

CRYPTOGRAMS

Jul C-3. Fire and ice.

yodaughter, Houston TX

DIU MI SIC TFIA *JWLWMBWL ZWJIL OQIV
 JCQNBH BL FDX AWL? WNN SIC DWPX FI MI BT
 FWEX WUWS BFT FBLS ZQIIVT.

Aug C-5. Crowd control.

RIDDLE, Santa Rosa CA

CPFQO UW YUWO CF QOO BRGFSQ YORWUWK
 CFHOT RTO SWTSYN. XFIOWC IPUXOQ, "HPOW UW
 *UCRYN, GUWX NFST *JUQRW VSOSOQ."

Mar C-6. Count on it.

DRAUK, Midland MI

OG OVL TMOIK, BTTXOKH IBVDKIBVOEL
 XKQOVOIBVONKL OGVKMHOLEOTXOGBMU
 EYCGVKMOGVKXXOQKGEK.

Apr C-6. Solve for title. †

FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA

BIRPX ROVZJJTVSYN HJTHIJTP, YRLT SQRX
 XDGBRXXRZO GTROF XTOS SZ SQT VJNHSZFJIB
 TPRSZJ GN BRXSILT (SMTYCT)

Dec C-6. By any other name. †

InA, Ridgeway ID

ME TLM MPIL JDSOXL HEP MWOU ZPDCM UWOHM
 HNFL XEV HEIP CSNZLU (OXULPM UCNZL) NXR
 ZOCWLP TOBLX IXPLNS CSNZL XNVL.



THE ENIGMA

JUNE 2021 • THE NATIONAL PUZZLERS' LEAGUE • EST. 1883 • SPECIAL EDITION

GOLDEN SPHINX BITS

From the Golden Sphinx Committee

/dev/joe, Btnirn, LeXman, Sue++, and ♡

We're very excited to present this year's *Enigma* supplemental issue containing all of last year's Golden Sphinx nominees. We hope you enjoy seeing these excellent puzzles, whether it's a reminder of your solving from last year, or it's for the first time.

The Enigma depends on puzzle contributions from the membership. Year after year the talent and generosity of the many contributors is on display. The Krewe has always been eager to recognize these contributions, as evidenced by the longstanding tradition of giving kudos to individual puzzles, and of tabulating these kudos in the solving report once the year is over. Starting in 2015 (for *Enigma* year 2014), the Golden Sphinxes were an attempt to take this concept even further, by conducting a "black tie" ceremony (well, at least Teki was in black tie!) at the Con banquet to honor exceptional contributors to *The Enigma*. We were very grateful to have Dart step forward and create a beautiful design for the pins, which are small but sincere tokens of our appreciation to the constructors.

Solvers' kudos counts are used to select the candidates you'll find in this special issue. However, because some puzzle types have very shallow kudos profiles, with many puzzles sharing the same kudos count, and because there is variability in the number of Krewe who sent kudos between months, we're giving you the chance to decide among these candidates. The winners in this final vote will be recognized at this year's Con.

We hope that this supplemental issue will make it easier to review and enjoy all of the nominees. We look forward to your votes, and to bestowing the awards at this year's Con.

Most of all, our deepest appreciation for all of the 2020 puzzle contributors—your talent and generosity of spirit are what keeps *The Enigma* going. A special thanks to yodaughter, who, even after last year, still got excited about all the extra work she would do. Also thanks to Btnirn for editing all the 2020 puzzles, Quicks?lver and /dev/joe for compiling the kudos, and Qoz for putting the online voting onto the website.

From the Compositor

Puzzles types are presented in the same order as in *The Enigma*. The puzzles themselves are laid out so as to fit the space and do not reflect any particular ranking. In each regular issue, cryptograms are on the back page, numbered 1 through 7 by estimated difficulty, and they are presented in that way here.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Each member can vote for their one favorite puzzle in each category; it's possible to abstain from one or more categories if desired. Please vote online at <https://krewe.puzzlers.org/sphinxes>.

If you don't want to vote online, please write a list of each nominee you are voting for and its category (limit one vote per category; abstentions are possible). Send the list to Sue++ (Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701). Please be sure to include your nom so that we can verify the vote.

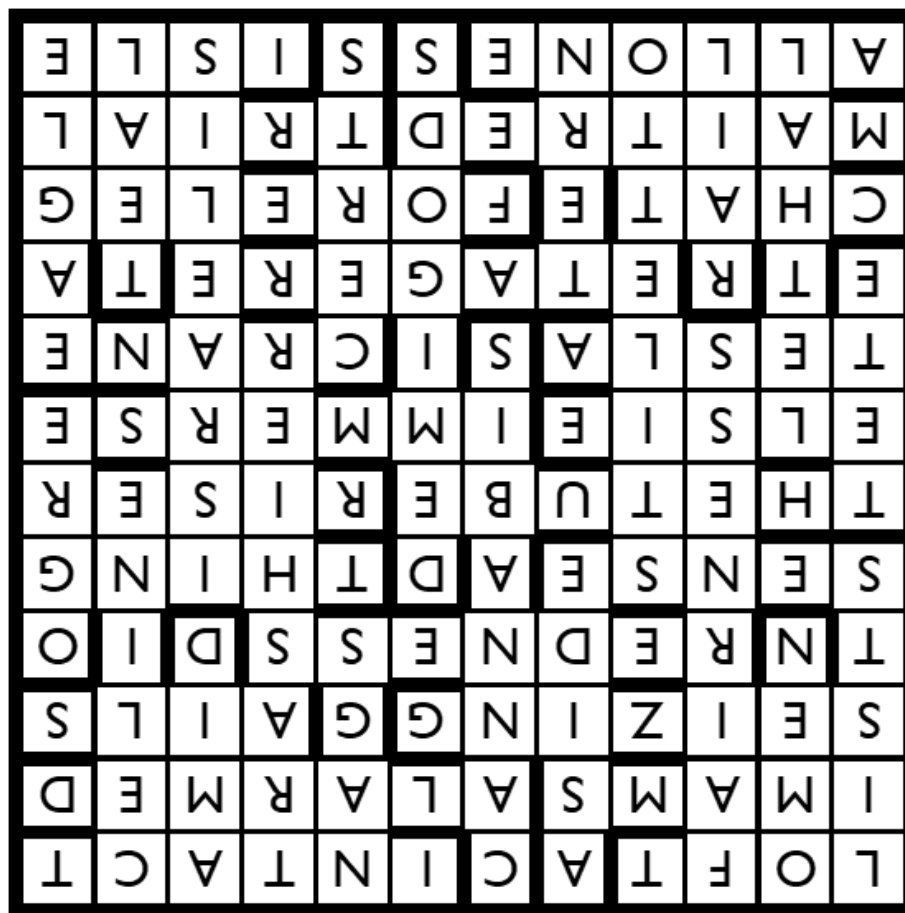
The deadline for voting by either method is June 26, 2021, midnight Pacific time; for mail-in votes this means the ballot must be received by then.



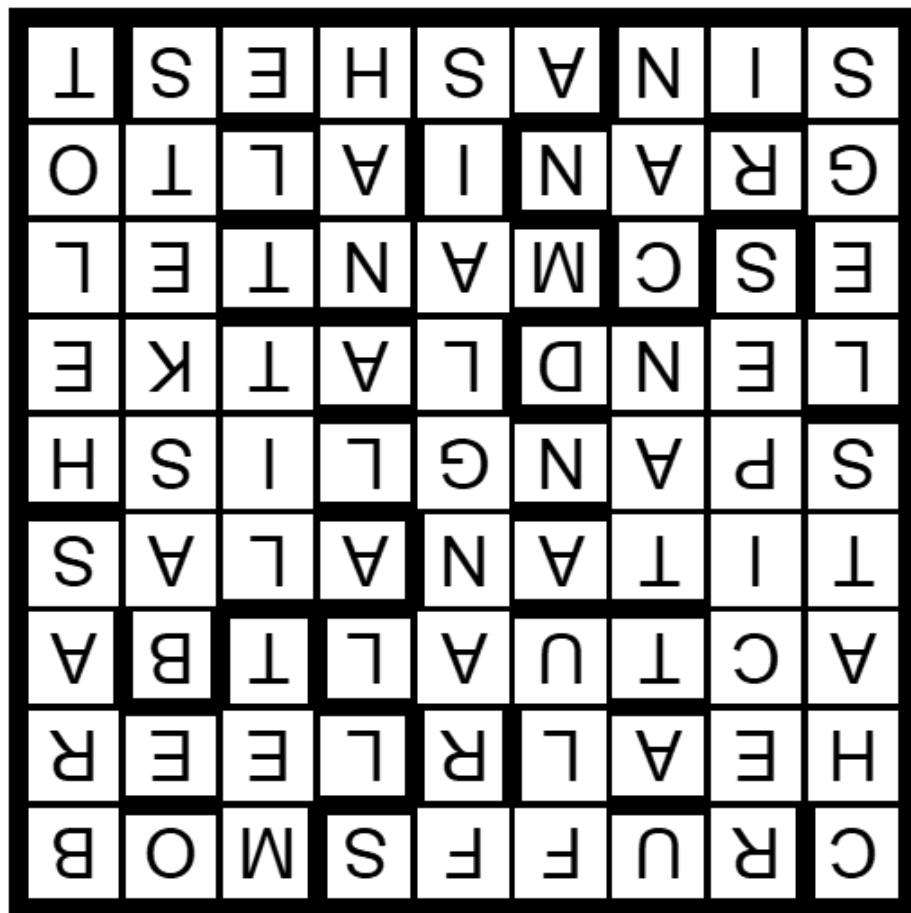
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The ENIGMA (ISSN 1932-4448) is the monthly magazine of the National Puzzlers' League (<http://www.puzzlers.org>), a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1883. Membership dues are \$30, including a subscription to *The ENIGMA*; \$35 for overseas airmail; \$35 for large print (North America only); and \$20 for members not receiving printed issues. Send dues (in US funds, payable to the National Puzzlers' League), address changes, and requests not to mail printed copies to the treasurer, \$8.90, Katie Hamill, 27 Lanark Rd, Arlington, MA 02476, treasurer@puzzlers.org. PayPal payment is accepted using treasurer@puzzlers.org. Back issues are \$1.50, from the editor. **Web contacts:** To create a puzzlers.org alias or join the npl-folk list: postmaster@puzzlers.org. To report website problems: webmaster@puzzlers.org. To obtain a username/password: treasurer@puzzlers.org. **Submitting materials:** Send extras to ☞ (VROO), Bruce Leban, 13816 NE 36th PL, Bellevue, WA 98005, extras@puzzlers.org. Send forms to JO THE LOITERER, Julian Ochrymowych, 35 Smithfield Court, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, forms@puzzlers.org. Send cryptic crosswords to XEMU, Guy Jacobson, 4 Adrian Ter., Bridgewater, NJ 08807, cryptics@puzzlers.org. Send cryptograms to LEXMAN, Alex Kolker, 6025 Lakehurst Drive, Davenport, IA 52807, crypts@puzzlers.org. Send flats to BTNIRN, Sandy Kutin, 16 Magnolia Ln, Princeton, NJ 08540, flats@puzzlers.org. Send convention material to T MCAY, conprogram@puzzlers.org. Send articles and anything not covered above to the editor, BTNIRN, Sandy Kutin, 16 Magnolia Ln, Princeton, NJ 08540, editor@puzzlers.org. Copyright © 2021, National Puzzlers' League. All rights reserved. For permissions, apply to the editor.



