

The Middle (Freestyle)

Brian Callahan

ACROSS

1. Concern for a competitive crossword solver
5. Medieval plot
9. Greta Thunberg, for one
14. Common lampshade shade
15. "Space Jam" bunny
16. Fineman of "Saturday Night Live"
17. Plays the politician, perhaps
19. Stand up for a presentation?
20. Horror film protagonists, sometimes
22. Actress Sedgwick with a recurring role on "Brooklyn Nine-Nine"
23. The ___ (official magazine of the NAACP)
24. A flat's equivalent
26. Sweet white wine
29. ___ Jima
30. Bring to the shop, say
32. Sweet red wine
34. WNBA all-time assist leader Sue
36. Joins together
38. Dance that involves a lot of jumping up and down (and, per my research, may or may not have been invented by Sid Vicious)
39. Latin "to be"
40. USWNT soccer legend Carli
42. ___ party
43. "The Ring" setting
46. Vending machine brand
48. Sappy substances
50. Vintner's vessels
51. Zoomer, technically?
55. Doubleday of baseball lore

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56. "The Electric Slide," e.g.
 59. Great Lakes tribe
 60. Charged
 61. Nabe near Greenwich Village
 62. "Ginger Pye" author Eleanor
 63. Name that means "oak tree" in Hebrew
 64. Dorm bed, typically
- DOWN**
1. Cello tuner
 2. Torn ___ (sports injury diagnosis)
 3. Battle of the Little Bighorn commander
 4. "One Writer's Beginnings" essayist Welty
 5. Lovable characteristic of a dad bod
 6. Bond initiated by a charged attraction?
 7. Gen X cusper, in slang
 8. Praised item in a style column
 9. Picturesque
 10. Meta element?
 11. Code word?
 12. Real go-getter
 13. Jellied ___ (English seafood dish)
 18. Multinational grocery chain that gets its name from its first location, Han Ah Reum
 21. Lead-in to the Constitution?
 22. L.A.-based footwear giant
 24. Taunt
 25. That sounds like a hit!
 27. "You had your chance"
 28. Some church fixtures
 31. "Golly!"
 33. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Kukoc
 35. "Golly!"
 37. New South Wales airport letters
 41. Dan Levy's "Schitt's Creek" character
 44. Game where you always end up on top?
 45. JFK grp.
 47. Expert in one area
 49. BLT or PBJ, in slang
 51. English honorific
 52. The Harvard Lampoon's avian mascot
 53. Midge's relative
 54. ___ Vogue (online periodical)
 57. X
 58. Forever and a day