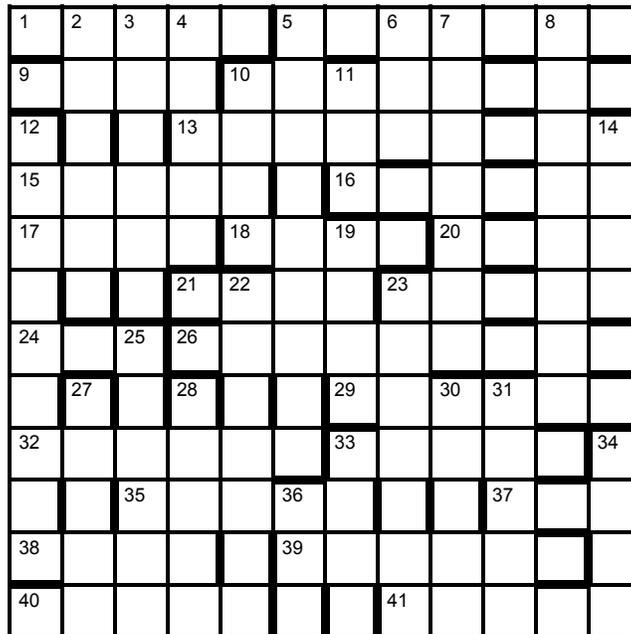


WINNER! - Cryptic of the Year Dry Spell

The grid represents a map depicting an area of land that used to be quite wet but has been affected by drought. The areas that used to be wet can be found by completing the grid; once you shade in these areas (of which there are fourteen, and which may overlap each other), examining the islands they surround may prove enlightening.



ACROSS

1. Dehydrate grody bananas (5, 2 words)
5. Nearing in order to get close (7, 2 words)
9. It has three layers of minable material, then nothing (4)
10. Reordered lotions at the Y as if one were in charge (8)
13. How it'll go when weaving yarn that's a bit thin (9, 2 words)
15. Hand over pot, but not ecstasy (5)
16. Corruptive atmosphere corrupted Sam-I-Am (6)
17. According to Pierre, it's surrounded by water, near an unknown tree (4)
18. Every coach is losing face (4)
20. System programmer employs someone from an agency (4)
21. Plant from Hawaii planted in California (4)
23. Cruise missiles encircling some trucks (5)
24. Creature that swims in the Elbe (3)
26. Thinking about mixing Pernod and gin (9)
29. Uncivilized Herb hanging around Virginia (6)

32. Satisfied by Iditarod vehicle circling Alaska (6)
33. Author Robert's problem with writing is articulated (5)
35. Food containing one calorie is a travesty (5)
37. Threesome never starting out for South American city (3)
38. Coins with a hole in the middle—they can be seen at the mint (4)
39. One who hustles the German around Mandela's party (6)
40. Broadcast over the intercom is messed up (5)
41. Kennedy's lingerie (5)

DOWN

2. Beginning and end of one chapter we will author (6)
3. In a way, stun Democratic chairman describing failure and error (6)
4. Watch part: \$10 (5)
5. I drag nine snakes for native (9)
6. Climbing mountain peak is folly (3)
7. Reagan associate from crooked Watt era (7)
8. Stealing foremost pieces from Gucci, Lacoste, or Miu Miu is not good (8)
10. "The page is leaving the steeple, my lord" (4)
11. Physicist ought to move to top position in medical organization (3)
12. Doctor one poem with a poor grade in a high school class (9, 2 words)
14. Convention site also moves around? (4)
19. California's full of poor, uncouth men (4)
22. Penning parody of *Rome*, he'd hit one out of the park (7)
23. It keeps moisture out of ensemble worn by Mr. Rickman (7)
25. Galoot wears the French Riviera's premier shoe (6)
27. Dash out of French hideaway (5)
28. Edict you cover for *The Listener* (5)
30. Proclaim, "Oxygen is consumed by smoking cigarettes," for instance (5)
31. Cared about owning a lot of land (5)
33. Stand naked in the sound (4)
34. Young man lying about gender initially can be a startling thing (4)
36. Recordings' odd codas (3)