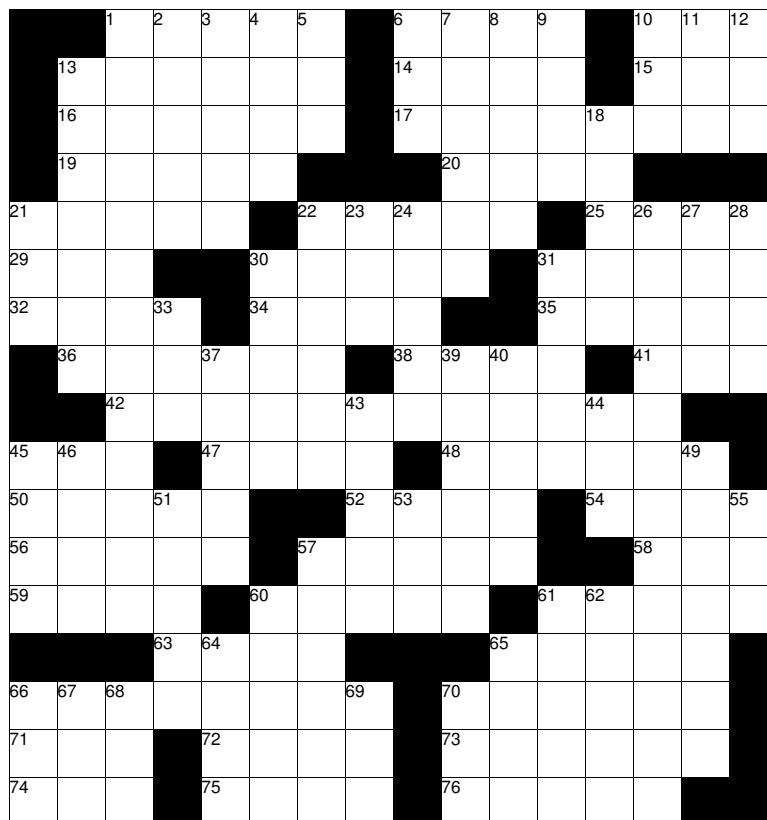


"Wedge Issues" a metapuzzle by Peter Washington

ACROSS

1. "The Hammer," to fans
6. Missile that became well-known during the 1991 Persian Gulf War
10. Keep close to, as a coastline
13. Passing (out)
14. Skillet bread
15. Neighbor of BRA and ARG
16. Common street food in Bretagne
17. Some of it is often required
19. Cosmetic skin-smoothing treatment
20. City near Phoenix
21. Longtime actress Eve
22. Pony Express starting point, for short
25. "In Da ____" (50 Cent hit)
29. Coquettish
30. Senator Cochran and trumpeter Jones, for two
31. Former attorney general whose name was sometimes jokingly used as a nonstandard plural for an animal
32. Sharpen
34. ____ Derp (kinda offensive internet meme to indicate stupidity)
35. Tool for a landscaper
36. Surname of a title character known as "The Weaver of Raveloe"
38. Scott who was named "Least Popular Golfer" in a 1989 poll of PGA Tour players
41. Half the cost of something that's way too expensive?
42. Head waiter
45. Org. whose 2019 Life Achievement Award was given to Denzel Washington
47. Funny Rudolph
48. Patronize, as a motel
50. Game with a ball called the pallino
52. Word before and after "Daddy" in a 1983 alternative rock song
54. Court where Paul Manafort was tried, in brief
56. Tuskers, to some American hunters
57. Home of many 56-across
58. Range in which the major networks were typically broadcast



The answer to the metapuzzle is a four-letter word.

59. "____ and Louis" (1956 album)
 60. Certain sharpener
 61. West African storyteller
 63. Hill in the highlands
 65. Tangy salad green
 66. Female rubber?
 70. Alpine cabin
 71. "You ____ me, big time"
 72. Book after John
 73. Current NBA team with the most ABA championships
 74. Intended contents of many plastic collectibles
 75. Word following hot or fine
 76. Proofreading marks meaning "leave as is" (in contrast to the one seen four times in this grid, once each letter has been filled in accurately)
- DOWN
1. Sleek
 2. Last two words of a common, repetitive French phrase
 3. Badmouth
 4. High-end Xbox console released in 2017 (or, what a Scrabble set contains, which is only half of what you need to write "Xbox")

5. Many Chinese-Americans with a vowelless surname
6. Jacuzzi
7. Stack on a waiting room table, for short
8. What you might wish you could do after walking in on your parents, say
9. Rick who recorded "Disco Duck"
10. Bearings bearer
11. Something often shortened before posting
12. Actor Pearce
13. Good surname for a Scottish janitor?
18. Sprayed defensively, maybe
21. "____ du Lieber!"
22. Amontillado, for example
23. Roofing stuff
24. Dual degree for a legal scholar
26. Many compliance consultants
27. Dealer's client
28. Levee
30. Greek letter that transliterates to a digraph in our alphabet
31. Conductor Zubin
33. Time in office, maybe

37. City sometimes called "the French Rome"
39. "He got you good!"
40. ____ du Rhône
43. Like a beaver, it's said
44. Twister center
45. Lawyer Lowell who represents Jared and Ivanka
46. Dupe
49. Regis Philbin and Ryan Seacrest, for two
51. Sourpusses
53. Maker of the Good Grips Chopper and other kitchen accessories
55. Airplane door that's rarely opened
57. Statisticians' assessments
60. Worcestershire, for one
61. Coup de ____
62. Get a new tenant
64. What's loaded into a copier tray
65. What many annoying customer service popups offer
66. Item in a bucket
67. Wonder
68. Utters, slangily
69. The integral symbol is essentially a big one
70. Agcy. concerned with unfit parents, in many states