Not the Easiest Path

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ACROSS

1 Feature of the "echo-free chamber" at Orfield Labs in Minneapolis
16 Campaign for legislative power
17 Longtime expert
18 '90s MTV countdown show
19 Containers for aromatic smoke in some religious services
20 Watson and Crick subject
21 Scatters seeds
22 Comment from Fido
24 Words of greeting
27 Fully stuffed
32 Used DoorDash, say
33 Sundial or Apple Watch
34 State fish of Connecticut
35 Events following "garage" or "yard"
36 Syllables that might replace forgotten lyrics
37 Onetime stereo components
39 Religious text in Arabic
40 Pleads
41 Explodes, as a bubble
42 180 degrees from NNE
43 ___ gras (controversially-produced food item)
44 Part of Scrooge's exclamation
47 It helps a driver get behind the wheel
50 Like Methuselah
53 Company hoping to produce hit toons
56 "Am I just talking to a wall?"
57 Quality of the easiest path

DOWN

1 Helper: abbr.
2 Drink that's the focus of the Untappd app
3 Selling point for Tupperware containers
4 Gives approval
5 Priest who was attacked by serpents after warning against accepting the Trojan Horse
6 "___ & World Report" (defunct weekly magazine)
7 Audience for 18-Across, primarily
8 Slices of bread some deem undesirable
9 Verb on a coupon
10 Says over again
11 Really goes for it
12 Language name suffix
13 Dweeb
14 James who played Sonny Corleone
15 Italian volcano
21 White Castle (or around these parts, Krystal) offerings
23 "The true test of greatness," per Herman Melville
24 Careless rush
25 "Boyhood" actor Hawke
26 Jumped
27 Attire for jockeys, named for their onetime fabric
28 Iowa State city
29 ___ for Fears ("Head Over Heels" duo)
30 Panache
31 Some college administrators
33 Diplomacy
35 It's about 3.5% salts
38 High-voiced choral line that soars over the main melody
39 The Great Lakes, for example
41 Talks a big game
43 "Despacito" singer Luis
44 Biblical false god
45 Name for 1/3 of Henry VIII's wives
46 Upbeat greeting
48 Rub the wrong way
49 Clark's comic beloved (and coworker)
50 Chief Norse god
51 Ford luxury line, for short
52 Shiba Inu meme
54 12 of them make a year: abbr.
55 Spanish article