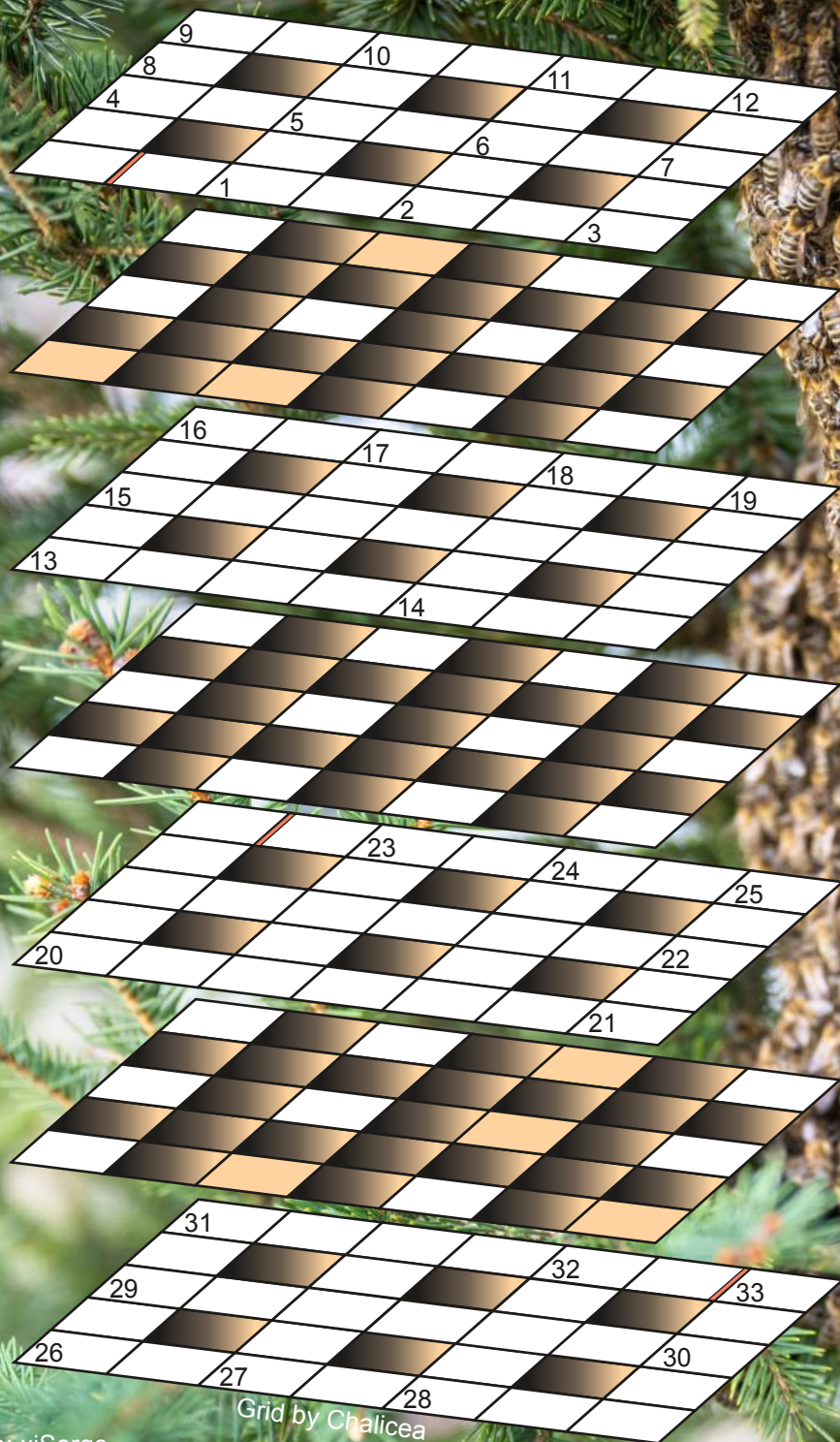


October 2026 Curmudgeon Chalicea



Grid by Chalicea

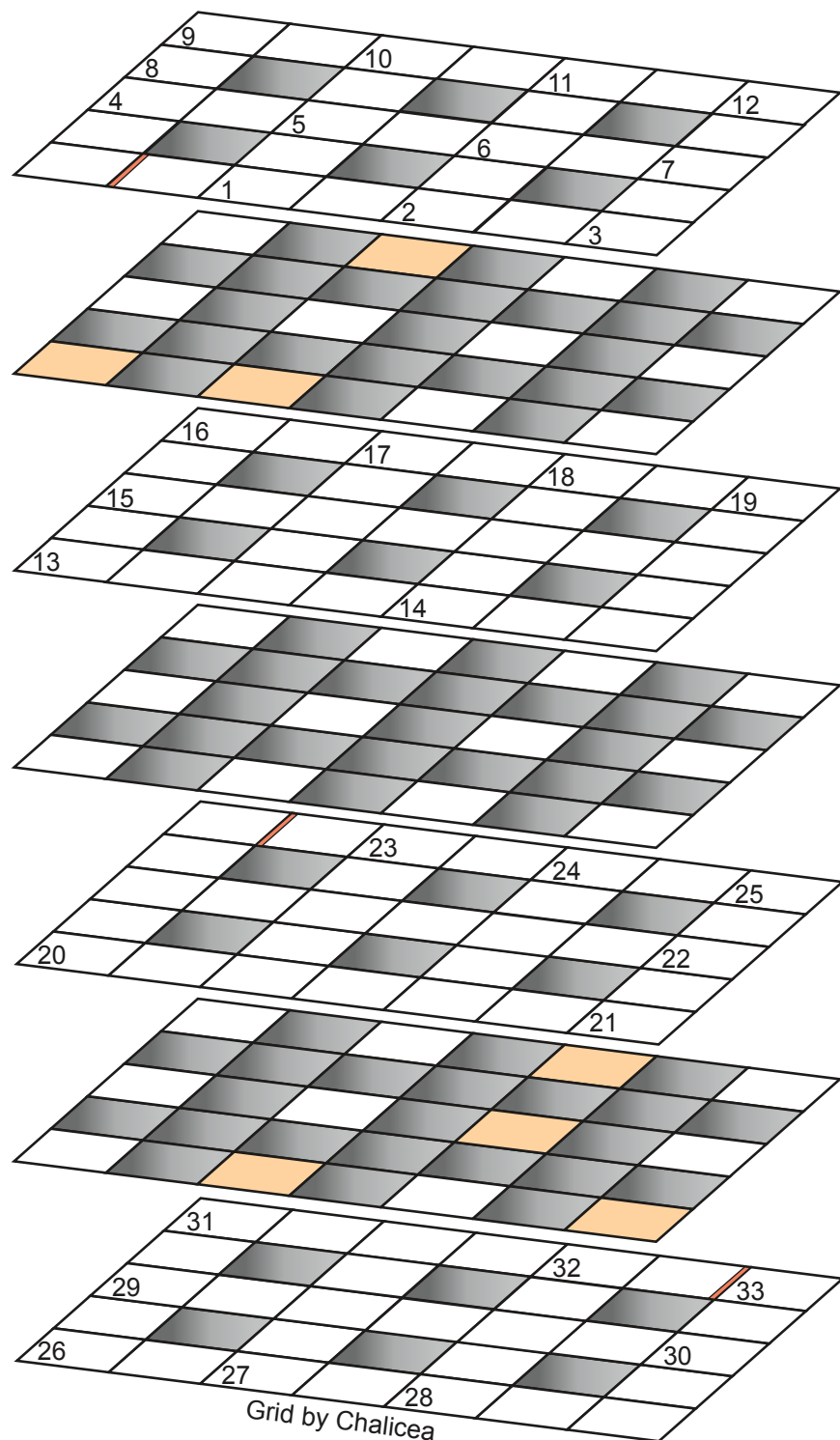
Photo: xiSerge

The puzzle celebrates the 100th anniversary of the appearance of 4ac,7d (3 words, hyphenated, unclued). All the characters appear in the grid (with wordplay only) and in 30ba,29to,26ac (7,4,4, also unclued).

Clues are numbered in alphabetical order of their solutions. The coloured cells spell a name that should be sent with your entry.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Day 23 22ba (7)    Drawing by Frank Paul			1 ^{33up} Patch of ground of a native American person mostly (4)	2 ^{16ac} Advanced tally including British tree (7)	3 ^{33to} Sapsucker apparently concealed (5)	4 ^{20ac} A top set revised some nouns (7)
5 ^{20aw} Pale-coloured, like a pullet (5)	6 ^{17to} Cap that's felt before being squeezed by telecoms company (5)	7 ^{26aw} Scrounge a bit of dinner in prison (5)	8 ^{26up} Organised pack has military caps (7)	9 ^{9d} Lost opportunity of alumni intermittently entering churches (7)	10 ^{9ac,12d-5,25ba} Miserable British corner shop lacking goods ultimately (11,5)	11 ^{9to} Monks' habits left amidst livestock (5)
