

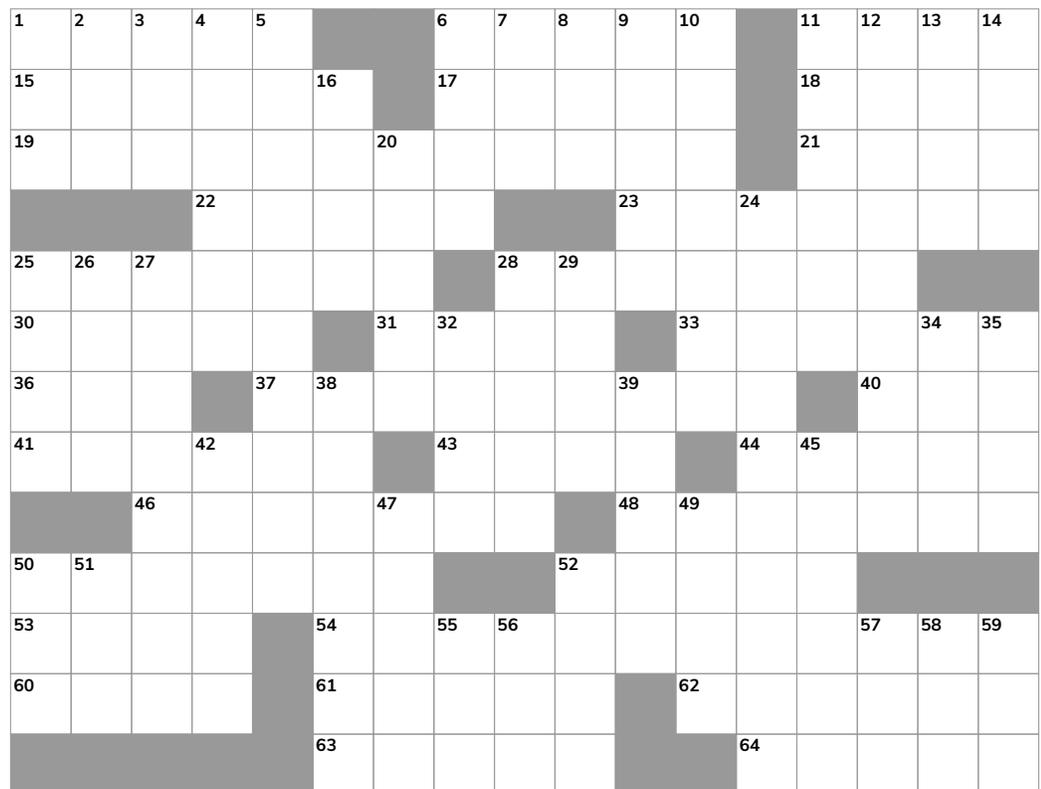
PCC#32 "This Puzzle Sucks"

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