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MERGER MANIA

By Dick Shlakman and Will Nediger/puzzles edited by Will Shortz

Answers on Page 15

Across

- 1 Men are pigs (after she's through with them, anyway!)
 6 The "A" of James A. Garfield
 11 Naysayers
 20 Lower-cost option on a popular rideshare app
 21 Egg: Sp.
 22 Frontiersman's headgear
 23 Result of a merger between Quaker Oats and Greyhound?
 25 Maintaining equilibrium
 26 Discourage
 27 Soft drink concentrate, e.g.
 29 "Night on Bald Mountain" or "Finlandia"
 30 With 18-Down, what has four legs and sprints?
 32 Musician who was booted in 1965 for playing electric guitar
 34 Letters before Gerald R. Ford and Ronald Reagan
 35 Luau instrument, for short
 37 Zoom
 39 Corner
 41 Second-longest human bone, after the femur
 46 Result of a merger between Kraft and Hershey's?
 51 Result of a merger between Google and Planters?
 53 Like the wights on "Game of Thrones"
 54 Best of the best
 56 Spelling _____
 57 What Santa checks twice
 58 R-rated
 59 Rulers' staffs
 61 Fire man?
 63 On the _____
 64 Poet Lazarus
 66 Prefix with thermal
 67 Bad sound for an engine
 68 Result of a merger between Hasbro and Nikon?
 72 Bird like the Canada goose or

