



Off the Beaten Path

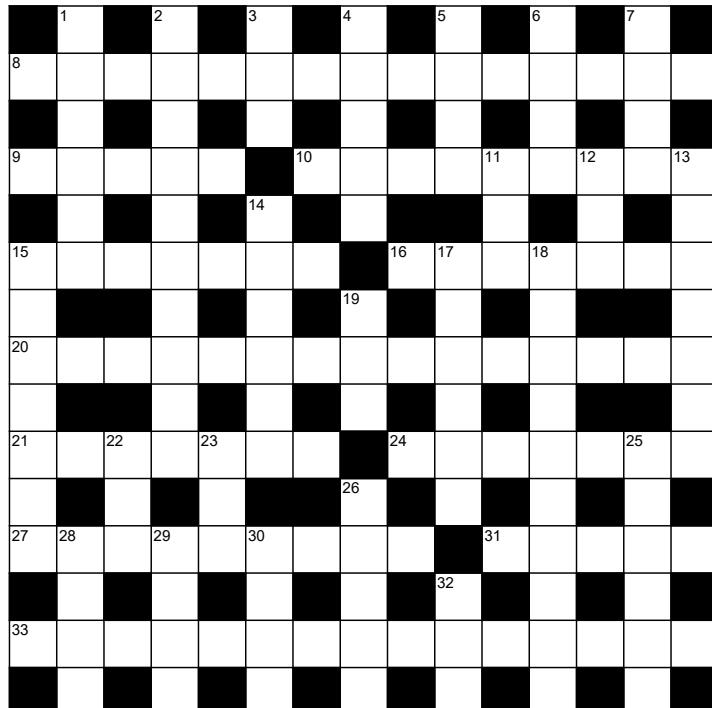
During their trek through the wilderness, some of the penguins claim to have seen mysterious creatures lurking in the shadows.

Across:

8. Tissues wrapped around squished niche lac bugs (9 6)
9. Torment potter (5)
10. Bad, bad Castro went on air (9)
15. Fire, dog, and press (7)
16. One who induces drooling with a dessert (7)
20. Full House's Loughlin wins first Emmy, gets into creative accounting to lose weight (7 8)
21. Pompous bureaucrats give degree to silly old bears (7)
24. Desiccation of Scottish lake! (7)
27. Norm consumes wild boreal predator (5 4)
31. Jointly go into business with new member of C-suite as leader (2-3)
33. Bouncer throws out petite contralto (5 10)

Down:

1. Two girls, famous for the song "I Hope You Dance" (3 3)
2. Crazy rich bomber has best friend: Angel Dust (6 4)
3. Chip sauce is oddly drippy (3)
4. Communist state for New Zealanders (5)
5. Woman flipping over crustless panini (4)
6. UK bank has Bic gutted (4)
7. Judges unwind second half of transfer (4)
11. D.C.-area license issuer (3)
12. Start again, don't stay in the past (3)
13. Engineer rages at irritating aerosol (4 3)
14. Oil the badly damaged flint (6)
15. Pop O'Clay knocked back uncapped hard seltzer (7)
17. God among Barnum acrobats flipped (4-2)
18. Catullus and Ovid squander potential with first stanza (5 5)
19. German record label pioneered experimental chamber music (3)
22. Beheaded fowl! (3)
23. Affect wingless fairy (3)
25. I... I... I... was taken aback by slasher (3 3)



26. Actors on the radio station (5)
28. Went into debt for ring and married (4)
29. Encourage a wager (4)
30. Blank and call back one excluded, getting irrational (4)
32. Over there, in Pyongyang (3)

Creatures:

- Inky devils listen to a [REDACTED] (5 5 5)
- [REDACTED] is an unionized winner (5)
- [REDACTED] athletic wear was making a comeback (6 5)
- Rebel alliance politician and naval leader is a [REDACTED] (7)
- [REDACTED] and I were in Essen, all turned around (6)
- String from tinsel-making [REDACTED] (5)
- Veiled soothsayer envisioned a [REDACTED] (5)
- Even so, I am [REDACTED] (4)