12 ^{27aw} In good time, not quite missing starter (5)	13 ^{31ac-6} Emptily enunciate long ago in poetic language (6)	14 ^{1d} Constituent of talent – it lends style (7)	15 ^{2d} Mortgagee taking sides about test for students (5,2)	16 ^{19to} Animal apathy enables captures (5)	17 ^{23to} Papers I returned to dimwit (5)	18 ^{6d} Raining pell-mell, firmly set in (7)
19 ^{13aw} Almost the heart of Balkan garden (5)	20 ^{13ac} Island cattle on Skye churned up earth (7)	21 ^{5d} Not so calm – at no time circling river with current involved (7)	22 ^{15ac} Thug unveiled anger developing round tower (7)	23 ^{22ba} Book of a Bible leader I had reprinted (7)	24 ^{24to} To party without limits – form of creativity (2,3)	25 ^{8to} Headless chicken? (3)
26 ^{28aw} One admitting sad experience after daughter's absconded (5)	27 ^{3aw} Plants I sow from time to time in courtyard (5)	28 ^{3ba} Suffer after torture's brought back (6)	29 ^{3d} Despair surprisingly admired (7)	30 ^{10d} Confound last man in, maybe (6)	31 ^{10to} Temporary colour right in itself (5)	32 ^{32up} When oysters are in season (not May or June, for example) (1,6)
33 ^{25to} Proof without limits (3)	34 ^{21aw} Trail run I'm sorry to go over (5)	35 ^{11to} Control singular flight (5)	36 ^{18to,14ac-2} Cause something to happen without reason at first (6)	37 ^{4d} Weight moved slowly, hauled up by machine (7)		Oct 2026

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by midnight **31 October 2026**.

Name:

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Coloured cells: