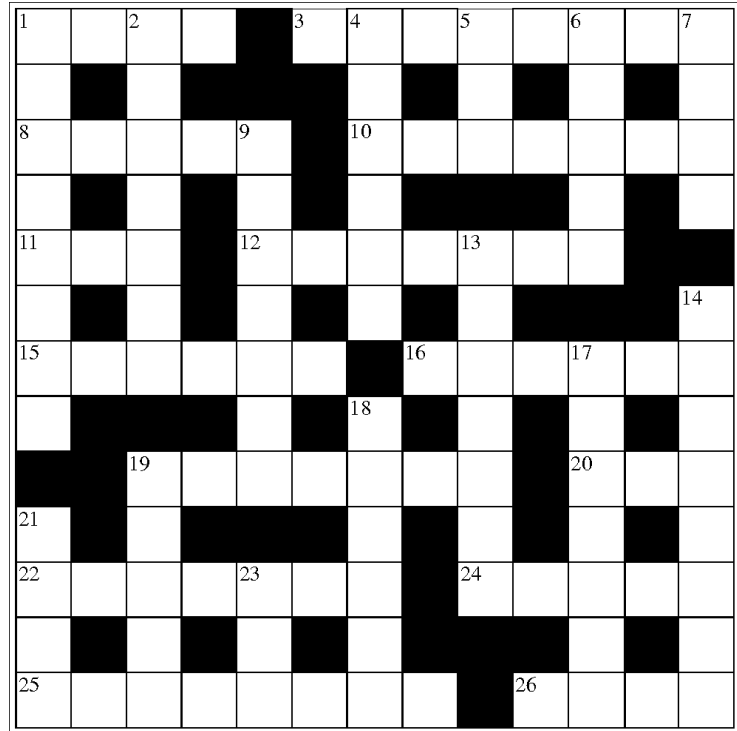


PUZZLE No. 1

ACROSS

1. Claim portion of clients (4)
3. Bloody springtime activity! (8)
8. Thought about minute and second hand (5)
10. Go, dude! Tear up last of cotton pique! (7)
11. Man at home about mid-day (3)
12. Herb makes Chinese "boiled liver" (7)
15. Latitude of, I hear, meadow with by-product of cheese-making (6)
16. Spare place to stay in wild blue yonder (6)
19. Light love operating in satire (7)
20. One way to film Greek god (3)
22. Report stormy recital (7)
24. Spotted dips scattered around end table (5)
25. Sorry beginning of central Ontario service (8)
26. Sue's new exercises (4)



13. Six sovereigns for northern raiders (7)
14. "100 yen," said stranger, "for poisons" (8)
17. Table linens in overturned pot beside untidy sink (7)
18. Disturb in dark spot on back street (6)
19. Mexican, perhaps, rested around final act (5)
21. Soft rock from "Quartet, Alcazar" (4)
23. Incomplete maintenance for vehicle (3)

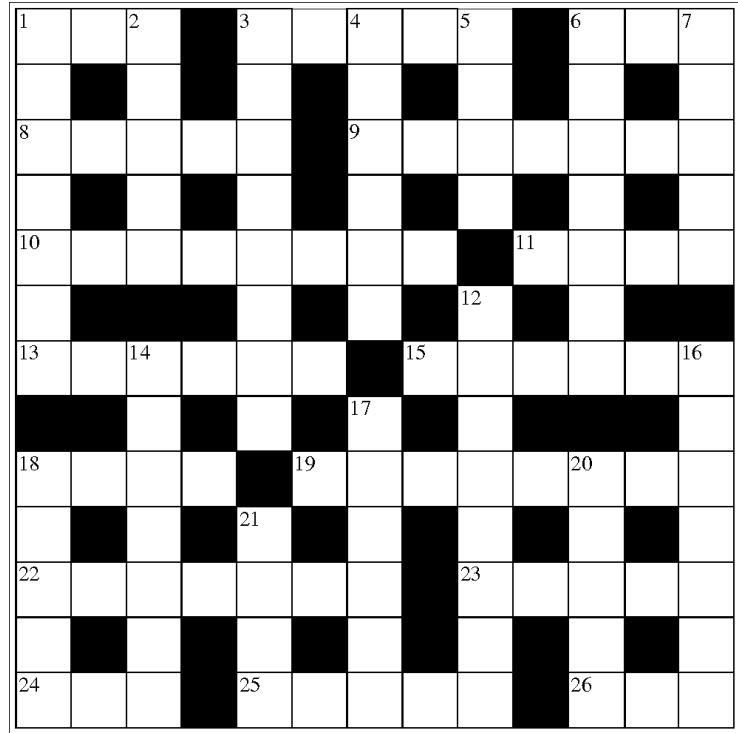
DOWN

1. Clearly without strength, confined, unconscious (8)
2. Fundamental character of Hebrew ascetic around first century (7)
4. Heartless young Scottish men and women (6)
5. Not even 2 degrees below zero (3)
6. Highly desirable to get one contract (5)
7. Comfortable retired hit men (4)
9. Talk loudly about December mail mess (7)

