

Solution to Guest Puzzle December 2017 "Lightning" by Arthur Schless

T	H	R	E	E	B	L	E	F	I	N
H	E	A	R	S	A	Y	C	E	N	S
U	S	R	A	I	C	O	A	T	G	E
N	I	U	S	S	T	U	D	Y	A	R
D	A	G	E	B	I	T	I	N	G	S
E	T	U	P	O	N	A	C	A	R	P
R	E	L	A	Y	E	G	O	F	E	A
T	B	A	L	M	P	E	R	S	E	N
O	R	E	P	E	E	A	P	E	R	I
R	I	S	T	R	A	C	S	A	S	S
M	A	T	H	E	R	M	A	T	C	H

The mystery entries are **THREE - ON A - MATCH**
 and the omitted letters (in parentheses in the list below) spell
UNLUCKY STRIKE

Across

1. **THREE**
2. BL(U)EFIN
3. HEARSAY
4. CENSUS
5. RAI(N)COAT
6. GENIUS
7. STUD
8. YARDAGE
9. BITING
10. SETUP
11. **ON A**
12. CARP
13. RELAY
14. (L)EGO
15. FEAT
16. BALM
17. PER(U)
18. SENOR
19. EPEE
20. (C)APER
21. IRIS
22. TRAC(K)
23. SASS(Y)
24. MATHER
25. **MATCH**

Down

1. THUNDER(S)TORM
2. HESI(T)ATE
3. BRIAR
4. ARUGULA
5. ESTERASE
6. PALP
7. THESIS
8. BOY
9. MERE
10. BACTINE
11. PEARLY
12. OUT(R)AGE
13. ACME
14. CADI
15. CORP
16. SAFETY
17. NA(I)F
18. SEAT
19. (K)ING
20. AGREERS
21. C(E)NSER
22. SPANISH

"Lightning" solvers

(The first ten are listed in the order their solutions were received, the others alphabetically.)

1. Rick Kasten – Alexandria, VA
2. Stephen Throop – Grover, NC
3. Al Sanders – Fort Collins, CO
4. Judy Adamski – Jenison, MI
5. Donald R. Spaulding – Mount Kisco, NY
6. Ray Misch – Las Vegas, NV
7. Richard Harrison – Portland, OR
8. Dina Fertig – Cherry Hill, NJ
9. Ned Robert – Los Gatos, CA
10. Warren Fraser – Brighton, Ontario, Canada

Dorothy Juhlin Bank – Hillsborough, NC

Al Damm – Marshall, WI

Cathy Childs – Pompano Beach, FL

Jim Christenson – Port Townsend, WA

Henry Cook – Chicago, IL

Susan Courter – Macomb, IL

Keith and Elizabeth Falkner – Sarasota, FL

Paul Fees – Cody, WY

Stan Francuz – Somewhere in Australia

Warren Fraser – Brighton, Ontario, Canada

Michael N. Geselowitz – New York, NY

Steve Gunter – Raleigh, NC

Greg Hartgraves – Bellingham, WA

Dick Holmes – Lake Bluff, IL

Ken Johnson – Springfield, MO

Wayne Jones – Worcester, NY

Al Kahn – Houston, TX

Douglas Kaiser – Deep Gap, NC

Dave Kaplan – New City, NY

Kevin J. Kinne – Peoria, IL

Andy Klein – Santa Monica, CA

Mike Lessie – Douglassville, PA

Jesse and Debbie Levine – Acton, MA

D. Loeb – West Chester, PA

Jackie Miller – Everett, MA

Daniel J. Milton – Vienna, VA

Priscilla Olson – Framingham, MA

Harold Porosoff – Scarsdale, NY

Charlie Pritzlaff – Silver Spring, MD

David L. Ratner – Larkspur, CA

Arnold Reich – Bronxville, NY

Ned Robert – Los Gatos, CA

Joe Rogers – Old Greenwich, CT

Michael Savitz – Newton, MA

Joe Schrader – Hillsboro, OR

Dino Schweitzer – Divide, CO

Wayne Scott – Jamaica Plain, MA

Donald Stanley – Littleton, CO
Claire Trazenfeld – Crownsville, MD
Robert Tunney – Berkeley, CA
Anita & Steve Watt – San Jose, CA
Thomas Wilson – South Williamsport, PA
Jay Winter – Farmington Hills, MI