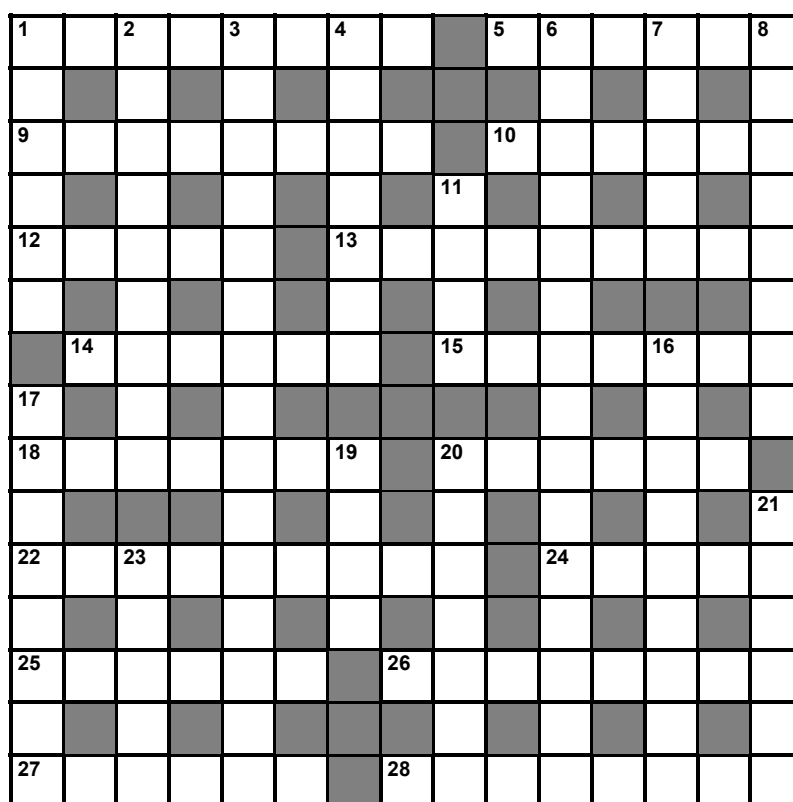


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ACROSS

- 1 A piece secured by bolt is a slight inconvenience (8)
- 5 Run through sick person's admission perhaps (6)
- 9 Equality of measure several recognised in one test (8)
- 10 Drink after a party is liked a lot (6)
- 12 Restrain person from Europe in audience (5)
- 13 Weeds ruined lake frozen in sections (9)
- 14 Starter of duck served before private function (6)
- 15 Distracted operator losing connection with a soldier (7)
- 18 Part of label - a sticky strip of flexible material (7)
- 20 Small number backed a servile agent (6)
- 22 Vague uncle, giving up, left train disorientated (9)
- 24 Joint closing of accounts restricted by a legal document (5)
- 25 Uranium stored in a streamlined chamber (6)
- 26 Send off last of four sheep in autumn (8)
- 27 Severely criticise female holding kitty (6)
- 28 Salesman died after wayward teen said sorry (8)

DOWN

- 1 Small bird providing nest for large quail (6)
- 2 A coterie's distributed secret information (9)
- 3 Whisper about important board member off colour could be emerging (8,7)
- 4 One who tosses scrap in the river (7)
- 6 Wormhole defined differently? (6,2,7)
- 7 A flat, clipped area in front of a green (5)
- 8 Consumers from America invested in lenders, losing lots initially (3,5)
- 11 Stand up after all the others (4)
- 16 Careful specialist and I had hooked up in outlet (9)
- 17 Shooter set up while holding hostage right ordinary customers (8)
- 19 Chew the fat potato (4)
- 20 Seeing red in hair not of natural origin (3-4)
- 21 Wooden tee set in concrete (6)
- 23 Scoundrel, one summoned by a papal court (5)