PUZZLE No. 2

ACROSS

1. Push "memory" (3)
3. Labored breathing in bottom of abyss in crevices (5)
6. Broadcast was cut! (3)
8. Beeper in grape convertible (5)
9. Make too many demands for public chopper (7)
10. Shapes fit a cart or any man-made object (8)
11. Prepares for war in fjords perhaps (4)
13. Stock of small rabbits (6)
15. Cold crook stole wardrobe (6)
18. Salmon for commanding officer and heartless hero (4)
19. Enclose ton of silver attached to 5-sided figure (8)
22. Approves of rebuilt sidearm (7)
23. Carries around number of breath-taking organs (5)
24. Crazy Madonna's beginnings (3)
25. Name of unnaturally pale district attorney (5)
26. Fans eagerly uncovering Davy Jones's locker? (3)



6. Takes to court about raised groove made by surgeon's stitches (7)
7. Gets bigger ingredients for candles (5)
12. Fleet female with destiny: Illinois and 4th medal! (8)
14. Embarrassed by gray morning edition (7)
16. Country doctor in a suit (7)
17. Digestive aid gives energy? Wrong! (6)
18. Captivate British cleaning lady with first martini (5)
20. Restrains from speaking about northern groups (5)
21. Finally closed nude lottery (4)

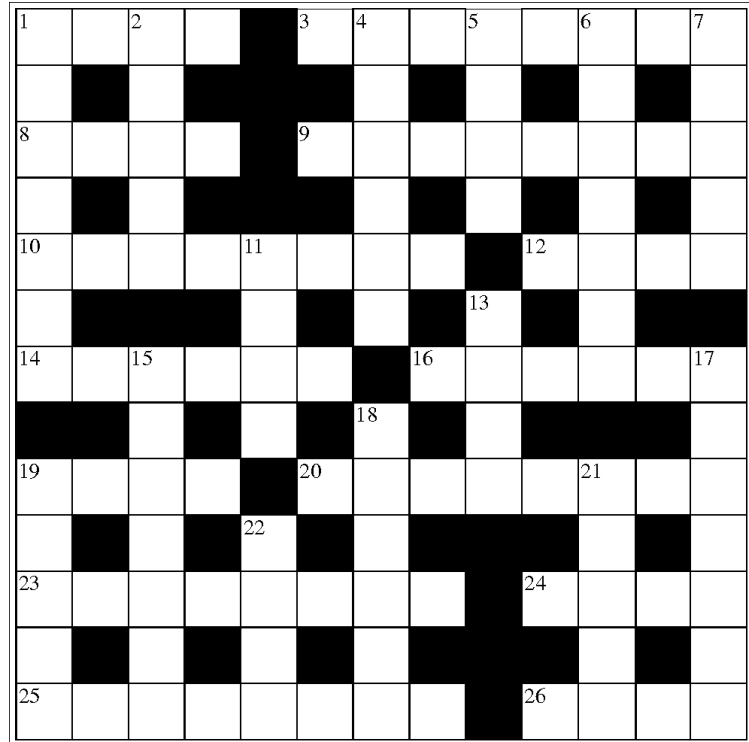
DOWN

1. Strikes again and withdraws (7)
2. Tiny creature, I hear, has great strength (5)
3. Blunders around middle of wire animals (8)
4. Look in baby's cot, child, to see something intoxicating (6)
5. Dance, pest, dance! (4)

PUZZLE No. 3

ACROSS

1. Look, I hear, from highest point (4)
3. Strikes involving wine agreements (8)
8. Tranquility about holy man ... (4)
9. ...also, in cheeses and alcoholic drinks (8)
10. Nuts break in around September 1st and hide from wild animal (8)
12. Very little seen in bombardment in Yugoslavia (4)
14. Use mop: lye is all over the place (6)
16. Portion of dialog in "Gertrude" and "Young Virginia" (6)
19. Chapter on short trip in rough waves (4)
20. Viral disease from stony British beaches (8)
23. Job vhaat's overwhelming for Cockney ant eater? (8)
24. Abridged magazine, "First Person," for wise men (4)
25. Utterly ruin promotional tape #51 with quiet (8)
26. Hot gas makes bangs, for example (4)



