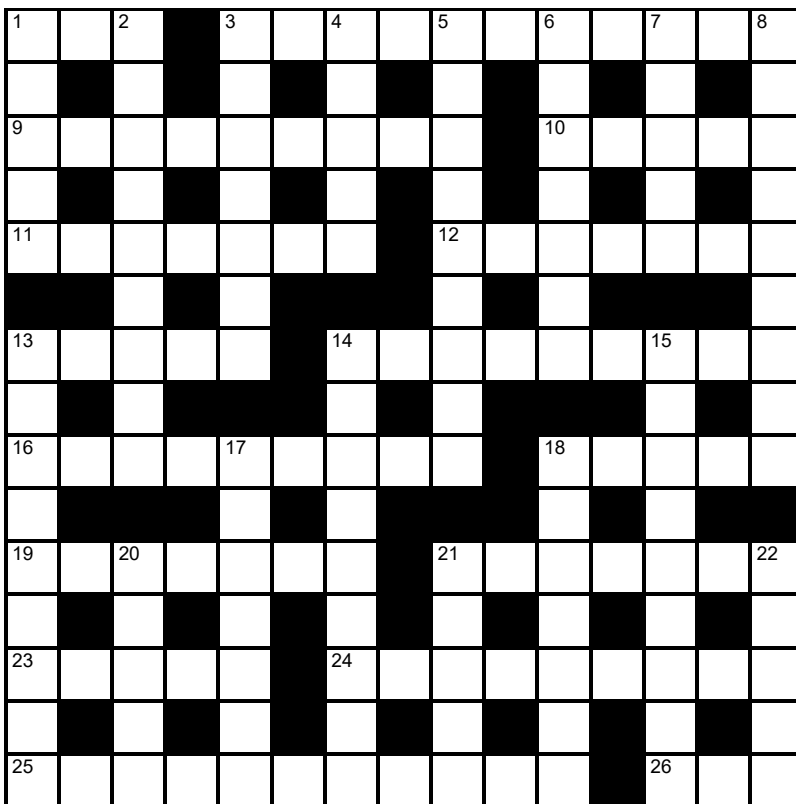
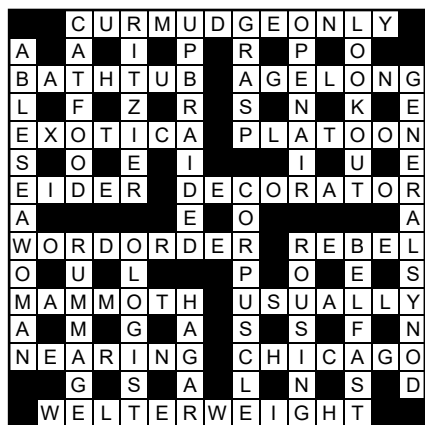


CROSSWORD No 17,999 by SOLOMON



Solution 17,998



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ACROSS

- 1 Drink gallons at home (3)
- 3 Misapplication of the French article in play is embodied by matriarch (11)
- 9 Poor chicken's decapitated by Solomon's attack (9)
- 10 Spinning tapestries, say, in school (5)
- 11 Did protest harm influential socialist democrat? (7)
- 12 Makers of silk dress fitted around Greek's figure (7)
- 13 How might one describe a bear? 'Dangerous'? (5)
- 14 9 agitated moles circling rats? (9)
- 16 German seat and chairs get modified (9)
- 18 Jammy woman snaffles the last piece of flapjack (5)
- 19 Fake news and sex filling insignificant pages online (7)
- 21 At ease, in Tuscany, with camping equipment (7)
- 23 City close to archipelago that neighbours Quebec (5)
- 24 Wicked cast performing in stately home (9)
- 25 Platform for oil companies vigorously grilling the leaders of rich industrialised democracies (8,3)
- 26 Part of regular circumference (3)

DOWN

- 1 One promising to hold the bride's train (5)
- 2 Finite supply hampering old queen — with time she achieved great things (9)
- 3 Madonna's first on, and the endless legendary content's belted out, eg *Vogue* (7)
- 4 One embraced by fat landowner in Scotland (5)
- 5 Force folk to become sailors? Or journalists? (5,4)
- 6 East German aristocracy who won't face up to reality (7)
- 7 Photograph in short periodical that is absorbing (5)
- 8 Where are the brothers who won't speak to one another? (9)
- 13 Inbred wrangler's latest daughter's wearing rawhide pants (4-5)
- 14 Piglets, perhaps, tip over part of pen and refuse to go in it (6,3)
- 15 Pit workers with lamps cycling the outer parts of Rhondda (9)
- 17 French king goes through bad weather to get pomade (4,3)
- 18 Netting ling? (7)
- 20 Baby, there's no getting away from it — I'm cute (5)
- 21 Policemen finally locate bar and get a drink (5)
- 22 During choir's warm-up, do not upset one beginning to cough (5)

JOTTER PAD