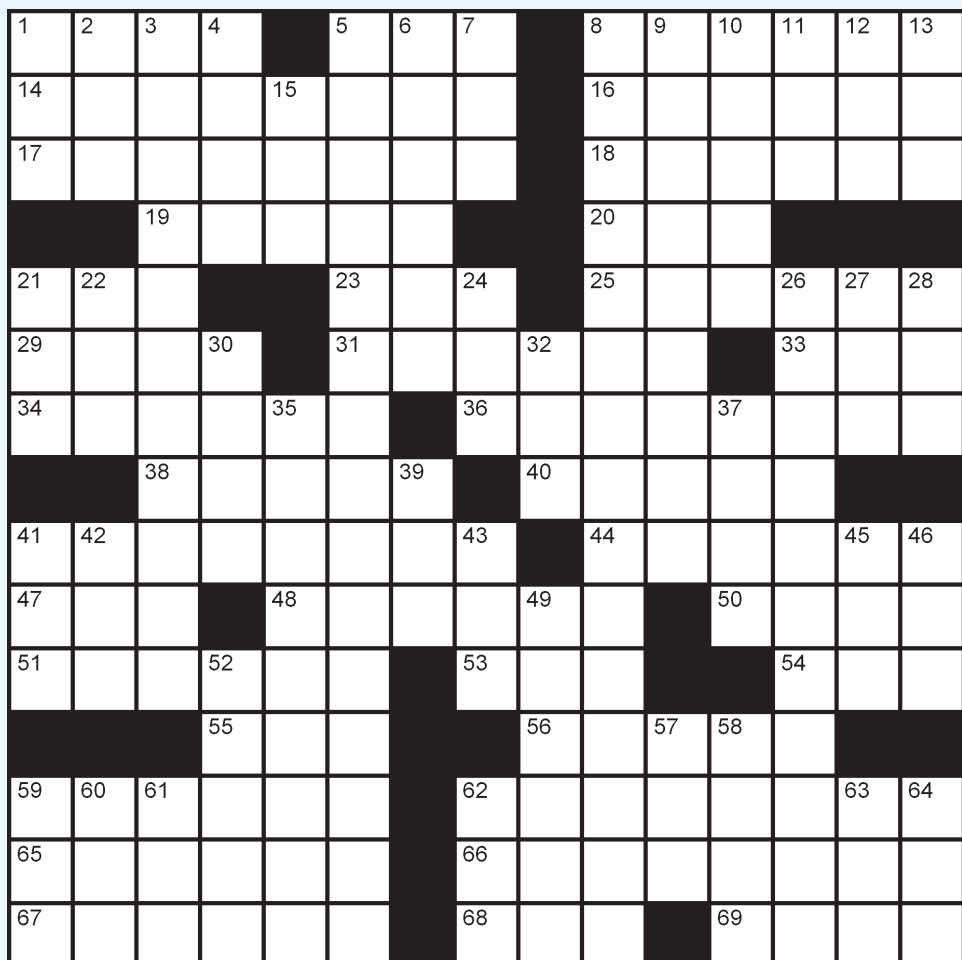


"Up" 'Dos by Stella Zawistowski

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Muscles used while rowing, for short
 - 5 List-shortening abbr.
 - 8 Etsy shop contents
 - 14 Far from calm
 - 16 Like some traditional medicine
 - 17 Less nice
 - 18 Visual sharpness
 - 19 Forest moon of "Star Wars"
 - 20 Steal from
 - 21 Muscles used while planking
 - 23 Often-anticipated day of the wk.
 - 25 Tool useful for latke-making
 - 29 Close to one's heart
 - 31 Decided to discuss later
 - 33 X-___ machine
 - 34 Richards of "Starship Troopers"
 - 36 Double-checked
 - 38 Activity of high interest?
 - 40 Kondo on Netflix
 - 41 Muscular dog
 - 44 Settings for a photographer
 - 47 Tool thrown in some bars: Var.
 - 48 Remove using a crowbar
 - 50 Cleveland's lake
 - 51 Manager's concern
 - 53 ___ Lipa (Grammy winner for "Electricity")
 - 54 Not many
 - 55 48 teaspoons
 - 56 Crown for a princess
 - 59 "Oh, really?"
 - 62 Frequent flyer's rewards
 - 65 More simple
 - 66 Scouring supply
 - 67 One receiving texts at work?
 - 68 "___ Miserables"
 - 69 Pastrami purveyor
- DOWN**
- 1 Lucy of "Elementary"
 - 2 "Raggedy" doll
 - 3 Ride-shares, in a way (see letters 9 to 7)
 - 4 Go in circles?
 - 5 One may list grades (12 to 9)
 - 6 Earth, in Spanish
 - 7 "Proud Mary" band, briefly
 - 8 Ambassador's subordinate (9 to 6)
 - 9 Elementary school instruments
 - 10 First island mentioned in "Kokomo"
 - 11 "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity" agcy.
 - 12 Bit of ink?
 - 13 Sneaky
 - 15 Time ___ again
 - 21 Get to a total
 - 22 Sometimes-fuzzy buzzer
 - 24 Early PC maker
 - 26 Binary test options (8 to 5)
 - 27 Body part with a canal
 - 28 Kind of bread
 - 30 Bread-related verb that sounds like 28-Down's plural
 - 32 On the ___ (escaping)
 - 35 Excess amounts
 - 37 Place in cyberspace
 - 39 Celebratory cry
 - 41 River barrier
 - 42 Maker of Good Grips products
 - 43 Agree without speaking
 - 45 3/14 dessert, for some
 - 46 Cross-stitch, perhaps
 - 49 Destined to fail
 - 52 Second part of "Cats"
 - 57 Q&A on Reddit
 - 58 Watermelon discard
 - 59 Vietnamese holiday
 - 60 Food for horses
 - 61 Egyptian snake
 - 62 Knee part: Abbr.
 - 63 Unagi or anago, at sushi bars
 - 64 Hindu honorific

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020 Know Thine Frenemy