7. Impertinent remark about ship (5)
11. Exhibit seed around each edge (4)
13. Bearing sounds pretty bad (4)
15. Series of steps in favor of very low weight (7)
17. More grating and unlimited brass on part of bridge (7)
18. Supports final offer in footwear (6)
19. Fish diamond from leafy vegetable (5)
21. Animal makes quick escape in Los Angeles (5)
22. "Wickedness In The Flesh" returns! (4)

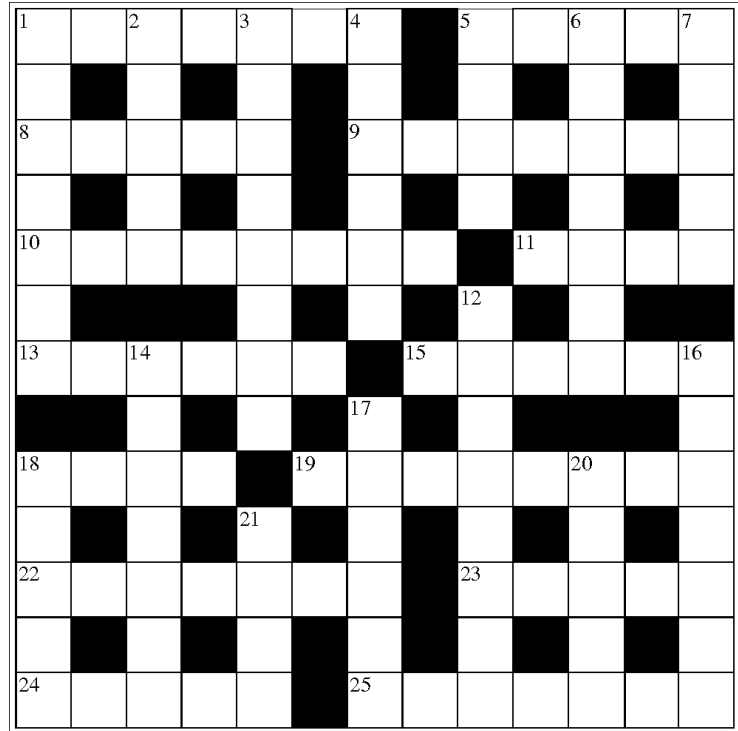
DOWN

1. Standard, competent short story (7)
2. Lost a seat in assembly (2,3)
4. Frightened for half of Africa: AIDS isn't finished (6)
5. Waste wood (4)
6. Get sick, in arena, of complaining (7)

PUZZLE No. 4

ACROSS

1. Beans he stewed in Irish spirit (7)
5. Packs meter among faucets (5)
8. Competitions for nations (5)
9. Rose to stroll in rural route (7)
10. Pass obvious headless fake (8)
11. Mark returns, carrying a grown-up tadpole (4)
13. Close quarters? Noise starts grating! (6)
15. Exchanges about 1000 sinks (6)
18. Thickly cover chopped-up taco (4)
19. Dub tapes carelessly for "City On The Danube" (8)
22. Country stream and alien insect (7)
23. Certain nerves concealed nearer to heart (5)
24. Lightened in east as last marine died (5)
25. Cook gets man: they are attractive! (7)



14. Five hundred and one sign logs (7)
16. Parodies fathers holding empty argument (7)
17. Circus tomahawk shows use (6)
18. Deposit California copyright with that man (5)
20. He makes nitrogen in lake (5)
21. Slide for small child (4)

DOWN

1. Place to keep stock and unlimited money, without exception (3,4)
2. Recess is pleasant around end of March (5)
3. As tenth, I panic, afraid to act (8)
4. Aha! Say! You smell bad! (6)
5. Spell "plant" for audience (4)
6. Name of cola? Mm... "Mad About Large Size?" (7)
7. She had kept retreating at first in scrap (5)
12. Hang around organ, cursing (8)

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Puzzle No. 1

ACROSS

1. Lien - (c)lien(ts)
3. Blooming - double meaning
8. Mused - m (=minute in time) + used
10. Dudgeon - dudgeo (anagram) + (cotto)n
11. Ian - in around (d)a(y)
12. Chervil - Ch. (=Chinese) + ervil (anagram)
15. Leeway - sounds like lea + whey
16. Skinny - inn in sky
19. Lampoon - lamp + O (=zero =love in tennis) + on
20. Pan - double meaning
22. Article - anagram
24. Spied - spid (anagram) around (tab)le
25. Contrite - c(entral) + Ont. (=Ontario) + rite
26. Uses - anagram

