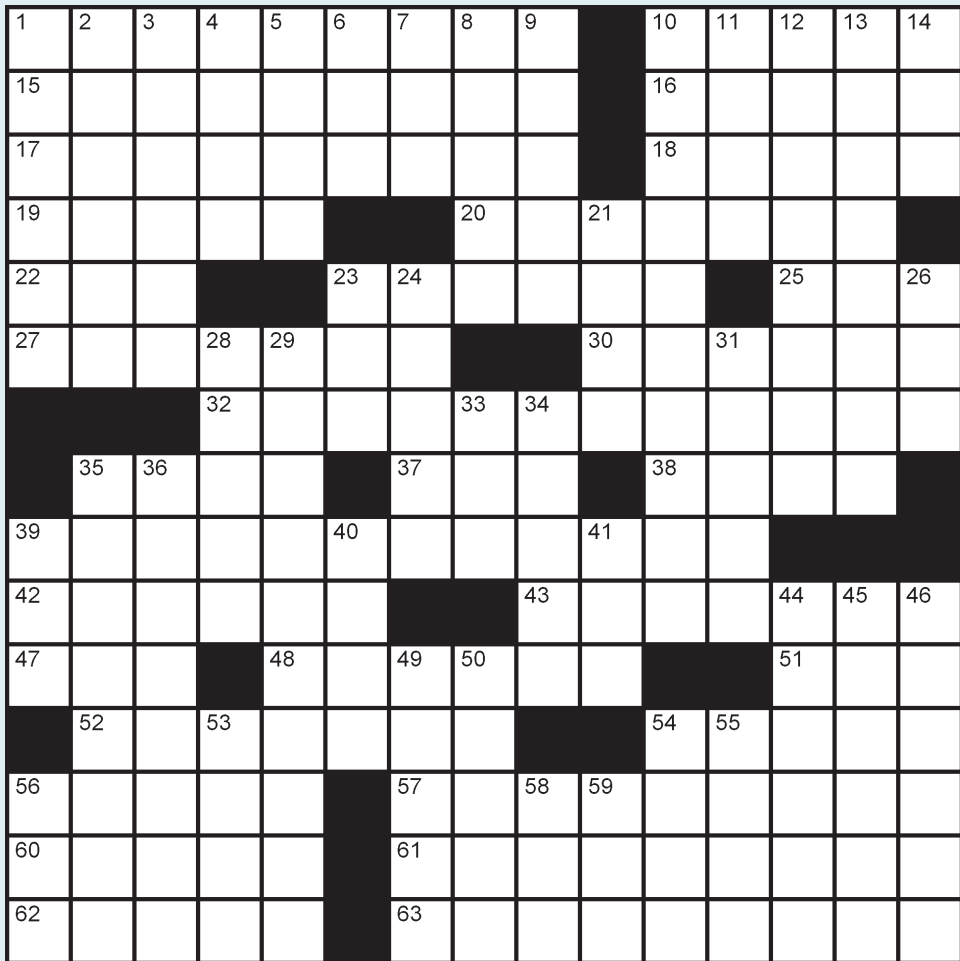


Pride Month Themeless IV by Scott Earl

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 "Count me in!"
10 Really relish
15 Unlikely to be framed?
16 ___ Garden (restaurant with unlimited breadsticks)
17 Hairs on lids
18 Some mobility aids
19 Many are paid online
20 Creator of Gandalf
22 Number on a birthday card
23 Snooze
25 Baseball execs
27 Moved past, as a frustration
30 Nanjiani who co-wrote "The Big Sick"
32 Celebration of something being dropped?
35 Fill with cargo
37 Honorific in India
38 Reddit entry
39 What helps you stick to the script?
42 Strongly disinclined
43 Best
47 So-so
48 Mountains in Wyoming
51 Suffix for "serpent"
52 Sites
54 One may run four laps
56 "Everything all right?"
57 It lets you see undersea
60 "Erase," as a gross image
61 Donna Summer classic with the lyric "Oh I need you, by me"
62 Some cocktail garnishes
63 "Is everything all right with us?"
DOWN
1 Swelling reducer
2 Formal request to leave
3 Breakfast dish that's folded
4 "The Old Curiosity Shop" heroine
5 Certain undergarments
6 Grp. for Canada and Chile
7 Grate residue
8 Country star Thomas
9 Hoover competitor
10 One often has googly eyes
11 Jai ___
12 Red wine and rice, for two
13 What lets you get your hand on hot items?
14 Hi-___ image
21 Kayaking spot
23 Scooby-Doo frame, e.g.
24 Childish rebuttal
26 Cunning
28 Call for a pizza, say
29 Process that led to Kamala Harris' selection, informally
31 Indigenous people of New Zealand
33 Vaccination spot
34 Nurse, as a margarita
35 First stage in a video game
36 Place to grab a pint
39 Scot's cap
40 Instagram video similar to a TikTok
41 Covers with Cottonelle, briefly
44 Oblong cookie from Pepperidge Farm
45 World Heritage Site grp.
46 Germany's first female chancellor
49 Cybertruck maker
50 Lady Gaga won one for "Shallow"
53 "I May Destroy You" creator Michaela
54 Assembled
55 Computer with a Pro model
56 "Sure thing!"
58 Find a purpose for
59 Texter's "Oh, also ..."

