

Tough as Nails Mini Cryptic #4—Explanations

ACROSS

1. CHAPS—double definition that can mean “Gentlemen” or “cowboys’ pants.”
4. AURAL, or “of the ear,” is a homophone (“in the ear”) of ORAL (“spoken”). The enumeration helps you know that ORAL is the wordplay fodder and AURAL is the answer.
5. ENEMY (“nemesis”) is ENE (“A little past 2:00,” that is, ENE or “east-northeast,” which is just past 2:00 if you place compass directions on a clock) plus MY (given directly in the clue).

DOWN

1. CHASE is a double definition that can mean “go after” and is also a “big bank.”
2. AGREE (“say yes”) is an anagram (“discombobulated”) of EAGER.
3. SPLAY (“spread out”) is S (an abbreviation for “short”) plus PLAY (“dramatic work”).