If you doubt yourself, then it's because you're smart. Intelligence is a state of cluelessness. The clueless person looks for clues and learns along the way. The know-it-all struts through a landscape of fixed belief and misses everything. Under the Libra moon, this principle will be most auspiciously applied to friendships and rivalries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have an inkling about a fresh source of fun. It might not be the most conventional thing, but you'll be surprised at how many others enjoy it, too. These endeavors light you up and connect you with a thriving community.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Peer pressure doesn't stop just because a person is grown. Certain things will be hard to say no to because their mass appeal is so strong. The trick is in writing your own script before the world writes one for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As long as you're shooting for the moon, you may as well shoot for the sun. Either way, things change once you get out of the atmosphere and thus the gravity of a certain situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Water itself is no rival to your ability to go with the flow. But on a day like today, you prefer events to happen in your timing. In fact, you command them to as though an orchestra conductor setting the tempo.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your friendships exist in a kind of ringed system around the planet that is you. The first tier is an elite group and someone has to be extremely special to jump from one stratum to the next, but it will happen today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can't be sure if your work speaks for itself unless you back off and let it. Your silence will allow people to draw their own conclusions and you can go from there.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Before you're asked to fulfill a role, give yourself the part you want. Those who are well-aware of what they are saying "yes" to will find it much easier to say "no" when they need to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You were ambitious, so you started. You were tenacious, so you finished. You were grateful, so you thoroughly enjoyed the fruits of your effort. That worked, so rinse and repeat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want love and attention as much as the next person, but you wouldn't dream of asking for it. You'd rather work for it, especially by creating delightful scenarios that people are irresistibly drawn into.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do you get the sneaking suspicion that your talent could be better used elsewhere? Perhaps you don't have to go far so much as up. Is there an opportunity for promotion here?

