TRIPTYCHS   by Dave Shukan   **SOLUTION**
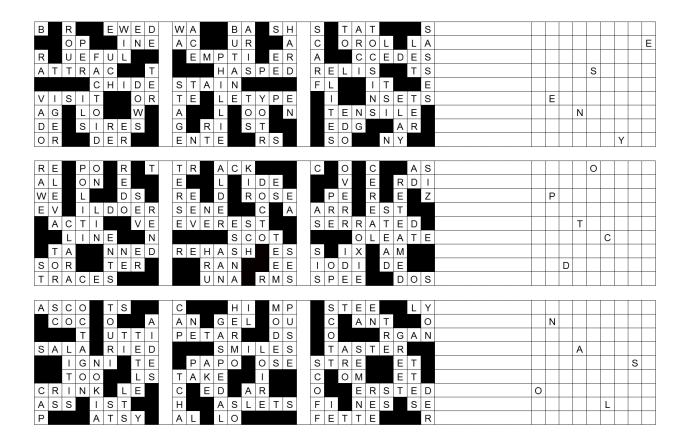
The puzzle type here is known as a Tetracross. A 9x9 grid is filled with the 7 tetromino shapes (in locations for the solver to determine), and clued words are filled in, ignoring or "hopping over" the tetrominoes, but otherwise filling the grid. A single-grid Tetracross is typically presented with across and down clues mixed, requiring the solver to sort out which is which. (That extra layer of challenge was not included here.)

In the case of this puzzle, the puzzles presented are of Siamese Triplet form – that is, three clues are presented for each column and row, and the solver must determine how to divide the answers among the three grids.
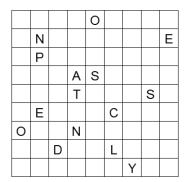
The SAMPLE triplet of grids, given, should provide enough information to indicate to solvers what to do with the three sets of (triplicate) clues that follow. The flavortext helps as well.

When the grids are filled, there is an extraction, also indicated by the SAMPLE. The letters S/A/M/P/L/E in the otherwise blank grid to the right of the triplet and arrow indicates that certain letters are to be pulled from the grid. Inspection will show that the letters to be extracted are exactly those in squares where (1) none of the grids has a black square, and (2) two of the letters in the grids match and one does not. The letter to be extracted is the one that does not match. Thus, for the S in SAMPLE, the three grids, at that square, provide E, E, S, so the odd-one-out S is extracted to that space.

When solvers solve the three triplets and perform the three extractions, they will obtain the following:

Putting the extracted letters into a single grid yields:

			O			
N						E
P						
		A	S			
		T			S	
	E			C		
O		N				
	D			L		
				Y		

reading this left to right and top to bottom (as SAMPLE is read in the sample), this gives the clue ONE PAST SECONDLY, making the answer to this puzzle **THIRDLY**.