SPEED LV•MIT
55

by 530nm330Hz

ONE WAY
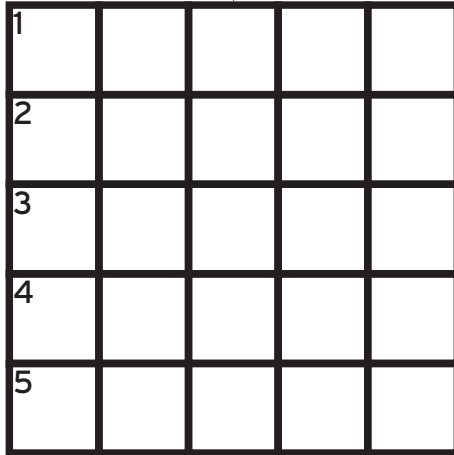
ACROSS

1. Practices boxing
2. Capital of Vietnam
3. Composer of *The Enigma Variations*
4. Entertain in a light, humorous manner
5. Abstains from food and drink

?

Welcome to my annual birthday puzzle suite!
This year there are six feeder puzzles and one metapuzzle.

Using the internet for research is not only permitted,
but in many cases expected and probably necessary.

Hints, answer-checkers, and solutions with explanations and afternotes at
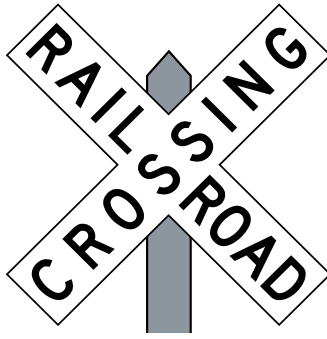**greenehouse.com/a/puzzles/55**

You can use the answer checker on partial answers for many puzzles.

As always, thanks to Yossi Fendel for test-solving and feedback.

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This information and the front cover are not a puzzle.

RAILROAD CROSSING

Look both ways before crossing!

Moray, for one · W E L K U M · *Whose __ Is It, Anyway?*

I-90 in Mass, with "the" · T I S P N E · Complain loudly (against) **RAIL** D

Bagel topping · W L I D · *On the __ Where You Live* N

Sartorial no-no in *The Incredibles* · F T

S T

Actor Kingsley · O A R G A · Whitefish of Mass.

One of Bartholomew Cubbins's possessions · C T H C · __ *Company* on PBS

"You're the __ / You're the Colosseum" · E I E · *Don't Sit Under the __ Tree*

One that leads to Rome · **ROAD** E N O · Pink Floyd's *The __*

__ *on the Moon* · S L N · *Rocky Mountain __* N

__ *Rib* (Hepburn/Tracy) · H O O N · If music be the __ of love N

All Quiet on the __ Front · E T H E O · Come in second S

Actor Heath · R M N R · Tire manufacturer H V

__ *Times at Ridgemont High* · O Q U E B · What's the __ idea?

· SCUBA need

Consider programs to evaluate the following expressions.

```
RUN:
  The year George Boole was born, AND
  The Ultimate Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything.
STOP.

RUN:
  The number of squares in each direction of a typical weekday \
    New York Times crossword puzzle, AND
  The total number of squares in a typical weekday New York Times \
    mini crossword.
STOP.

RUN:
  The number of squares on an "Only Connect" wall, OR
  The number of rounds in "Only Connect".
STOP.

RUN:
  The minimum legal drinking age in the United States, OR
  The minimum age in the series of "Up" documentaries.
STOP.

RUN:
  The approximate reciprocal of the fine structure constant, AND
  The atomic number of the element whose symbol is my initials.
STOP.

RUN:
  The value of the Hebrew word "Chai", OR
  A "magic number" according to Schoolhouse Rock.
STOP.

RUN:
  The number of mitzvot in the Torah, AND
  The number of Noachide laws in the Torah.
STOP.
```
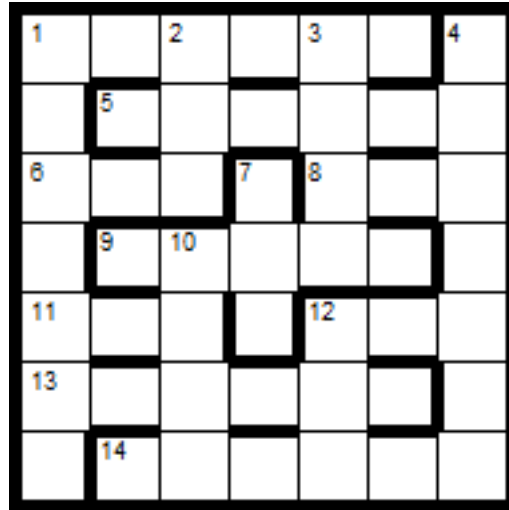
One letter in each answer is law-abiding

