

Puzzle #145 — June 2013 "Obstruction"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to nine letters, four are capitalized, and one is a two-word phrase) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Three across words and three down words won't fit in the grid unless they are compacted. In addition, four across words and four down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those eight letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a three-word phrase related to the compacted parts of the compacted words. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.

Across

1. Tactile organ initially lifted a rod with weights
2. Ali ain't fightin' Marciano, for one
3. Turn right around in back to call up a supernatural creature
4. Father's beginning to notice a salamander
5. Mental entropy conceals natural ability
6. Poet unhappy about meter and pace
7. Lure drops a little
8. French leader's reformation of government
9. Element from end of iron age
10. Looked like Brees, running around team's end, was out in front
11. None fled a Mediterranean city
12. Dude goes around naked in nightclub
13. Done fooling about atomic number 12
14. Hang dead fish
15. Majesty's having fun
16. Cad embraces German philosopher
17. Children mature suddenly
18. Hardy's love organ
19. Dislike being badly settled without land
20. Courses won't begin March 15th, e.g.
21. Record of one life in retrospect
22. Disgraced by false pledge, essentially
23. Room in Monticello
24. Key rendezvous for thirsty astronauts

Down

1. Bishop once more embracing rabbi in agreement
2. First lady, wearing red, getting fastened
3. Wagered about 50 in a stroke
4. Rod ending run in time to move around
5. Reporter's observed part of act
6. Foilsman making 100 pence as a guard
7. Iron cord for a cat
8. Energy in burn gets measured
9. Article from purse is exchanged for one bird
10. Official end re-set around 1st of April
11. Cage is tight at first for string player
12. Garbo and me battling Prohibition
13. Set back by row, becoming more irritable
14. Beauty featured in *Bachelor Magazine*
15. Talks back in dispute
16. Milk drink initially made by Gore and Kennedy
17. Exchange includes hard, fissile rock
18. Presented a case of triple damages
19. Juliet and Oscar tango before starting another dance
20. Paddling once around a dugout
21. Deer John or Jane
22. Insect ingesting fruit for nourishment
23. Gutless Barnaby goes around madhouse, coming back drunk
24. Auxilliary story of a bride's confusion