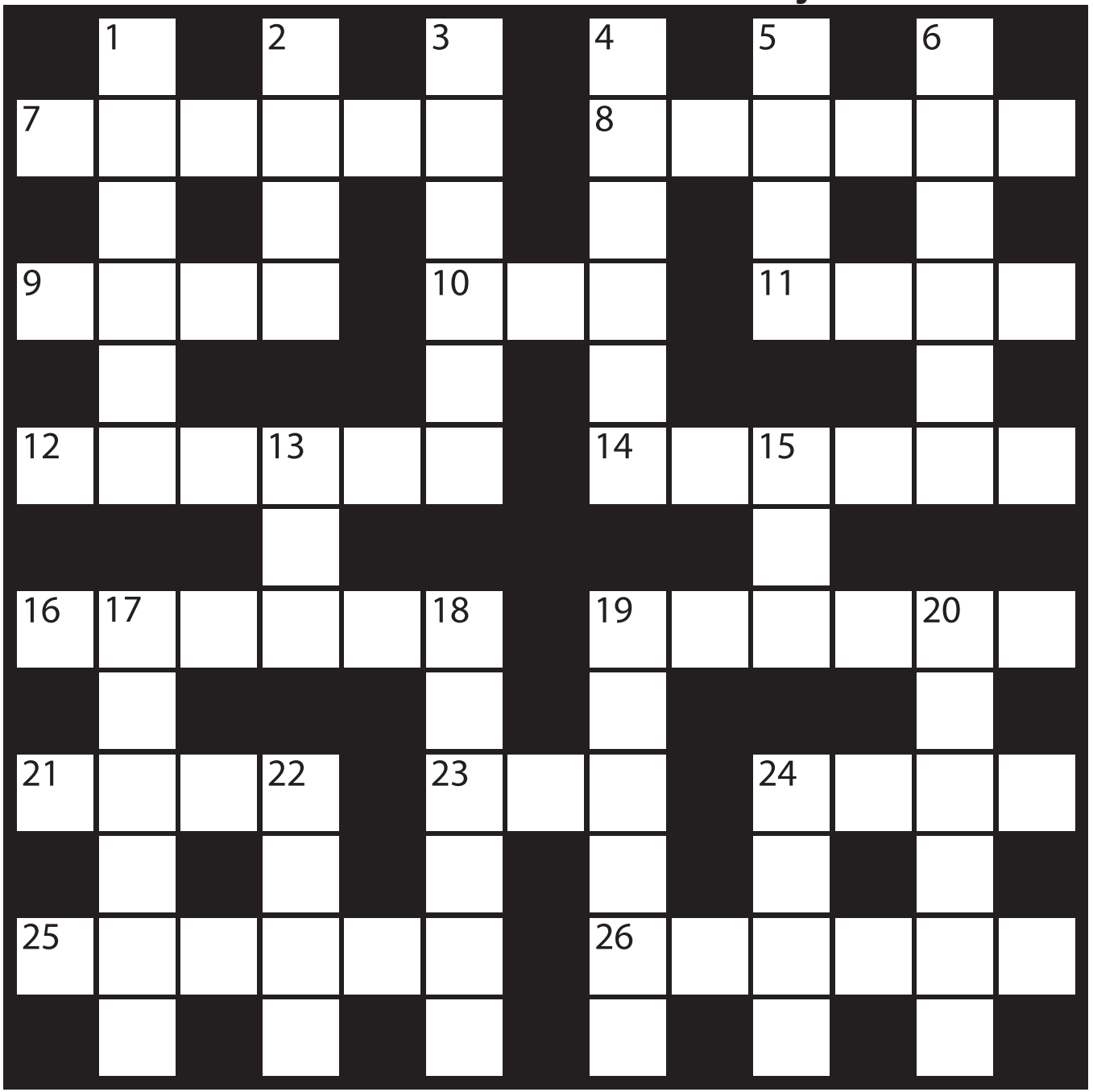
by Puzzler Media

ACROSS

7 Betrothed man (6)
8 Soup ingredient, pulse (6)
9 Cigarette end (4)
10 ___ League, elite US colleges (3)
11 Fly high (4)
12 ___ out, the exception (3,3)
14 Bridge session (6)
16 Steal for ransom (6)
19 Repartee (6)
21 Chew away at (4)
23 Bring an action against (3)
24 Wrestling match (4)
25 Make a great effort (6)
26 Greatest height, peak (6)

DOWN

1 Having natural talent (6)
2 Affront (4)
3 Downfall (6)
4 Team member (6)
5 Obligation (4)
6 Long vehement harangue (6)
13 Belonging to oneself (3)
15 Sir ___ Kingsley, actor (3)
17 Congenital (6)
18 Delicate soft colour (6)
19 Light wind (6)
20 Actors' union (6)
22 Caprice (4)
24 Side of a river (4)