Across:

1. Process the UPC of a lentil dish for public embarrassment
5. Picture explaining how to shovel dirt around a male ovine
6. Dance is neither imaginary nor complex, I hear
8. Baby goat following shepherd's lead to lose control
9. Melt the heart of ladies of Tennessee
11. Invoice for gates
12. My mother, a putative dame, empty and in reverse
13. Got under the skin of Ed, after one-eyed doll beat the odds
14. Stop throat vibrations from a new-wave band – with extremely cold water

Down:

1. Make music about small piano, including much
2. Overflowing river damaged line
3. Turbulent air to the south-east? Increase altitude
4. Run-in disrupted tie game? Get out!
7. Drop acid, and betcha the surface is eaten away
10. Rapid trochees, for example, capture Larkin's head
12. Arnaz wised up without taking the win

Not used to solving cryptics? My website greenehouse.com/a/puzzles/55 has two levels of hints for each of these clues to help you enjoy this puzzle! Plus, the answer-checker can be used on individual answers for this puzzle.

INTERSTATE

A Doll's House character who hits the road... on **INTERSTATE 80 EAST** — Exit 7

Luxurious car... on **INTERSTATE 81 NORTH** — Exit 2

Short Street... on **INTERSTATE 5 NORTH** — Exit 3

Trucker's record of time behind the wheel... on **INTERSTATE 76 EAST** — Exit 7

Went too fast... on **INTERSTATE 85 SOUTH** — Exit 1

Post-breakup obligation, sometimes.
German city.
Accelerator.
Alternative to driving in Brockway, Ogdenville, and North Haverbrook.
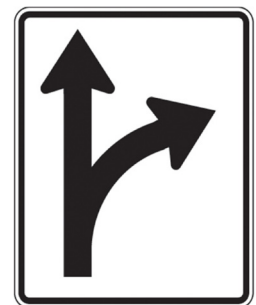Kind of oil.

Find the unique route that starts in block 1 and wends its way to 120, incrementing by one every time you move from block to block. From each block to the next, you may go straight or make a left or right turn, but you may not go catty-corner and U-turns are not allowed!

		18			50					63				96			
																100	
	1	12		25						75			69				
				30		45							86		89	103	
4		9						39		120							111

That path through those same numbered blocks can be rearranged as a spiral "nonogram". Each numbered block is shaded in exactly one of the two diagrams.

	GO!	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 2 1 3	GO!	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 1 2 1	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	11
1 1 1 1	38	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	49	12
2 1 4	37	70	95	96	97	98	99	100	79	50	13
2 1 6	36	69	94	111	112	113	114	101	80	51	14
2 1 1	35	68	93	110	119	120	115	102	81	52	15
2 1 2 1	34	67	92	109	118	117	116	103	82	53	16
1 2 1	33	66	91	108	107	106	105	104	83	54	17
3 1 2	32	65	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	55	18
1 1 2 2	31	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	19
2 1 1 1	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20
	3 1 2 1	1 1 1 3	4 2	1 7	2 1	2 1 1	1 1 1 3	1 3	2 2 2 1	1 3 2	5 1 2

The numbers along the left and bottom describe groups of shaded blocks in that row or column, and say how many consecutive blocks are in each group. At least one unshaded block separates each group from the next.

When merging, you determine who should yield... an answer to the question:

What is the best way to communicate your well-wishes for my birthday?

6 9 3 6 9
6 9 3 6 9

1 4 7 1 4 7
1 4 7 1 4 7

2 5 8 5 2 5 8
2 5 8 5 2 5 8