What lies beneath ACROSS

- **1** Oaf
- 4 Gossip site
- 7 Short spot for a short stack
- 11 Sass
- 12 Grip type
- 13 Babysitter, perhaps
- 14 Letters in many job ads
- 15 Munich mister
- 16 Whole bunch
- 17 Former Prime Minister Liz, who failed to outlast a lettuce
- 19 Flotation device for some planes
- 21 Prado contents
- 22 At peace
- 23 Sticky school supply
- 25 Example of the nines, perhaps
- 26 Observe
- 27 Narrow connection between larger land bodies
- **30** ____ Alamos
- 33 Hearty Hanoi offering
- **34** Smooth, in a way
- 38 2017 US Open champ Stephens
- 40 Some wolves
- **41** Smile enhancer, perhaps
- **43** Airport building with many radar screens
- 44 A color or a duck
- 45 Pelvic bones
- 47 Permit
- **48** Part of an early search engine (or all of a Utah ski resort)
- **49** Zip it (with "up")
- 50 Warmer than average, say?
- **51** They might put you in a tight spot?
- **52** Shortened interjection, or a thing that might be shortened
- 53 "The Waste Land" monogram

The meta answer is a mythical or modern creature. aj

DOWN

- 1 Desirable rec room feature
- 2 Part of a mountain range or brewery
- 3 Pontificates, perhaps
- 4 9-Down, for example
- 5 Brief summary of car value
- 6 Game that not everyone can win
- 7 Strad. or uke, say
- 8 Floating rings
- 9 Low even score
- **10** The greatest town in America, per Leslie Knope
- 12 Letters that probably mean nothing to people under thirty
- 18 Alien hunting org., in a way
- 20 Confluence

- 24 Campus-centric sports channel, briefly
- 25 Short caveat, possibly
- 28 Folks to soak, sometimes
- 29 Common farm feature
- 30 Ticket to a trip, say?
- 31 Greatest hits album of 1976, featuring "Evil Woman" (or a cheer for the band)
- **32** Music for moonlight, in a way
- 35 Like haunted houses, typically
- 36 Prepares to be knighted, say
- 37 Seuss reptile
- 39 Collection featuring insets
- **42** Palindromic pages
- 43 Balmoral bonnet
- 46 "Who's up for wine tasting?"

