

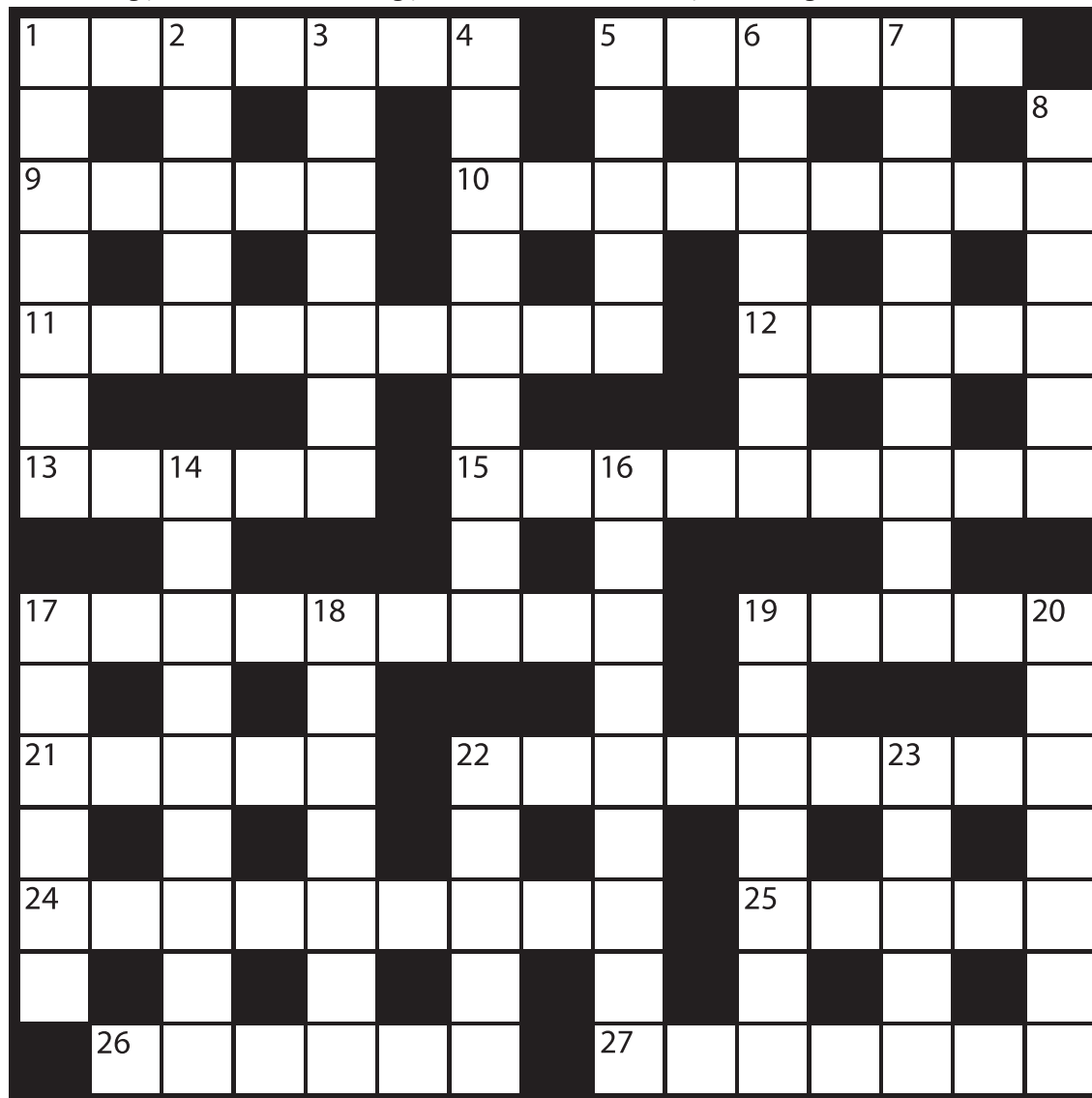
## ACROSS

- 1 Variety show with performing bearcat (7)
- 5 Rotten place to clear (6)
- 9 Cancel the fight (5)
- 10 Tradesman who 2 downs into tears (9)
- 11 Manipulator has toe top broken (9)
- 12 Cruel misappropriation of money (5)
- 13 Give up food about beginning of Easter?  
Quite the reverse (5)
- 15 Being sixteen, maybe, at church (9)
- 17 A good night guide (5,4)
- 19 After five I rest or make a call (5)
- 21 Trendy group produce a little picture (5)
- 22 Game is of little value (9)
- 24 Real idiot compiled newspaper article (9)
- 25 Animal I've trapped in small court (5)
- 26 Gems hidden in bag at estate (6)
- 27 Row went ahead and caused feelings of  
bitterness (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Discard actors not up to scratch (4,3)
- 2 Break open sculpture right in the middle (5)
- 3 To criticise wine shows understanding (7)
- 4 Will gets a tribute (9)
- 5 Fruit awfully cheap (5)
- 6 Outing allowed for child of three (7)
- 7 Pub has no small change for ingenuous  
types (9)
- 8 Sounds like oil for the country (6)
- 14 Striking and taking into custody (9)
- 16 Not even unconventional (9)
- 17 Firmly fixed form of denial (6)

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- 18 Go as fast as possible – result of treading on the fire? (7)
- 19 Tax one is able to apply to state (7)
- 20 Gave medical help – for nothing? (7)
- 22 Perfect joy when you initially left Sybil's contraption (5)
- 23 Smooth up and down (5)