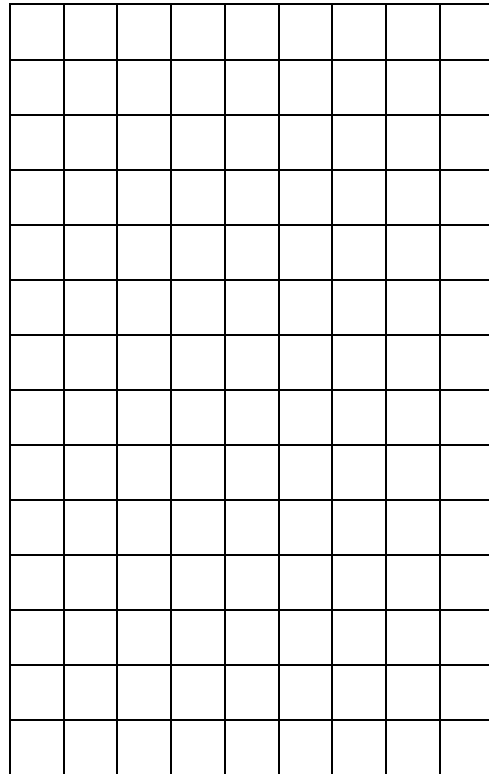


Puzzle # 175 - December 2015 "Carambole"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eight letters, and three are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Six across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those twelve letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase related to the title and to another two-word phrase concealed in the completed grid, which solvers are invited to find. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. New England state has to get rid of cabinet
2. That horse carries a god
3. Feeling about a joint
4. Strange Asian diarist's name
5. End of cam in engine is rod turning part
6. Poor one's wife comes out to heave
7. Head part of abdomen
8. Tissue's help covering cancerous node
9. List of fellows at university
10. Pound core of apple with polished steel
11. Lobe shaped part of tree
12. Server loses one degree of quality
13. Remove section of rail if twisted
14. Monster revolted by true fungus
15. Take hold of broken coral with end of tool
16. A Native American eagle's nest
17. Bird seen in crate, alive
18. Lenin's soiled bedding
19. Long, narrow place to take off
20. Shelled plover or goose egg
21. Listen to her holding note
22. Pleased to have comfort
23. Sing of crazy lawyer wasting years to get billions
24. Malice at first and vicious greed combined
25. Eats intemperately to get full
26. Fool held in classroom
27. Prophet embracing a land inspector

Down

1. Smart bird doesn't have to know
2. Beginning of ninth: pitcher is fresher
3. Animal left with priest
4. Tie up large tree
5. Prisoner has got off easy at first
6. Snuff is one's undoing
7. When powdered, ours is acidulous
8. Credit tobacco about the same
9. Rider Paul keeps a bit of snuff in back
10. Old one struggling to improvise
11. Prong has metal end
12. Seize whiskey and all that's left
13. Begin to get registered for new business
14. Specter in Hades being tortured
15. Either tossed one out or it's a triple
16. Wrong bottle initially recorded in ledger
17. Like a dry tract Sarah managed and trimmed
18. Tanker or steamer without a head
19. A noble savage holding a shell
20. Two-part fight announced
21. Style of family den
22. Informed of volume consumed
23. Ring around treetop is part of corolla
24. Nobleman holding the French parer