Nov X-1.
Six answers have 4-5 letters removed: 1A set[ra]lizing, 15A relate[dress], 17A Sen[egale]se, 20A th[at]ching, 1D l[ar]cen[ists], 10D ce[nter] line. The removed letter strings can be transposed to birds: rail, teal, eagle, chat, crane, tern. The definitions for the altered grid entries are six of the extraneous words: 24A (capturing), 19D (glow), 33A (feeling), 22D (specialty), 29A (catalogs), 7D (Dion). The first letters of the remaining extraneous words spell "Flying south is for the birds."



Aug X-1. In seven across clues (8, 9, 13, 20, 22, 23, 24), the definition must be translated into Spanish to yield the answer. In six down clues (1, 5, 6, 10, 14, 17), the definition must be translated into French. The extra letters in the remaining thirteen clues spell "ROT SIXTEEN YES". Advancing each letter in "YES" sixteen steps yields "OUR".

PUZZLE NOTES

(The first flat.) This originally appeared between Mar 10 and Mar 12 just as it appears here. In order to avoid any confusion in solving, I have not added the month reference to the flat itself. On the ballot, this flat will be identified by its month reference. —The Compositor

Jul 46. Combinom: Shakespeare/Bartok. Solvers had to submit the flat and form solutions to receive credit.

Dec 2. To the tune of the Hanukkah song "Mi Yimalel".

Nov F-1. Diamonds A and B overlap: the letters around the hole in A match the letters around the outside of B. Diamonds B and C overlap similarly.

Nov F-7. Answers in the same row are clued consecutively, with either a ; or a | to separate the clues. If two clues are separated by a ;, then the two answers are separated by one or more blank squares in the grid. If two clues are separated by a |, then the two answers are separated by a heavy grid bar (no blank squares).

Dec F-1. Answers in the same row are clued consecutively, with a | to separate clues. If two clues are separated by a |, then the two answers are separated by a heavy bar in the grid.

Jul E-3. Combinom: Drauk/Witz.

Dec E-7. A "base fiddles" is a variant of a cryptic form. Each clue includes material that must be removed before solving. The cryptic clue's solution can be transformed to the answer word (clued by the removed material) by a standard Enigma flat type. Clues are arranged randomly.

Apr C-6. Solvers had to include the title with the solution.

Dec C-6. ZPDCM, XEV = non-MW usage.



NOMINEES

Solution words and phrases not found in 11C (11th Collegiate) are labeled by the Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: NI3 (in print), online MW (www.merriam-webster.com), or NI2. Non-MW words and usages are noted. “+” signifies foreign, slang, dialect, obsolete, archaic, and the like. Capitalized words get a “*”; words in all-caps get “**”. Words that are capitalized (as in names or titles) but normally uncanceled with the same usage get a “^” or “^^”. Puzzles with a puzzle note get a “†”.

Enumeration for MW phrases is [bracketed] in anagrams and flat types where non-MW phrases are allowed, to wit: spoonergrams, mutations, palindromes, rebuses, heteronyms and homonyms, welded flats, variations on these types, and flats labeled “freewheeling”.

The website for voting is available from 1-26 June 2021, or mail your list to Sue++, Susan Glass, 12 Shady Ln, Framingham MA 01701. All mailed votes must be received by 26 June 2021.

This puzzle poetic is number eleven:
A rebus by rights, enigmatic, to trouble
ya.

The sol we'd enumerate four two five
seven.

The reading has usage not found in
MW.

Let's start with things trigonometric to
grow on.

Mathematical legerdemain is my
offerin'.

Arctangent, arccosine, arcsecant and so
on:

Arccotangent, arcsine, arccosecant
profferin'.

The great feat of math I'll perform with
these notions?

I'll count them, of course! So let's see...
there are six of 'em.

Took eight seconds WRATH functions,
thank you. These motions

Astound every genius when I'm in the
mix of 'em.

No title, no tags nor familiar designs
are

Preceded these quatrains. As for my
beholden state:

For reading these thought-trains, I
thank you. These lines are

By Bartok (La Habra's his town in the
Golden State). †

Nov 16. PHONETIC TRIPLICATION
(6 1 4 4) (second 4 = not MW)

A true connoisseur of the Indian meal,
This vulgarian knows if he's served the
real deal.

Potatoes? They must be authentic, no
bluff—

You'll be cussed at and cursed if you
try to SOL bluff.

=AROUND EVE, Chicago IL

Apr 16. PROGRESSIVE WORD
DELETION (6 7) (tagging withheld)

WHOLE VARIANT

Grand slam, e.g. / ONE, Aslan, or some
such /

Where FOUR, god of fertility, was
much

Revered around eleven hundred TWO /
A synonym for “junior” / Armstrong

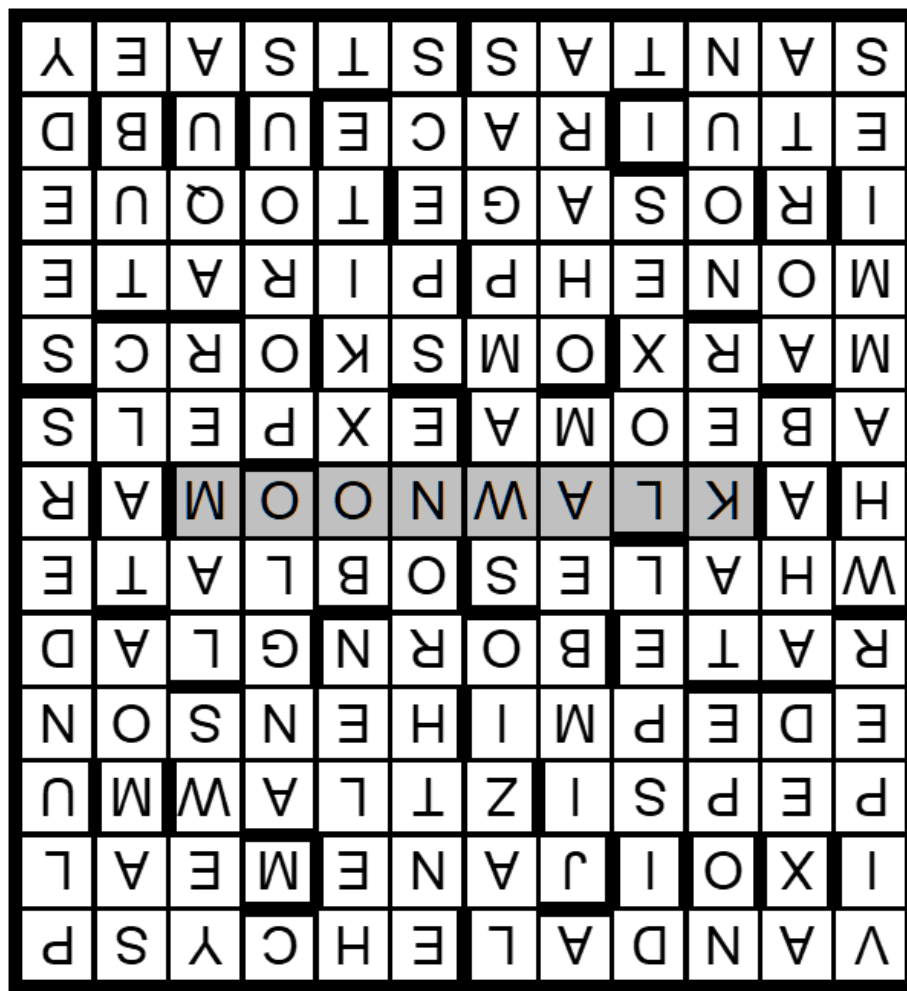
who
Set foot upon the moon / The second
tone /

A cashless option / Been at rest or
prone /

Impede / A crew hand touring with the
band /

A claw can pull it THREE / The
Huskers' land

=BARTOK, La Habra CA



Jul X-2.
First letters from (a) clues: Neil Armstrong. First letters from (b)
and (c) clues: Michael Jackson.

