

BCPT & E by Ucaoimhu

In honor of the three hunts that will be happening soon around here (the one for eggs, and the multistage DASH and BAPHL) this puzzle presents a multistage egg hunt:

(1) At certain squares in the grid, there will be a conflict between an Across and a Down answer; enter both letters, one inside the other (the outside letter will always be the same) to form an “egg.” Read all the inside letters from the “eggs” to see how “eggs” should be presented to form a new word.

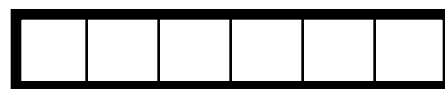
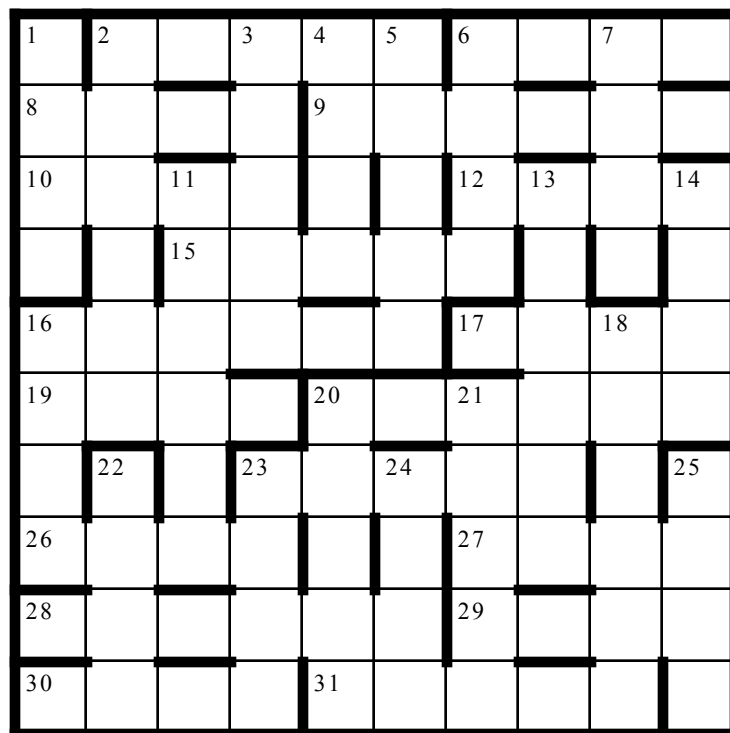
(2) The above will give you two new letters (other than the outside letter). Shade in all the squares pointed to by either of those letters. The letters in the shaded squares will tell you how you might go out-of-bounds on either of the multistage hunts, and will also form a clue (with no definition part) for the word that goes into the out-of-bounds six-square row.

(3) The two new letters from (2), as they appear in the out-of-bounds row, point to several letters, which (read left to right) spell a word.

(4) Reinterpret the word from (3) aurally, then visually, to get a letter. For each clue whose answer contains that letter, if the letter is the *m*th letter from the start and the *n*th letter from the end, take the *m*th letter from the start and the *n*th letter from the end of the *clue*. All of the resulting letter pairs, in clue order, will spell out what any of the upcoming hunts might conceivably be.

ACROSS

2. First character in plaid gown is testing instrument (5)
6. Artist Tanguy heard actress Arden (4)
8. The first US university to admit students write for a monologist (4)
9. Incarnation of Gardner, the actress and sailor (6)
10. Steer straight up (4)
12. City in Russia or Saskatchewan (4)
15. Right in shop, at 12:45, will eat excellent pasta that is tubelike (5)
16. On the way back, knight director Howard and actor Chuck (6)
17. Invisible light touches each part of the eye (4)
19. Decapitated spiffily dressed lawyer (4, *abbr.*)
20. More than one arch antihero finally surrenders (6)
23. Flowing capes and scenery shown in a pic (5)
26. Unmoving image of a deity striking a drum (4)
27. Concept I almost passed on (4)



28. In legend, the Lady Of The Lake is 6' 6.1" (6)
29. Average Agatha Christie novel (4)
30. Ogle some film perversely (4)
31. Elected Brits keeping (say) videos on disc (5, *abbr.*)

DOWN

1. E.g., dreidels, when spinning, will produce note (4)
2. Observe gym rat ingesting “E” (4 2)
3. Season when you see snow hiding white plant (5)
4. Ought to leave noble agriculturalist’s building (4)
5. Makes level seven problematic (5)
6. Connecticut school flipped over online poem? (4)
7. Because filling you up is not difficult (4)
11. Keen-eyed nocturnal bird following April is stealthily searching (6)
13. In north Coloradan city, navy is very energized (6)
14. I ask stranger for Korean cars (4)
16. Lendl, heading skyward with blue alien from 9A (4)
18. Those who will catch long-bodied sea creatures with antennae, without fail (6)
20. Philosopher who wielded a razor in the morning, after oh-two-hundred (5)
21. Chime in with one’s views on pie being baked (5)
22. Doe I disguised as the dog from *Garfield* (4)
23. Unclothed priest climbs biblical mountain (4)
24. On astatine ring supported by pole (4)
25. Has to consume 1000 Easter food items (4)