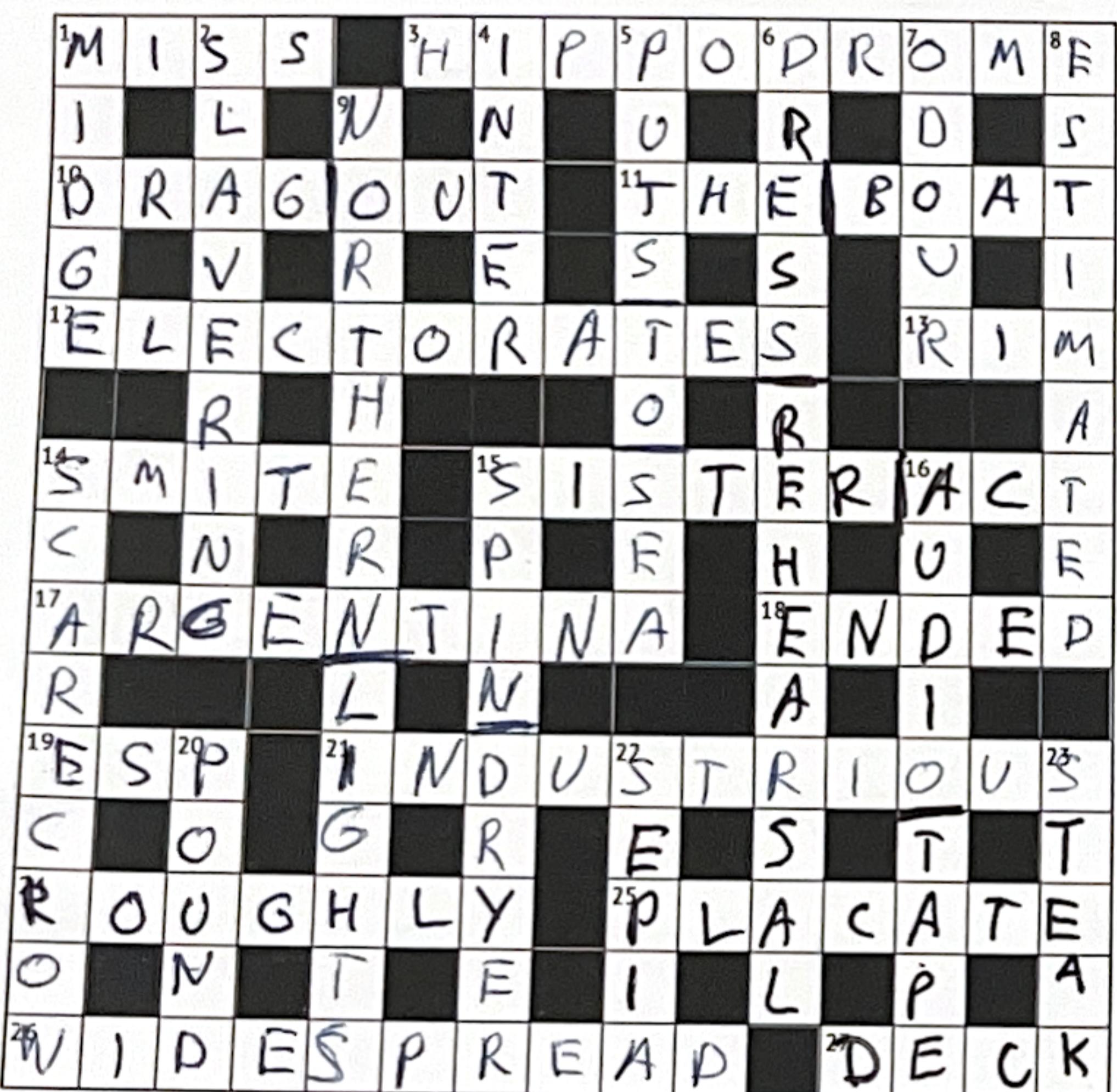


*~38 mins***Wednesday, December 11, 2024****Cryptic • by RK****ACROSS****11-across**

Excitedly aim best shot but lose an opportunity (4,3,4)

~~3~~ Hungry animal died beside capital city's theatre? (10)

~~10~~ Prolong hunt even after mythical beast losing tail (4,3)

~~11~~ See 1-across

~~12~~ Wildly steer and locate members' areas? (11)

~~13~~ Crop top lacking edge (3) *RIM*

~~14~~ Strike small bug (5) *STICK/SLICE*

~~15~~ Resist new territory for musical (6,3)

~~17~~ Country fellow possessed by unopened port (9)

~~18~~ Fixed mass left over (5)

~~19~~ *The Sixth Sense* twist regularly posted (3)

~~21~~ Hardworking engineer ruins studio (11)

~~24~~ Found inside, through lying about (7)

~~25~~ Calm down, the dish contains calcium (7)

~~26~~ Weird spade adapted for sweeping (10)

~~27~~ Knock over pack (4)

DOWN

~~1~~ Tiny fly, for example, dull all over (5)

~~2~~ Squeal about Oz tennis great, drooling (9)

~~4~~ Lay to rest initial rumours after I note lost love (5)

~~5~~ Casts off fablist upset over periodic quotes on time (4,2,3)

~~8~~ Refreshingly ~~effless~~, ~~as he had~~ in costumed run-through (5,9)

~~7~~ Frowning after egg smell (5)

~~9~~ Guessed at best I'm a tedious inclusion (9)

~~10~~ Learn, ~~short~~ ~~thing~~ anew, missing a polar glow (8,6)

~~14~~ Mark then a point for Adelaide player as he guards field (9)

~~15~~ Misplaced red spray in a dumped laundry machine (4-5)

~~16~~ Used to record currency conversion for one teapot, reduced (5,4)

~~20~~ Currency hit hard (5)

~~22~~ Promoted copies incorporating one nostalgic filter (5)

~~23~~ Express post barbecue fare (5)
STAKES *SMENT*