May 4. LAST-LETTER CHANGE (4)
(*C = not MW)

The goddess *A once sought a B—
One strong enough to poison *C
(Though only closest friends would dare
To call him by that nickname). Their
Hostilities had first begun
(He was her husband's bastard son)
Before his birth, so *C was not
Surprised on learning of her plot.
He came to her and boasted, "Do
You think that you can best me, who
Once charmed then slew a warrior
queen,
And washed the stalls in Elis clean,
And stole the D of Geryon?"
*A would not answer, whereupon
*C said, "So long as I am E,
Could you explain one thing to me?"
I do not see why I'm your foeman.
You are Greek and I am Roman."
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

Sep 41. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (5 4)
(online MW)

A. I gently spoke, but now I shout!
The poor are in, the rich are out!

B. Hang every king. Be not dismayed
Let gallows be our stock in trade!

C. Entire castles set aflame!
Let none escape their fiery shame!

The revolution starts at three.
By five we shall new rulers be!
=SCARAB, St. Paul MN

FORMS

Nov F-1. CONNECTED DIAMONDS †

A. HOLLOW DIAMOND
1 Excellent
2 Wife
3 Five, in combinations

- 4 A yellow melon
- 5 When birds, such as the ones
represented by these forms, shed
their juvenile feathers (not MW)
- 6 John McCain's wife (Wikipedia);
Asian assorted appetizers (perhaps
served on platters)
- 7 Chums; Spasm
- 8 Sloppy; Of age
- 9 Painter Max; Beehives, for example
- 10 Imprint; Having more frost
- 11 Near; One who touches up
imperfectly dyed cloth
- 12 Leader of the pack; What form C is
most
- 13 What you get if you arrange the
birds represented by these forms in
the same way as the solutions fit
- 14 More liquid (and perhaps containing
bits of the birds represented by
forms B and C)
- 15 Like some statesmen
- 16 Rocky hill
- 17 Satisfactory

B. HOLLOW DIAMOND

- 1 An offensive football formation
- 2 Islands known for their giant stone
money
- 3 Wooden shoe
- 4 Tuber; Age
- 5 Bill; Bird not represented by any of
these forms
- 6 He wrote of a raven; 106 in old Rome
- 7 District of Rome with a famous
fountain (Wikipedia)
- 8 Friend
- 9 Characteristic of the upper class

C. DIAMOND

- 1 Good grade
- 2 West for whom a life jacket was named
- 3 Coat with liquid while cooking, as
you might do with one of the birds
represented by these forms
- 4 And so on
- 5 Error
=/dev/joe, Salem MA

Dec F-1.

LOOFHS
FAPILONS
FAMILIOTS
CARPETBOMBING
TOTESBRYANSEARS
RACEDFIANCESPATE
DARKSCREPI TANTSPANS
RIOTCAENWGNPARREGO
ALTAVOERAHATMAESTRI
CHRISTMASTIMEISNEAR
HEELTOOHWOVILILEODIE
MAMAMARABAFESTWCOLE
ADDISLOMEATERROVES
SEXEDSTARRIEDTINED
RELETLATWISER
SEPARATELIVES
NOIIMITLON
SINIOYAS
SEENSAV

Nov F-7.

STY NEZ
ETHOSFIVES
LOEWEMINERT
KLEINIEROY
IMEDMEYER
BADNAPS CLOSE ALA
ROLEMODELSINAMOCK
COLLABORATIVENETWORK
TRIFLEBOBOWLPESOSLASD
SETTLERS NAN AXES
APED ESD GYMSOCKS
ABOVEERENESMETHLIA
MAKEFORESTUNIVERSITY
STENDTOMORREMITLIAMEN
ERS EAGLE CONSORTS
WARESATVS
IROCCREELS
INONKAYAK
HIVESSMOKY
OED SUE

S
TOR
ELDER
SQUIER
TURDUCKEN
ALPHAMINER
ABOUTREVIKER
STAMPOETCICIER
ERNSTABASTEMUDOS
MESSYAMERADULT
PARDSABOTHOE
CINDYAPUPUS
FIRSTMOLT
CASSABA
PENTA
MRS
E

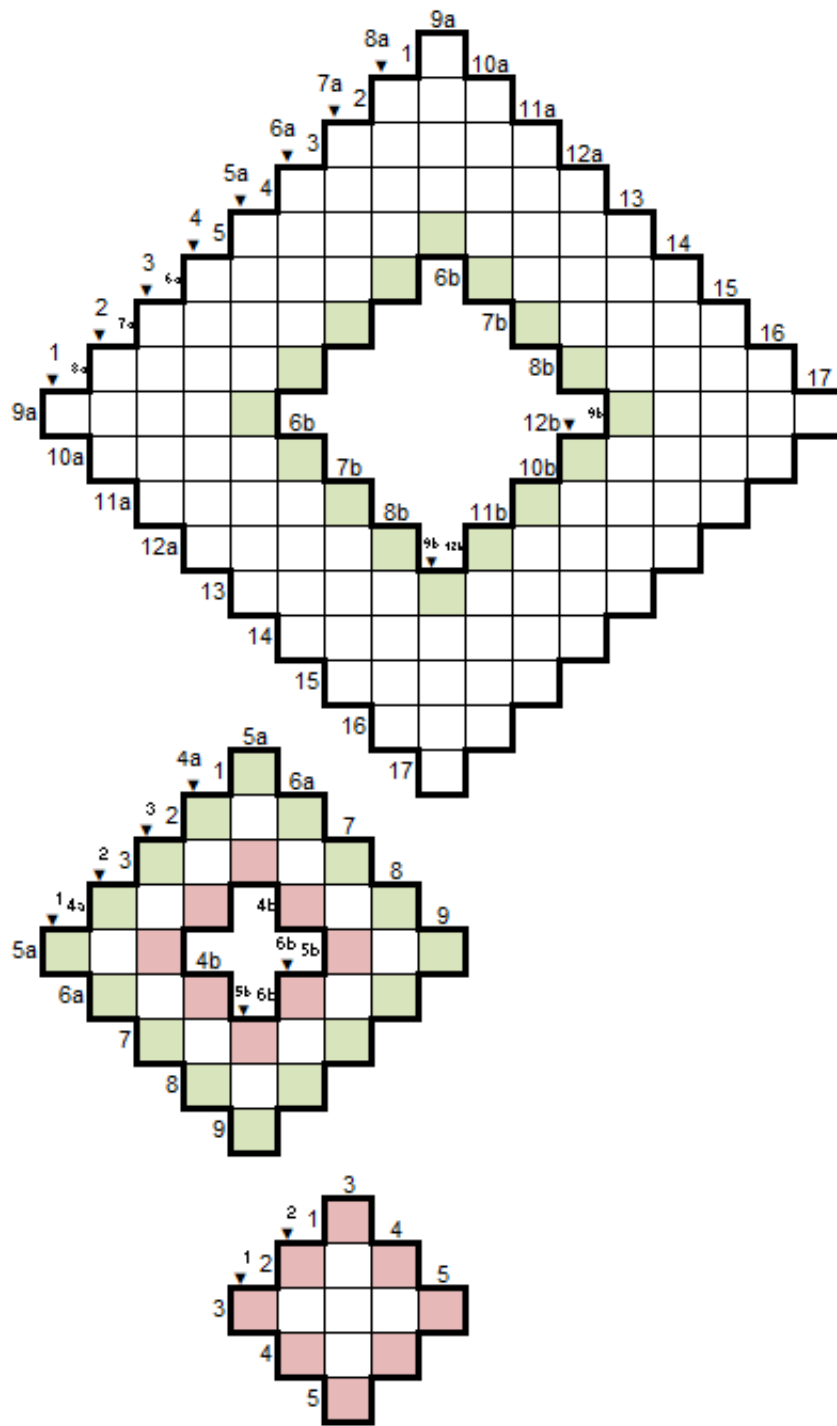
Nov F-1.

Jul F-3.
RASCALS
ALMANAC
SMELTER
CALZONE
ANTOINE
LAENNEC
SCREECH

Jul F-6.

JULIAN
CALENDAR
MENNONITES
BAIKANSTATES
BADLY
LILAC
ELVES
MENES
ELAL
RANI
EBAN
LOBE
YREKA
CLEAN
SLAKE
STLOAN
THEDEISCAS
NEWFAITHERS
MISSRONA
NOTYET

Mar C-6. In its prime, applied mathematics legitimizes interdisciplinary counterintelligence.
Apr C-6. Maids incorrectly prepared, like this submission being sent to the cryptogram editor by mistake (twelve) [cryptic clue for "misaddressed"]
Jul C-3. How do you stop Canadian bacon from curling in the pan? All you have to do is take away its tiny brooms.
Aug C-5. Those in line to see famous leaning tower are unruly. Docent chides, "When in Italy, mind your Pisan queues."
Dec C-6. To get true byline for this crypt shift take nom four places (insert space) and cipher given unreal place name. (Mr F, Portland OR)



Nov F-7. SLACK APP LOGO †

Across:

- 1 Spot for boarding boars; Nice nose? (11C-findable)
- 2 Shared beliefs | Pocketbook fins
- 3 *Paint Your Wagon* composer | Sluggish
- 4 *No Logo* author Naomi | Name that Newt Gingrich and Satchel Paige have in common
- 5 Sent via Slack or Skype (AH) | Hybrid lemon variety
- 6 Lousy football hikes (not MW); Very near; Modeled after
- 7 Worthy examples | Remains in Red Square? | BP brand (Forbes)
- 8 Workgroup model facilitated by the Slack app (Wikipedia)
- 9 Glass dessert server (not MW) | Burrito dough? | Shocked
- 10 Catan constituents; Book editor Talese; Pro group
- 11 Did the same; Apocrypha bk.; PE pair (not MW)
- 12 Like heaven | Coty and Magritte | Internal body cavity linings
- 13 Where Maya Angelou taught starting in 1982 (Wikipedia)
- 14 Surgical tube | Widow's share | Some Revolutionary War combatants
- 15 RN workplaces; Quarter back?; Keeps company
- 16 Stock to hawk | Off-roaders, briefly
- 17 Classic Camaros (Wikipedia) | Where old movies wind up?
- 18 CD alternative | Reversible craft?
- 19 Queens' quarters | ____ quartz
- 20 Ref. that added "Cookie Monster" in Sept.; Haul to court

Down:

- 1 Dept. store sales slip; "How cu-u-ute!" sounds
- 2 Churlish sorts | Slack
- 3 Holden Caulfield's little brother | Hand-to-hand competition?
- 4 Dutch earthenware center | Roulette bets
- 5 Deep blue cobalt pigment | Slick
- 6 Bugling forest ranger; A dynamite personality?; Accompanied by calling shotgun (not MW)
- 7 Vodka nickname (Wikipedia) | Pueblo makeup? | Ball chair designer (Wikipedia)
- 8 Disney animated feature set in the Incan civilization (IMDb)
- 9 Ape-like creature of Australian folklore (Chambers) | Deli staples |
Unchecked, in a way
- 10 Bring joy to; Card cap letters; Worries (over)
- 11 Movie teaser, usually (not MW); Pram pusher, often; Scroll receptacles
- 12 NYC Memorial, spelled out (Wikipedia) | Photo finish? | Groups using Slack
- 13 Woody Allen movie featuring singing by actors not known for their singing (IMDb)
- 14 Pinpoints | *The Jeffersons* theme song "____ On Up" (Wikipedia) | Quench
- 15 Compounds in foam cups; "Leave as is" marks; Cloud storage domain?
- 16 Kofi ____ Annan | "____, ev'rything will be okay – We're singing and winging
our way to you": Fred Astaire song lyric (not MW)
- 17 Center of the Orlando Magic (Wikipedia) | Labor hero Chavez
- 18 Slack | *The Kiss* creator
- 19 Plot elements? | Browser history cache
- 20 Green-lit; Reasoning Rand
=al dente, San Jose CA

GOLDEN SPHINX SOLUTIONS

IN CANDESCE
LEADONES
EMILIA
ANNATHE
READAT
SOMEN
IRANSAT
STIER
RICHE
ACACIA
EXCIT
LEASISRAELI
Apr E-3.
DARTERS
INTERIA
ENNADS
SETTLES
Apr 30.

