

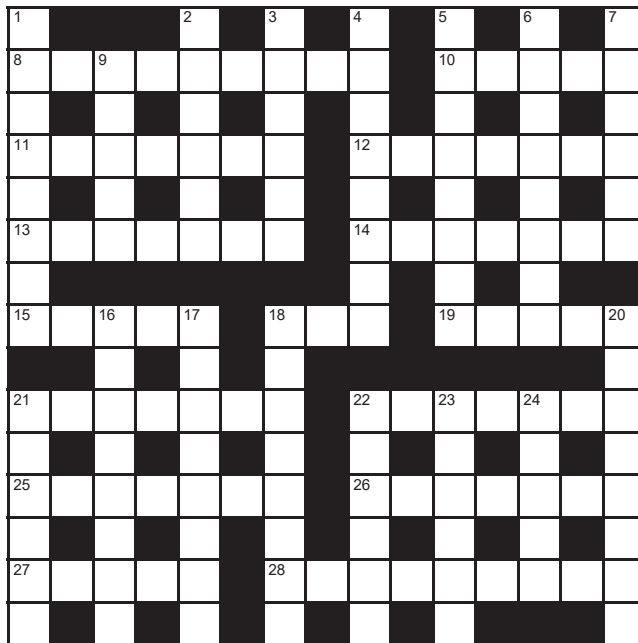
SUNDAY No 73 - NEWS OF THE YEAR PUZZLE by BUCCANEER

ACROSS

- 8** Absolve sub-postmaster, finally — old individual worried about it (9)
10 Country's king oddly unable to suppress resistance (5)
11 Trifling with Copa America star no good (7)
12 Stopped Democrat ruled to expel Republican (7)
13 Released prisoner informed to occupy a vacant space (7)
14 Games run by pleasant or controversial dancer (7)
15 Yen to abandon Trump's accuser Bert or Ashley? (5)
18 Ultimately, Kamala leading party in trouble (3)
19 Article special for Donald Sutherland or Timothy West, say (5)
21 Ousted PM saving UK region with hesitation (7)
22 Departing presenter, extremely knowledgeable, boarding ship (7)
25 E.g. Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, Drake and Dire Straits... (7)
26 ...song that won with new tech and lyrical lines (3,4)
27 Popular support backing World Cup winner (5)
28 I'm going to tone down irritability (3,6)

DOWN

- 1** Makes dirty, base, heartless slanders (8)
2 What Southgate and Louise Haigh did about omen (6)
3 Simpson or Smith who departed in 2024 (6)
4 Cause Varadkar to accept a party over time (4,2,2)
5 One wearing underwear and torn pants showing adverse effect of screen time (5,3)
6 Loser of farcical fight with press — Kemi, perhaps (4,4)
7 Promise from Labour's leader coming into power with advantage (6)
9 Reunited group love the way things are (5)
16 Measurements of magnetism and energy in rods set out (8)
17 Supporter of ex-PM receiving answer this month (8)
18 Literary composition — account by Conservative about wild riots (8)
20 TV postman, crossing river, almost slipped in garden area (8)
21 Where Musk's platform is banned, which is kind of nuts (6)
22 Darts star hasn't finished wee (6)
23 Foremost of newsreaders ending in disgrace? Edwards perhaps required (6)
24 Soft old president turned up, a chap no longer managing (5)



Solution No 72



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