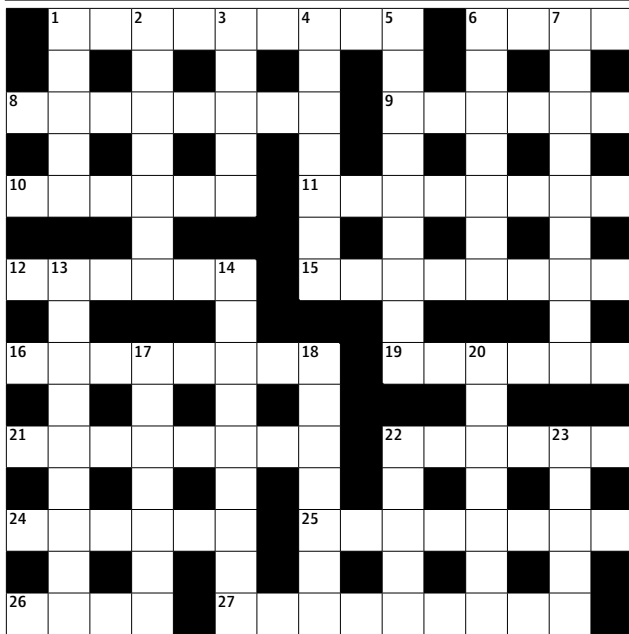


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,459 set by Boatman

Note added 22 October 2011: the clue at 5 down has been changed from that originally published to fit the required spelling of its solution.

Across

- 1 Riddler endlessly chattering, loathing lost muscle (9)
- 6 See 3
- 8 Moved in anger to expose newspaper boss (8)
- 9 Inadequate theme: a Great Bear appears (6)
- 10 Wacky Tom and Taz are crackers (6)
- 11 Players as Madrid's, named as stars (8)
- 12 Investigator misses nothing in a crook (6)
- 15 Boatman's type taken in on method of formation of stars (5,3)
- 16 Decaying star in dock after recorded statement (3,5)
- 19 Criminal bribed with earth-moving kit (6)
- 21 An awful thing: see a formation of stars die (8)
- 22 Leader to come back, able to move the spirit (6)
- 24 Unable to arrange formation of stars (6)
- 25 Boatman unmoved after article regarding military invasion (8)
- 26 The East is held back by America's extremes? (4)
- 27 Volatile big shot takes medic on board aerial war contraption (9)

Down

- 1 Dry sweat with Italian lady in a hot place? (5)

- 2 Where the sky begins, the earth ends at last in formation of stars (7)
- 3,6**across** An awful thing, the moment when stars appear (5-4)
- 4 A lot to arrange, not all reported (4,3)
- 5 American rearranged thatching stuff to include pattern (9)
- 6 Support for afternoon service (latter-day version omitting original characters) (3,4)
- 7 Preserve holy one appointed by Spooner (9)
- 13 Cracks in new order or else in new start (3-6)
- 14 Sunday lunch of wild boar, holding whisky glass – bottoms up! (5,4)
- 17 Batman and Joker turning up for kids in Hollywood? (7)
- 18 Piece of branch with shoot on it (7)
- 20 Aging, decaying, taking two seconds for the formation of stars (3,4)
- 22 Origin of creation heralds appearance of stars (5)
- 23 An arrangement of stars wrongly set as &Lit (1-4)

Solution No. 25,458

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