Run On! by Ucaoimhu

Each clue has an extra character that you must remove before solving and if you read these in clue order they will tell you which letters in the grid you should circle so that when you have finished and read the circled letters left to right and top to bottom in the grid they describe a set of clues whose answers when put together in clue order and respaced and put after “I” will tell you why I am now of the opinion that a race as long as this race is is perfect for the Krewe and by the way the weird way these instructions are phrased has nothing to do with that final answer but just ties in with the title which itself is meant to be inspiring to everyone running today.

ACROSS
2. What might enclose five totes and torn hose (4)
5. Goth hat last seen near Eccentric Evan’s refuge (5)
9. Got ice in part of olive sound sensors (4) [NI3 usage]
10. Old creature that shops where Chicago-bound planes land (1’4)
11. Leader of Yemen is in Eden, flipping a Saudi coin (5)
12. Didst claim undershirt outwardly said “Bah!” when reversed (5)
14. Plume’s right next to a mouse with little courage (4)
15. Thew or stick (6)
18. Check about north half of wedge that’s emitted gas (6)
19. Ewings are initially swimming in beer (4)
21. Eire mostly gets described by raw, raw Irish interjection (5)
24. Nutter beginning to say “billet” (5)
25. Left some water covering Nana’s foot cast (5)
26. Low-class noun that is “band” (3-1)
27. Lady is partying but healing stuff (5)
28. Volga might seem kinky to the West Siberian community (4)

DOWN
1. Ed, who was mayor of NYC back when its subterranean R&R cost $1.00 in pachinko chits (4)
2. Seizes illegally small teak leaves at both ends (6)
3. Area concealed from an orator that’s gone fast (4)
4. Go over and correct “Piaf ain’t got any rebar” (4)
5. Iron from old Tarzan movies rises to support Don, the singer/card game expert (5)
6. When speaking, keeps people from observing slower spots (5)
7. Her . . . that is, a native of New York (4)
8. Engaged in lipo activity that is to require around a hundred thousand dollars (6)
13. Goofy leaps will be one way to attract customers (4)
14. Two thirds of mink incorporated into half-mink skirt (4)
15. Last pair of medicos having laugh very loudly engages in banter (6)
16. Give different priority to ark Vern destroyed (6) [NI2]
17. Said to tearlessly pave the capital of Afghanistan (5)
18. Boarder that’s around, for example, a clergyman (5)
20. Kinks song that makes me guffaw at partisans, chiefly (4)
21. Wits who will discard every other form dealing with taxa (1-3)
22. Marsupials endlessly sit, the way those with breaks do (4)
23. Good — to interrupt a couple of taunts, start to exhibit a flu symptom (4)