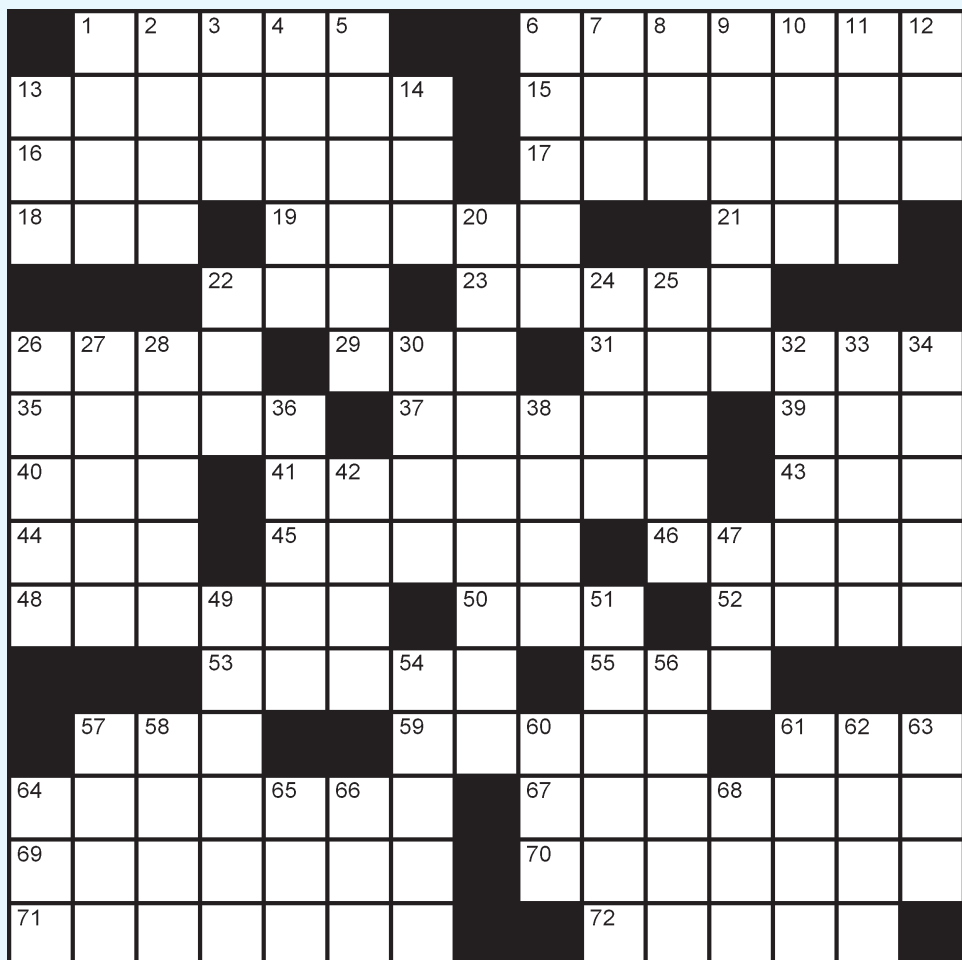


Shore Thing by Kathy Wienberg

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Chip with toppings
 - 6 Embassy employee
 - 13 Loud noisemaker
 - 15 Knights ____ (Catholic crusaders)
 - 16 Makes happy
 - 17 Wardrobe fresheners (SCATHES anagram)
 - 18 Legume that sounds like a letter
 - 19 Make very happy
 - 21 "No ____, ands or buts!"
 - 22 Used to be
 - 23 The "R" of BART
 - 26 About 30% of Earth's land
 - 29 "One Night in Miami" star
 - 31 Where a pop-up may send you
 - 35 Emerald or aquamarine
 - 37 Love, in Italian
 - 39 Price add-on
 - 40 Fertility lab eggs
 - 41 Arrivals of notable things
 - 43 Bit of gear for a cross-country trip?
 - 44 Stimp's pal
 - 45 Dough raiser
 - 46 Domesticates
 - 48 Inconsequential matter
 - 50 Pull to a garage
 - 52 Period before Easter
 - 53 Memory failure
 - 55 Silent communication syst.
 - 57 Altar vow
 - 59 Bert's friend
 - 61 Afternoon snooze
 - 64 Proportionately
 - 67 Far from forthcoming
 - 69 Turtle candy ingredient
 - 70 Diabolical
 - 71 Coastal region, or what each starred answer has?
 - 72 Holy council
- DOWN**
- 1 River in Egypt
 - 2 The "A" of BART
 - 3 *With some of 4-Down and all of 22-Down, shoe
 - 4 Book after Daniel
 - 5 End of an ultimatum
 - 6 Befuddled
 - 7 *With some of 6-Down and all of 24-Down, disentangle
 - 8 Film lover's network
 - 9 Ladybugs' prey
 - 10 Staff symbol, in music
 - 11 They're thrown into a metaphorical ring
 - 12 Trauma ctrs.
 - 13 Tablet download
 - 14 Code-cracking org.
 - 20 Three-month period
 - 22 Technique
 - 24 Role
 - 25 Latin for "that is"
 - 26 Scrub, as a mission
 - 27 Cut off
 - 28 Persian, today
 - 30 It may cool into obsidian
 - 32 Response to "Who's there?"
 - 33 Spoken for
 - 34 Be
 - 36 Woman in a Derek and the Dominos hit
 - 38 Aware of
 - 42 *With some of 54-Down and all of 66-Down, well-established
 - 47 *With some of 56-Down and all of 68-Down, versatile type of tire
 - 49 Groups of plants
 - 51 Relinquishes
 - 54 Black Panthers co-founder
 - 56 Bobby
 - 57 Disreputable
 - 58 "Dies ____" (hymn)
 - 60 Explorer on Nick Jr.
 - 61 His home is next to Homer's
 - 62 Role
 - 63 El ____ (cause of disrupted weather)
 - 64 Fired up
 - 65 Ab's neighbor
 - 66 Some laptops
 - 67 Parisian pal
 - 68 Actor Danson
 - 69 "My boy"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 *Last Hours of Mars in Aries*



