

February 2026 Slot 6 by T-boy

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Across

- 1** Beverage contains poisons for PM (8)
- 5** A pinch of oriental cumin powder (6)
- 10** Strike vessel returning fish (7)
- 11** Every other girl left with head condition (7)
- 12** Corrupted US master coming back for tea (5)
- 13** Sidney along with Eli and Ned are jointly relegated (9)
- 14** Very high level call-girls back with old herpes treated (12)
- 18** Giving musical performance I burst into song after key cornet arrangement (12)
- 21** Encountered the states endlessly segmented (9)
- 23** Almost honest politician becomes president (5)
- 24** Implicate coal losing energy in combination with flammable liquid (7)
- 25** The very best mail trimmed back as shoulder armour (7)
- 26** I deserted desert leader with the Spanish money (6)
- 27** Unusually keen about pink paraffin oil (8)

Down

- 1** Lost without heroin in smoking receptacle (6)
- 2** Steer clear of operation (6)
- 3** Very short distance giving granny zero time (9)
- 4** Royalists act if disturbed sufficiently (14)
- 6** Garlic derivative - combine with head of lettuce (5)
- 7** Cleo has no ring solution without detergent! (8)
- 8** Very rich man called out expensive source of perfume ingredient (4,4)
- 9** See chaos, go in fruitless pursuit (4-5,5)
- 15** Exact observance of etiquette is exceptionally unpolitic (9)
- 16** Scuttles fraud found with corrupt reps (8)
- 17** Unpredictable officer transferring company into uranium (8)
- 19** A free BBC? (6)
- 20** Tart cut into optimal serve for each person (6)
- 22** Elk cow cries with ecstasy (5)