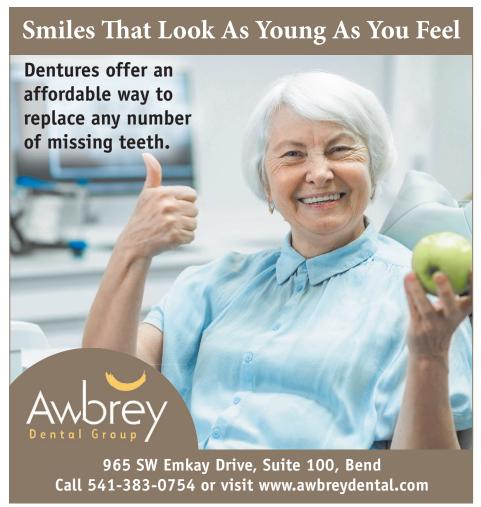
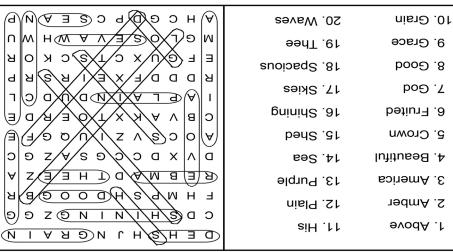
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	1	2	3 *	4			5	6	7 *	8	
9							10				11
12				13	14	15			16		
17			18					19		20	
21		22	*	Which word did Merriam-Webster select as Word of the Year for 2020?				23	24		
	25							26			
	27							28	*		
29								30			31
32*			33	34*	35	36	37			38	
39		40		41		*			42		
43			44				45	46			
	47						48			*	

The solution to the question is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to discover this hidden solution, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS

- 1. Give up
- 5. Middle East nation
- 9. Woman's accessory
- 10. Anklebone
- 12. off: fled
- 13. Shaker contents
- 16. Jamie __ Curtis
- 17. Conjunction
- 18. In a __; dazed 20. Wall or Downing: abbr.
- 21. Street corner traffic sign
- 23. Picnic spoilers
- 25. 90 degrees from NNW
- 26. Luau offering
- 27. TV maker
- 28. Words that end the single life (2)
- 29. Cab alternative
- 30. Fender ding
- 32. Yo-Yo, for one
- 33. Uses Brillo
- 38. Initials for the director of "Psycho"
- 39. Play a role
- 41. Francis or Murray
- 42. Presidential nickname
- 43. Pleated garment
- Field 45. _
- 47. Candy store chain
- 48. Palm or pine

DOWN

- 1. Joe Namath & Joe Montana
- 2. Fancy vase
- 3. TV's "This Us"
- 4. SAT, for one
- 5. "Leave __ Beaver"

- 6. Initials for actress Rosanna
- 7. Everybody
- 8. Dubious
- 9. Major leaguers
- 11. Beautician's offerings
- 14. Gold's symbol
- 15. Record album, for short
- 18. Pieces of asparagus
- 19. Fast-moving river
- sections 22. __ in a while;
- occasionally
- 24. Rheumatic joint
- swelling 29. Thurman & others
- 31. Those folks
- 34. Long-running Broadway musical
- 35. "Put __ a Happy Face" 36. Prefix for likely or lawful
- 37. Nap
- 40. Man's accessory
- 42. Refreshing drink
- 44. Prefix for view or kindle
- 46. Southern state

Pandemic Solution

	\mathbf{E}	E	В	\mathbf{T}			S	\mathbf{E}	\mathbf{E}	S	
X	Γ	Γ	A	S			\mathbf{T}	В	Ι	К	S
Е	В	\forall		\mathbf{E}	Ν	Ν	A		T	С	A
Η	A		S	В	Ω	О	Э	S		\forall	M
\mathbf{T}	N	\mathbf{E}	D					В	\mathbf{E}	В	Ω
	O	D	Ι					A	Э	В	
	Ι	О	d					\mathbf{E}	N	\mathbf{E}	
S	\mathbf{T}	N	\forall					d	О	T	S
\mathbf{T}	S		В	О	d	Ω	\mathbf{T}	S		В	О
E	\mathbf{E}	Γ		\mathbf{T}	Γ	\forall	S		N	\forall	В
S	Ω	Γ	A	\mathbf{T}			\mathbf{E}	S	В	Ω	d
	0	A	В	Ι			\mathbf{T}	Ι	Ω	O	