These are the last hours of Mars in Aries, the sign of "me" or, more to the point, the sign associated with the phrase "I am." It's important to note the differences between self-care, self-involvement and self-obsession. To focus too much on oneself can actually be very stressful, though the stress is easily relieved by simply focusing on others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The loveliness you come across! It will feel as though something in you is made wild just from looking at it. Though the truth is that much of you was wild already; you just get so much use of the tamed parts that you forget.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've automated certain parts of adulthood – the morning alarm is on repeat, bank deposits and bills are paid by phone, etc. Today, do the same for temptation. With simple changes, the correct behavior will also be automatic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You treat all constraints as creative challenges. You come from a place of trying to make things work – not expecting the world to be already attuned to your preferences. Your attitude is beautiful, which will make all the difference.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Minds can be changed, but not with facts. More information probably won't sway beliefs that were established inside the context of a group who said, "People like us believe this..."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are some around you who complain about having to show up to certain daily tasks. And maybe you'll nod to appease them, but really you know that all the good stuff in your life is augmented by routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have noticed that you have a talent for a certain activity. It feels good to do something that comes a little easier to you than it seems to come to others. Now you're intrigued by the challenge of seeing how far you can take it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In order to do the thing you

want to do, and have the effect you believe is possible on others, preparations must be made. You'll spend much more time preparing than you will executing the plan, and that's how it should be!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You show up and give, and then you become known for that gift, whatever it is. Perhaps it's a smile, your knowledge, a helping hand or, your favorite, the mystery box option that keeps you guessing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Involve people in your process. It's just more fun when you incorporate the opinions and needs of others and figure out where the interests overlap and complementary skills meet up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One of the soft speculations of the day will prove persistent. If, after more consideration, you deem the idea worthy, then, over time, it will take on the mental steel and concrete it needs to be a full-blown pursuit.

