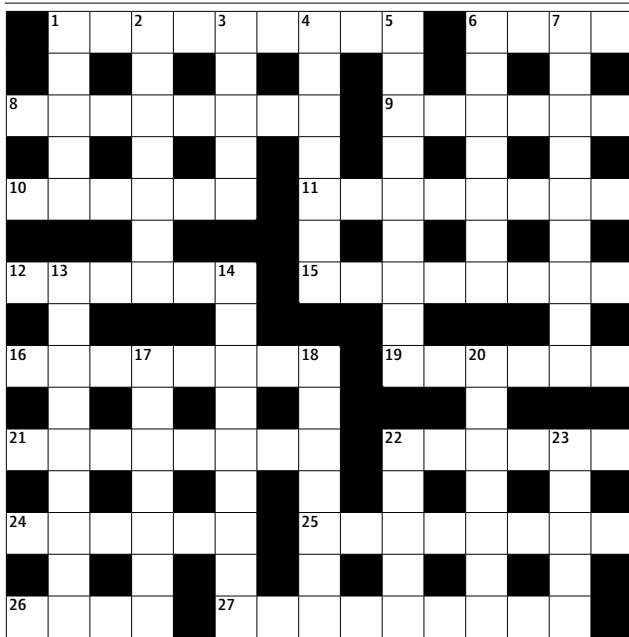


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,123 set by Paul

Across

- 1,1down** Dog's not in my care? One chained, why not! (1,4,4,2,1,2)
- 6** Smothered in ketchup, a Venezuelan flag (4)
- 8** I'm backed by the party, and – only one brother can win (8)
- 9,22** Eternally so desperate to grab husband – might they be? (6,6)
- 10** See 12
- 11** Soldier, daft Don (8)
- 12,10** Finnish, we hear, from these languages? (6,6)
- 15** Eventually choose home for badger ahead of Trotsky (6,2)
- 16** Film review, "Strong hit", nonsense (8)
- 19** Poser, dolly (6)
- 21** A derringer initially firing shot beneath someone (5,3)
- 22** See 9
- 24** Island's south as frozen? (6)
- 25** Hollywood, where Neil Diamond's initials added to triplet of notes (2-2,4)
- 26** Head of government into Scandinavian money, the beast! (4)
- 27** Talk sure to be unintelligible at back of night club (9)

Down

- 1** See 1 across
- 2** View work in something charged (7)

3 See 20

- 4** One's written about five hundred in accurate digits (7)
- 5** Range fixed, I love to enter Welsh town going north (9)
- 6** Arcade game, where Spooner has to throw me away? (7)
- 7** Loved touring capital city where cyclists race (9)
- 13** Fast kept in check, good to be easing off (9)
- 14** Passport indeed put in storage compartment, as went on leave (9)
- 17** Little child carries gun, like it or loathe it! (7)
- 18** No wizards should get face and legs jumbled up (7)
- 20,3** Alas, the three R's, it's difficult for ill-educated Americans (7,5)
- 22** ___ Heaven 1: away win welcome (5)
- 23** Trace element, for example, brought up (5)

Solution No. 25,122

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