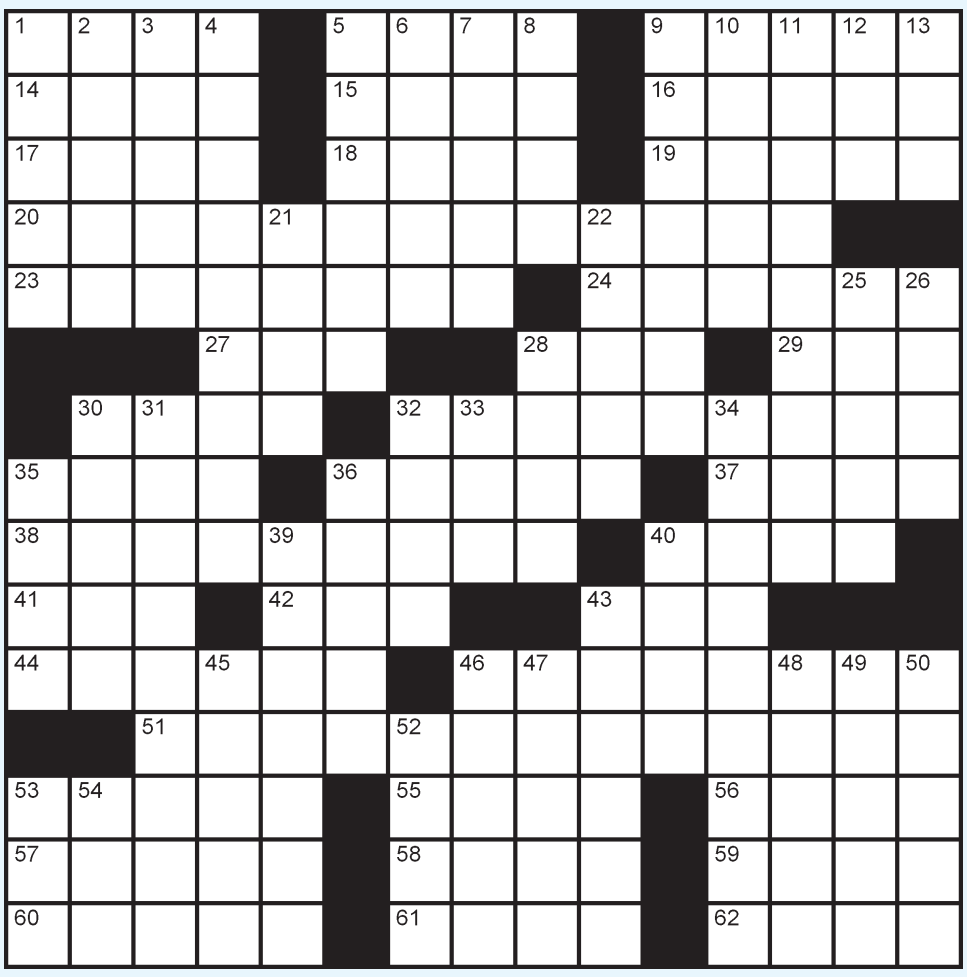
Chicken Choices *by Steve Mossberg*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS
1 Genie's abode
5 Browse Etsy, maybe
9 Use, as a mattress
14 Aspire 7 laptop brand
15 Kitten sound
16 Show flexibility
17 Phat kaphrao's cuisine
18 Oxy target
19 Aftermath of a snowstorm
20 Sentimental
23 Highly valued
24 Trees in the birch family
27 One doesn't stay safe on the web
28 Double-helix molecule
29 Hair gel, essentially
30 Is under the weather
32 Long group of stores
35 Michael of "Fantasy Island" (2020)
36 Song of praise
37 Like expensive cheddar
38 "Tsk-tsk" movement
40 Days, in Durango
41 Ares, to Wonder Woman
42 ___ Angeles
43 Note between fa and la
44 Vessel for serving soup
46 "This isn't right for me"
51 Little takeaway from a largely false story
53 Drama with arias
55 Bold choice in a party game
56 Voting against
57 "Great blue" bird
58 Donations to the needy
59 Drink invented by a Dairy Queen owner
60 Center
61 Computer game set on an island
62 Squishy ball maker

