

**ACROSS**

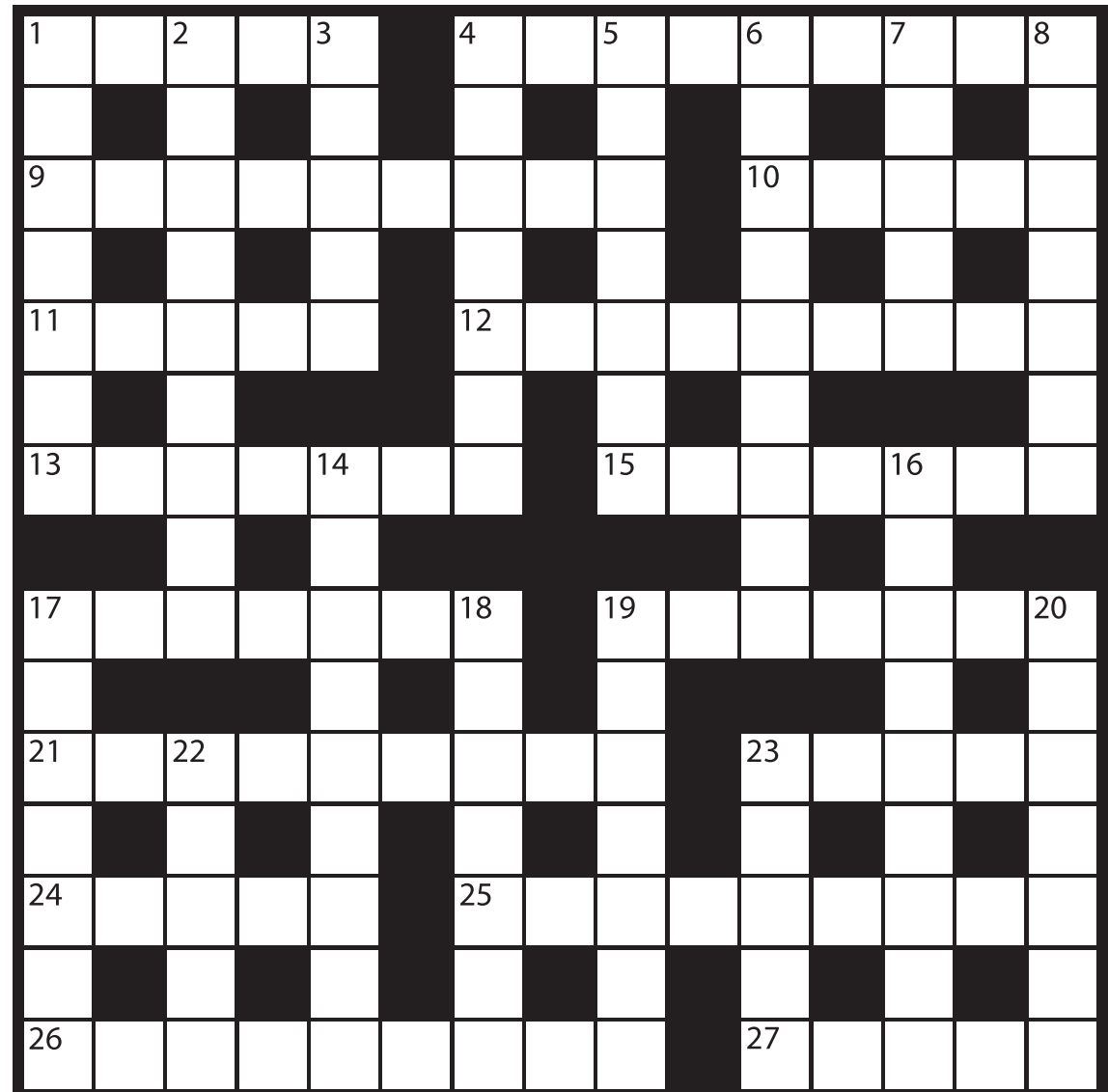
- 1 Claim position at front after parking (5)  
 4 Editor's quietly into money for night cover (9)  
 9 Left a group with one source of doubt (9)  
 10 Giant toad oddly set in metal (5)  
 11 Love soldiers to follow trouble (5)  
 12 Safe place for criminal on a charge? (9)  
 13 Cut back fund for study (7)  
 15 Coils in new element (7)  
 17 Sort of train used by a foreign agent? (7)  
 19 Note about fire-raising ministers (7)  
 21 Save offer for local worker (9)  
 23 Stunner from home counties hugged by sailor (5)  
 24 European river that's source of royal polish (5)  
 25 Go in a sled staggering by (9)  
 26 Opinions generated by new audit test (9)  
 27 Symbol to understand in Scotland (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Calm down head of theology in ruined palace (7)  
 2 Brewing a beer? A lot is complicated (9)  
 3 Avoid deception (5)  
 4 Dressing mature group having precedence (7)  
 5 Gathers start of dance must be in twos (7)  
 6 Poor work developing bio-petrol (9)  
 7 Run over (5)  
 8 Dropping one off in cell (7)  
 14 Simple men think about tool (9)  
 16 Cuts credit for such tableware (9)

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- 17 Southern peninsula in Russian province (7)  
 18 Off colour, playing football? (3,4)  
 19 Raptors possibly may get other birds (7)  
 20 Doctor working after sudden increase (7)  
 22 Settle on tubers, twisted at the end (5)  
 23 Difficult to be secure (5)