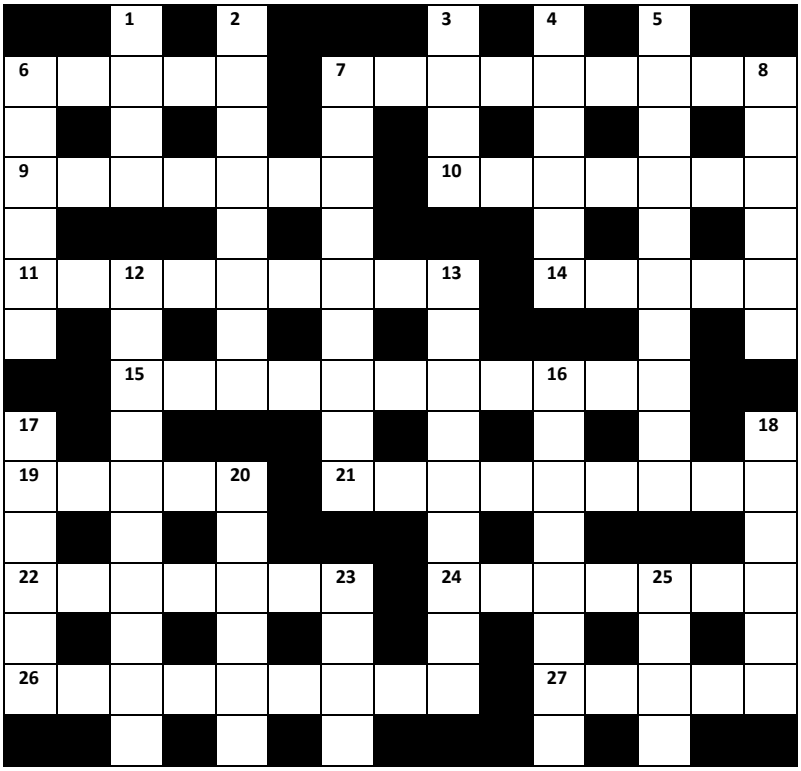
Number 699: 16 November 2026



Across

6 Those contributing to panic hid, escaping censure (5)
7 Parts of roast not having much fat – young lady eats skinless bits of chicken (9)
9 French scientist turned valve to trap sulphur before German's ready to release oxygen (7)
10 Pro back from Microsoft operated programming language (7)
11 Snubbed Tory went to save party that's ruined (9)
14 Financial investor offering gold coin (5)
15 Heated mixture to turn black when recipe is lost for sweet roll (3,5,3)
19 Transmitter runs, having trouble receiving electric current (5)
21 Case of wine – female loves to drink large one (9)
22 Pictures and grimy frame to arrive all mixed up (7)
24 Preserved light cream to begin with (7)
26 In a smart way, faceless bank takes on worker (9)
27 Allowed girl to finish skirts in launderette (5)

Down

1 Truck is safely absorbing glancing collision (4)
2 Strong European border opening on both sides (8)
3 One involved in case ignores obvious argument (4)
4 Following hesitation, book express that goes around part of Italy (6)
5 Cook half of ragu with duck and most of linguine that's stale (10)
6 US writer's better books focus on ideas (6)
7 Playing up, rotor starts to pulse, breaking engine (9)
8 Possibly showing evidence of age, columns toppled over at rear of temple (6)
12 Strange serpent having time amongst grass took on additional water (10)
13 Daughter, incredibly sporty, taken to hospital with unknown muscle disorder (9)
16 Infant horses around roughly by bin, scratching new glasses (9)
17 Cups of tea ordered for Mark (6)
18 Knight wears older, corroded bit of armour (6)
20 A wide alley, clear in the middle like some other roads (3-3)
23 Creature possibly used to the cold until now left on ice (4)
25 Lavatory opened by key has recognisable symbol (4)

PUZZLE 698 – *Across*: **1** Message board; **9** Mike; **10** Eton collar; **11 & 12** Humpback whale; **13** Erase; **14** Joyrider; **16** Affluent; **19** Combo; **21** Lucid; **23** Swindler; **24** Cinderella; **25** Alas; **26** Spectrometer
Down: **2** Epicure; **3** Seed pearl; **4** Grenade; **5** Block; **6** Archway; **7** Delta; **8** Gamete; **14** Jet; **15** Immediate; **17** Fillip; **18** Endorse; **19** Chicago; **20** Overate; **22** Codas; **23** Split

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