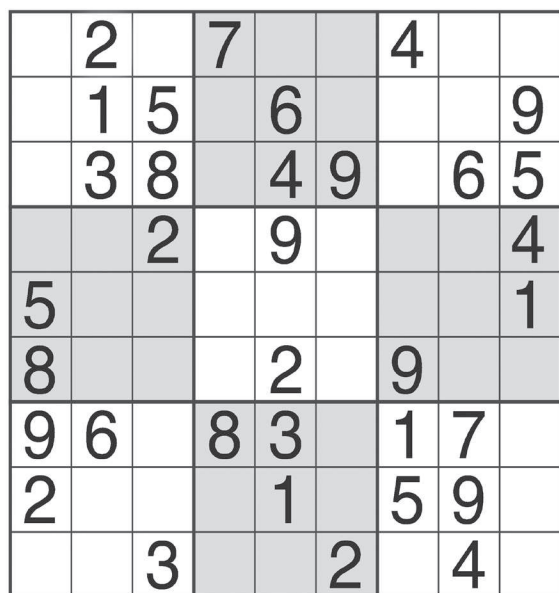
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you're warming up, you have a few silly thoughts. When you're on a powerful roll, you have hundreds of them. The big ideas will be sandwiched inside playful ones.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you're professional-level at many things, you're an amateur in other areas – a status to revel in. The pressure is off. The horizon is open. Herein lies the freedom to explore.

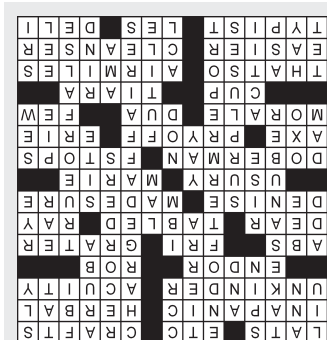
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 9). Oft the initiator, this solar return shows a role reversal – you will be most auspiciously chosen, beckoned by a soul-fortifying endeavor. You'll prepare over many months for a presentation – the first in many that will net you impressive dividends and allow you to grow, teach and employ others. Work and love intertwine. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 1, 30, 12 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU

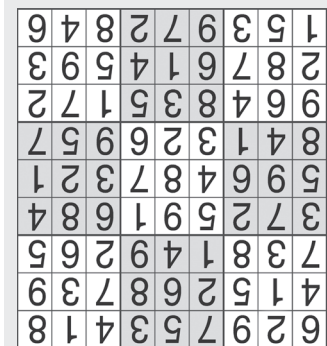
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