DOWN

1. Limpidly - limply around id
2. Essence - Essene around c(entury)
4. Ladies - lad(d)ies
5. Odd - d. (=degree) + d. (=degree) after O (=zero)
6. Ideal - I (=one) + deal
7. Guns - reversal of snug
9. Declaim - Dec. (=December) + laim (anagram)
13. Vikings - VI (=6) + kings
14. Cyanides - C (=100) + yanides (anagram)
17. Napkins - nap (reversal of pan) + kins (anagram)
18. Molest - mole + .tS (reversal of St. =street)
19. Latin - lain around (ac)t
21. Talc - (Quarte)t Alc(azar)
23. Car - car(e)

Puzzle No. 2

ACROSS

1. Ram - double meaning
3. Gasp - (abys)s in gaps
6. Saw - anagram
8. Pager - anagram
9. Overtax - overt + ax
10. Artifact - anagram
11. Arms - double meaning
13. Shares - S (=small) + hares
15. Closet - C (=cold) + loset (anagram)
18. Coho - C.O (=commanding officer) + h(er)o

19. Pentagon - pen + t (=ton) + Ag (=silver) + on
22. Admires - anagram
23. Lungs - lugs around n (=number in mathematics)
24. Mad - Mad(onna)
25. Wanda - wan + D.A. (=district attorney)
26. Sea - (Fan)s ea(gerly)

DOWN

1. Repeals - double meaning
2. Might - sounds like mite
3. Giraffes - gaffes around (w)ir(e)
4. Scotch - (baby)s cot ch(ild)
5. Step - anagram
6. Sutures - sues about tur (reversal of rut)
7. Waxes - double meaning
12. Flotilla - F (=female) + lot + Ill. (=Illinois) + (med)a(l)
14. Ashamed - ash + a.m. (=morning) + ed. (=edition)
16. Tunisia - anagram
17. Pepsin - pep + sin
18. Charm - char + m(artini)
20. Gangs - gags around N (=northern)
21. Draw - (close)d + raw

Puzzle No. 3

ACROSS

1. Peak - sounds like peek
3. Rappports - raps around port
8. Rest - re + St. (=saint)
9. Brandies - and in Bries
10. Bearskin - bearkin (anagram) around S(eptember)
12. Tiny - (bombardmen)t in Y(ugoslavia)
14. Employ - anagram
16. Ginger - (dialog) in Ger(trude)
19. Chop - C (=chapter) + hop
20. Shingles - double meaning
23. Aardvark - pun on 'ard work (=Cockney version of hard work)
24. Magi - mag (=shortened version of magazine) + I
25. Demolish - demo + LI (=51) + sh (=quiet)
26. Hair - H (=hot) + air

DOWN

1. Parable - par + able
2. At Sea - anagram
4. Afraid - Afr(ica) + AID(S)
5. Pine - double meaning
6. Railing - ail in ring
7. Sassy - say around S.S. (=steamship)

11. Show - sow around (each)
13. Mien - sounds like mean
15. Program - pro + gram
17. Raspier - (b)ras(s) + pier
18. Shores - (offe)r in shoes
19. Chard - char + D (=diamond in cards)
21. Llama - lam in L.A. (=Los Angeles)
22. Evil - reversal of live

Puzzle No. 4

ACROSS

1. Banshee - anagram
5. Tamps - m (=meter) in taps
8. Races - double meaning
9. Rambler - amble in R.R. (=rural route in addresses)
10. Overtake - overt + (f)ake
11. Toad - tod (reversal of dot) around a
13. Ending - E,N (=east,north) + din + g(rating)
15. Swamps - swaps around M (=1000)
18. Coat - anagram
19. Budapest - anagram
22. Cricket - crick (=dialect form of creek) + E.T. (=extraterrestrial)
23. Inner - (Certa)in ner(ves)
24. Eased - E (=east) + as + (marine) + d (=died in genealogies)
25. Magnets - anagram

DOWN

1. Bar None - barn + (m)one(y)
2. Niche - nice around (Marc)h
3. Hesitant - anagram
4. Eureka - sounds like you reek-a
5. Time - sounds like thyme
6. Malcolm - macolm (anagram) around L (=large)
7. Shred - she'd (=she had) around r(etreating)
12. Swearing - swing around ear
14. Diaries - DI (=501) + Aries (=a sign in the zodiac)
16. Satires - sires around a(rgumen)t
17. Custom - (Cir)cus tom(ahawk)
18. Cache - CA (=California in zip codes) + c (=copyright) + he
20. Ernie - N (=nitrogen) in Erie
21. Skid - S (=small) + kid