RE
NEIL
KIDIE
CANAN
LION
HR
Apr 16.
Jul 46.
BALI
SECOND
MANEATER
TYLERMOORE

RESTED (renewed; crested)
ENCODE (cipher; encore)
POIROT (sleuth; trap)
ATTICS (top stories; Atticus)
INTONE (utter; in tune)
DIAPER (waste product; repaid)
Dec E-7.

The nurse asks, "Is one of you a type O?"
Jul E-3. A priest, an imam, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank.
hide "Vroo" in a grid.
May E-11. What should we all give a marvelous subeditor? Let's

NAN
INGA
ANNA
GAIN
REPO
ISLE
OAST
RIBE
ERSE
EMIT
TSAR
OWEN

Part III:
tsar, Owen, stoa, ripe, emit
Part II: gain, Erse, Anna, peri, enow, arts, seer, naan, pore, isle,
GA RI IN IS LE PE OA RE ST PO
AN IT NA SE ER EM AR EN TS OM

Part I:
Mar E-1.

Dec 2. estival of flights [festival of lights]
Nov 27. cellist or bassist on [C ell (L) is to RB as S is to N]
Nov 16. delude a lewd alow
Oct 17. seminary, nary, binary
(trade), ARdent (aflame)
Sep 41. index card (three by five): INDigent (poor), EXchange
redact, rated (see below for the form)
Jul 46. pyramid; Mary, dip; r(evers)ed; truncated, tear duct, detract,
May 4. Her(a)/b/c/d/e)
Apr 30. cryptic, ripped, k(ick; rectangle, wreck, tangle (also see forms)
Apr 16. d(ou)(le o)(c)(t)agon (see below for the form)
Mar 11. flat to tally inverse [flat totally in verse]

2018**Flats**

Marcus Asparagus's January 22 (First)

Firetruck's July 20 (Second)

Forms

al dente's September F-1 (First)

Jabberwock's January F-8; Newrow's October F-9 (Second, tie)

Extras

Jo the Loiterer's March X-8 (First)

Next Lingo's X-4 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Hot's June X-7 (First)

Mr E's December X-9 (Second)

Cryptograms

Witz's February C-6 (First)

Editor's Special Commendation

Philana, for her many years of service to the organization

Nominees

\$8.90, AI, al dente, Drauk, Firetruck, Hot, Jabberwock, Jo the Loiterer, Marcus Asparagus, Mr E, Newrow, Next Lingo, raw, Ucaoimhu, ♣, Wheels, Witz, Wrybosh

2019**Flats**

ewolf's April 10 (First)

ewolf's February 24; raw's June 43 (Second, tie)

Forms

Firetruck's June F-6 (First)

al dente's November F-14 (Second)

Extras

Crax's April X-4 (First)

LeXman's April RX-1 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Jangler's August X-2 (First)

Crax and Trazom's September X-1 (Second, tie)

Fraz's November X-1 (Second, tie)

Cryptograms

yodaughter's March C-2 (First)

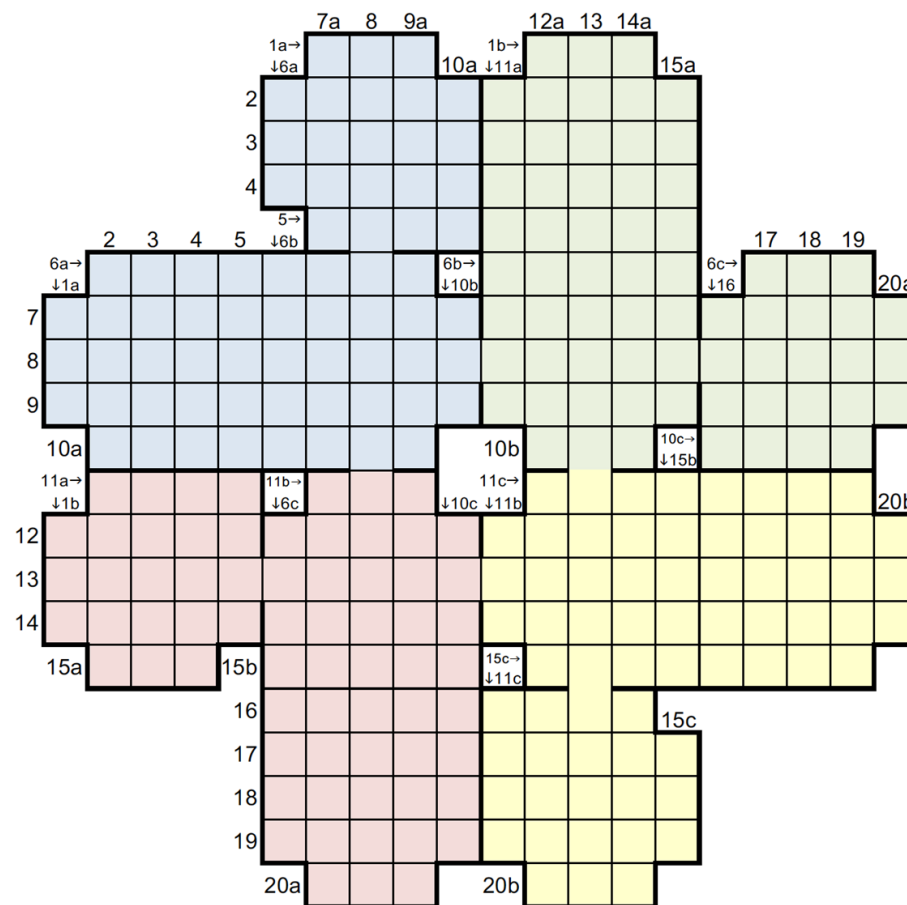
Mr E's May C-4 (Second)

Editor's Special Commendation

A. Chemem

Nominees

al dente, Andreas, Crax, /dev/joe, Drauk, ewolf, Firetruck, Fraz, Jabberwock, Jangler, LeXman, Mr E, Newrow, Next Lingo, raw, Riddle, Trazom, Ucaoimhu, ♣, yodaughter



Dec F-1. DOUBLE OCTAGON
VARIANT †

Across:

- 1 Bed Bath & Beyond gift ideas
- 2 Toy spaniels
- 3 Areas of relative density? (not MW)
- 4 Inflicting devastating aerial attacks
- 5 Lugs along | Cranston of *Breaking Bad* | Cooks a steak, say
- 6 Hurried or scurried | Ring bearer? | Sudden outburst
- 7 Certain laundry piles | Crackling (like a Yule log fire?) | Bridges
- 8 Utter hoot | City intended to be captured on D-Day | Chi Town virtual channel (Wikipedia) | *The Incredibles* family name | “And so...”
- 9 ____ California | Silky loge wear | Pit bosses?
- 10 “I don’t care what your momma says, ____”: seasonal SNL lyric with Fallon, Kattan, Morgan and Sanz (slate.com)
- 11 Downshifting technique while braking (Urban Dict) | Town burgled by the Grinch (Wikipedia) | Oft-pranked pup in panels (Wikipedia)
- 12 Courteous palindrome | Fella, most likely | Mimic | Loads | “I Love Paris” Porter
- 13 Ababa lead-in | Last to leave the table? (not MW) | Wanders
- 14 HS class | Took the lead | Pointed at dinner?
- 15 Find another tenant | Radisson rival | Not so dumb
- 16 Phil Collins and Marilyn Martin hit of 1985 (Wikipedia)
- 17 Specify the maximum or minimum for (not MW)
- 18 Rooftops on Santa’s route, for example
- 19 Classic Fisher-Price gift idea (fisher-price.com)

Down:

- 1 Euros, some featuring an owl, replaced this unit
- 2 Train track termini
- 3 Fortune-teller, sometimes (not MW)
- 4 Pre-packaged alcohol drink supplies (not MW)
- 5 Trio of destiny | Rib | *Getting a Grip* memoirist (Wikipedia)
- 6 Ready for the stew pot | Any takers? | Former NY Senator Chauncey
- 7 Tiffany creations | Soup kitchen service (not MW) | Surrey send-offs
- 8 Redhead of old TV (IMDb) | Artesian “well” (11C-findable) | Just not done? | “Pumpkin or pecan pie?” plea, perhaps | USO entertainer Martha (Wikipedia)
- 9 Underground petroleum pocket (OED) | Remove by flooding | ____ d’Huez, French ski resort (Wikipedia)
- 10 Santa’s delivery service? (not MW)
- 11 Maker of T-Bonz treats (Wikipedia) | Play the gullible rube (not MW) | Slayer of Orion
- 12 Variety of oak | Tide table term | “UR oversharing!” (not MW) | Editing veto | 2014 Australian Open winner (Wikipedia)
- 13 Hoity-toity highbrows | Like Le Creuset cookware | Quick with a quip
- 14 Stock holders? | Roadhouse? | Popular DVRs (Wikipedia)
- 15 Letterman jacket features | Repair a seam | Up and about
- 16 One cause of purple tongues (not MW)
- 17 Began again (NI3-findable)
- 18 Bordered by a circle of raised dots
- 19 After-work holiday parties, e.g. =al dente, San Jose CA

