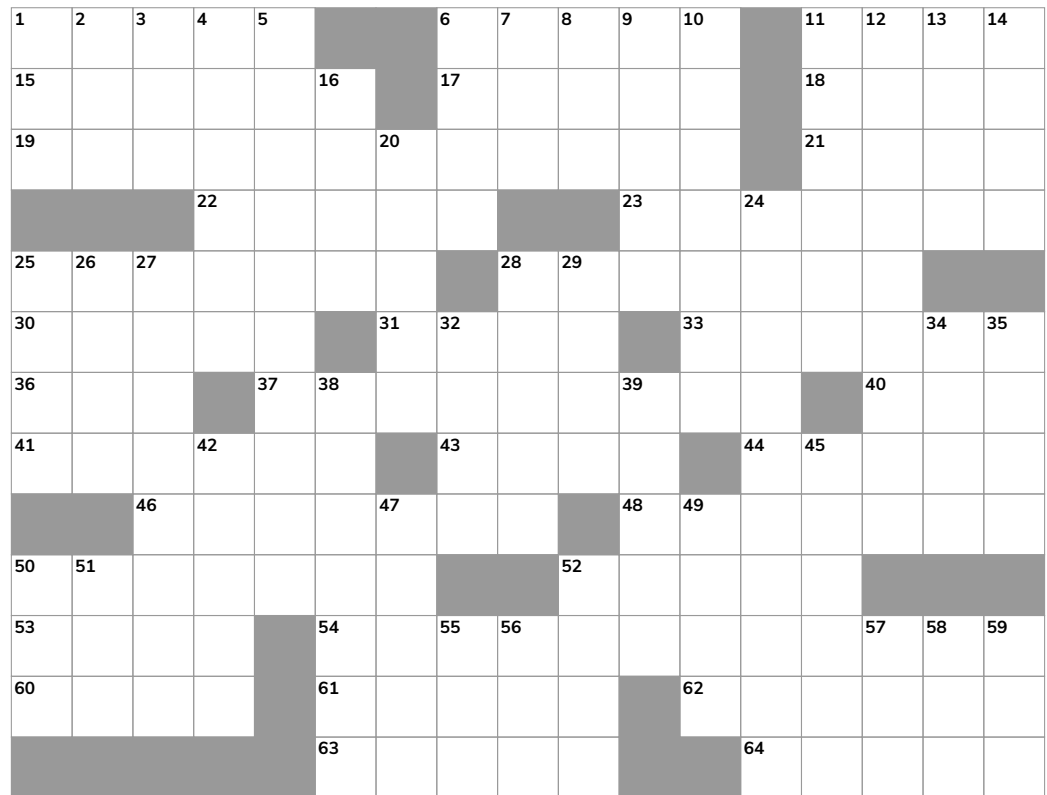


PCC#32 "This Puzzle Sucks"

The answer to the meta is
a video game character

ACROSS

- 1 Carne ____ (limited time Chipotle protein option)
- 6 ____ Arabia (country that buys sand from Australia even though most of its terrain is desert!)
- 11 Couple of yuks
- 15 Like bad jokes or good tuna melts
- 17 Like mathematician Fibonacci, by birth
- 18 Cabinet dept. with a sun, windmill, and atom, among other sources of power on its seal
- 19 "I just cracked the puzzle theme!" breakthrough (5)
- 21 Change for the better, in a way
- 22 Key of Debussy's "Clair de Lune"
- 23 Gentle breezes
- 25 Kissed with lots of tongue action
- 28 "Which lollipop" for "Philip Chow LOL"
- 30 Picasso's "____ en azul (Woman dressed in blue)"
- 31 When you bet on "even" and the roulette ball lands on this number, you lose (how does that make mathematical sense?!)
- 33 Crew (sport)
- 36 Rockefeller or Lincoln, in NYC
- 37 National Historic Landmark on the Arizona/Nevada border recognized for its engineering innovations (6)
- 40 Opposite of AAA on a Brannock device
- 41 Make less tight, as a belt after eating a large meal
- 43 "Two silkworms had a race. They both ended up in ____"
- 44 Israeli city on the Gulf of Aqaba (hidden in "unveil a tombstone")
- 46 Rented out, like many fleet cars
- 48 Scotch ____ (very hot chili peppers used in West African and Caribbean cuisine)
- 50 Dog breed that is a cross between a Pomeranian and a Poodle
- 52 Opera solos
- 53 It's an example of itself
- 54 Theoretical physicist behind the thought experiment "Astrochicken," a small, self-replicating automaton that could explore space more efficiently than a crewed craft could (2)
- 60 Combination lock feature
- 61 A female kangaroo has two
- 62 Logic puzzle invented by a Japanese math teacher that now appears in newspapers all over the world
- 63 My ideal one consists of avocado, baby spinach, pistachio, extra avocado, corn, chickpeas, black beans, roasted red peppers, light balsamic vinaigrette



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64 Say "Boo!" to, perhaps

DOWN

- 1 ____ up your sleeve (hidden advantage)
- 2 Moo ____ pork (Chinese takeout dish served with pancakes)
- 3 ____ Lingus (Irish carrier)
- 4 "Mashed Potato Time" singer Sharp with a repetitive name
- 5 Seek support (something I should get better at doing instead of trying to do everything myself and then getting stressed and overwhelmed)
- 6 "You missed a ____"
- 7 Ultimate goal
- 8 "____ the Force, Luke" ("Star Wars" line)
- 9 "Hold me closer, Tony ____" (misheard lyric in an Elton John hit)
- 10 Acura model recently revived after a 16-year hiatus
- 11 Donkey's bray
- 12 Captain of the 2022 US men's national ice hockey team at the Beijing Winter Olympics (2)
- 13 Will beneficiary
- 14 Word with "fine" or "visual"
- 16 Manchurian border river whose name is one letter off from an Ivy League college
- 20 ____ ball soup (Katz's Deli menu item)
- 24 Sites for leisurely walks

25 2150, in Roman numerals

26 Prefix for "biography"

27 "Parks and Recreation" character that plays music at Leslie and Ben's wedding (5)

28 Sharp narrow mountain ridge

29 Edible seaweed used for sushi

32 "____ Final Broadcast" (Broadway song with the lyric "Don't cry for me, Argentina")

34 Tidy

35 Understands, as a joke

38 Chant repeated in the cult classic "Freaks"

39 Actress Messing of "Will & Grace"

42 Growl angrily

45 On the same wavelength

47 Main artery from the heart

49 Pig's grunt

50 It precedes "thai," "see ew," and "kee mao" in Thai noodle dishes

51 Speaker of 8-Down ____-Wan Kenobi

52 Surrounded by

55 Unagi or anago, at a sushi bar

56 Historical period

57 Jamaican music genre

58 "____ the fields we go / Laughing all the way" ("Jingle Bells" lyrics)

59 SSW opposite, on a compass