

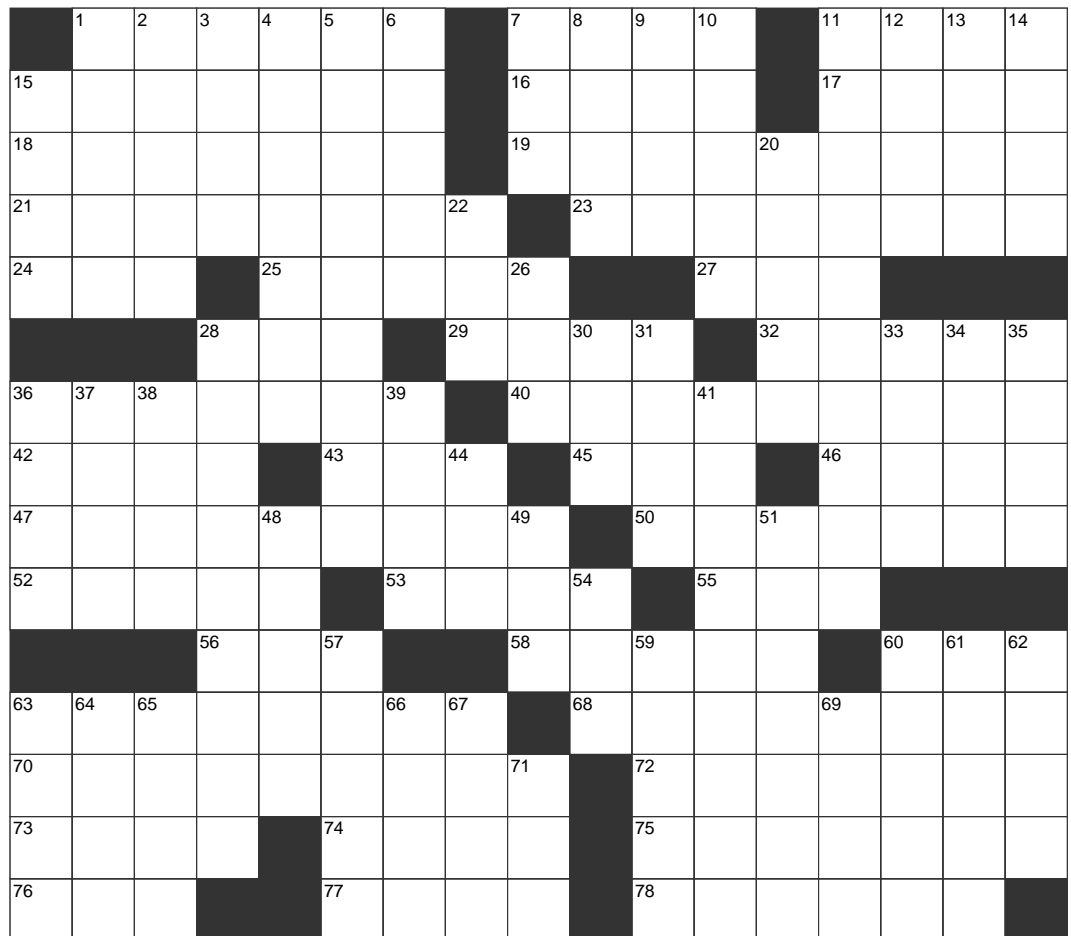
ACROSS

1. Clever, as a zinger
7. Walkman successor
11. "The _____ Must Be Crazy"
15. Lacking range
16. Edmund Hillary or Lorde, colloquially
17. Harris, to Howard, e.g.
18. *Sonoran shawls
19. *Gossett-Quaid "buddy" flick?
21. Made varsity
23. Patella
24. Where some RNs save lives
25. Medicates
27. "Do the Right Thing"'s eponymous pizzeria owner
28. Top 40 title for Rihanna, ABBA, and the Jonas Brothers
29. Precursor to "bake" in stoner lingo
32. Model/volleyballer Gabrielle
36. *John McCain Sr., Jr., or III
40. *Set off
42. Elec., e.g.
43. Comfy boot that sounds unpleasant
45. Prattle on
46. Suspicious
47. *Can't miss
50. *Telly on the telly
52. Threadlike
53. Barbary ____ (only extant deer native to Africa)
55. Spider-Man aunt portrayed on film by four different Oscar nominees
56. First album to have five songs top the Billboard Hot 100
58. Burr to Hamilton, famously
60. 2015 movie in which Melissa McCarthy channels James Bond
63. When pledges are put to the test
68. Dismayed Jean-Luc Picard gesture in a popular meme
70. *Hank who hit 58 in '38
72. *Truly from the heart?
73. Associations
74. Bug out, as the kids say
75. HuffPo's namesake founder
76. Device the MPAA's head described as "clearly designed to assist pirates"
77. Sammy who hit 66 in '98
78. Looks after

DOWN

1. Contemptuous remark
2. "Poppycock!"
3. Subj. for a future doctor or artist
4. Urban jurisdiction?
5. Jurassic Park flyer
6. Willing ones
7. Columbia pres. who stepped down on 1/19/1953
8. Slinger tired of being compared to damn Britney Spears
9. Brother of Luke and Andrew Wilson
10. Assists, in basketball slang
11. Squander on the slots, perhaps
12. Collection of crosswordese?
13. Colton of "Superstore"
14. Hook's first mate
15. Capital once found in the center of a Central European nation?
20. Pine
22. Condensed morning mist
26. Like those in a blue state?
28. Goldilocks trio
30. Pony, for one
31. Pair found in Crete... in Crete
33. "I could go on..." indicator
34. George Michael portrayer Michael
35. Rocky Road purveyor found east of the Rockies
36. ____ said
37. Yours, in Yonne
38. Cello cousin
39. WWF and Doctors without Borders, e.g.
41. Statute that, at its heart, is the ACA
44. Acquired

48. Muppet Pepé, for one
49. Distant
51. 51-Down star Harper
54. Acronym whose creator pronounces it like a peanut-butter brand
57. What chargers hold
59. Animales que dicen "mu"
60. Siena athlete
61. Dallas suburb home to Pizza Hut and Frito-Lay headquarters
62. 1978 hit about an org. formed in 1844
63. "House Hunters" home
64. Idle of stage and screen
65. Not a good look
66. Saarinen who designed the world's tallest arch
67. Kim Kardashian's mother and later ex-husband?
69. '90s Newtons, e.g.
71. NCAA eligibility consideration



This month's contest answer is a particular eight-letter word that fits the puzzle's theme. Submit your answer to puzzles@beyondwordplay.com by December 31st.