2016

Flats

- Scarab’s May 23 (First)
Ucaoimhu’s October 16 (Second)

Forms

- Firetruck’s August F-1 (First)
Jabberwock’s January F-8 (Second)

Extras

- Witz’s September X-11 (First)
Next Lingo’s April X-1 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

- Btnirn’s August X-6 (First)
LeXman’s October X-7 (Second)

Cryptograms

- Witz’s December C-6 (First)
Next Lingo’s April C-1 (Second)

Editor’s Special Commendation

Firetruck

Nominees

8, Bartok, Btnirn, Firetruck, Fraz, Griddle, Hale, Jabberwock, LeXman, Next Lingo, Qoz, raw, Rosebud, Scarab, Te-Zir-Man, Ucaoimhu, Vraal, Wheels, Witz

2017

Flats

- LeXman and Lirath’s September 5 (First)
Ucaoimhu’s October 20 (Second)

Forms

- al dente’s November F-2 (First)
Ai’s June F-13 (Second)

Extras

- Hale and Firetruck’s March X-11 (First)
Toonhead!’s April Road to BeaCon (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

- Hale’s February X-5 (First)
Bartok’s October X-10 (Second)

Cryptograms

- Next Lingo’s September C-6 (First)

Editor’s Special Commendation

Wrybosh

Nominees

530nm330Hz, \$8.90, ++Juh, Ai, al dente, Bartok, Firetruck, Hale, Jo the Loiterer, LeXman, Lirath, Mr E, Next Lingo, Toonhead!, Tortoise, Ucaoimhu, Witz

PAST GOLDEN SPHINX WINNERS AND NOMINEES

2014

Most published flats during the year

Ucaoimhu (110), Next Lingo (85), Wrybosh (57), LeXman (47), R/EDS (35)

Most kudos per flat (minimum 5 flats)

ewolf (4.71), Wrybosh (3.63), Scarab (3.38), Newrow (3.15), Ucaoimhu (2.61)

Most published forms

Ai (20), LeXman (20)

Most kudos per form (minimum 3)

Jo the Loiterer (2.86), Wabbit (2.50)

Most published extras

Witz, Te-Zir-Man

Most kudos per extra (minimum 3)

raw (1), ♪ (0.875)

Most published crypts

Next Lingo (13), raw (13)

Most kudos per crypt (minimum 3)

Griddle (2.58), YoMama (1.33)

Editor's Special Commendation

Hale

2015

Flats

Ucaoimhu's February 18 (First)
Lunch Boy's January 14 (Second)

Forms

LeXman's August F-2 (First)
Jo the Loiterer's March F-2 (Second)

Extras

Tahnan's October X-5 (First)
Te-Zir-Man's June X-7 (Second)

Cryptic Crosswords

Fraz's December X-14 (First)
Fraz's January X-2 (Second)

Cryptograms

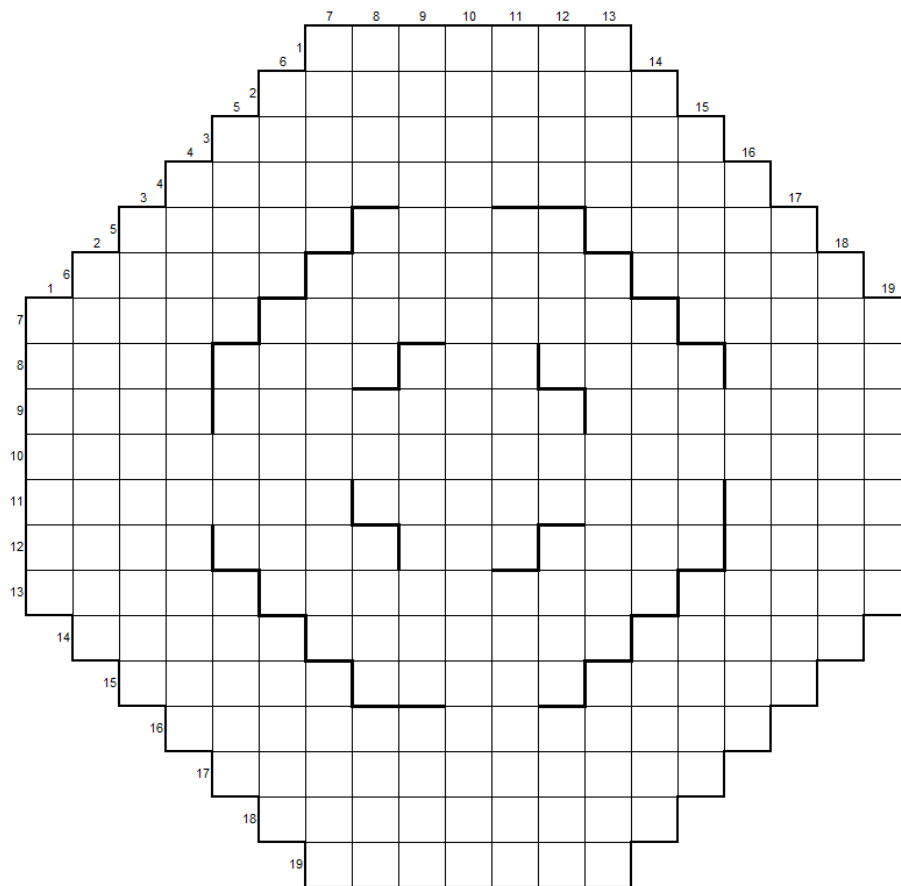
Wabbit's February C-3 (First)
Witz's November C-6 (Second)

Editor's Special Commendation

Ucaoimhu

Nominees

Ai, Bartok, Black Rabbit, ewolf, Fraz, Griddle, Hale, Jabberwock, Jo the Loiterer, LeXman, Lunch Boy, Newrow, NJ Ninja, raw, Scarab, Tahnan, Te-Zir-Man, Ucaoimhu, Wabbit, Wheels, Witz, Wolff



Jul F-6. HOLLOW DOUBLE
OCTAGON

Across:

- 1 With 2 Across, eponymous dating system
 2 See 1 Across
 3 Some Plain People
 4 Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, etc.
 5 Very much; Academic regalia color of Dentistry
 6 Founder of the First Dynasty of Egypt; Short staff?
 7 Holy Land line (Wikipedia); "Are we alone?" org. (Wikipedia)
 8 Rajput royal; Purim month
 9 *My People* author (Wikipedia); Dash device
 10 Ring bearer?; Baffled
 11 CA town with a former palindromic bakery; Scrub
 12 Quench; "McSorley's Bar" painter
 13 Phrase attributed to the eponym of 1 Across
 14 Paternity leave recipients (not MW)
 15 Columnist Barrett's memoir (Wikipedia)
 16 "Be patient" (not MW)

Down:

- 1 Just
 2 Harps on
 3 Zone that enjoys warmer temps than the region as a whole (Wikipedia)
 4 She played Lili Von Shtupp in *Blazing Saddles* (IMDb)
 5 Google sheets makeup; Former first name of hoopster Olajuwon (Wikipedia)
 6 Of poor quality, slangily (not MW); Astronomer Hubble
 7 Comrade-in-arms?; "In that case..." (not MW)
 8 Politico Panetta; Right way?
 9 Places with keepers; Words after "Lord knows" (not MW)
 10 Miner's access; Oxford, but not Eton
 11 From birth; Trail marker?
 12 Get even again; Red Cross pioneer Barton
 13 Discounts below cost (not MW)
 14 Reserved a spot by putting your jacket on it, perhaps (not MW)
 15 Dolphin or porpoise
 16 Name echoed in 1968 news (Wikipedia)
 =al dente, San Jose CA

Jul F-3. CRYPTIC 7-SQUARE
(clues listed randomly)

- A large fellow with a city's first fact book
 Clean wound split by northeastern stethoscope inventor
 Run after male entering sketchy steel refinery
 Scamps beginning to remember a reform class
 California-area trattoria turnover
 Pre-collision noise loosened rocks in front of church
 A baseball team takes to Lavoisier, the chemist
 =FRAZ, Toronto ON

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	2	8	9	10	11	12	13
3	3	9	14	15	16	17	18
4	4	10	15	19	20	21	22
5	5	11	16	20	23	24	25
6	6	12	17	21	24	26	27
7	7	13	18	22	25	27	28

Apr E-3. SOMETHING DIFFERENT SQUARE

- 1 Shakespearean king has made Aliyah
 2 Guys who used to buy only cars like the Berlingo, the Relay, and the Dispatch
 3 Wattles fanatic
 4 Earned M*A*S*H actor Alan more money
 5 Country founded by another M*A*S*H actor
 6 On a Middle Eastern nation's Olympics sailing team, the person stationed at the back of the boat
 7 Therefore, fellows are clairvoyant
 8 Choose a more scholarly pursuit while the other kids are playing in the schoolyard
 9 Actress Paquin who believes everyone acts out of their own self-interest
 10 Someone related to actress Clarke on her mother's side
 11 Coordinate a single non-violent protest
 12 Climb down from the peak of Machu Picchu
 =LEXMAN, Davenport IA

May E-11. VERTICAL ANAQUIP (4 6 2 3 4 1 9 9? 3'1 4 "4" 2 1 4.)

A A D E E G H H I L L O S T U V W W
 A B S R U I E M T D E U L **V R O O A S**
 T I R D O G I E R A N V D H S E I L O
 =BTNIRN, Princeton NJ

Jul E-3. ANAQUIP (1 6, 2 4, 3 1 6 4 4 1 5 4, 3 5 4, "2 3 2 3 1 4 *1?") †

ABB ALK APR ATY DAR DBA EAS EOF
 HEN IES IMA INT ITW KSI LOO MAN
 NKT OAB PEO SON TAN URS YOU
 =DRATZ, Midcouver MC

Dec E-7. BASE FIDDLES: 6-SQUARE †

Flat Types: beheadment, fifth-letter change, fourth-letter change, deletion, reversal, reversed consonantcy

Top stories: Finch flying around catsuit (7)
 Once troubled about an extra number cipher (6)
 Capped saint engaged in renewed faith (7)
 Arepa waste product identified, prisoners compensated (6)
 Extra perceptive sleuth reveals ambush (4)
 Harmonious time subsumed by rampant, utter ennui (2 4)
 =FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA

EXTRAS

Mar E-1. SQUARES WITHIN SQUARES

BY LEXMAN, DAVENPORT IA

PART I: Each pair of clues below yields a standard 2×2 word square.

