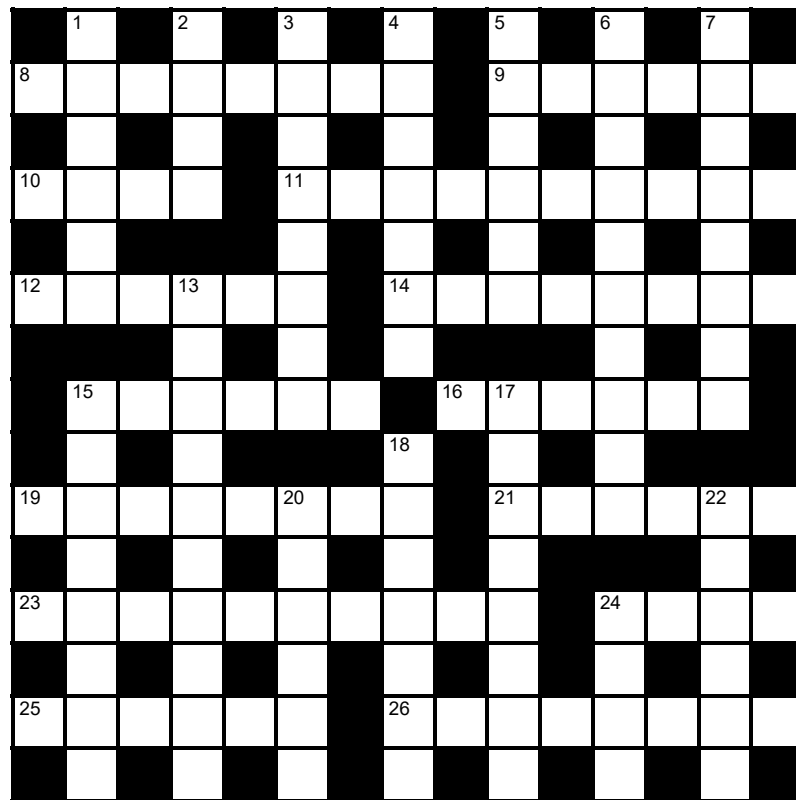


Cryptic #1



Across

- 8 Conifer is a constant clear green, essentially (8)
 9 Cleaner report cards come in these after victory (6)
 10 Independent nominee leads after Massachusetts primary (4)
 11 Herb karate chopped lover's gloom (10)
 12 Quietly, say a snippet of *Iliad*, verbatim (6)
 14 Fit shelves evenly in loft (8)
 15 Sharpness of hairpin turn taken in a Civic (6)

- 16 Wedding season brought about lovers' beginning (6)
 19 Aid head of Romania in escape--key revolutionary divide (8)
 21 Dark times in *Stranger Things* (6)
 23 Grave characters now rush beneath the waves (3,7)
 24 Trials remove leader of crowds (4)
 25 Minor interruption doesn't end the cheerfully indifferent (6)
 26 Petty flirting is out of place (8)

Down

- 1 Risque bridal parties (6)
 2 Embody a legume? (4)
 3 In a daze, orbit hip bar (8)
 4 Ate up piece of watermelon during festive break (7)
 5 Second, minute, and hour hands may be found on one sample piece (6)
 6 In the middle of inhaling noisily, kelp cut short underwater activity (10)
 7 Contest a story's stated license (8)

- 13 Conceal the truth in a quiet cove at sea (10)
 15 Piece from liar rife with alterations (3,5)
 17 Play into new hairdo (8)
 18 Not quite bent ear, thy in a lower place (7)
 20 Heard aching cry for dessert (6)
 22 Discovered tales within; mine is bent (6)
 24 Third person to be left Eastern key (4)