



**Across**

- 1 Founder of the first Persian empire (much like Alexander towards the end!) (5, 3, 5)
- 8 Coloured (4)
- 9 Accidentally (10)
- 10 Casual walk (6)
- 11 Accepted (8)
- 12 Symbolised by their Golden Arches (9)
- 14 | li (4)  
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- 15 Race circuits (4)
- 16 Study of atoms, molecules and compounds (9)
- 21 Supporting structure (8)
- 22 Brain (slang) (6)
- 24 Powerful unit? (10)
- 25 Name (4)
- 26 Childish poetry (7, 6)

**Down**

- 1 5, for example (7)
- 2 Cowboy competition (5)
- 3 Easternmost country in Horn of Africa (7)
- 4 Partner (7)
- 5 Grandmother comes before my award show\* (6)
- 6 Elementary particles (9)
- 7 Bank clerks (7)
- 13 Dictator (9)
- 15 Short rest (informal) (3-4)
- 17 Corridor (7)
- 18 Candelabrum used in Jewish worship (7)
- 19 The back and forths in tennis for example (7)
- 20 Siberian grassland (6)
- 23 His razor is not very sharp but still useful! (5)

\*indicates a cryptic clue