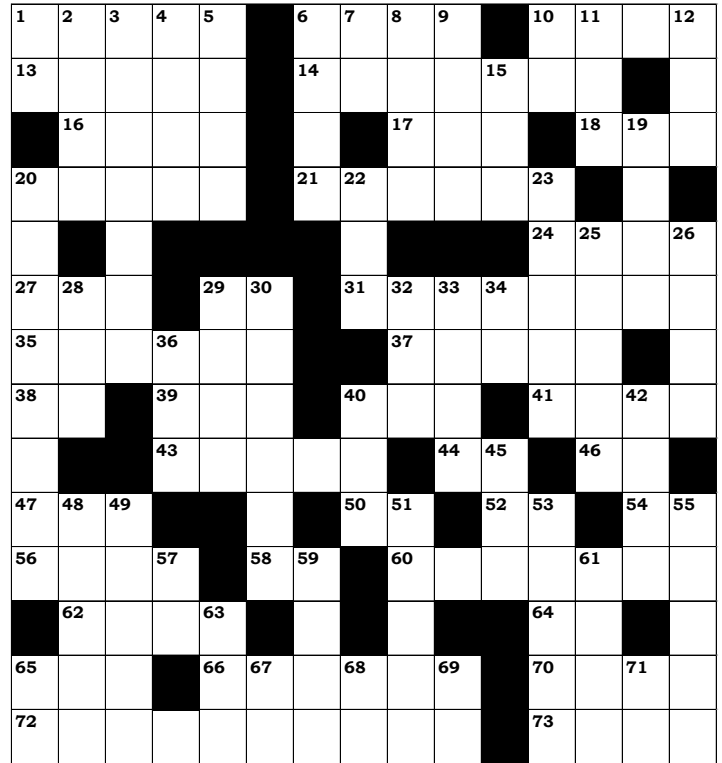


Puzzle #694

By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. With all the attention on animals reintroduced or who have made a comeback in Mo. (e.g., turkey, deer, bear and elk), it's easy to overlook a resident who has lived here for 70 million years, since the time of the dinosaurs, the ____ opossum.
6. Opossums, despite being roadkill-prone, are not dim-witted and ____ as is often thought but are as smart or smarter than other animals, including dogs and cats.
10. Sound from the sty.
13. Sneeze sound.
14. "Thus ____ came, and morning followed — the first day," (Genesis 1:5).
16. Opossum facts: they are resistant to rabies; have a prehensile (capable of gripping) tail to ____ from trees; are nocturnal; are incapable of body fat and so must consume food frequently.
17. Car club.
18. My insurance denied my claim calling it an ____ of God.
20. Cuban dance.
21. Some couples found each other on an online ____ website.
24. Lyft competitor.
27. Sin against the eighth commandment.
29. "Ain't Nobody Home but ____ Chickens," —1946 Jump blues/jazz song
31. Opossums are North America's only marsupial (i.e., raising babies in a pouch); its nearest relatives are the ____ and koala; studies indicate that North America is the center of origin of all living marsupials.
35. More opossum facts: they are shy, harmless and nonaggressive but might bite if cornered; are immune to the venom of poisonous snakes; are one of the world's ____ mammals.
37. "Nothing runs like a ____," —ad slogan for a tractor company.
38. The letters for the Acura ____ stand for refined luxury.
39. ____ Lingus; Ireland's national airline.
40. Young opossums (pouch potatoes?) crawl from their pouch at 60 days and ride atop ____, their mobile home, until about 100 days when they can fend for themselves.
41. Proofreaders shorthand for remove from a text.
43. ____ or treat!
44. Letters after a Dominican's name standing for Order of Preachers.
46. Prefix for code or part.
47. Bagnell, for example.
50. ____-da!
52. Doggone ____!
54. Original 12-step program.
56. Persian Gulf country bordering Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
58. Letters for extended play, a CD/album with 4-6 songs as opposed to a LP, which has 10-14.
60. Opossums live throughout Mo.; the lowest numbers are in the northwest and southeast ____ of our State.
62. "I only have ____ for you," —1973 song by



