

**ACROSS**

- 1 Comfort child having lost new tie (6)
- 4 Bitter about spies catching cops (6)
- 8 Management in a row (7)
- 9 Fruit and nuts (7)
- 11 Neat access control measure (6,4)
- 12 Trees mostly smell bad (4)
- 13 Avoids wasting time in States (5)
- 14 Business venture east of river (8)
- 16 REM isn't playing with trainee musician (8)
- 18 Tears coats (5)
- 20 Grass is reportedly causing confusion (4)
- 21 Driving rotten liar crazy (10)
- 23 Excellent band without insurance product (7)
- 24 "Treatment of pain" is about right (7)
- 25 Slender new projectile (6)
- 26 Stick notice in this place (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Small animals heading off for somewhere hot (5)
- 2 Keep instrument outside bag (7)
- 3 Cooked scones for priest (9)
- 5 Start to cut tough vegetable (5)
- 6 Artists' underwear (7)
- 7 See army lose mobile weapons... (9)
- 10 ...guns poorly concealed by vessel (9)
- 13 A country accepting one Frenchman's passion (9)
- 15 Gloomy journalists in action (9)
- 17 Train secret agent (7)
- 19 Musicians briefly seen in street, somewhere people go (7)
- 21 Zip fly up for dance (5)
- 22 Helper keeping son out of the way (5)

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