

# Cryptic #1

## Across

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|--|----------------------------------|
| 8 Conifer is a constant clear green, essentially (8)             | pinetree (PI+NET+gREEn)          |
| 9 Cleaner report cards come in these after victory (6)           | windex ("win decks" hom.)        |
| 10 Independent nominee leads after Massachusetts primary (4)     | main (MA+I+N)                    |
| 11 Herb karate chopped lover's gloom (10)                        | heartbreak ("herb karate" anag.) |
| 12 Quietly, say a snippet of <i>Iliad</i> , verbatim (6)         | adverb (iliAD VERBatim)          |
| 14 Fit shelves evenly in loft (8)                                | athletic (AT(sHeLvEs)TIC)        |
| 15 Sharpness of hairpin turn taken in a Civic (6)                | acuity (A C(U)ITY)               |
| 16 Wedding season brought about lovers' beginning (6)            | splice (SP(L)ICE)                |
| 19 Aid head of Romania in escape--key revolutionary divide (8)   | crevasse (C(R+EVAS)SE (rev.))    |
| 21 Dark times in <i>Stranger Things</i> (6)                      | nights ("things" anag.)          |
| 23 Grave characters now rush beneath the waves (3,7)             | rip current (RIP+CURRENT)        |
| 24 Trials remove leader of crowds (4)                            | ills (fILLS)                     |
| 25 Minor interruption doesn't end the cheerfully indifferent (6) | blithe (BLIp+THE)                |
| 26 Petty flirting is out of place (8)                            | trifling ("flirting" anag.)      |

## Down

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Risque bridal parties (6)  | ribald ("bridal" anag.)           |
| 2 Embody a legume? (4)   | bean (2 defs.)                    |
| 3 In a daze, orbit hip bar (8)   | prohibit ("orbit hip" anag.)      |
| 4 Ate up piece of watermelon during festive break (7)                        | getaway (G(ETA+W)AY)              |
| 5 Second, minute, and hour hands may be found on one sample piece (6)        | swatch (S+WATCH)                  |
| 6 In the middle of inhaling noisily, kelp cut short underwater activity (10) | snorkeling (SNOR(KELp)ING)        |
| 7 Contest a story's stated license (8)                                       | legalize ("league a lie's" hom.)  |
| 13 Conceal the truth in a quiet cove at sea (10)                             | equivocate ("a quiet cove" anag.) |
| 15 Piece from liar rife with alterations (3,5)                               | air rifle ("liar rife" anag.)     |

<b>17</b> Play into new hairdo (8)	ponytail ("play into" anag.)
<b>18</b> Not quite bent ear, thy in a lower place (7)	beneath (BENt EAr THy)
<b>20</b> Heard aching cry for dessert (6)	sorbet ("soar bay" hom.)
<b>22</b> Discovered tales within; mine is bent (6)	talent (T(tALEs)NT)
<b>24</b> Third person to be left Eastern key (4)	isle (IS+L+E)