- The Flamingos.
 64. Short for church.
 65. "...and the two became ____ body," (Genesis 2:24).
 66. A cheer.
 70. "Where is the newborn ____ of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2).
 72. The Mo. Wildlife code classifies opossums as ____ and so has a hunting & trapping season. The fur is used mainly to trim inexpensive cloth coats.
 73. "As ____ as a person gives place to the devil in his life, the devil has this person hooked," —Sunday Adelaja, a Ukrainian preacher.
- ### DOWN
1. ____-di-da!
 2. Eight in Madrid.
 3. He really ____ out a lively tune on that old guitar.
 4. With its ____ sneering snout, with its hairless tail, ears and feet, with its scruffy coat and lumbering gait, the opossum might seem a bit off-putting. But, it is a surprising
 - and fascinating animal.
 5. My sister says ____ is not only a good stretching exercise but helps her to quietly meditate as well.
 6. When an opossum is threatened it: (1) flees; (2) if cornered will try to intimidate by drooling and baring its 50 teeth (the most of any Mo. animal); or (3) finally just play ____ (i.e., "play possum").
 7. Ultra violet (____) rays can cause cancer.
 8. "Playing possum" is not an act. An overstressed opossum will fall over into a semi-conscious state, become stiff, emit a smell like spoiled ____.
 - Its heartbeat and breathing is nearly undetectable. This can last from 4 minutes to 4 hours. It usually works, except with cars.
 9. ____ B'rith; oldest Jewish org. (1843) in the world.
 10. "____ the Road Again," —1998 Willie Nelson song.
 11. Grocery chain.
 12. Christopher "____"

- Bond: Mo.'s Governor (1981-85), U.S. Senator (1987-2011). The Federal Courthouse in Jefferson City is named for him.
15. Suffix for electric or Christ.
 19. Cleopatra to her friends.
 20. Julia Greeley was a black slave born in Hannibal in the early 1800's; freed by the Mo. Legislature in 1865, she migrated to ____; joined the Catholic Church in 1880; received Holy Communion daily; was known for her charitable works.
 22. The container which housed the Ten Commandments during the 40 years in the desert was called the ____ of the covenant (Deuteronomy 10:4-5, 8).
 23. Having a pouch enables mama opossum to stay mobile (i.e., no need to return to or ____ a den); she carries her den with her.
 25. Opossums don't live long, 3 year olds are rare; because of their short lives they ____ 7 months after birth and have from 6-20 babies. Their 12-week pregnancy is the shortest of any North American mammal.
 26. Because of its strong Catholic identity and being the mother of many dioceses in the Midwest, the Archdiocese of St. Louis was often referred to as "The ____ of the West."
 28. I don't see how he can live with himself with all his ____-gotten gains!
 29. Many computer programs don't seem ____ friendly to me.
 30. If it's not a ____ then it must be a ball.
 32. "Much ____ about Nothing," —comedy by W. Shakespeare, written in 1598.
 33. Captain of the Nautilus.
 34. The conglomerate General Electric (____) is 18th on the Fortune 500 list.
 36. Opossums will ____ almost anything (i.e., garbage, pet food, decaying animals, insects, fish, fruit, grains, etc.).
 40. Short for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, affectionately called the Katy. The roadbed through Mo. is now the Katy Trail.
 42. "Jack Sprat could eat no fat, this wife could eat no ____..." —English nursery rhyme.
 45. Source of #10 ACROSS sound.
 48. I asked the waiter for ____ (2 wds.).
 49. Oscar ____ Wiener Co.; noted for catchy tunes in its ads and its famous Wienermobile.
 51. "Hey" he shouted sarcastically, "let's keep it down to ____!" (2 wds.)
 53. Opossums are welcome consumers of slugs, ____, and other outdoor and garden bugs and pests. But unwelcome visitors to garbage cans or attics/garages. Prevention: spray garbage cans with ammonia/water combo; in attics/garages, simply wait until midnight when they are out and block their entryway.
 55. "Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: Ask for ____ from the Lord, your God..." (Isaiah 7:10-11).
 57. Cornhusker State (abbr.).
 59. Contented cat sound.
 61. State with "hi" in the middle.
 63. Ship pronoun.
 65. "____ *Mice and Men*" by John Steinbeck, 1937, about Great Depression era.
 67. Letters for United Airlines.
 68. Prefix for mind or bar.
 69. Short for high school.
 71. Nein in New York.