DOWN
1 Drink with art on the top, perhaps
2 Workout reminders?
3 Intended
4 LGBTQ+ symbol
5 Overly flattering
6 2020 "Dancing With the Stars" contestant Anne
7 Possessed
8 It's made in court
9 Section of a "Mario Kart" race when the music is faster
10 Kept the engine on
11 Fragrance from the "Bad Romance" singer
12 Word with "special" or "photo"
13 Ultimate degree
21 Fish in British pies
22 Rushed through the door
25 Actor's assignments
26 Totally convinced
28 Attire for a lip-synching queen
30 Vowel sequence
31 What you might embrace during a "Doctor Who" marathon
32 Tools with teeth
33 Gossip, in Black vernacular
34 Robbery target in Westerns
35 Sound of a dud
36 Tuning fork part
39 Pleasingly stylish
40 "Bad idea ..."
43 Most secure
45 Coins in 46-Down
46 Where Serie A soccer is played
47 Early birds' rewards
48 "An ___ of prevention ..."
49 Downright
50 Pickpocket or porch pirate
52 Dutch cheese
53 Resistor unit
54 Late architect I.M.

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021 *Full Moon Pre-Show*

The moon swells to tomorrow's full status in the realm of Scorpio, where deep secrets pool to reflect her, somehow offering back an image that is all at once completely illuminated and wholly mysterious. There's a sense of impending elation, like watching the "coming soon" trailer and experiencing the first blushes of tomorrow's world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The first idea that comes to you may indeed be the best one, but come up with more anyway, if only for the accompanying thrill of heading into unexplored directions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's someone's job to make you think that you need the shiny new thing and nothing else will substitute for it. In fact, many substitutions, including those you already own, will work fine, if not better, for you today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Impatience and frustration only arise if you believe things should go according to your wishes instead of just going as they go. To embrace the indifferent aspects of life is a liberation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The most productive day involves stints of concentrated effort followed by breaks in the fresh air. To skip the breaks makes the journey much less enjoyable, and longer, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While emotional energy, like love, may be invisible, to your eye, it animates the physical world quite obviously. You will easily tell how people are feeling, especially when they are trying to hide those feelings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Daydreaming is anything but a waste of time, though don't expect concrete ideas to come from it now. Today's flights of fancy open up the borders for later breakthroughs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Change out one part of the recipe and you have an entirely new recipe. People, like ingredients, behave differently in various combinations. One individual will alter the whole dynamic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In today's case, building a relationship doesn't mean adding things to it. In fact, oddly enough, the ties will get stronger when you eliminate something – perhaps a formality or an expectation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not usually a fan of remixes, but in today's case, it's a necessity. You'll be the one rearranging a thing, not because you want to outdo the original but because you need it to fit your purposes better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll make even the most disparate elements seem to coincide. You can even find relationships between things that seem to be working at cross-purposes. Conflict won't scare you. You'll dance on the tension.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've a quirky style and a worldview that could be described as "singular." You're unintentionally entertaining, and this works in your favor. Once disarmed, people are so amenable to your suggestions!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't fear the influence of others. You know who you are. It is because your rules for yourself are so firm that you can afford to have an open mind.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 25). There are those who use their power so well we think of them as entities. The difference they make and what they've come to symbolize is larger than any one person could be. This is where you're headed – an excellent steward of your gifts, growing in influence and with a modesty that puts purpose before ego. Libra and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 33, 37, 1 and 18.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