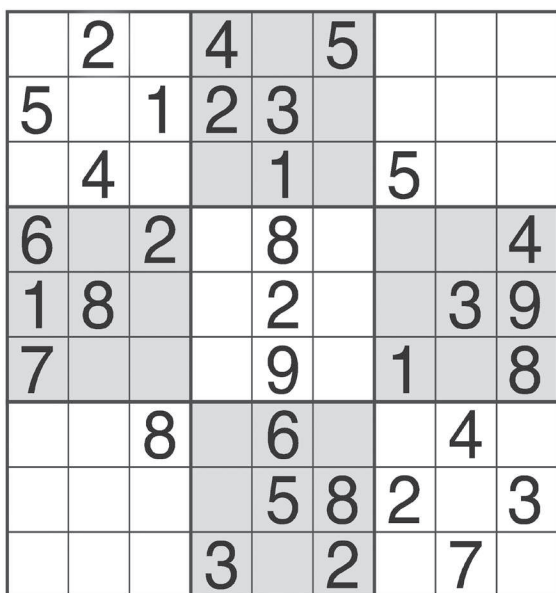
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This information you carry is getting heavy. You've been lugging it like a backpack on a third-grader at the kind of school that has yet to move to digital tablets. Set it down. Unpack it. Leave some of it behind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When a relationship matters to you, you're vulnerable to things like jealousy and insecurity. These reactions are compliments. There's no harm in revealing just a glimpse of these feelings should they arise.

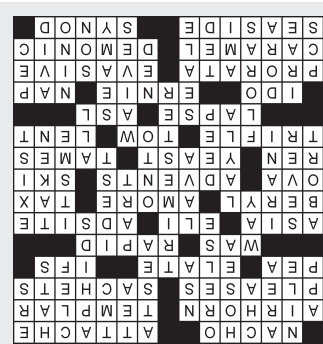
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 3). Are you ready for the money and attention coming your way? Because you have the tenacity and patience for pursuits that take many hours to learn, and more to execute to proficiency (let alone mastery), you become remarkable. You started out craving accolades, and you'll end up craving the practice itself. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 29 and 6.

Universal SUDOKU

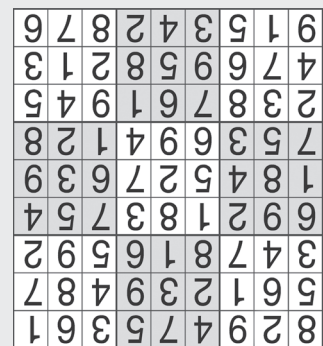
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

