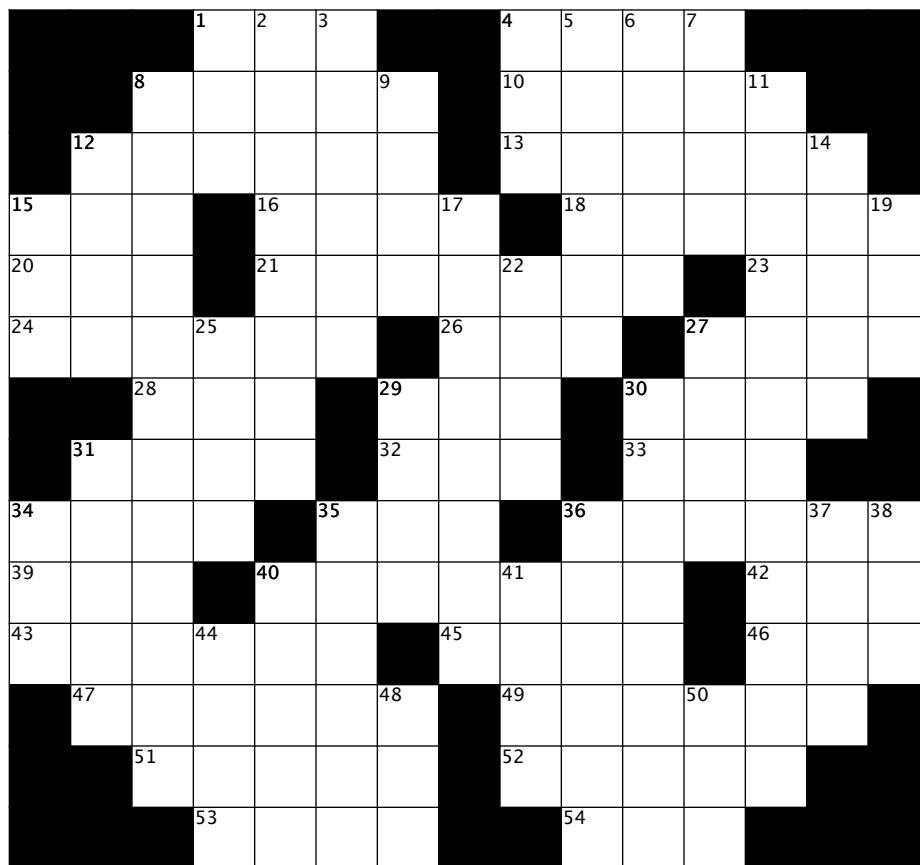


ACROSS

1. Creature in children's Christmas books
4. Olympian's sled
8. Jokey remark after missing a modern reference
10. "Bucking" rodeo horse, for short
12. Buck's defense
13. Battleship blasts
15. Very close pal, informally
16. "Get the ___ out!"
18. First Brazilian athlete to be on the cover of Time magazine
20. Shapiro of "All Things Considered"
21. One of the rare-earth elements
23. Wallach of "The Magnificent Seven"
24. "Stay a little longer!"
26. Cards checked by bartenders, for short
27. "Fifty Shades" practices, for short
28. "Someone to Watch Over Me" co-songwriter Gershwin
29. "All right, ___ bite..."
30. Spanish artist Francisco

31. Bambi's dad, e.g.
32. Not forthright
33. LLC alternative
34. Twosome in the gossip columns
35. "I like the cut of your ___!"
36. One-celled protozoan
39. ___ Mahal
40. Like "The Onion"
42. "The Joy of ___" (Gyles Brandreth book about words)
43. Catches forty winks
45. Okla., before 1907
46. 4G ___ (5G alternative)
47. Feat by Houdini
49. Teletubby with a reduplicative name



51. Ready for bed
52. Happen
53. Word before warfare and after wheat
54. Heart chart: Abbr.

DOWN

1. 911 responder, for short
2. Dawdle
3. Seek refuge at
4. Scale amts.
5. Planet seventh nearest to the sun
6. Clay monster of Jewish folklore
7. One of the Seven Deadly Sins
8. 1996 David Foster Wallace novel
9. "Fiddlesticks!"
11. Famous New York performance spot ... and a hint to 2-, 8-, 17-, and 30-Down

12. Beyonce had one in "Goldmember"
14. Celia Cruz's genre
15. Wicked
17. Tool part used to create holes
19. ___ shot
22. Without thinking
25. Skier's transport
27. Pro ___ (for free)
29. "You really think so?"
30. Showy trifle
31. Musty-smelling
34. Possessive pronoun
35. March birthstone, traditionally
36. Crackerjack pilot
37. ___ blocker
38. Lumberjack's tool
40. Let off the hook
41. Follow one's new job, in Realtorese
44. Vaping apparatus, informally
48. Club music genre, briefly
50. Pull with force