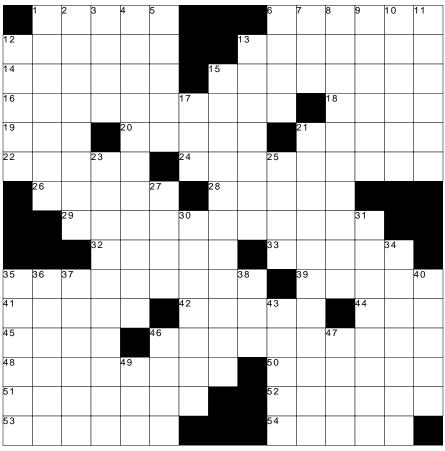
## 10/18/25 SATURDAY STUMPER Ben Zimmer, edited by Stanley Newman

## Across

- 1 Earliest leader of Thebes
- 6 Takes a back seat, say
- 12 Went for the gold, perhaps
- 13 Flurry of phraseology
- 14 Beyond budding
- 15 They're "wet" with sauce and melted cheese
- 16 TMI opposite
- 18 Something positioned above a plate
- 19 Four before O
- 20 They're sweet
- 21 Napoleon, for example
- 22 Not-so-clever comeback
- 24 Common late-spring mag recommendation
- 26 Nickname of a mound or music great
- 28 Put right
- 29 "Shame!"
- 3 2 Room \_\_\_
- 33 No-win situations
- 35 Modern wrinkle remover
- 39 They may be mistaken for agaves
- 41 \_\_ steak
- 42 Hand holdings
- 44 "I can be viewed without special formatting"
- 45 Off the \_\_\_ (top-of-mind, not surprisingly)
- 46"...the preservation and \_\_ of their own liberties": Lincoln
- 48 Pizzeria purchase
- 50 Expected
- 51 What 46-Across is
- 52 It's 70 miles south



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of Salem

- 53 Combo with an ice scoop
- 54 Pry away

## Down

- 1 Pitching impediments
- 2 Somewhat stronger "Right on!"
- 3 Motorcycle Hall of Fame name
- 4 Steelers' healers
- 5 What a spot check takes care of
- 6 Legendary ridiculing racer
- 7 Olympic flag bearer at the Vancouver opening ceremony
- 8 Kind of soup as a starter?
- 9 Swift production of the 18th century

- 10 "Can't resist!"
- 11 Fit together nicely
- 12 US city with the Russian Bishop's House
- 13 Pedagogic payees
- 15 Utterly exhaust
- 17 One of the Uranian Shakespearean moons
- 21 Swift production of the 21st century
- 23 What many American flags depict
- 25 Given the go-ahead
- 27 PowerPoint's F1
- 30 Canvas constructions
- 31 Multiply
- 34 GPS ancestor
- 35 Trip-taking need
- 36 Social media slang evoking old-timey car horns

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- 37 Put on low 38 Disrespect metaphor
- 40 Individuality
- 43 Roll over
- 46 Share on the Gram
- 47 Word from the Latin for "drive"
- 49 Rugby plastic accessory