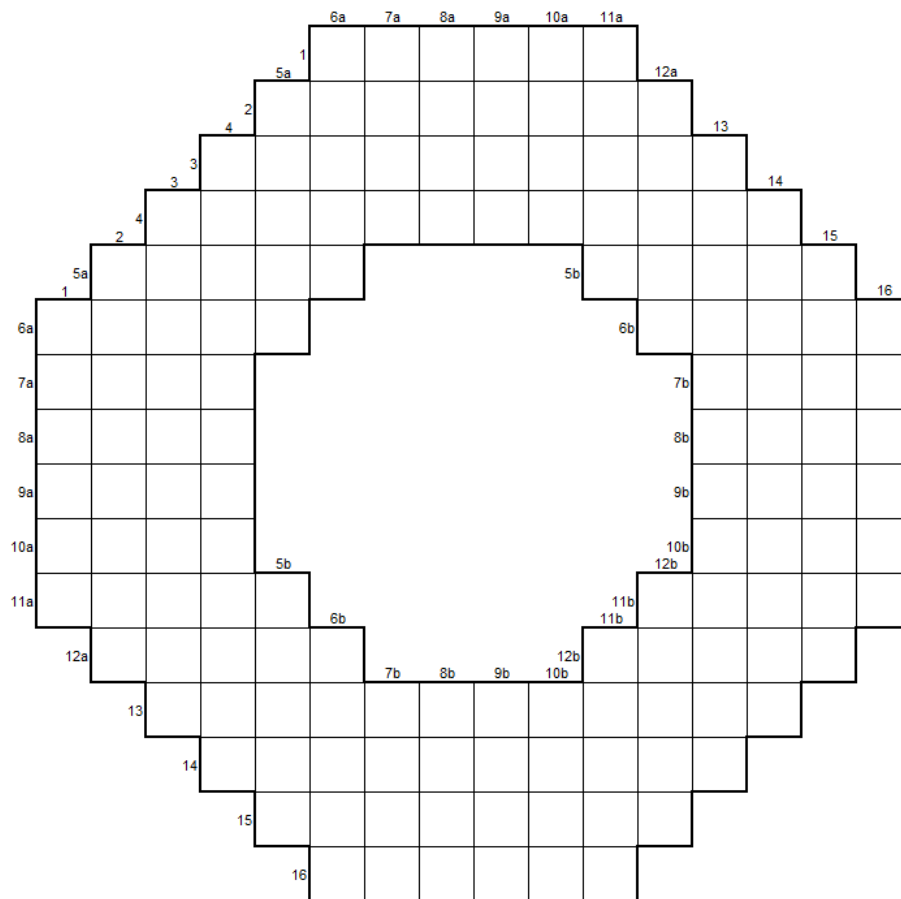
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. 4th st. | 1. High school class |
| 2. English article | 2. Printer's space width |
| 1. 13th st. | 1. Homeworld of the Green Lantern Corps (<i>Wikipedia</i>) |
| 2. 2017 horror film hit (<i>imdb.com</i>) | 2. 25th st. |
| 1. 19th st. | 1. Musical note |
| 2. 11th elem. | 2. Printer's space width |
| 1. Common verb | 1. It appears four times in these clues |
| 2. 34th elem. | 2. Eliot |
| 1. French article | 1. Turin's river |
| 2. Hospital ward | 2. "It hurts" |

PART II: Solve these fifteen cryptic clues. All answers are four letters long.

Appreciate a shed from another time
 Before getting back to basics, people in parts of Britain used to talk this way
 Disney princess edges away from Montana?
 Each one a supernatural being
 Empty now – it used to be sufficient
 First-class degenerates with ocean-going crafts
 Fortune teller cut heart out
 Indian food, lasagna, and sandwiches
 Insert liquid in the ear's opening
 Lies at sea!
 Luminary dips head for king
 One of the Wilson brothers has overspent, changing directions
 Porch swing's starting to appeal, at first
 Ready tear at the edge of eye
 Release time is up

PART III: Use the ten 2×2 squares and the answers to the cryptic clues to create five 4×4 squares. Each 4×4 square contains two 2×2 squares used twice and includes three of the clued words.

(Note that each 4×4 square can be assembled in two different ways, swapping the 1st and 2nd rows with the 3rd and 4th rows. Either version is considered correct.)



APR X-2. OUR FIRST SPORTING EVENT BY ANDREAS, VANCOUVER BC

My young son and I are both sports nuts. "Let's you and I go to some sports event," he pleaded. "Let's participate in one. Your school sports day is coming up," I replied. So we got together and did just that. For our first event our result was pretty good — and appropriate!

The unclued top line describes the event and the bottom line our result. Each set of numbered clues is given in random order.

Across

- 6** Set out to spot someone else's position (5)
Maybe last chance for winning run in thrilling series (5)
Wear out Alou finally entering our team record (5, 2 wds.)
- 7** Other side's tackle next one to succeed (5)
Accept (without a hint from Niekro) where to aim pitch (5)
Most of those on yacht perform in principle (5)
- 8** Pitcher fresher after start (4)
After onset of downpour, scrap race (4)
You once hit into mound (4)
- 12** Exceptional result Raptors demonstrated (5)
Mercenary feature of Nicklaus delving into origin of shank, perhaps (5)
At times drive in error into edge of long rough (5)
- 15** Cuban beat couple of runners by significant degree (5)
Cast off skirts — ultimate piece of soccer strip (5)
What fans move in Avalanche's state capital (5)
- 16** Regatta entrant shares returns (5)
Old money owned by Kournikova (5)
Dallas, after losing opener, worked on growth in Seahawks' area (5)
- 17** Run off end at normal pace (5)
Let it supply goal for team (5)
They're stubborn, charge one of Sharks — sent off (5)

Down

- 1** Measure, say, a piece of turf the wrong way (6)
Champion is behind two articles written for French Open (6)
Held, offensive tackle absorbing strain, is upset (6)
- 2** Impede major leaguer taking pitch (6)
Make certain fault forgetting tip from coach (6)
Beginning to handle numeric advantage for center (6)
- 3** Where to practice with Heat around net (5)
Swimmer and diver distribute beer after game (5)
Spur with time rebounding ahead of half of team (5)

Across

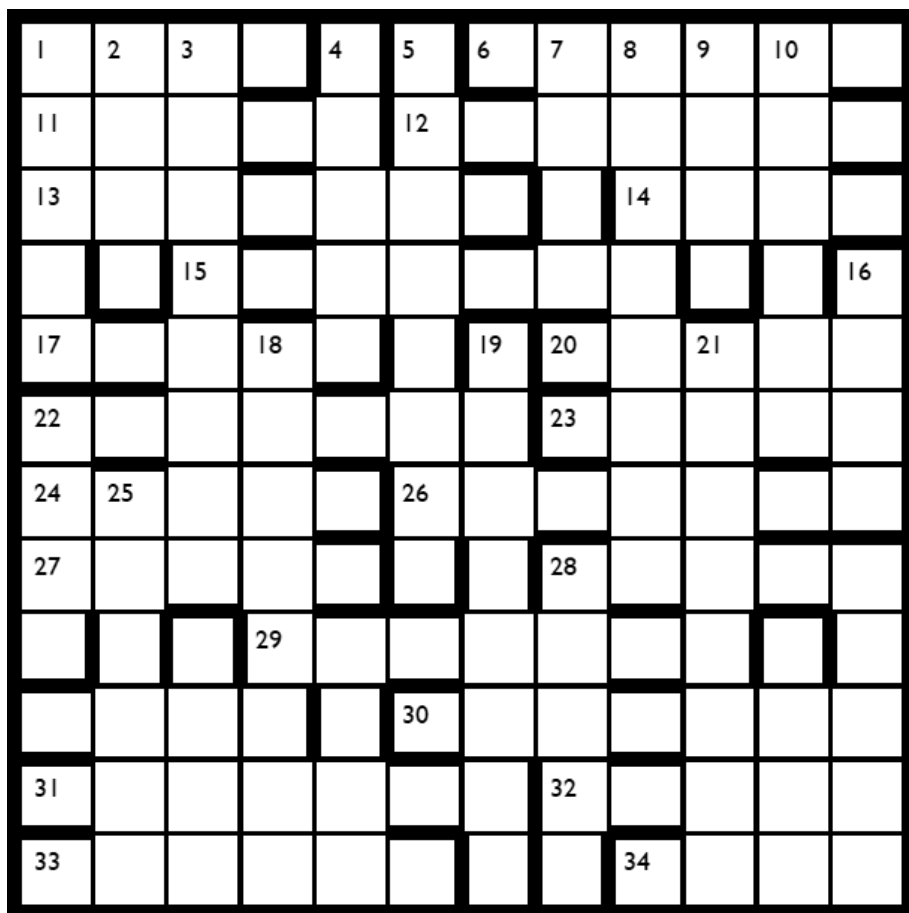
- 1** Hall of famer Traynor has hit a ball high into the air
- 6** Perfect mixture of tin/lead at having carbon infused
- 11** Muslim spiritual leaders constrained by agnosticism, Yemen's amir doing an about face
- 12** Insurgent frightened a lady by having a weapon
- 13** Wilder is realizing publishing in sequence
- 14** Gets sick from more than one beer nut in the mouth
- 15** Connected state senate mailer has story backwards
- 17** African wind breaks southeast, northeast, southeast
- 20** Covering that lower part of your face — good
- 22** You taking bath underground in London grotto (2 wds.)
- 23** Note respected man Sanders' left-leaning platform
- 24** Capturing the cow that is chasing trains
- 26** Gaelic operative is behind 2001 recessionary plunge
- 27** Steal unlocked convertible car
- 29** Furniture catalogs rejected before reaching door
- 30** Up-front limb for elm tree cut short as an example
- 31** Headwaiter made it better keeping customer happy ultimately (2 wds.)
- 32** International treasurer's first money experiment
- 33** Sly feeling after saint leaves, of such a nature that every possible outcome is equally desirable (2 wds.) [NI3]
- 34** Shortly I will sail in the sound to land in the middle of the sea

