RING TOSS

By MARK HALPIN

Clues for this puzzle are given as Rows and Rings. Row answers are to be entered across the grid in the order given. Ring answers, which are not clued in order, are each eight letters long and are to be entered in a ring of squares around one of the circles. Ring answers may begin in any position within the ring and may run either clockwise or counterclockwise. For each ring tossed into the grid, note the letter it surrounds. Read in clue order, these "ring letters" describe where you might see some ring-tossing.

ROWS

1 • Artist's supporter

• Coupon for free travel

2 • Apply a "five-finger discount"

• "Bullets" in Vegas

3 • Least likely to get it

• Like the Islamic calendar

4 • The Bruins of the N.C.A.A.

• Women's department in a department store

5 • Country singer's accent

• Events where mediums are not rare

6 • Puget Sound city

• Sketch again

7 • Merge

• The sun, or Venus just before dawn

8 • Bishops' toppers

• Sly plan

9 • Patio pot

• Source of "sour grapes"

10 • Like some songs and most pants

• Reality show lawman Steven

11 • Legendary lost kingdom

• Where Aquarius and Pisces meet, e.g.

12 • Kerfuffle

• Giving energy

RINGS

___ Mother Teresa's base of operations

___ Instances of global warming?

___ Cattlemen

___ Smarty-pants

___ His pendulum demonstrates Earth's rotation

___ Waist/thigh separators

___ Commemorative coins may be minted in this

___ #1 in the Nielsens, say (hyph.)

___ Figure with a world-famous smile (2 wds.)

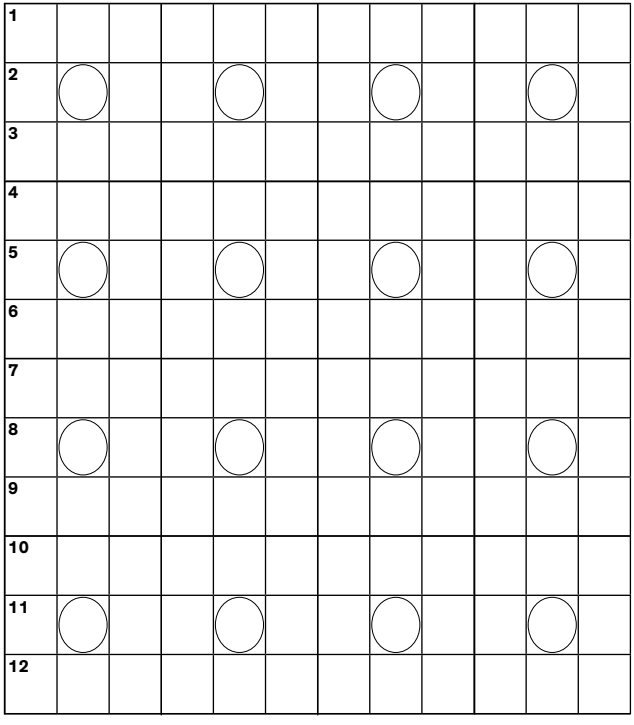
___ Performs surgery

___ Bring about

___ It was stormed in the French Revolution

___ Rumors

___ Having long experience

___ "Banzai!" and others (2 wds.)

___ Persistently annoying