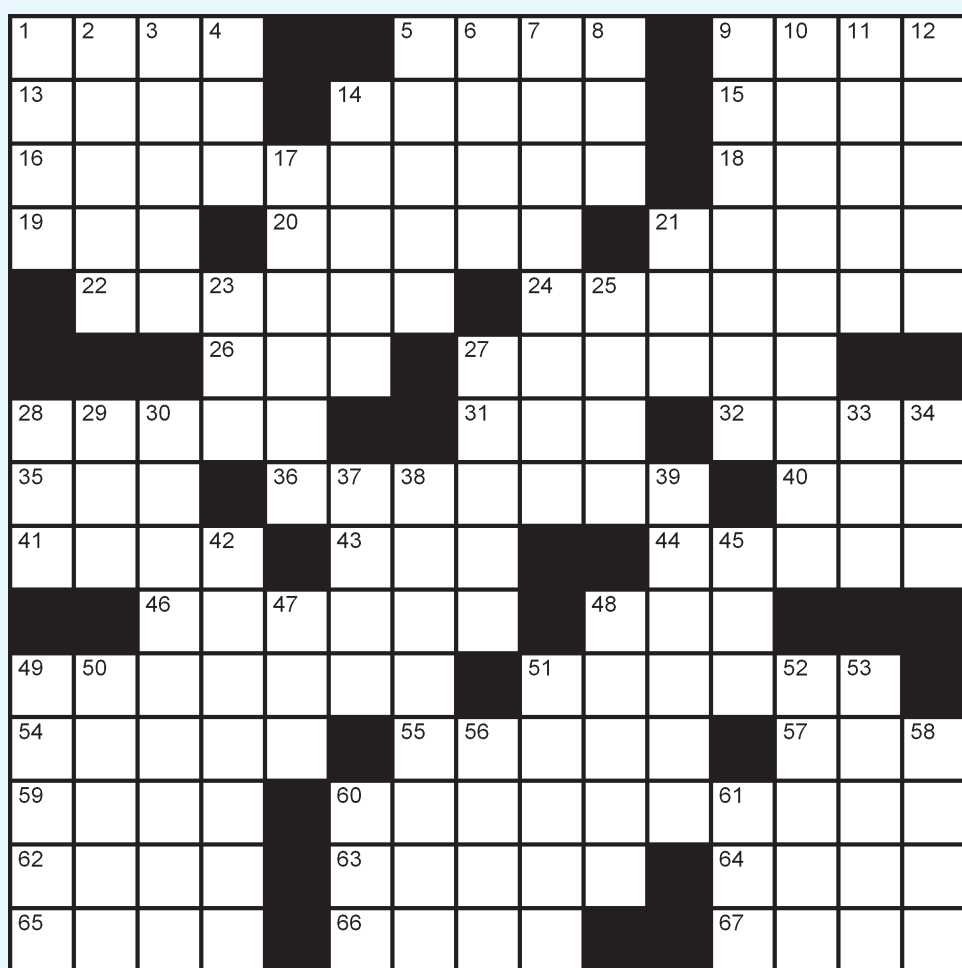


SOLUTIONS



Shredded Cheese by Robert E. L. Morris

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 From ___ to riches
 - 5 Piece of clothing with no sole?
 - 9 Cut quickly
 - 13 The "E" in HOMES
 - 14 French city that inspired Van Gogh
 - 15 Wrestler/actor John
 - 16 Pie crust, initially?
 - 18 Johannesburg currency
 - 19 Private eye
 - 20 Camel cousin
 - 21 Assessed
 - 22 Went ballistic
 - 24 Cook in hot oil
 - 26 Seize
 - 27 Person who plays a round
 - 28 Hot dog topper
 - 31 Communication syst. involving the hands
 - 32 Work space, for many
 - 35 Beaver's construction
 - 36 Beef or pork (... 3 to 6)
 - 40 "I knew it!"
 - 41 Haze in Los Angeles
 - 43 Nickname that rhymes with Ray
 - 44 Perfectly pitched
 - 46 More likely to pry
 - 48 "See ya!"
 - 49 Fab Four
 - 51 Southwestern plant
 - 54 Artist Neiman
 - 55 Composer of the "Semper Fidelis" march
 - 57 Greek P
 - 59 Aphrodite's son
 - 60 Flying mammal with sharp teeth (... 5 to 8)
 - 62 World's longest river
 - 63 Once more
 - 64 Country within Somalia?
 - 65 Oscar ___ Renta
 - 66 Take care of, as a bar
 - 67 Washington bills
- DOWN**
- 1 AOC and others
 - 2 Font similar to Helvetica
 - 3 Gadget
 - 4 "___ who?"
 - 5 Zagreb native
 - 6 Grad
 - 7 Massive amount of a vitamin
 - 8 "Sorta" suffix
 - 9 Prepared for repainting
 - 10 One obsessed with order (... 2 to 5)
 - 11 Word before "circle" or "tube"
 - 12 Rice field
 - 14 Off-the-cuff remark
 - 17 Bright star in Aquila
 - 21 NFL official
 - 23 NBC show since '75
 - 25 Jazz singer Fitzgerald
 - 27 One may spend hours on an Xbox Series X
 - 28 '90s DJ's collection
 - 29 Over-the-top actor
 - 30 "There's no stopping me!" (... 2 to 7)
 - 33 Sow's pronoun
 - 34 Mary ___ cosmetics
 - 37 Singer Brickell
 - 38 Equestrian competition
 - 39 Matchbox item that's safe for kids?
 - 42 Set sail
 - 45 After taxes
 - 47 Crafty
 - 48 Bathroom bowl
 - 49 Mixture
 - 50 Spooky
 - 51 Matchmaker with arrows
 - 52 ___ legend (questionably true story)
 - 53 Easily split rock
 - 56 Yemen neighbor
 - 58 Singer Redding
 - 60 Large container
 - 61 Angsty genre

