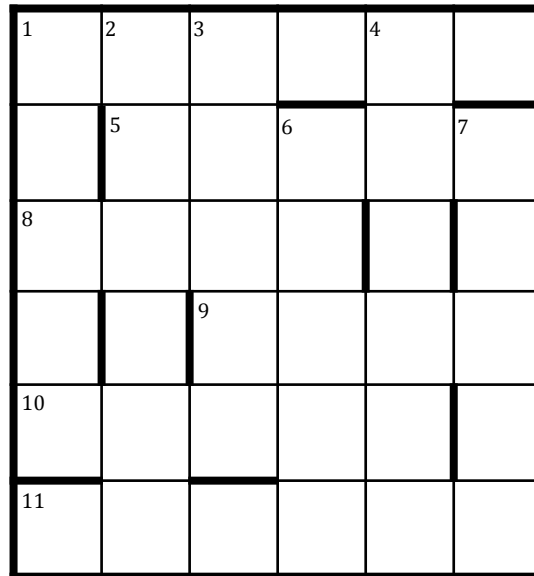


Metallurgy by Binder

In this puzzle, the blacksmith's metalworking has affected four clues, four wordplays, and four entries. Can you figure out what they've hit with their tools?

Note: Cryptic pro Aaron Riccio has identified that a sneaky gas has snuck into this puzzle, which can't be reworked easily and will thus remain as an impurity. Apologies to any confused early solvers!



Across

1. Awkwardly debating sheriff's insignia (2 wds)
5. Kate's up late, almost in ... er ... in operation
8. Feed out Riot Act with more than a couple of folks
9. A history and a branch - it follows a pit? (2 wds)
10. No end with an integrated circuit? That's crazy!
11. Lively metal?

Down

1. He wishes us well in letters that make it minty (2 wds)
2. Cuing centre: rub up on a university desk
3. Like those inclined to honey trap Io, dine and part
4. Au pair heading behind a sign you might see at an abandoned mine (2 wds)
6. Issue's top 10 includes pasta, say, with a splash of negroni
7. Returning gun liberal is alien - an American statistician (2 wds)