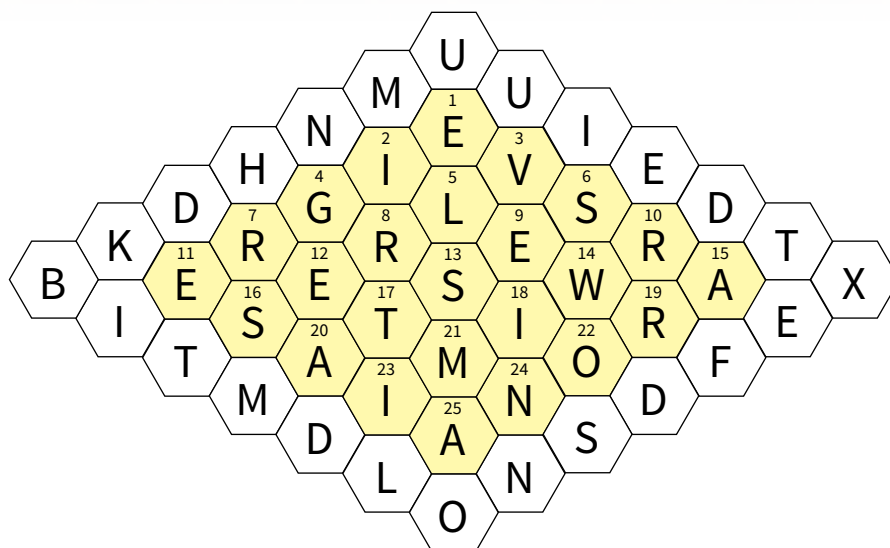


Solution to Previous Issue's Puzzle—Honeycombs

Apologies to Corinne and David Promislow for omitting them from the list of solvers last time.

Apologies to everyone for an imperfect clue below, #1. The logic of the wordplay implies that the word “mule” will carry some letters from “Peruvians,” namely UVI, and then the whole thing will be turned around to yield ELUVIUM. The problem is that UVI appears in that order, not reversed. The logic should really tell the mule to turn around and then carry some Peruvians to mineral deposits. Which is funnier anyway!

1. ELUVIUM—“Mule” reversed over UVI (“some Peruvians”)
2. GREMLIN—Anagram of “Mingler”
3. ELUSIVE—Anagram of “EU evils”
4. HERRING—Pun on HER RING (“That lady’s band”)
5. SERVILE—An even worse pun on SIR VILE (“Despicable one knighted”)
6. REVIEWS—Homophone of REVUES (“plotless musicals”)
7. HEDGERS—Scramble “greed” and insert into HS (“high school”)
8. GRISTLE—GR (“Greece”) + IS + last letters in “nonbelligerent until peacetime”
9. SWIVELS—SW (“two directions”) and scramble “lives”
10. REWARDS—Anagram of “drawers”
11. SKIRTED—Outside of “Skip’s heavyhearted”
12. GARTERS—Anagram of “garrets”
13. MILTERS—MILERS (“Some middle distance runners”) around T (“turkey at first”)



14. WORRIES—Outside of “work-song series”
15. DRAFTER—DR (“Doctor”) + AFTER
16. STEAMER—Inside “Paste ‘America’”
17. SMARTIE—Anagram of “imarets”
18. WINSOME—One half of “win some, lose some” (“a philosophical statement of acceptance”)
19. FORWARD—Double definition
20. MISDATE—Punny double definition
21. ANAMIST—Anagram of “Tim, Ian’s”
22. WINDSOR—Punny double definition (i.e. neckties and “Windsor and Wally’s affair,” as Stephen Sondheim put it in his song “I’m Still Here”)
23. MATILDA—ADAM over LIT (“excited”) reversed
24. MANSION—Anagram of “Onanism”
25. NOMINAL—Anagram of “name only” without the Y (“Yen does not exist”)

- Center row: BEESWAX
- Rows 4 and 10: HIVE MIND
- Four-letter word from unchecked cells in groups 11 and 15: KITE

Solvers: Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Lois Cappellano, Laura Cremerius, Jared Dashoff, Todd Dashoff, Christopher Dickens, Mick Diede, Deb Edwards, David Handelman, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Catharine Hornby, Max Jackson, Ruth Johnson, Paul Kolell, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, George Levine, Tim Luker, Ben Lynch, Michael Manos (and Eric and Lillie), Mathew Marchione and Marika Brown, Dave McGarry, Jim Muza, David and Corinne Promislow, Ram Raman, Zig Swistunowicz, Tim Tebbe, and T. O. C. E. (Josh DenHartog and Sean Donohoe).

TOM TOCE is an FCAS and a seasonal director at KPMG. He is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to ttoce@nyc.rr.com. In order to make the solver list, you should send him your solutions by Aug.1, 2026.