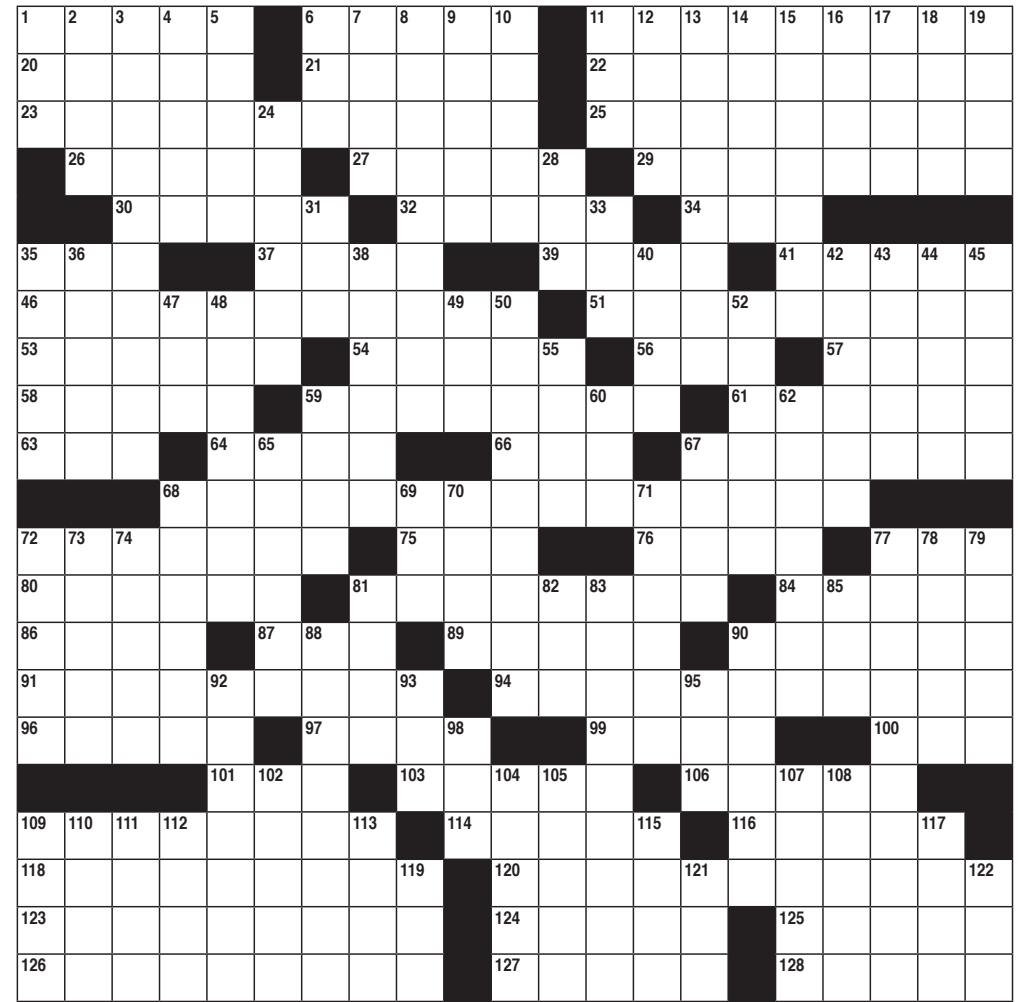
arctic tern

- 75 LummoX
 76 Cheese offered tableside at Italian restaurants, informally
 77 Recipe amt.
 80 Eagle constellation
 81 Passive acquiescence
 84 Voice a view
 86 Firm decision maker?
 87 Revolutionary Guevara
 89 Klum of "Project Runway"
 90 "My love," in Madrid
 91 Result of a merger between Procter & Gamble and Jacuzzi?
 94 Result of a merger between Hormel and Instagram?
 96 Warehouse
 97 10 to 10, say
 99 _____ reform, cause for the Marshall Project
 100 Middling grade
 101 Pub choice
 103 Shot across the bow?
 106 _____ Waldorf, the so-called "Queen B" on "Gossip Girl"
 109 Leaves nothing to the imagination
 114 Measured
 116 "Been there, done that" feeling
 118 Disney's world
 120 Result of a merger between Ralph Lauren and Starbucks?
 123 "Stop your foolishness outside!"
 124 Not on
 125 Chops up finely
 126 Was uncomfortably hot
 127 Basil-based sauce
 128 _____ Allen, one of the founders of Vermont

Down

- 1 _____-de-sac
 2 Ditto, in scholarly journals
 3 Brexit vote, e.g.

- 4 Home to the Minoan civilization
 5 Shine
 6 "Now I get it!"
 7 2021 Super Bowl champs
 8 Drink up during a timeout, say
 9 Tex who directed the first Bugs Bunny cartoon
 10 Iraqi city on the Tigris
 11 Kimono accessory
 12 Natural talent
 13 _____ Young-White, comedian/correspondent for "The Daily Show"
 14 Lead-in to an Indiana "-ville"
 15 _____ Ng, author of the 2017 best seller "Little Fires Everywhere"
 16 Piehole
 17 "Oops!"
 18 See 30-Across
 19 Part of a musical note
 24 Held forth
 28 "Two thumbs down" review
 31 Answer to "Are you asleep?" that can't be true
 33 Drift off to sleep
 35 Ordinary
 36 "Eh, not really"
 38 1981 hit Genesis album whose name resembles a rhyme scheme
 40 Balls in the sky
 42 Little sounds
 43 Muscular
 44 "Who's there?" response
 45 Nancy who served as the first female member of the British Parliament
 47 Come together
 48 Like some thinking
 49 A.O.C., e.g.
 50 Meets
 52 Evening prayer
 55 Come together
 59 Raw material?



- 60 Quintana _____ (Mexican state that's home to Cancún)
 62 Mayhem
 65 Land governed by the House of Grimaldi
 67 Obedience school command
 68 More hackneyed
 69 A head
 70 A head
 71 Best-case scenarios
 72 Clipper parts
 73 "You can't fire me!"
 74 Italian poet Cavalcanti who influenced Dante
 77 Procrastinator's problem
 78 [Bo-o-o-oring!]

- 79 In essence
 81 Where heroes are made
 82 Sass
 83 Co-founder of the N.A.A.C.P.
 85 Word that, when spelled backward, becomes its own synonym
 88 Member of the inn crowd?
 90 One of the Canterbury pilgrims
 92 One doing the lord's work
 93 In which you might do a deep dive
 95 Mistruth
 98 JAMA contributors
 102 Tool in a wood shop
 104 Shred

- 105 _____ hole
 107 Battery part
 108 Language group related to Yupik
 109 Birkin stock?
 110 From scratch
 111 Quinceañera, e.g.
 112 Man's name that spells a fruit backward
 113 Passed-down stories
 115 "Stop stalling!"
 117 "The slightest" or "the foggiest" thing
 119 Oscar-winning lyricist Washington
 121 Classic Pontiac
 122 Phishing target, for short