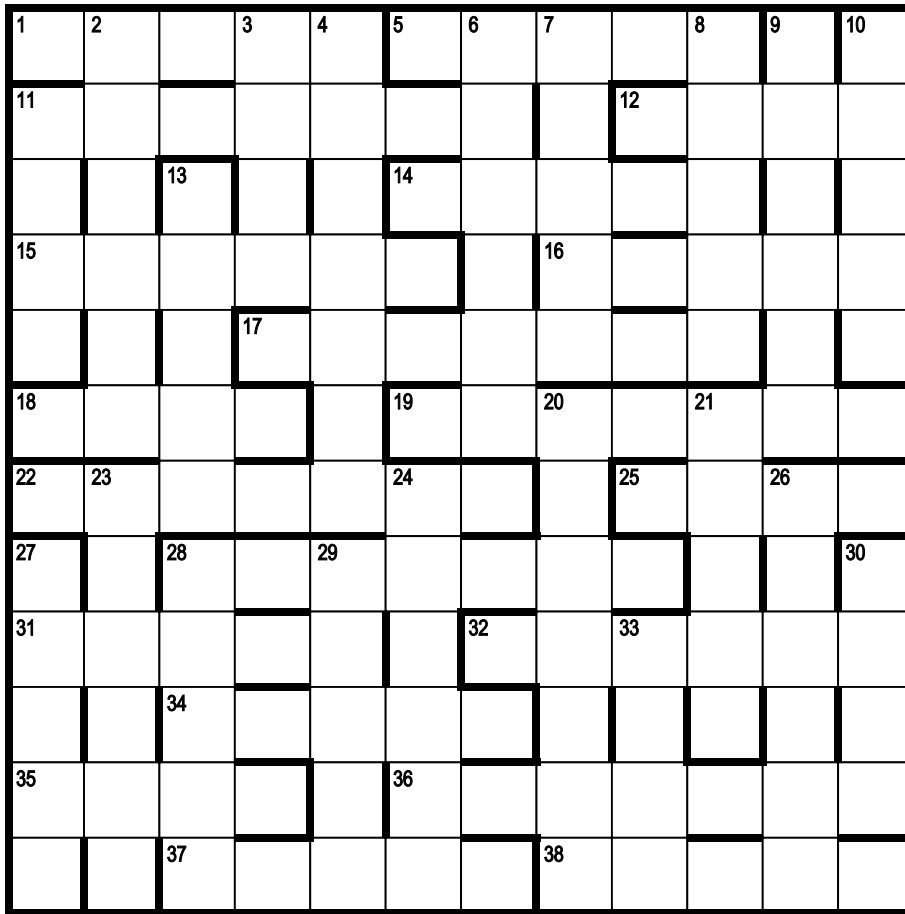


Cryptic 2024-09: Pugnacious Pirates

Darren Miller

Pirates live a life of turmoil and conflict. They can't even get along in the puzzle below. Maybe you can help them find a middle ground — but what will you need to get your point across? (7)

Most entries (not all) will have challenges going into the grid.



37 Proceed with tense duel out of bounds (5)

38 Charlie and I avoiding robbery of treasure box (5)

Down:

2 Sickness of boy hiding in can (6)

3 Bread provided by hospitality (4)

4 Trap husband in shabby rental (7)

6 Father's distillation of prettiest stepsister's spirits (6)

7 Ring with pearls, no emeralds nor rubies at first, and other gems (5)

8 Look angrily at excessive brilliance (5)

9 Deliverance from awful curse and curse's outcome (6)

10 Spooner said, "Jan, bow to get an instrument" (5)

11 Metal, perhaps at the edges of roadblock (4)

13 Dances with men swapping places with women in fronts of ships (5)

20 Scrub dirty lances with piece of emery (7)

21 Freeze over nice cup without lids (3,2)

23 Boy staggers to flying machines (6)

24 Mark and Ursula, initially inspired by a place of paradise (6)

26 Every so often, major user group roasts panelists (6)

27 Victor's ignoring court, struggling with shade (5)

28 Lithium turns into gold in section of cheek (5)

29 Eye problems caused by designs without luminance (5)

30 Bark from half of yellow pine's top (4)

33 Charge for marsh plant (4)

Across:

1 Large, angry male guarding capital of Poland (5)

5 Scare crab away from scrapbook (5)

11 One who clarifies can be mediator in critical location? (7)

12 Reported escape of a bloody pest (4)

14 Old article covering return of bombastic actor to Midwestern city (5)

15 Silly farce about a pitcher (6)

16 Left bow with tree (5)

17 Curt and the French ejected from rowdy burlesque (7)

18 Empty keg trapping urchin (4)

19 Computer department leader's head of finance becoming surly, essentially more irritating (7)

22 Work out after a bishop's release (7)

25 Lying about first signs of extreme heat causes angry throbbing (4)

28 Mistakenly used van of those who are lost (7)

31 Oddly, guitar note is very high (5)

32 Old female horse taking half-turn (6)

34 Typical: nonchalant, you coming in for the first nip of alcohol, topless (5)

35 Eric cleared out? No returns at any time (4)

36 Daughter steers around final course (7)