Down

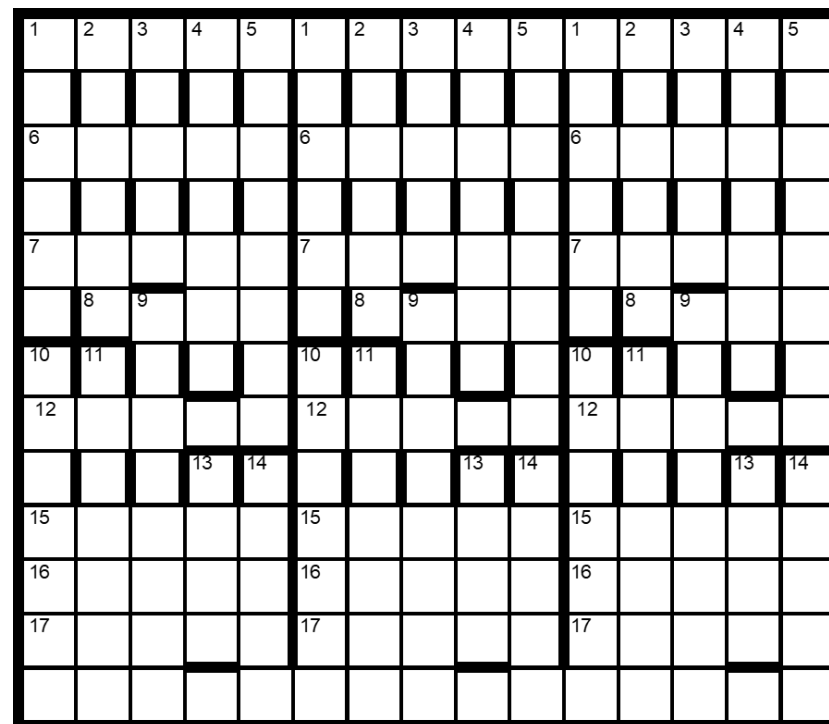
- 1** Thieves scattered since last thieving run
- 2** Sign on outside: "Forensic Medical Examiner"
- 3** Justice exhibit overhypes Prohibition law enforcement agent
- 4** Republican aides moving out of the way
- 5** Marijuana can pick up troubled lives
- 7** Worries Dion sang badly
- 8** Cheaper handbag: foolish to break bank
- 9** Working maid between employers
- 10** It's Red on the ice in hockey movie scoring record 50
- 16** Monster beverage so uplifting
- 18** Toes inevitably tilt awkwardly in high-heeled shoe
- 19** Elaborate gems did glow around ring for people who are more than mere mortals
- 21** Middle Easterners' king inspired by Spain's enthusiastic approval ascending royally
- 22** Head of France's specialty: boosting French and then doing it again
- 25** All the rum drinks having a high alcohol content
- 28** Mint Crest improved smiles

NOV X-1. WINTER IS COMING BY WHEELS, DUNNVILLE ON

1. Six answers need to have a string of four or five consecutive letters (not necessarily words) removed, forming a new word to be entered into the grid.
2. The removed letter strings can be transposed to form the six unclued entries, a group of related words.
3. The clues for the remaining answers contain an extraneous word which must be removed before solving. Six of these words are the definitions for the altered grid entries in 1. The first letters of the remaining extraneous words will explain what's going on here; solvers should submit this message along with the grid for credit.



- 4 Originally Crenshaw and Hogan copy gold head cover (7)
Fail when bounding ball gives up run (7, 2 words.)
Guards save one of Saints' starters (7)
- 5 Stop golfer Bernhard losing head in hazard (8)
Through the air three in order complete, after first dropped (8)
Refined private house throwing out unruly vets getting high (8)
- 9 In last position, home team admits wandering mind (8)
Offense during reckless turn heading for opponent creates interference (8, 2 wds.)
Stunning defeat later rectified in court (8)
- 10 Calm Oakland player (catcher) wearing armor (7)
Watched parts of cricket match with one from down under (7)
Overheard member of visiting team's thought (7)
- 11 Giant intact, buckling to protect Eli's back (7)
Fend off seeds after rallying effectively from the outset (7)
Stand-offish position for rugby player? Tse? (7, 2 wds.) [NI3]
- 13 Now broken regularly, it still helps other players tune up (4)
Muscle's second half test (4)
Final of luge, boring part of race in spring (4)
- 14 Go downhill with friend returning to empty slope (5)
Bob takes in unfinished part of match having moved to the front (5)
Doesn't do much after leader of Steelers abandons lateral moves (5)



MAY X-2. PINWHEEL — BY FRAZ, TORONTO ON

Let's give Hex's Pinwheel a whirl. Entries from symmetrically matching locations are clued together, but in each group the clues are listed randomly, so it's up to you to determine where the answers belong among the four choices.

1A, 10D, 37A, 21D

Sulfur plant ultimately shut thoroughfare (6)
Birds like random rest (6)
Italian region processed barium (6)
Fair maiden's first at the office, taken by transit vehicle (6) (hyph.)

5A, 9D, 36A, 1D

Attend learning sessions about good 60s music (12) (2 wds.)
Journals describing southern author's medical marijuana suppliers (12)
Make a retraction error, and set things right with weapons (12) (3 wds.)
Working diligently, eBay abases us in a horrible way (12) (5 wds.)

11A, 17D, 35A, 22D

Son inspired by sexy TV presenter (4)
Blocks stage before opening of Othello (4)
Used a bicycle path, so to speak (4)
Kind of juice at Maine summit (4)

13A, 28D, 34A, 2D

Design alien home world (6)
Gossip page item true, and I'd originally believed it (6)
Beginning to make a breakfast cereal grid (6)
Tropical lizard wandering again outside university (6)

14A, 8D, 33A, 30D

A glass container cracked (4)
Bridges beginning to blacken water in France (4)
God, zero noise (4)
Gianluigi's three kilometer hike (4)

15A, 25D, 32A, 6D

Have to have long, empty syringe (6)
Regular work turned awful, keeping Joy miserable (6) (2 wds.)
Those folks by Russian river organized criminals (6) (2 wds.)
Sailors bringing aboard approximately three endangered animals (6)

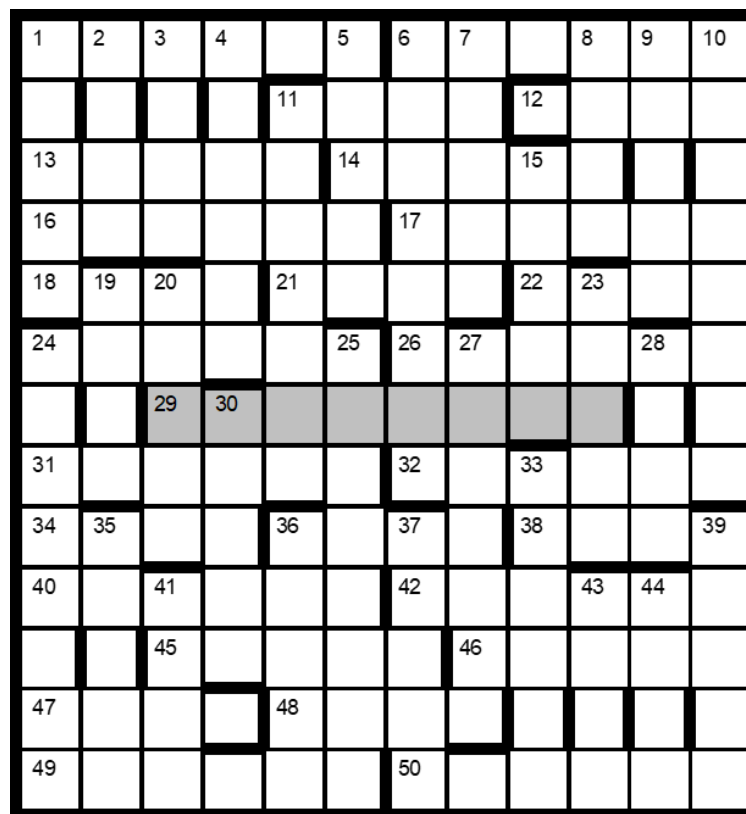
18A, 16D, 31A, 23D

Time one New York minute (4)
Sir Thomas Oliver's request (4)
Song told a tale (4)
Big hole at the front of a hummus container? (4)

19A, 33D, 29A, 3D

Three consecutive letters done after Oxford fellow leaves? Guess again (4)
A fish food thickener (4)
Robert snatches male turkey (4)
Corner knight beside rook after opening (4)

- 15 European-American confused Logan (5)
19 Ishmael's leader the product of backwards religion without yours truly (4)
20 Chatty Cathy cuts left for Greedy Gus (5)
23 Messed-up realm's even worse (5)
24 Hmm, a wise alteration for big belts (8)
25 Went for a dip with dad, circumnavigating good source of strange marshy miasma (8, 2 wds.)
27 Spooner's roosters use their beaks to get something flying (7, 2 wds.)
28 Kindness, for short, embraces a baby powder ingredient (4)
30 Hug and kiss covered by the French-cured fillets (5)
33 Soup or salad? It's not holding water (6)
35 Major artery, small battery trapping morsel of food (5)
36 Butler's partner to finally cheer up by the beginning of August (5)
37 Little bits without Kelvin's plans (5)
39 Disreputable old music format, reportedly (5)
41 "Boycott Security Council!", for one thing (4)
43 Solution is upheld by answer, question, answer (4)
44 Backwards backless back end: "Bite back!" (bronchus, basically) (4)



