

September Septet

by Ucaoimhu

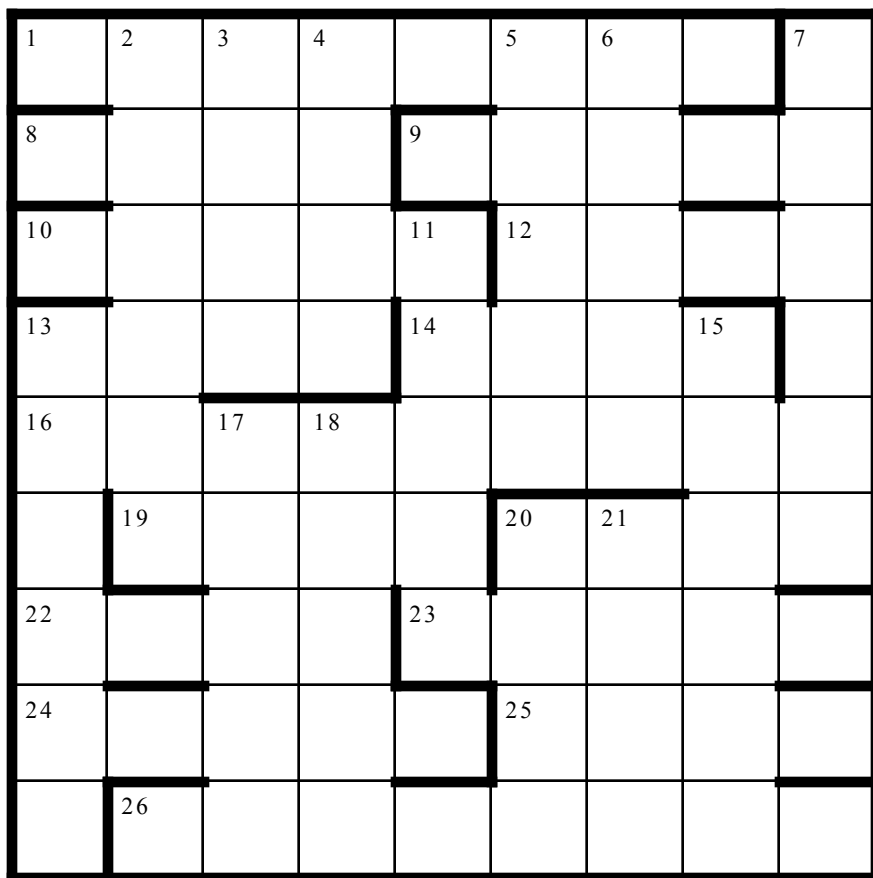
On this page you will find seven cryptograms, one for each day of fall so far. Each of these cryptograms is one letter long, and occurs as an extra letter at the start of a word in a clue; this letter must be deleted (to give a different word) before solving the clue.

To help in deciphering the cryptograms, each of seven other clues has an answer that must be altered before entry by changing a three-letter item in it to a single letter; this change is fall-themed, but not always biologically accurate. (All tagging on clues applies to the original answers, not to the words that result from these alterations.) Write the items vertically next to the day-of-week abbreviations shown (in the standard order of the things they change to) to get, for each of the seven ciphers, three letter-encodings for that cipher. (All ciphers are reversible — if X stands for Y, Y stands for X.)

If you decipher all the cryptograms, their answers, in order, will spell a seven-letter word describing you.

ACROSS

1. The author thus strikes about 1000 words with no duplicated letters
8. Sicilian hotspot is to kick in money from the feast
9. Florida's that female person in a raincoat, perhaps
10. Start to like Madame Bovary's mathematical proposition
12. Ballad about foremost of zoos exhibiting sloth
13. Prayers addressed to Mary's birds, as a class
14. Lad gets business degree somewhere in India
16. No, I first ate stew in a building with red trucks (2 wds.)
19. Is in yon outspoken denials
20. Loot was unbelievably grand
22. Indian king beheaded by Greek hero
23. Get cheerful sound from two unhealthy quartets?
24. The French carpet, if flipped, is shaped like a person or animal
25. Wized innermost heart of usage editor
26. Done with short mystery writer evaluators



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DOWN

2. Those who make iron alloy with random elements (2 wds.) [NI2]
3. One enthralling minute, paid for by yours truly (2 wds.)
4. Features on pinups from two southern states
5. Many will grasp the nose of Liddy Dole
6. *La Boheme's* heroine beats anvils, primarily in a sunny spot
7. Hoarse-voiced creature from Tolkien upset a monarch
11. Lincoln assumes ace is lower
13. Rage, Hal, involved staring furiously
15. Dropping every other item, boys enwrap their yellowish diamond (*hyph.*) [NI2]
17. Takes to the skies with small propellers
18. Disheartened the ten ballplayers from California State
20. Heard the vehicle in which Santa flies off
21. Spay a joker before the end of June

The word: