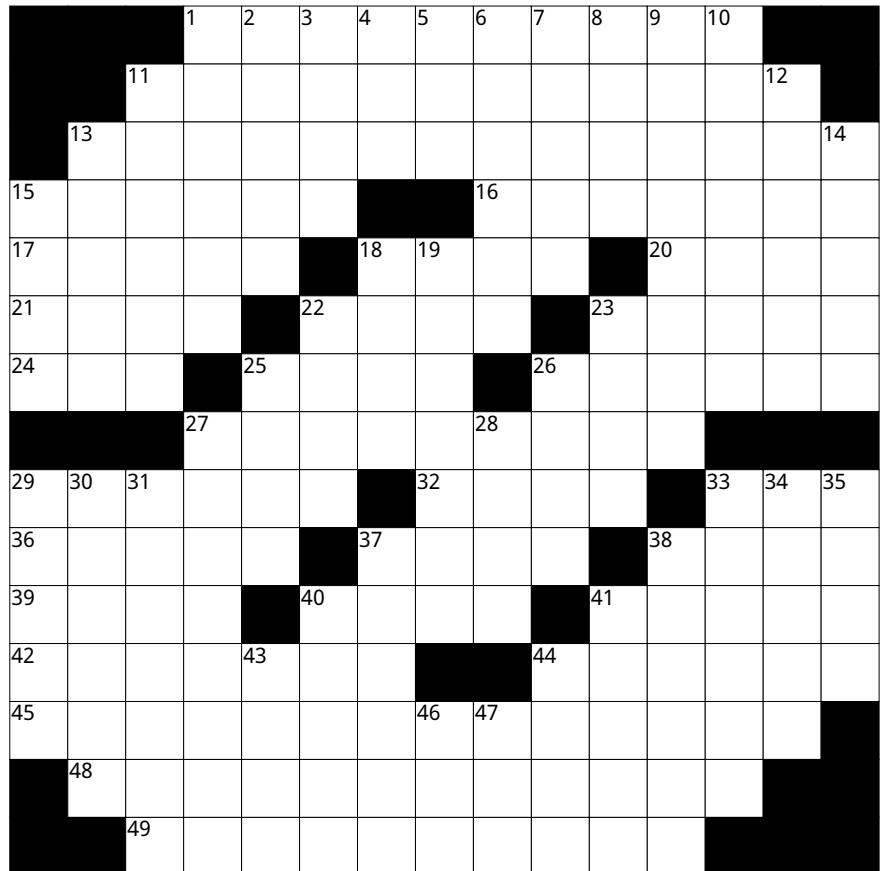


ACROSS

- 1 Minecraft plant marking lush caves below
 11 Failed aspirations
 13 First steps?
 15 Evaluate, as incoming calls
 16 Japan's Hirohito ... or Star Wars' Palpatine, e.g.
 17 Goody two shoes
 18 Vault
 20 __ Nui (native name of Easter Island)
 21 "You __ seen nothing yet!"
 22 Round up
 23 Hyperlink destinations, often
 24 Female justice inits.
 25 Cocaine __ (2023 comedy horror flick)
 26 Asiago, brie, and cheddar
 27 Cookies rooted in 90's nostalgia
 29 Integer-filled arrangements
 32 Waterproof covering
 33 Dispensary letters
 36 Floating points?
 37 Rear
 38 Seed in some health smoothies
 39 Sound from a threatened animal, maybe

- 40 Comedian Bennett of Good NeighborStuff
 41 Metalloid with the lowest atomic number
 42 Runtime of 60 Minutes, predictably
 44 Hundred Acre Woods resident with a pin-attached tail
 45 After work spot?
 48 Throw out the window
 49 Aura or vibe
DOWN
 1 Take in, in a way
 2 Divides into districts
 3 Similar (to)
 4 "Sweeney Todd" performer Cariou
 5 E in ELA: Abbr.
 6 Sponsored podcast segment, briefly
 7 Step heavily (on)
 8 Get back in service
 9 Places with menus
 10 Dubai or Abu Dhabi, e.g.
 11 The __ Company (Group behind Musk's hyperloop)
 12 Online myth debunker
 13 Fast food item with a farewell tour
 14 Scrub away
 15 Practice boxing



- 18 Something unfortunate to spring
 19 Wild and unpredictable
 22 Layers of eggs?
 23 Woodworking class, informally
 25 Truly believes
 26 Charger, often
 27 9-5, e.g.
 28 Put in S-tier, for example
 29 Despise
 30 Derelict
 31 Floral brew
 33 Google browser
 34 Skin care brand
 35 Cook on stage?
 37 Greek messenger of myth
 38 __ vs. Acme (Warner Bros. project controversially shelved as a tax write-off) (edit: NOT ANYMORE!)
 40 Kinder __ (chocolate wafer)
 41 Joy of "The View"
 43 Utah city that's an anagram of a European world capital
 44 Raison d'__
 46 Medium's ability, shortly
 47 To the __ degree