#)).

Doug Peterson has been constructing puzzles for over 15 years, and his crosswords regularly appear in most of the usual places. When not solving or creating puzzles, he likes to read comic books and listen to heavy metal music, preferably at the same time.

Brendan Emmett Quigley has been a professional puzzle maker since 1996. When not weaving words, he plays a 1933 Royal in the Boston Typewriter Orchestra. Brendan lives in Brookline, Massachusetts with his wife Liz and their daughter Tabitha.

Amanda Rafkin (she/her) is a Los Angeles-based musical theater pianist and crossword constructor. Her puzzles have been published with The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, Universal, the American Values Club Crossword, The Atlantic, and The Inkubator. She also posts daily puzzles at amandarafkin.blogspot.com. You can find her on twitter at [@AmandaRafkin](https://twitter.com/AmandaRafkin).

Caitlin Reid lives in Orange County, California. She's currently a stay-at-home mom to her four young children and has been making crossword puzzles in any spare time she can muster since 2017. Her puzzles have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Inkubator, and other venues. If she's not with her family or a crossword, you can find her playing piano.

Claire Rimkus lives in Massachusetts and enjoys both making and solving puzzles.

Anna-Marie Ruoff (she/her/hers) is an exotic animal veterinarian, science nerd, and puzzle enthusiast. She lives in Arizona with her partner, four lizards, and a tortoise (appropriately named Puzzle). She has written puzzles for The Inkubator and Matt Gaffney's Weekly Crossword Contest. Anna-Marie also enjoys tea, escape rooms, video games, and hiking.

Mike Selinker (he/him) is a game and puzzle designer from Seattle, Washington. His books include the puzzle novel "The Maze of Games," "Puzzlecraft: How to Make Every Kind of Puzzle," and "Game Theory in the Age of Chaos." He owns the game company [Lone Shark Games](http://LoneSharkGames.com), and is known for developing games like Betrayal at House on the Hill, the Pathfinder Adventure Card Game, Lords of Vegas, and Unspeakable Words. You can reach him on Twitter at [@mikeselinker](https://twitter.com/mikeselinker) and you can find more of his charity puzzles at lonesharkgames.com/donation and puzzlepop.co.

Sid Sivakumar (he/him) is an MD/PhD student and word nerd based in St. Louis, Missouri. He contributes crosswords to various publications, including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and the American Values Club Crossword. He also runs his own indie puzzle site, Sid's Grids (sidsgrids.com). If he's not working on research, puzzles, or music, he might be eating your food.

Robin Stears is a writer and crossword puzzle constructor who has published three novels and thousands of crossword puzzles. She aspires to a life of creating, drinking coffee, and hanging out with Santa Claus.

Ken Stern (he/him) lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife, two school-age children and dog. An avid solver and once-in-a-while constructor, he is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this collection. He works for the Advanced Placement (AP) program at the College Board, and enjoys coffee, trivia, and periodically writing a [#crypticclueoftheday](https://twitter.com/crypticclueoftheday) on Twitter at [@ckstern](https://twitter.com/ckstern).

Matthew Stock (he/him) lives in St. Louis, Missouri, where he teaches ninth-grade algebra through an Americorps-affiliated fellowship. He has been contributing work for various puzzle publications since December 2019, and he now runs his own site (happylittlepuzzles.com). When he's not constructing crosswords, Matthew can be found playing pickup basketball or posting photos of his kitten on Twitter ([@1MatthewStock](https://twitter.com/1MatthewStock)).

Ross Trudeau (he/him) is a writer and educator in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His puzzles have appeared in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, Universal Crosswords, and many other outlets. He publishes a weekly independent puzzle at Rossword Puzzles (rosswordpuzzles.com).

Robyn Weintraub lives in Westchester County, New York and has been constructing crosswords for ten years. Her puzzles have appeared in The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Los Angeles Times, The Inkubator, Crosswords with Friends, and other venues. She has also constructed puzzles for the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, Lollapuzzoola, and the "West Wing Weekly" podcast. Last, but hardly least, her name includes all five vowels and the letter Y.