Across

- 1 No-good retool of large vehicle by backward boy (6)
 6 Oopsy! Cheating consumes one's soul (theoretically) (6)
 11 Nice way to say, "I can be found embracing one plain girl" (4)
 12 Something that often ends with stressed Spice Girl C or B covering A (4)
 13 Elixir from liquid pipes (5)
 14 Kind of fancy stepping with Disney by Zazu's side (5)
 16 Check a famous architect's unfinished dome (missing the central part) (6)
 17 Artist who created "Lamina"? He's non-adaptable (6)
 18 Irrational tear's movement over time (4)
 21 Like a leader (not made), Borg drops Jack (4)
 22 Avoiding east end of open space likely to produce a smile (4)
 24 Jumbo-sized, they travel the speed of sound from European country (6)
 26 Roundish eel boat buffeted, losing energy (6)
 29 *Look at instructions*
 31 Exhibit in lab, say, with which Springfield resident pursues a degree (6)
 32 Microsoft product gets PC replacement; at last Gates sends out (6)
 34 Arm-twisted by Oprah, as seen on screen (4)
 36 Start to kvetch after moms missed the first stop on Trans-Siberian Railway (4)
 38 Hostile, deliver Middle Earth creatures big "killers" with a sacrifice (4)
 40 Chicken in high school affair with no right to be rising star (6)
 42 Treasure treasurer is deserter in dessert (6)
 45 Romeo's a geriatric clutching Missouri flower (5)
 46 Interrupting "little piggy", question university chef's brag (5)
 47 Overcoming the odds, kept music case (4)
 48 Need to crop Kelly's top for derby (4)
 49 Group of mall temps, halfway through Christmas and unfinished, sat back (6)
 50 Microbrewery's supply yields positive comment on streets (6)

Down

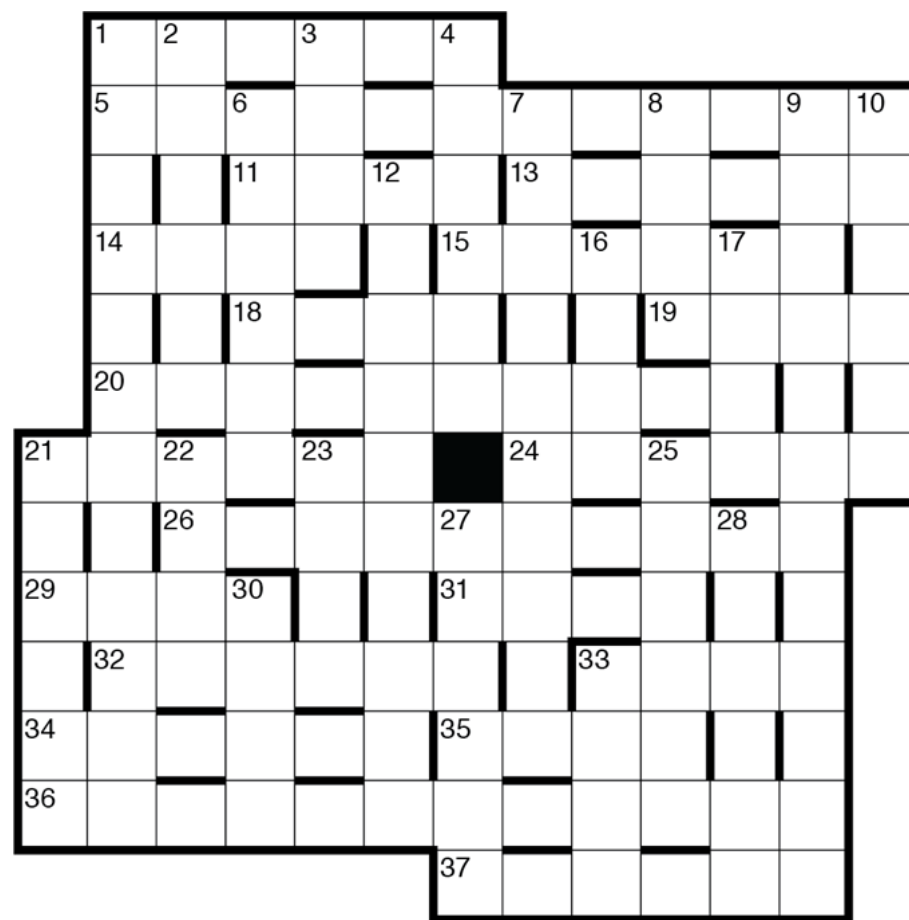
- 1 Poisonous critter's half-dozen a pop (5)
 2 Sent message: "Head off"! (4)
 3 Gym's cancelled? I disagree (4)
 4 Drive away, down awkward piles (6)
 5 Rome's region returned Italian food covered in oil (5)
 6 Hornet flies around repeatedly to produce a queen? (8)
 7 Epic beauty shatters heel on tip of nail (5)
 8 Said to manipulate sources of bows (4)
 9 South America acquiring flightless bird's islands (5)
 10 Acts the magpie, after birds transplant over/under (8)
 11 Cut ends off of timber, put into mash to make bourbon (7, 2 wds.)

20A, 7D, 26A, 12D

Name adopted by weirdo in murder movie script (10)
 Engineer scraps thin attachments to hockey helmets (10)
 Kentucky possibly protects most of milky cave formation (10)
 Former spouse I considered "off the hook" (10)

24A, 27D, 21A, 4D

Colonist loses large dog (6)
 Young birds backed up, missing green pillars (6)
 Rhythmic jazz aficionado sitting outside TV room (6)
 Uniform, black, still in decent shape (6)



AUG X-1. FOUND IN TRANSLATION BY LEXMAN, DAVENPORT IA

All grid entries are 11C English words. However, you might want to keep Google Translate handy when solving thirteen of these clues. The two unclued entries at 15 Across and 4 Down will help you differentiate the themed Across entries from the themed Down entries.

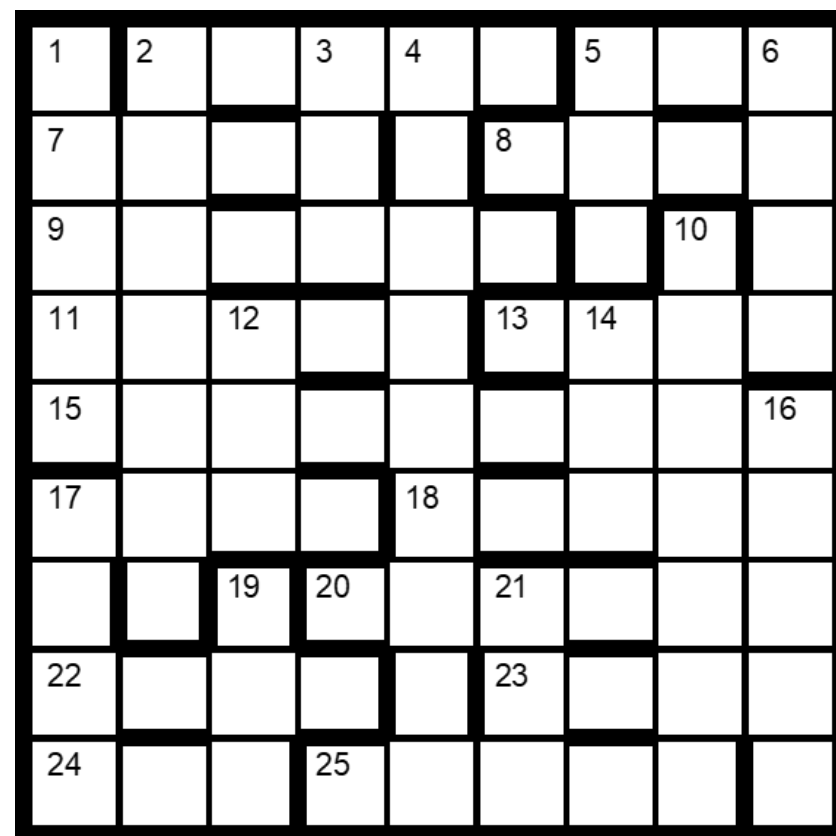
The remaining thirteen clues are normal, except that you need to remove a single letter before solving. These letters, in clue order, will give you one final instruction that continues on the same theme.

Across

- 2 Trump's tricks: early attempts to the rear (5)
- 5 Herod's usual way of doing things: low-budget (3)
- 7 Restore the American League (4)
- 8 To read the ending of Monster Fish Returns (4)
- 9 Act up with a final bit of electrical current (6)
- 11 With cross, saint converted ancient god (5)
- 13 Aluminum-like wings (4)
- 15 See instructions
- 17 Commanded flanks in advance (4)
- 18 Kay wears latex for a traditional part of holiday celebration (5)
- 20 Lament misplaced tablecloth (6)
- 22 Great grandmother (4)
- 23 Realtor gets high... (4)
- 24 ...without a bit of shame inside (3)
- 25 Forest of American Samoa has elements suggesting the aftermath of a fire (5)

Down

- 1 Preach at sister boarding cats (5)
- 2 Made precise formulas (7)
- 3 For some, the crude liquid I would shed (3)
- 4 See instructions
- 5 Puts me with famous model (3)
- 6 Arms generals, falling short (4)
- 10 Inquire into risks making tennis shoes (7)
- 12 At the start, take a number — a kind of number (3)
- 14 Bed: start to lie on it (3)
- 16 Train partying, sexually desirable slave (5)
- 17 Legacy of large and small houses, for example (4)
- 19 Let employee ego start to crumble with a piece of news (3)
- 21 No sway from net I see (3)



JUL X-2. ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK BY MCMONGOL, OTTAWA ON

- a) Thirteen Across answers are entered into the grid normally.
- b) Seven other Across answers are also entered into the grid normally, but one word in their clue must be reversed in order for the clue to fully make sense.
- c) Finally, the remaining seven Across answers must be entered into the grid backwards.

All Down clues and answers behave normally. When the grid is complete, take the first letters of the Across clues representing a), in clue order (lowest to highest). Then, take the first letter of the Across clues representing both b) and c), in reverse clue order (highest to lowest). In doing so, you'll identify two appropriate entities who, each in their own way, pioneered the unclued central entry.

Grid and clues start on the next page.