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020 Mother Moon Speaks



It so happens that when a luminary moves from Libra, the sign of harmonious, equitable, congenial partnerships, to Scorpio, the sign of physical alchemy and transformation, relationships can change. This is good news for anyone who feels unhappily trapped in the friend zone. Hang in there for the lunar change of tide.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you were a comedian today, then you'd be the kind that chides the audience with, "Is that all you got?" Actually, it's quite effective. People sometimes need to be startled and led to appropriate reactions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People need people. Therefore, peer pressure is a very real and powerful natural force that, unfortunately, people never really grow out of. The theme comes up, and, depending on the situation, it may just be easier to succumb.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Lessons can be read, and that's an introduction. But for the education to really take place, a lesson must be lived. People are changed not by information but by doing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you look back at paths not taken, you only see how they worked out for other people. There's no way of knowing what kind of fit they would have been for you. Therefore, the exercise is useless. Keep going forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A fact that just sits there being knowledge is not intelligence. Intelligence animates. It applies. It is better to revel in the intelligence of trees than to succumb to the coma of dead dogma.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't waste your time doing what someone else can (and is perfectly willing to) do for you. Once you realize where your efforts and minutes can make a difference, you won't want to be anywhere else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your unpredictability comes naturally today. Did you know that some

people work to conjure this? Because being hard to anticipate keeps the competition off-balance, it's an effective strategy for business, sports or love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Other times, it was easy to fit your talent to what the group needed and wanted. Now, not so much, perhaps because the group doesn't know what it needs and wants. You'll have to poke around some to find it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No one falls in love with a game that they can win on the first go-around. Pursuing anything valuable means being willing to fail. The more possible it is to fail, the more exciting the pursuit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When someone pays excellent attention to your expressions, preferences and needs, it may actually make you uncomfortable, as you're not used to be so well-attended. Soak it in anyway.

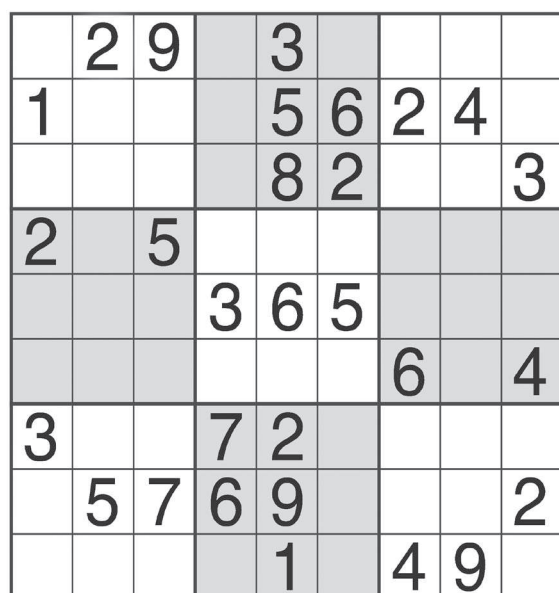
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For the most part, you'll love what develops organically and be nonplussed by what is manufactured or manipulated into being. You admire the effort, but the real deal is so much more impressive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a fan club of sorts. You came by it honestly, by showing up consistently where you were needed and wanted and honoring their requests. Now, you'll take pleasure in the appreciation generously bestowed on you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 10). The resources you felt were inaccessible to you before will become available in 2021. Clubs and alliances will figure into the action. It will feel meaningful to be a part of something bigger. You'll pass the tests of gatekeepers. Invigorating challenges await on the inside. Your work opens doors. Scorpio and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 3, 31, 26 and 9.

Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

