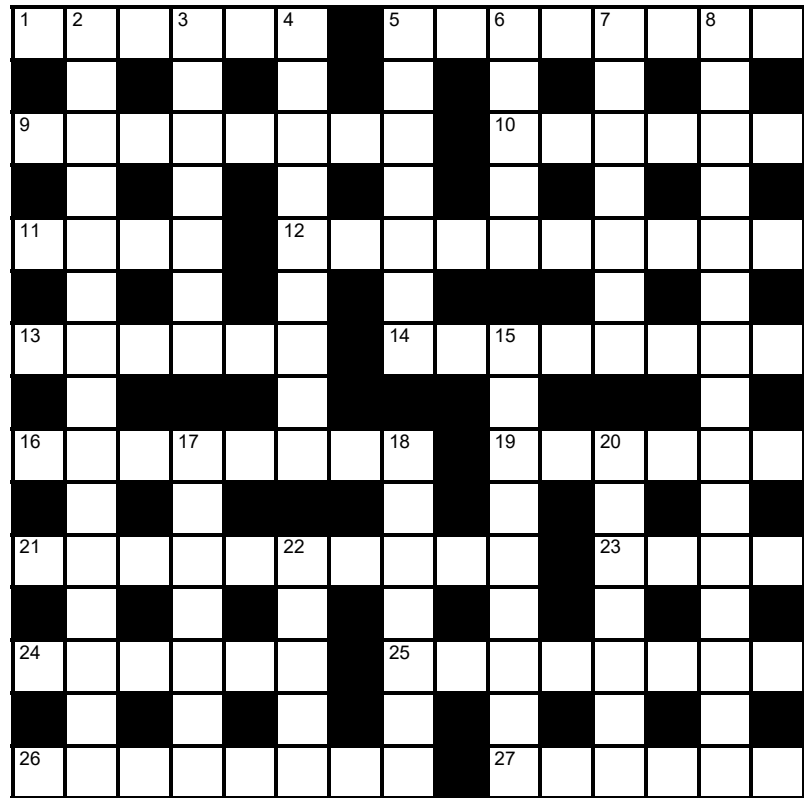


Rookie Corner 624

by Scintilla

Across

- 1 Passionate redhead embraced by lusty cavalier (6)
- 5 Full of spirit, fashionable (almost gaudy), kind at first (8)
- 9 Snake whispering desires for ritual cleansing (8)
- 10 An unfinished task keeps you from moving on (6)
- 11 Girl, student, and heartless uncle join together (4)
- 12 Use 11 to make these unfortunate outcomes (6,4)
- 13 In case of emergency, group endlessly supplies refreshing drink (3,3)
- 14 Called out hello, followed by a long sentence in extravagant style (4,4)
- 16 Surrounded by death, in possession of secret (8)
- 19 Without key, retired fella not allowed inside (6)
- 21 Preservative found in excellent tart filled with limitless jam (6,4)
- 23 Kid ducks into first floor library entrance (4)
- 24 Home Office leading others in reading, writing and arithmetic, causing intense dismay (6)
- 25 Plain friend alongside quiet sort of seaman (8)
- 26 Is Ryan as weird as someone from Mesopotamia? (8)
- 27 Unassuming fashion model holding saucepan lid (6)



Down

- 2 Unaffected, because of Confucius' lesson, surprisingly (15)
- 3 The rate is incorrect on that account (7)
- 4 Maybe Tito and Tesla vs you gals is crazy... (9)
- 5 Skittish, as his hand is clutching drug (7)
- 6 Exercise programme given brief affirmation (5)
- 7 Milky fluid is blue following reported deficiency (7)
- 8 Imminent peril from Moscow Lords deaf to change (5,2,8)
- 15 Thousand pounds put down, winning all the tricks (5,4)
- 17 Perversely guilty over resistance to way of celebrating (7)
- 18 Evade questions, knock back shot - will surely get struck down (7)
- 20 Casual love with very loud man (7)
- 22 First signs of corruption observed: Russian Government injecting dog (5)