

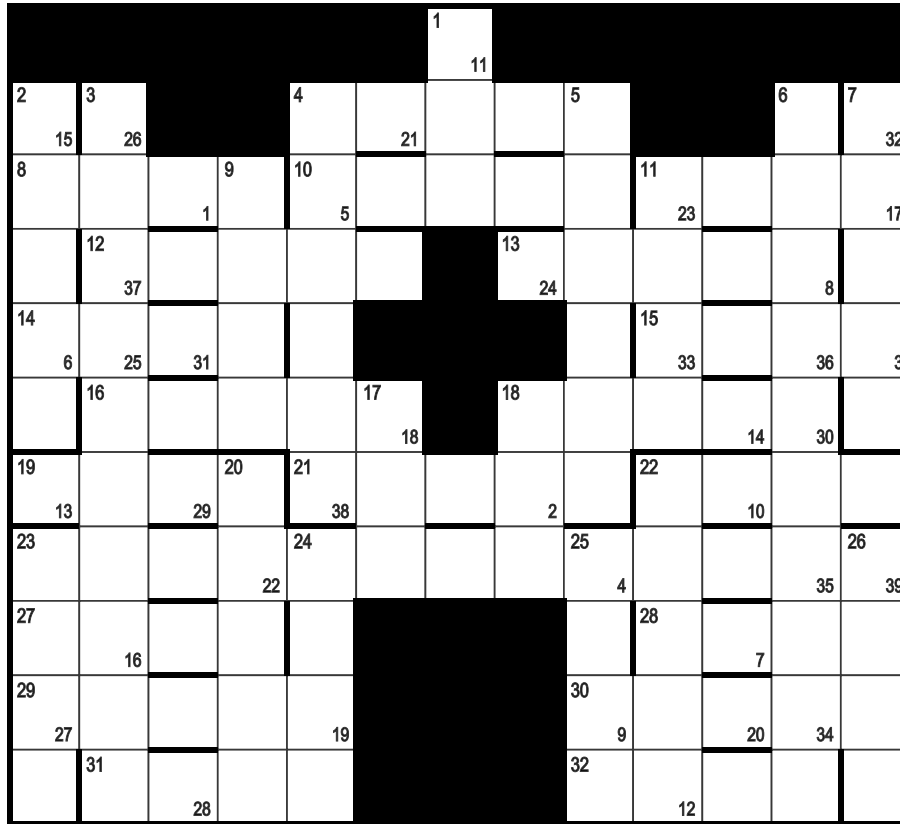
Cryptic 2025-12

Darren Miller

Someone vandalized the cathedral! What might they have been hoping for? (6, 5)

Some entries need to be modified to fit into the grid. What is entered may not be a word.

The numbers in the lower right are for the final extraction.



Down:

- 1 Measles? Stroke? Outbreak of Ebola? Everyone keels over (7)
- 2 Low hum generated by worker (5)
- 3 Disobedience to "silly" (sensible) rules involving love (14)
- 4 Control center's cell number malfunctioning, dropping number for everyone (10)
- 5 Mushroom comes from outside of boutique, in doorway near Los Angeles (10)
- 6 Serial home invader almost fell before Tom brought back Saul, alarmed (5,5)
- 7 He bills me outrageously to decorate (9)
- 9 My rookie regularly is a burden (4)
- 11 Vegetarian option available in pot of udon (4)

Across:

- 4 Church hit; bishop leaves to get a tool (5)
- 8 Count on number line until theory's limits (4)
- 10 Source of poetry? Singer hiding in poet's heart making a comeback (5)
- 11 Vehicle found buried in pastrami (4)
- 12 Indigo, violet or yellow piano keys (5)
- 13 Soared from left to right with a grumpy look (5)
- 14 Reported insult to put quarrel to rest (4)
- 15 Crew docked, returning with oils (4)
- 16 Every so often, trucks are equipped with exhaust (3,2)
- 18 Panicked ostrich flees from South African wild animals (5)
- 19 Trick leader to back a manipulative person (4)
- 21 Unfortunately, I made the news (5)
- 22 Performance led by tango with poise (4)
- 23 Refurbished Apple burns out? That's something that can't be handled (13)
- 27 A tall latte boiled down into dark seafoam? (4)
- 28 Revolutionary artificial intelligence embedded in nonsense results in prejudice (4)
- 29 A southern collection that's balanced on the left? (5)
- 30 You'll beg desperately, pawn and lose everything (2,5,2)
- 31 Loose hose leaking drop of alcohol (4)
- 32 Cries, "help me!" clutching boy (4)
- 17 Zeal going up... or down? (3)
- 18 Delivered coat tree (3)
- 20 Leader has a straight edge (5)
- 22 Bill covering rings is unacceptable (5)
- 23 Author avoids Oregon, moving to another state (4)
- 24 Parrot stuffed with tea and couple of beets in old stove (8)
- 25 Yanks license plates where middle of state becomes unreadable, primarily (4)
- 26 Hollow earrings and extremely pretty watch (4)