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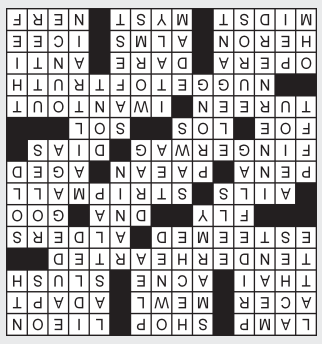
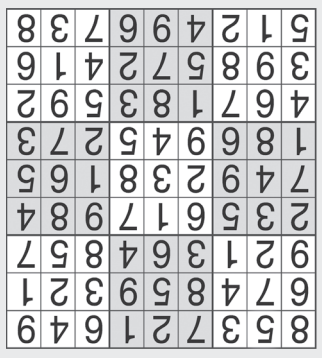
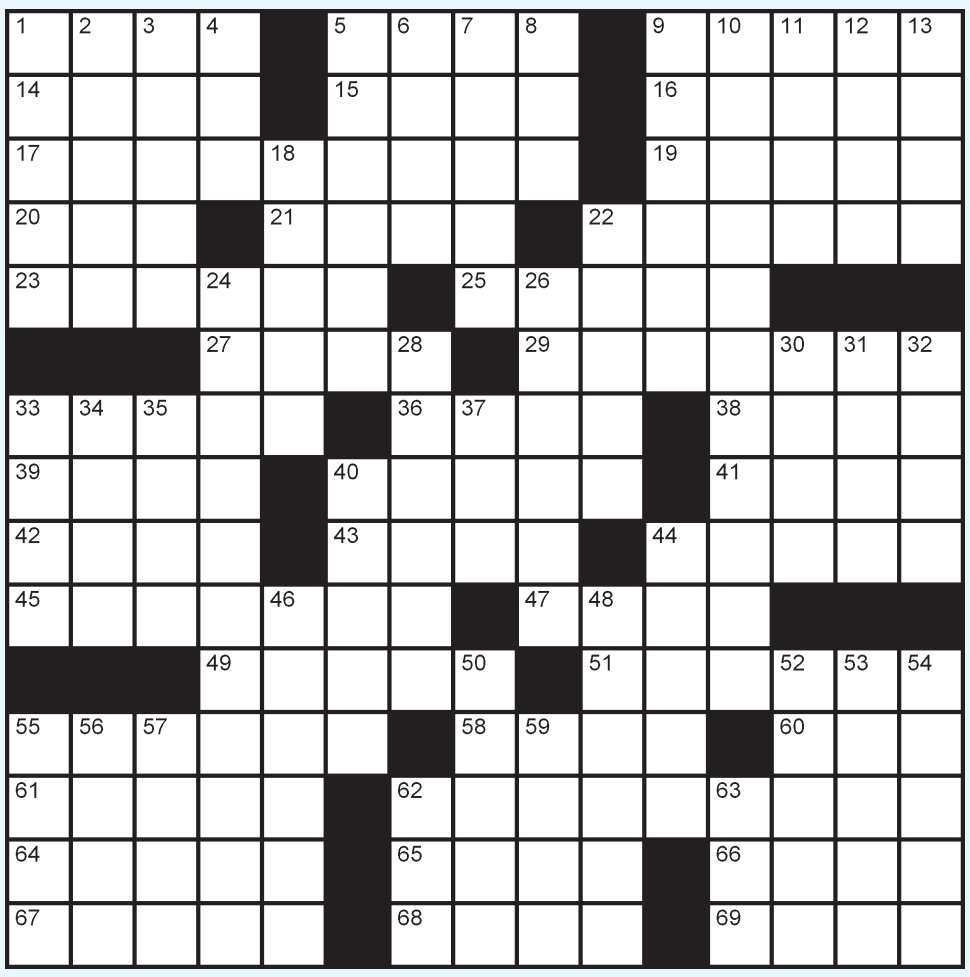




Refined Ore *by David Alfred Bywaters*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS
1 Overly hasty
5 After that
9 Trembling tree
14 Fit for the job
15 "___ a nice day!"
16 "Wonderful World" singer Sam
17 Dutch South African orchard product?
19 Tools for leaves
20 Rose, before it blooms
21 Dangle, as the tongue
22 One never needs a new floor
23 "You'll enjoy this!"
25 Uncontrollable movement
27 Approved
29 Makes certain
33 Debate topic
36 Oil cartel, briefly
38 South Asian garment
39 Bring up the ___ (be last)
40 Fear-inducing
41 Mountain goat's perch
42 Frat party barrels
43 Dig yourself into a hole, say?
44 Edible part of a nectarine
45 Word before "relationship" or "awareness"
47 Mete (out)
49 Longest above-water mountain chain
51 Margarita request
55 On the cold side
58 Tools for weeds
60 Blurb on a book jacket
61 Usher's walkway
62 Repository of discarded uniforms, mess kits, etc.?
64 Sport with clay disks
65 Sea destroyed by irrigation
66 Where most people live
67 Doesn't disregard
68 Depend (on)
69 Chrissy of "This Is Us"

