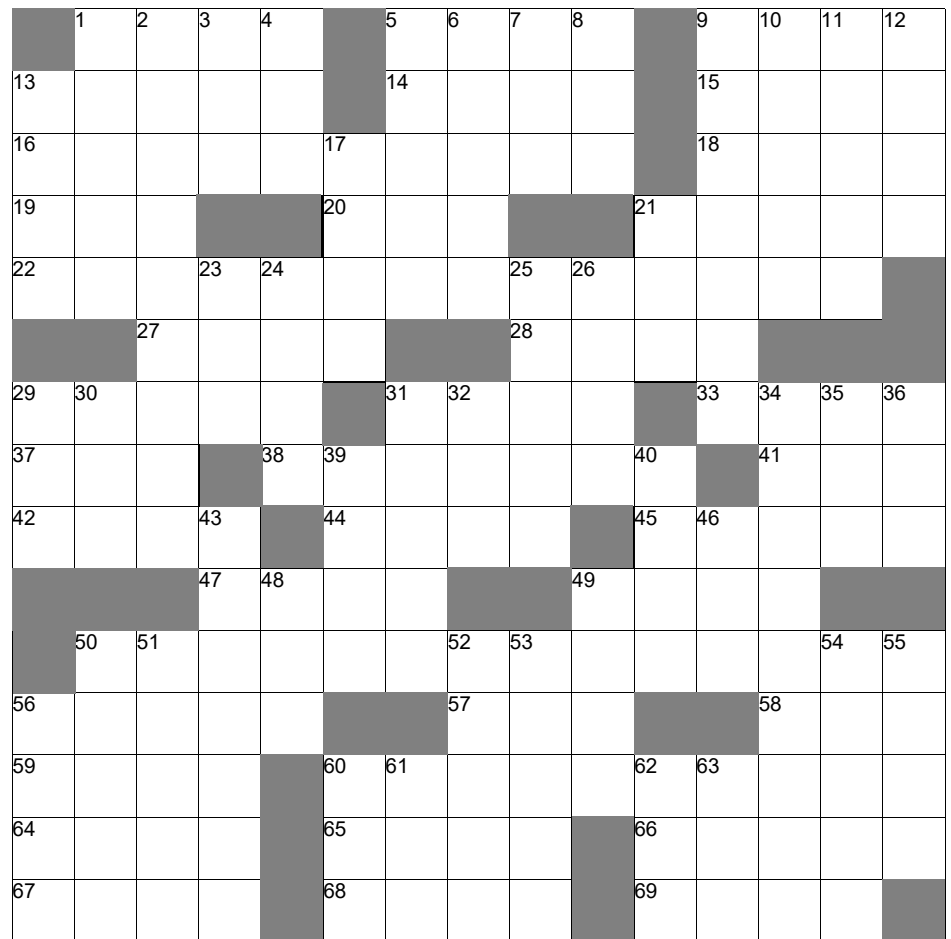


Siriusly?

by Peter Abide

ACROSS

1. A train?
5. Watching one's back
9. Component of a Subway Classic Tuna
13. King Louie, e.g.
14. Feverish chills
15. Millions of moons
16. Fuel choice for a hard rocker
18. "So, I'm ____, whatever"
19. Dr. Jill Biden, ____ Jacobs
20. Extra periods at FedExForum
21. Bad way to express your inner voice
22. Stray from a range of classic colors
27. Really ticked
28. Third side of the Rick-Victor triangle
29. One who delivers womb service? (this pun approved by DrTom)
31. Rowlands who turned 91 last month
33. Peter or Al (...er, better make that Alexis)
37. "How stupid of me!"
38. Place for Aqua Zumba, a new age of fitness
41. "There was no quid pro ____"
42. Film in which Woody Allen voiced Z Marion-4195
44. ____ monde (high society)
45. Ren Faire combat
47. Loki's dad
49. Rubaiyat rhyme scheme
50. Fairy tale location for a not-so-mellow troll
56. Atheist Madalyn Murray
57. An eye for poetry?
58. Product of the Chessie-Seaboard freight merger
59. Hot stuff in a cone
60. Elevator alternative during an emergency
64. Burrito side, for short
65. "Back in Black" band
66. New Testament tyrant king (Matthew 2:13-2:23)
67. It follows over and cover
68. thiS TreAt Really swINGs!
69. Famed Flemish painter Jacob van ____



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The meta answer is a number.

DOWN

1. Attorney's filing
2. Extreme action within "The Octagon"
3. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's designation
4. It may be inflated or bruised
5. Illuminating figures
6. Seriously winded
7. Get on the ballot
8. "____-haw!"
9. One who survived on Orange Julius and Karmelkorn
10. Certain letters found in "buying a vowel"
11. Li'l Abner's surname
12. Linear, briefly
13. "That's just terrible!"
17. Not just for girls
21. @@@
23. Take a stab
24. Mother cluckers
25. Once, in German (and the first five letters of a genius, relatively speaking)
26. Golf ____ (polite applause)
29. Room in a harem, or Whoopi's "Ghost" role
30. Patty's place
31. Larger than life
32. Three-toed Outback runner
34. Prowlers seen on "Cops"
35. Innsbruck's land: Abbr.
36. Zombie affliction
39. Propellor sound
40. Opened a tad
43. Wheels of fortune?
46. Black belt, in a way
48. ____ Spiegel (German weekly)
49. Quebec cleric
50. Ryder rival
51. Like some ships at sea
52. Wild bunch
53. Attend a barn raising
54. Sexy, mysterious, exciting place
55. Marked for cancellation
56. Bond girl Kurylenko or gymnast Korbut
60. "Long long way to run" notes
61. COVID treatment area
62. "Billions" network, in listings
63. Highly-compensated exec