

## And the Winner Is . . .

**SOME SAY PUZZLE-SOLVING IS GOOD FOR THE BRAIN** and may stave off dementia. Others say that puzzle-solving is only good for helping you get good at puzzle-solving. I'm happy either way, contributing to the common welfare or to time-wasting.

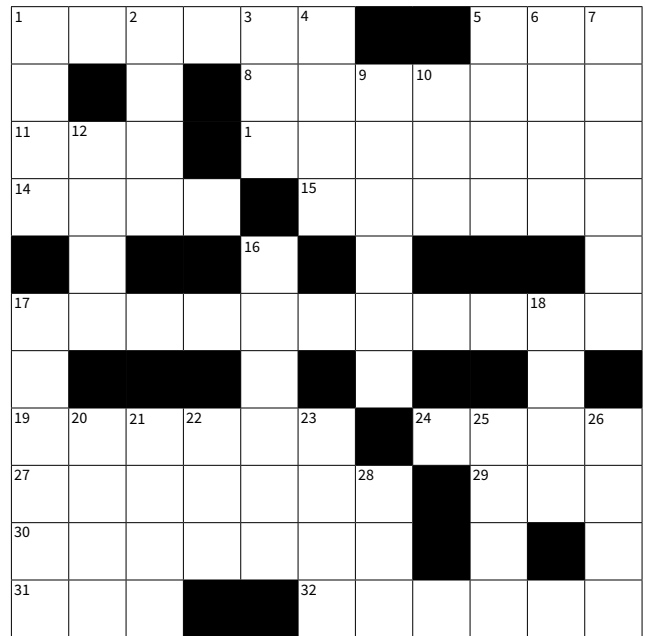
Puzzle-creating definitely helps the brain. I believe I have developed a superpower through shuffling words around, finding hidden meanings, and inventing intricate diagrams. I've recently learned that I can now predict the future! On November 3, 2020, our country will hold a presidential election. The entry at 17A calls for the winner. The election itself, to say nothing of the date when the winner is actually announced and accepted by all, occurs well after the publication of this magazine. How then am I able to reveal the winner, without risking a "Dewey Defeats Truman" moment? Solve the puzzle, is all I ask. If you do it correctly before November 3, you can amaze your friends.

There will be four proper nouns entered into the grid. (Another word could be a proper noun but doesn't have to be.) There are two foreign words. Everything else is playable in Scrabble. Ignore punctuation, which is intended to confuse. Thanks to Bob Fink, Eric Klis, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

### Across

1. Brains do swim unusually
5. Outlaw spoke
8. Complicated if Steve is gay
11. Mature herb pruned
13. Crazy fact, Ian--crazy
14. Kind of elite, maybe?
15. Holy Ohio city?
17. Winner of the 2020 US presidential election
19. A yarn manufactured in Rome
24. Occupation of Letterman for some time
27. Put Jackson or Derek in, it may have an effect
29. Play "Runaround Sue"
30. Remember fall is coming back, exhibiting vivid imagery
31. To Marx, the less fortunate in recession
32. Salt on boiled claws

**TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to him at [Thomas.Toce@ey.com](mailto:Thomas.Toce@ey.com). In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by November 30, 2020.**



### Down

1. White hat is how much?
2. Strongly inclined with no time to move slowly
3. Murder is wrong
4. Nub fitting in the ear
5. Podcast loop on Munch
6. Pain-in-the-ass singer turned enthusiastic
7. Before close, core reorganized to make money again
9. Nosy stranger, given a little shot, becomes condescending
10. Amobarbital is used finally in prescriptions like this
12. Gory, thrown-together sandwich
16. It accompanies every other piece of Stravinsky, Poulenc, Penderecki, Liszt, Ives, and Hook
17. Ejected, with half of a law degree decided
18. What Cicero heard with Ares in ruins
20. Film director Kazan offering a lie indiscriminately
21. Standard units of nonconformists
22. Border patrol on permafrost
23. Bio dissection Tuesday, with a brief summary of what it all meant
25. Roue upset Mark's replacement
26. Messages cut short in the kitchen
28. Killer whale disgorges rare tuber