DOWN
1 Jewish leader
2 On the topic of
3 Vehicles for one-way trips?
4 Pronoun often paired with "she"
5 Monarch's seat
6 Drag effortfully
7 Bad things
8 Cautious acrobat's installation
9 Unlike this answer, directionally
10 Eagle wing parts?
11 Proverbial pig's place
12 ___ out a living (just gets by)
13 Hummingbird's home
18 Stroke of luck
22 Upscale
24 Like a moderately large public restroom?
26 Gazed
28 Tame, as an animal
30 Desirable to a collector, usually
31 Timeline divisions
32 Sorrowful sound
33 Vexes
34 Ooze
35 Multipart story
37 Cushion
40 Morally suspect, or pleasantly cool
44 Strand at the dentist's office?
46 Coves and others
48 What cheap toilet paper typically has
50 Where to hunt for shells
52 Exploit, as a privilege
53 Constrain
54 Gem that's often brownish-yellow
55 Bills that can pay bills
56 Scenic walk
57 Words said while nodding
59 Mouthy?
62 Automobile
63 One may make a lake

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 *Super Pink Moon*

This full moon in Scorpio has the distinction of being the cutest-named cosmic happening of 2021. While "Super Pink Moon" seems a worthy name for a pop band, a runway show or an anime series, it will also prove a worthy title for the mysterious lunar glow, giving our fascinations and temptations an extra pop of allure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Living the same day on repeat requires no creativity. You crave a different experience. The vision of your new day will be inspired by conflict. Where there's friction, there are sparks... just what your imagination needs to light up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you were small, you sometimes found the talents of others to be a threat to the attention and resources you needed. Today you welcome the inspiration and thrive as you work with equal talents to your own.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The day is cosmically aligned for strategizing. Think far ahead. Imagine what you are likely to encounter, and then brainstorm how you might handle these variables.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Over time, you've put up with a lot of guff from authority. Now that you've earned a key place, haven't you also earned the right to decline participation in particular annoyances? It's a good day to test the theory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In one sense, you know where you are... and yet, in some ways, you still feel completely lost. Rid yourself of gnawing doubt. Affirm your position by noticing where it's not. Think in terms of opposites. All positioning is relational.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You find it interesting to think about other people's experience of you. Because most will not take the time to consider interactions from multiple viewpoints, your skill for perspective hopping will give you many advantages.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though wary of getting dragged into a drama, you still hear people out. The benefits of doing so outweigh the dangers. Staying open makes you rich in compassion, knowledge and adventures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember when it seemed you would never have a role like the one you have today? But looking back, it's as though all arrows were pointing to where you are now. Your eyes are on a new prize. You'll get there soon enough!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though you're in love with some of your current theories, you still leave room for doubt. This won't diminish your confidence one bit; rather, it's the element of realism that keeps you constantly improving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Future projections factor into your agenda. Something to keep in mind: The question of what's possible from a real-world standpoint will be answered very differently five years from now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There was a time you felt very unheard. Now people are listening, and you're not always sure what to say. While some would take the opportunity to say all, you're strategic. What's going to help? Start with that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The child says it's too hot. The customer says it's too heavy. The boss says it's too loud. You'll handle any worthy request. You'll stay nimble in the face of the shifting needs and fickle interests of those you aim to serve.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 26). The brave decisions that matter are very small and numerous. In fact, you'll make them almost daily, following a small voice that says things like "Talk to that stranger"; "Throw your hat in the ring"; "State what's on your mind." Your regular courage adds up to impressive circumstances and creations that improve lives. Pisces and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 47, 39, 22 & 8.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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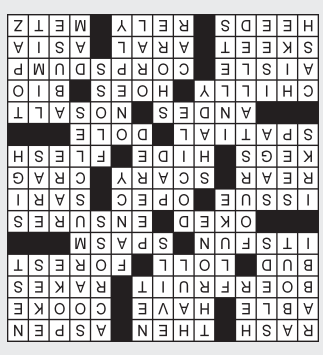
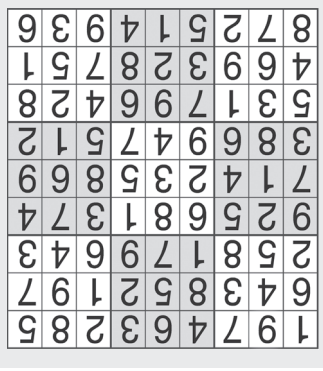
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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