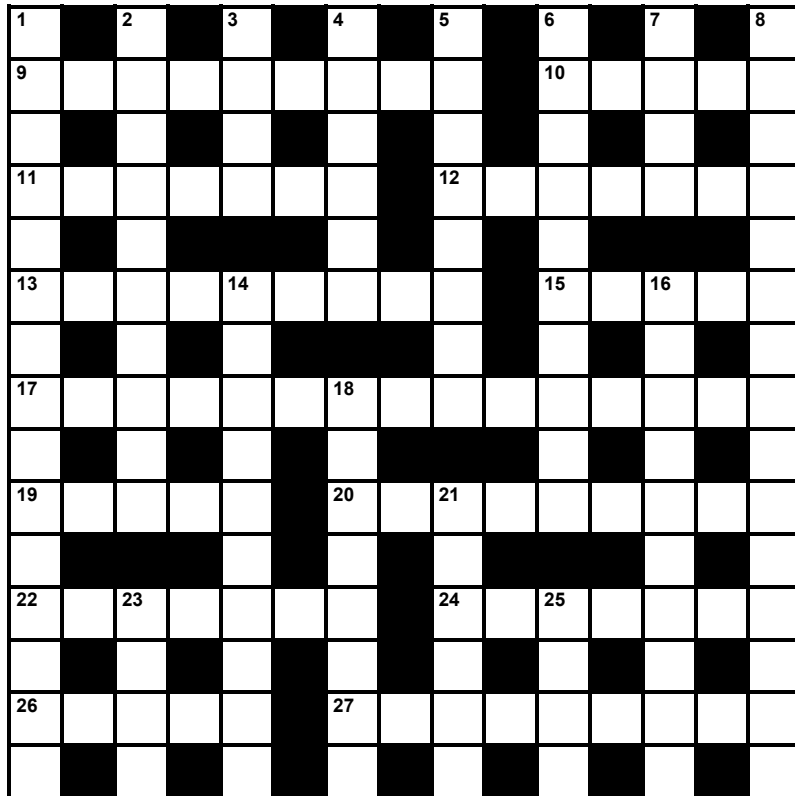


by



**Across**

- 9 Quite sour about gemstone (9)
- 10 Occupied states unimpressed by partial backing (2,3)
- 11 Woods surrounding height more constricting (7)
- 12 Italian men give autographs to poor Naomi in the end (7)
- 13 Delaware prompt keeping a record of religious instructions (9)
- 15 Send note backing Kaine (5)
- 17 Perhaps Hillary Clinton is courteous about one name a communist rejected (9,6)
- 19 Fabric managed to conceal greeting (5)
- 20 Reverse direction in performance at one stage of competition (4,5)
- 22 Just about copes as 1000 get badly soaked (5,2)
- 24 Trade Republican drama for Italian port (7)
- 26 Synthetic thread only goes round nun's head (5)
- 27 Less fever about quality of most gas stations (4-5)

**Down**

- 1 Said worried parent met foreign affairs experts (5,10)
- 2 Sadly, smoke rises during match (10)
- 3 Half of massive country begins to decay (4)
- 4 A couple of individuals holding hands turn up outside drilling facility (3,3)
- 5 Topical film has four points on Republican meeting slippery customer (8)
- 6 Trap baby food company putting earth in drink (6,4)
- 7 Regret getting up with zero cash (4)
- 8 This person (and millions more) gets Rove retired in disgrace (10,5)
- 14 Initials somehow no good when introducing Hispanic culture (10)
- 16 Clairvoyant needing unusual sort of steak (6,4)
- 18 Bordello you once involved in legal proceedings (8)
- 21 Extraordinary lustre for Hillary's victory, we hope (6)
- 23 Kittenish Ivanka's little orange tops showing weight (4)
- 25 Large tree which is administered as punishment in Saudi Arabia (4)