Loplop Cryptic #015 [15x]

By George Ho

Across

1 Pick up and wander after little rapscallion (7) IMPROVE IMP + ROVE

5 Legendary hero of these United States (7) THESEUS.

9 North Carolinian leatherworking? (3,4) TAR HEEL.

10 Gushed very loudly (hardly new!) after the finale (7) EFFUSED, E + FF + USED

11 Around 59, senior regularly gets medicinal brew (6) ELIXIR, LIX inserted in Sense

12 Picking up pace is wise for our time? (5,3) SPACE, s[PACE]AGE

14 Sculpt nose as much as you need - nothing fancy (2-8) NO-NONSENSE, NOSE letter bank

15 Bachelor sending back fine sirloin, say (4) BEEF.

18 Dairy product from that guy in Wyoming (4) WHEY.

20 Carp vendor in discussions for a climate controlled room (4,6) WINE CELLAR.

23 Quick-tempered person to drop some bars (8) SPITFIRE.

24 Dumpling flipped sometime later (6) WONTON.

26 Medium chunk of limpsy chicken (7) PSYCHIC, l[PSY]CHiCkEN

27 Not working and making bread? (7) LOAFING. Double definition

28 Streetcar’s last two paths head back from depot (7) ARSENAL. [streetc]AR + (LANES)<

29 Warm peat being dug into by that woman in retirement (7) PREHEAT. PEAT containing [HER]<

Down

1 Aware immediately following kitchen disaster cutting slice of chorizo (2,3,4) IN THE KNOW.

(KIT[c]HEN)* + NOW

2 Part of Spooner’s seaside wordplay (7) PORTION. “shore” = “pum”

3 Love a place for sex that is naughtiest on vacation with submissive (8) OBEDIENT. O + BED + IE + N[aughties]T

4 Fishes’ endless slumber, upside down (4) EELS.

(SLIE[p])<

5 Offended, worried, losing head... needing to slide in hot tub (10) TRESPASSED. [s]TRESSED containing SPA

6 Curse euphemistically at beginners for English cricket team’s result (6) EFFECT. EFF + E[nglish]

C[ricket] T[eam]

7 Bolted the wrong way, into sensei’s extremely deficient trap (7) ENSNARE. (RAN)< inserted in [s]ENSE[1]

8 Slide obliquely! (5) SIDLE. (SLIDE)< (&lit)

13 Volatile coal price overwhelms leader of representatives on both sides (10) RECIPROCAL. (COAL PRICE)* containing R[epresentatives]

16 Torn asunder in battle for almost half a month (9) FORTNIGHT. (TORN)* inserted in FIGHT

17 Article featured in worldly French newspaper is something to make a stand for? (8) LEMONADE. LEMON(A)DE

19 After an expression of hesitation, in agreement with furious women? (7) ERINYES. ER + IN + YES

21 Top story interrupted the middle of bulletin from network (7) LATTICE. ATTIC inserted in [bul]LE[tin]

22 Originally, George Ho bored a groupie with knitting project (6) AFGHAN. G(oge) H(oe) inserted in A

23 Cuttlefish ink (a couple of pigments) found in ocean (5) SEPIA. S[PIgments]A

25 Buddies heading upstairs for bash (4) SLAP. (PALS)<