

The unclued central Across entry perhaps describes the process of solving this puzzle and unearthing its "stars". Each clue contains one extra word. Root these words out to create wordplays for the stars. Thus the extra words in clues 1-Across and 7-Across, read in order, are wordplay for the entry at 11-Across, the next four clues' extra words are wordplay for the entry at 19-Across, and so forth. In some instances, surface sense may be impaired in adjusted clues and may be absent from stars' wordplays. *Constructed in 2018. Not only did the puzzle vanish into cyberspace, so did the file that would allow this to be converted into a nice one-page PDF.*

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**Across**

- 1 Wild adult junco bird's tail is merry (6)
- 7 Angela recycled material derived from opening a lead mine (6)
- 11 \* (5)
- 13 Dorian organized long raid (6)
- 15 Texas city with awesome fish canning operations, originally (4)
- 16 River rhinoceros stops short at edge of trapper's enclosure (5)
- 18 Lee's reordered gear for swimmers (4)
- 19 \* (6)
- 20 Links love-mate with scandal, in retrospect (5)
- 21 \* (4)
- 22 Prepare plates for printing a Spielberg animated film, then check (4)
- 24 Mum's the word! Santa's helper hides something in the cupboard (5)
- 27 Senator Roy's new vow relative to vision, hearing, etc. (7)
- 31 \* (7)
- 34 Social media message from affectedly quaint Arizona town's chief (5)
- 35 Doing a 180, wolf pursues a worn-out horse (4)

- 36 Downton Abbey countess is first-rate interior decorator (4)
- 37 \* (5)
- 39 An AutoZone offering up Solti's Bach remix (6)
- 43 Pound coin that's a prime counterfeit (4)
- 45 Free verse that's descriptive of idly wandering beside lake (5)
- 46 Maintain liver to prevent losing it, ultimately (4)
- 47 \* (6)
- 48 Jack added a slice of lobster mushroom (5)
- 49 Shouted demand for another spot outside of education center (6)
- 50 The excellent negotiator for the purchase of Alaska's Southeast precinct (6)

**Down**

- 1 \* (4)
- 2 Go back and study drunk poet Nash (5)
- 3 Native American group did decide upon University building (4)
- 4 Journalistic reports moan about last of near-extinct salamanders (5)
- 5 \* (7)
- 6 Punk opens up cans after shaking (6)
- 7 Sailor hates liquor in general, Roger (4)
- 8 In retrospect, Hal Roach's my #1 Cowardly Lion portrayer (4)
- 9 "X Minus One" shirt worn by Damon in "Elysium" (4)
- 10 \* (8)
- 12 Libertarian associates with Gore? Fake news! (6)
- 14 Vocal pundit engaged in moralizing (4)
- 17 Obsessed by one number incorporating the overture from William Tell (4)
- 23 Short stream named for a tribe in the Montana/Canada area (4)
- 24 \* (8)
- 25 Follow closely: Sajak's game-show spinner has no letter "W" (4)
- 26 Vanish, nearly starting a craze (3)
- 28 Hypnotist protects Yeltsin? Ironically, just the opposite! (3)
- 29 Ahab's crew supporting outspoken bellyachers (7)
- 30 Polish astronomer's place engulfed by rising stench (6)
- 32 \* (4)
- 33 Reflected actor Burton, "Time for circle trip" (6)
- 36 Consider clue's center, and nothing but (4)
- 37 Crooner Mel's second book, *Keeping Regular* (5)
- 38 Drill bit from Prague worked without source of power (5)
- 40 Packed up almost completely cooked Japanese noodles (4)
- 41 Turmoil within company over displaying ad-industry award (4)
- 42 Apply a layer of asphalt to vacant avenue after pressure (4)
- 43 Indicate who's messed up grid (4)
- 44 \* (4)