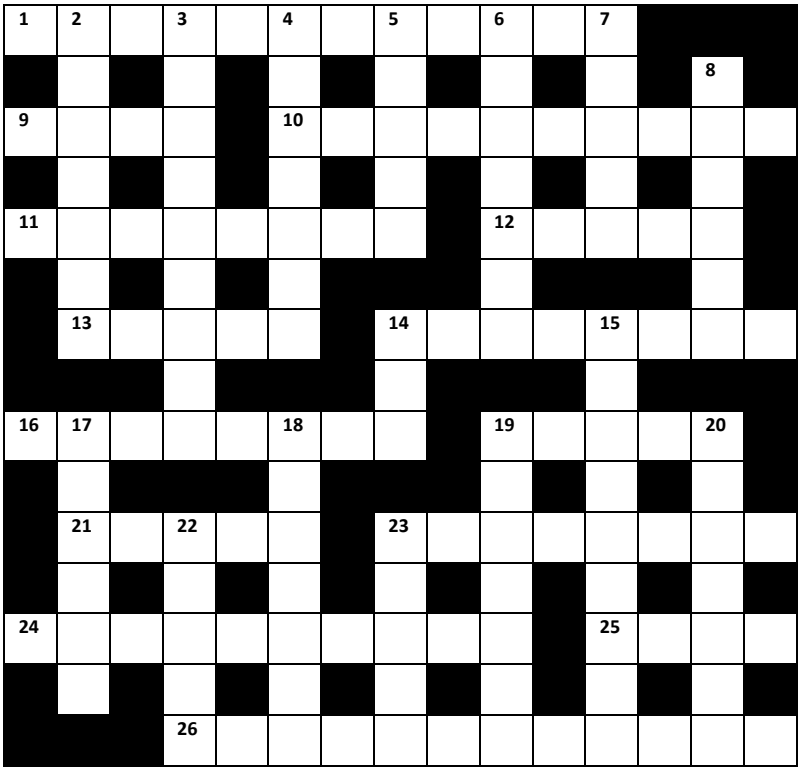
Number 698: 9 November 2026



Across

1 Online forum executive group closes early, primarily after chaos with truncated AGM (7,5)
9 Boy needs something to amplify his voice to be understood (4)
10 Following European fashion, grab item of neckwear (4,6)
11 and 12 Husband wants referee to assist wife against strong swimmer (8,5)
13 Remove *Times* leader on economy (5)
14 Judge only voided amendment to contract that's criminal (8)
16 Rich American fellows getting fast banking for all (7)
19 Small musical group snob mocked a bit after comeback (5)
21 Rational king abandons chance to meet returning princess (5)
23 Card player to triumph before hand is seized by the German cheat (8)
24 Scullery maid and I cleaned middle of ballroom poorly (10)
25 Public celebration's starting late, I'm sorry to say (4)
26 Failing to register uranium, computer reset faulty scientific instrument (12)

Down

2 Lover of food experimenting with recipe after eating meat in pub (7)
3 Witness daughter pressure nobleman, wanting shiny item (4,6)
4 German rebel, say, to drop explosive device (7)
5 Obstruct section of canal with barge's prow (5)
6 Tube station's covered passage (7)
7 Now and then raft's guided around watery area (5)
8 Willing to make contact with two from terrorist cell (6)
14 Stone in stream (3)
15 Writer's to act as a peacemaker – Swift? (9)
17 Boost stock by the smallest amount? (6)
18 Second drone flying over abandoned site (7)
19 Alto needing energy at end of fashionable musical (7)
20 Snap elections – initially a voter had more than enough (7)
22 Final sections of visa document reviewed (5)
23 Small mine divided by large fissure (5)

PUZZLE 697 – *Across*: **6** Theremin; **7** No-ball; **10** Kinda; **11** Silliness; **12** Updated; **14** Tread on; **15** Spendthrift; **20** Educate; **22** Popular; **23** Cuban heel; **24** Tigon; **26** Rankle; **27** Hen night
Down: **1** Mean; **2** Repartee; **3** Biased; **4** Polite; **5** Sacerdotal; **6** Take up; **8** Losing; **9** Glitch; **13** Disturbing; **16** Deepen; **17** Impotent; **18** Mercer; **19** Brandt; **21 & 22** Arnold Palmer; **25** Gaga

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