

October 2026 Slot 7 by Crowsman

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Across

- 1 Sibyl heading west, taking in place names (7)
- 5 Tightens one's belt with small folds (7)
- 9 Arab's second car (5)
- 10 Removed spirit from being taxed, restricting otherwise (9)
- 11 Resolute about reaching the top, president means to be heard (8,7)
- 12 Using this, it is now here from nowhere! (5,3)
- 13 Push staff to force a proposal to be accepted (6)
- 15 Salt additive that is holding back Carthaginian queen (6)
- 16 Shade ordered by trendy chief's office (8)
- 19 Emergency brigades coming from bloodstained sex crime returning amidst fixtures (4,11)
- 20 18th century Anglo-Irish novelist embraced by listener, New Englander perhaps (9)
- 21 Innocent tipping over of bottled water (5)
- 22 Stops those believing in God welcoming leader of sect (7)

- 23 Says "OK" when posted south (7)

Down

- 1 Takes test again, involving first of several bucks (7)
- 2 Superficial refinement cut quartz, for example, found in beach (6,3,6)
- 3 Ran, breaking consistency with stupidity (15)
- 4 Bird caught in wave from backward motion of vessel (8)
- 5 Marked cannabis found in filthy place (6)
- 6 Carry out with small cars after wild bear cuts abs (6,9)
- 7 Wrong idea adjusting paper layer during operation (15)
- 8 Applied a tranquilliser, raising small amount in the beginning (7)
- 14 Blunder admitted by raising vent towards mini ecosystem containers (8)
- 15 Place of diamond swindle if night-watchman held up (7)
- 17 Have western bands front of stage? (7)
- 18 Prickles from small trees (6)