

# Puzzle 288 – Freestyle 253

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## Across

- 1 Common rodent whose tail is longer than the rest of its body  
 9 City at the heart of an awkward moment for 2016 presidential candidate Gary Johnson  
 15 Language from which "banshee" is derived  
 16 Popular furniture hardwood  
 17 Flowers said to grow on the banks of the river Styx  
 18 Product of a mustard-family plant  
 19 Michael Strahan's show, briefly  
 20 He once won a bet with his publisher that he could write a book using a vocabulary of 50 words or less  
 22 While away  
 23 Feed enough  
 25 Having a lot of bills?  
 27 Big player in the 2007-10 U.S. subprime mortgage meltdown  
 28 "Cause I \_\_\_\_ So" (2009 New York Dolls album)  
 29 Common Russian man's nickname  
 30 Language that's a source of the word "jungle"  
 31 "\_\_\_\_ Better Deal" (New York Daily News headline of 2/13/90)  
 33 Player of the first TV Tarzan  
 35 Much more than just spitting in the breeze  
 39 Major character in the "God of War" video game series  
 40 Cats have two of these  
 41 They may be mashed  
 42 Not down at all  
 44 Pick up at the restaurant  
 47 Protection around vaults  
 48 Need to see a doctor, usually, for short  
 49 Postwar periods, often  
 51 Word that becomes its synonym when an 's' is added to its beginning  
 54 Drop into unexpectedly  
 57 Club manager  
 58 Plate appearance  
 60 Problem solver's exclamation  
 62 Brand with the Absolutely Ageless Collection  
 63 Humpback relative

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- 64 Shooters' needs  
 65 Prepared for takeoff?

## Down

- 1 Head shop buys  
 2 They're used as caddies at Sherwood Forest Golf Club, a par-3 18-hole course in North Carolina  
 3 Times charge  
 4 The President, per U.S. Constitution Article II, Section 2: Abbr.  
 5 2016 National League MVP \_\_\_\_ Bryant  
 6 Provoked reaction, in an expression  
 7 Promising  
 8 "Fancy seeing you here!"  
 9 Feature of une cathédrale gothique  
 10 Escort  
 11 Woman's name derived from a Genesis place name  
 12 Fenced-in part, often  
 13 Without much color  
 14 It may precede "Here's the deal"  
 21 It's for your edification: Abbr.  
 24 Digests with links, e.g.

- 26 Founder of the "Pioneers of the Great American Burger" restaurant  
 29 "I'll do it later"  
 30 Eliciting an "I wouldn't"  
 32 Longtime TV producer \_\_\_\_ Di Bona  
 34 Poetically on top of  
 35 Genre of Linkin Park  
 36 Bit nonstop  
 37 "Kiss Me, Kate" tune with the lyric "He may have hair upon his chest, but, sister, so has Lassie"  
 38 "Find another seat"  
 43 12-digit ID  
 45 Adjective for rare medical conditions for which it is not commercially viable to produce treatments  
 46 Kind of hearing  
 50 Worked into the ground, in a way  
 52 Hard and soft accent features  
 53 Pitch lower, maybe  
 55 Little so-and-so  
 56 React to a good crack  
 59 Like black numbers: Abbr.  
 61 Confused or shocked question