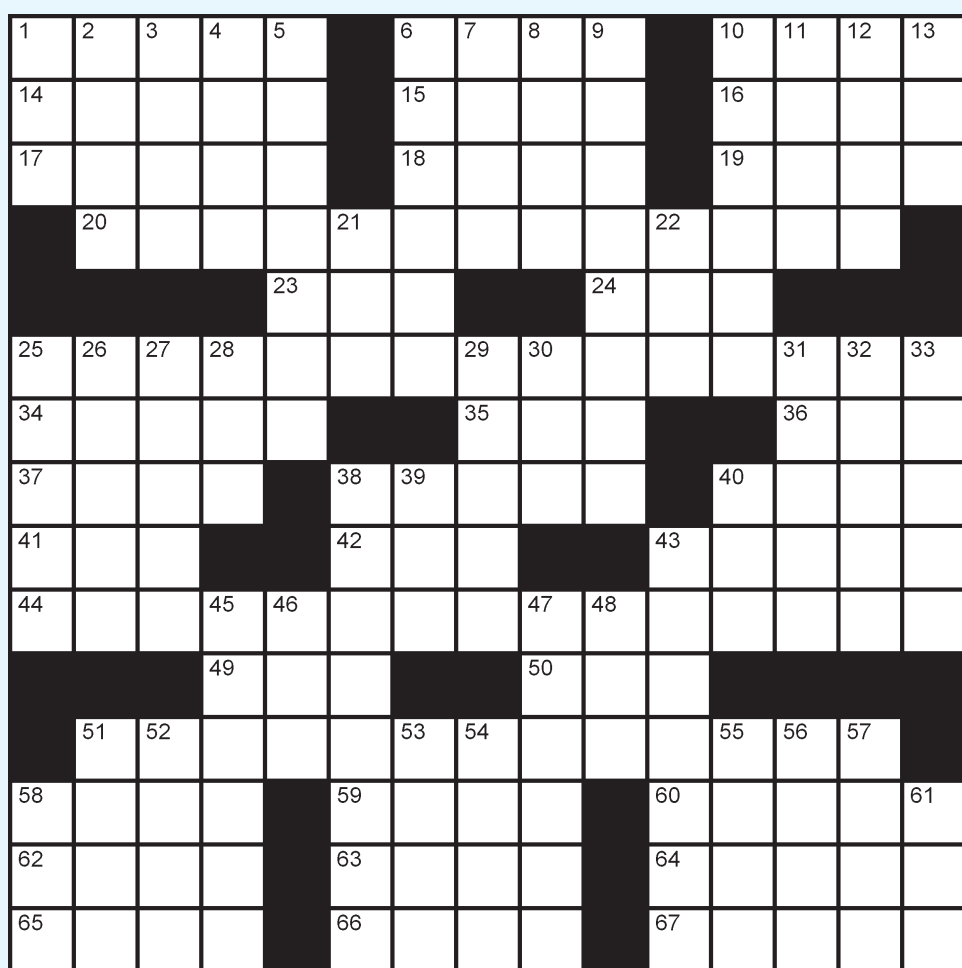


SOLUTIONS



Triple Feature by Andrea Carla Michaels

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Morsel
 - 6 Some execs' degrees
 - 10 Secret language
 - 14 Sweetie pie
 - 15 Military group
 - 16 16, for a square of side length 4
 - 17 Traffic tie-up
 - 18 Drops from a great height?
 - 19 You may save or take one
 - 20 ABC show about an autistic surgeon
 - 23 Bride's words
 - 24 Good buddy
 - 25 1976 film about a Little League team
 - 34 Japanese noodle dish
 - 35 X, to Euclid
 - 36 Cutting-edge tool?
 - 37 Black-and-white sea creature
 - 38 Rocks in a hammock
 - 40 "Pretty please?"
 - 41 Put to work
 - 42 Rower's need
 - 43 "America's Got Talent" judge
 - 44 Classic transformation fairy tale
 - 49 Big Apple sch.
 - 50 "The Cask of Amontillado" writer
 - 51 "Gran Torino" director, and a star of the film hinted at in 20-, 25- and 44-Across
 - 58 Saudi Arabia neighbor
 - 59 Something to scratch
 - 60 Muppet who loves bubble baths
 - 62 Rethinking material at the table?
 - 63 ____ von Bismarck
 - 64 Freelancers' figures
 - 65 Longhaired lap dog, for short
 - 66 Source of peeps
 - 67 Las Vegas attractions
- DOWN**
- 1 Loops into a conversation, briefly
 - 2 Tiniest puppy
 - 3 Jazz player's home?
 - 4 Swampy spot
 - 5 Hercule Poirot, nationality-wise
 - 6 Leave on an island
 - 7 Country star
 - 8 Paisley
 - 8 In the thick of
 - 9 Plot summary
 - 10 Where to live like a king
 - 11 Cookie that may be Lady Gaga-themed
 - 12 Cherished
 - 13 End a fast
 - 21 Roulette bet for which 21 would be a win
 - 22 It's hailed on a city street
 - 25 Sometimes-rainbow fish
 - 26 Severe
 - 27 Alex Trebek was one
 - 28 "Don't ____ stranger!"
 - 29 Online birthday message
 - 30 One of the five W's
 - 31 "Me, too!"
 - 32 Silklike synthetic fabric
 - 33 Playground favorite
 - 38 Liquid for contact lenses
 - 39 Wrong ____ (road sign)
 - 40 Slang for \$1,000,000
 - 43 Shish kebab holders
 - 45 One-of-a-kind
 - 46 Ob-____ (doctor for women)
 - 47 Ultimate outcome
 - 48 Place for a sleeping soldier
 - 51 Ontario native
 - 52 Tall and thin
 - 53 Suffix with kitchen
 - 54 Makes a scene?
 - 55 Unwritten exam
 - 56 No longer deceived by
 - 57 Take in less takeout, say
 - 58 Gremlin
 - 61 Snaky character?

