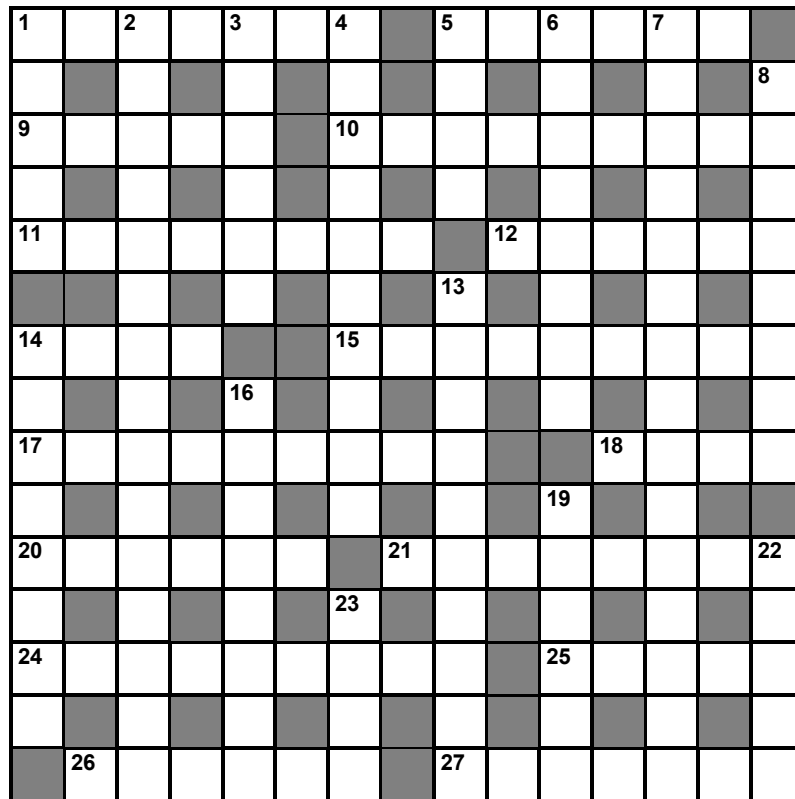


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ACROSS

- 1 Prepare to re-employ American gentleman after opening of dealership (4,3)
- 5 Give up and come back? (6)
- 9 Container holding one large fly (5)
- 10 Key man limiting data connection in IT (9)
- 11 Conservative lot that woman listed in compact (3,5)
- 12 Announcement made to employ superior (6)
- 14 Companion returned with first of several drinks (4)
- 15 French person confirmed call terminated before the end (9)
- 17 Drunken male wearing government tie (9)
- 18 Heavy metal guitarist (4)
- 20 Weighty and large rock fragments (6)
- 21 Close call about each evacuation (8)
- 24 Cow and horse mostly chewed something prickly (9)
- 25 Street without a location (5)
- 26 Small opening in can leaving acetylene all over the place (6)
- 27 Small vehicle, a light colour, is damaged? (7)

DOWN

- 1 Head of state slipped out of tyrant's military store (5)
- 2 Fine involved with payroll tax seen strangely as obvious (4-11)
- 3 There are no limits to bout with fool (6)
- 4 Fault initially connected with light plane reduced aviation schedule (6,4)
- 5 Items of property should be secure (4)
- 6 Bearing right inside broken device should be repaired (8)
- 7 He's regarding pic in a new light, perhaps? (7,8)
- 8 Unsettled principal was up front after short time (8)
- 13 Electrified pole wires supported by pole? (10)
- 14 Desperate stalags relocated prisoners at the front (4-4)
- 16 Friend, ringing editor, established support for a column (8)
- 19 Departed short on euros through part of Europe (6)
- 22 Shook hands, ignoring a strong desire (5)
- 23 Standard delivery (4)