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 *The Mercury & Jupiter Coffee Clutch*



When the planet of conversation meets the planet of magnification, it's a marathon cosmic coffee shop visit, the likes of which keep baristas busy with refills and extras, breakfast orders extended to lunch orders, and chat topics ranging as wide as a college course catalog. The vibes are friendly and aimed toward solving the problems of you, me and the entire world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's hard to say which is more difficult – the battering down of instinct necessary to resist the temptation your inner animal is lunging for or the consequences that go along with giving in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You think you know what you have, but you really don't. This is why it will be a delight to hear your admirers talk. Bonus: The compliments don't go to your head. You'll use your charms to make other people feel charming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). First, you were dazzled by the potential in a person, and then later you asked yourself, "What did I see in that person?" The answer: what you wanted to see. Your vision becomes more accurate with every experience.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Anything that pays off intellectually pays off – period. If you're wondering if you're going to make money, consider that may be an irrelevant question when it comes to pursuits likely to polish your mind and soul.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Context and culture play a huge part in people's decision-making. Your work goes better when you dive deeper into understanding the values and challenges of the people you're trying to serve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes, you are most helped by your supporters, but more often it is your competitors and enemies that are the true MVPs of your life. They inspire your best and sharpest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What is painstaking is also rewarding, and what is rewarding is also painstaking. The two cannot, in fact, be separated as the pain is what gives the reward its value.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No one is born with the stuff that will automatically make them popular or rich. Even those born to the monarchy must earn their status in the eyes of their court and country. You rise to the challenge of creating yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To bring the vision of your mind into a form that others can see, too, you must build a bridge. It will require trial, error and excellent communication with cooperative entities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll ask yourself the questions that matter. How are you contributing? Who is better off because of your involvement, care and presence? And finally, what can you do to step it up a notch?

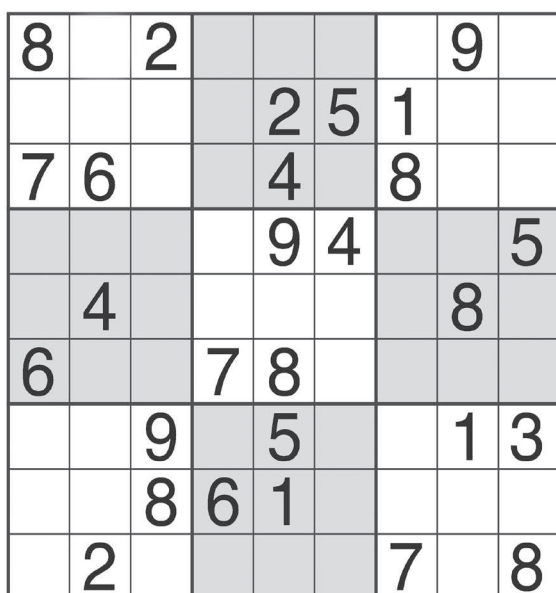
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If people who functioned perfectly fine before they knew you now seem hopelessly dependent on what you do for them, this is an illusion and one that's healthy to shatter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't forget about the part in the cycle of productivity in which nothing happens. This dormancy is as crucial as sleep, which all living things do in their own way, even the trees and the mushrooms.

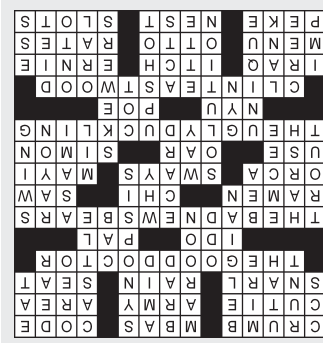
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 4). Your work won't be easy, but it will be super fun. You'll be challenged with bringing a group to the future. This is perfect for you, as you're not afraid of change and your emotional intelligence is off the charts. Financial incentives keep things interesting, and you maintain that winning spirit that attracts lady luck. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 18, 3 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