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021 Instructions for Venus in Leo



The way to get good at a thing is to play around with it first. It's why children are inclined to pretending: mock fights, sports, dress-up, etc. All are ways to go through the motions and try things on. It's not unique to the human realm; animals play, too. Pouncing into the sign of the cat, Venus has an excellent idea. Make a playful move.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll form your life around what's important to you. A few hours here and there will turn into substantial blocks of time, and then a commitment, and then, before you know it, the endeavor is your lifestyle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Breath is wasted in trying to say something appropriate. Better to let your curiosity lead you to the questions that will spring interactions to life. Riskier, maybe, but without risk there is no reward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your environment is full of optional experiences, some of which present themselves as givens. There are no givens. You get to choose how or if you want to engage.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just because you can name a feeling doesn't mean you have to claim the feeling, which is just energy moving through you. Feelings can come and go without defining or becoming you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The power source is already inside you, but the plug may have come out of the socket. Run yourself through a series of checks that will tell you where the energy is coming from and where it's going.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In your mind, a trajectory seemed like an easy, singular ascent. In practice, there is no such a thing. Ask any bird. Learning to fly is a messy affair that starts with learning to fall.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A picture assimilates in the ether and is sent straight to the email inbox of your mind. This can be a working map for you, as it's a kind of overhead shot of where you are going and the path to getting there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're on an uphill climb, and this takes steady effort. Your contribution will feel like something you are doing for you and you alone, but when you elevate yourself, you elevate the collective spirit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Adaptability is a willingness to change when the current tactic isn't working. Fickleness is an inclination to change regardless of the effectiveness of the current tactic. Success move: Stick to the plan a little longer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are attracted to what is good for you. The actions that energize you will feel like the right thing to do. You'll be drawn to the people who pull you into life's fullness.

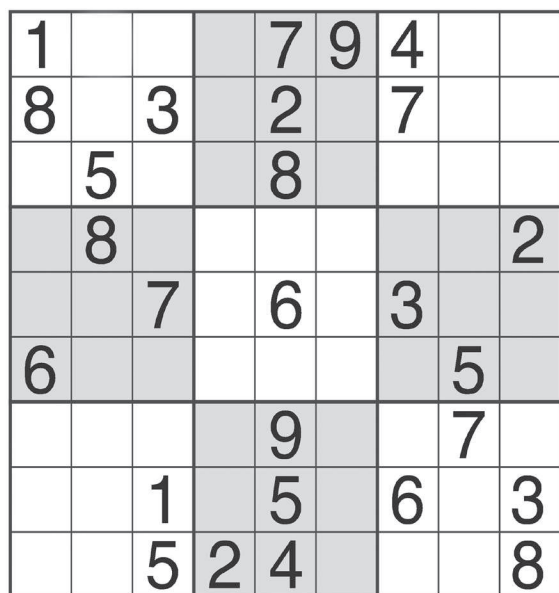
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Certain loyalties seem so cemented in place that you don't think to test them. But it's a short distance from comfort to complacency. It's a day to think deeply into relationships, if only because the focus will seed appreciation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The bad news is also the good news: You will not win the lottery today. Instead, you will have the satisfaction of helping another person in a way money cannot buy.

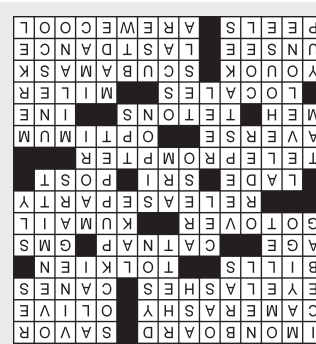
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 27). Your openness to good things is exactly what attracts them to you. July brings a circumstance to ramp up your vitality and inspire you toward exhilarating options. You'll be driven by ambition, not greed -- the difference being a success that improves lives for many. The distinction is key to your achievement of lofty aims. Sagittarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 38 and 5.

Universal SUDOKU

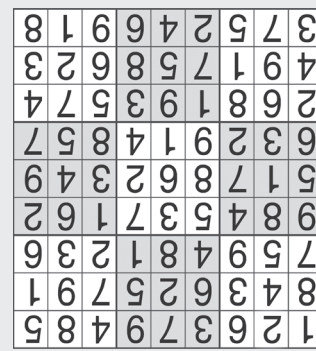
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

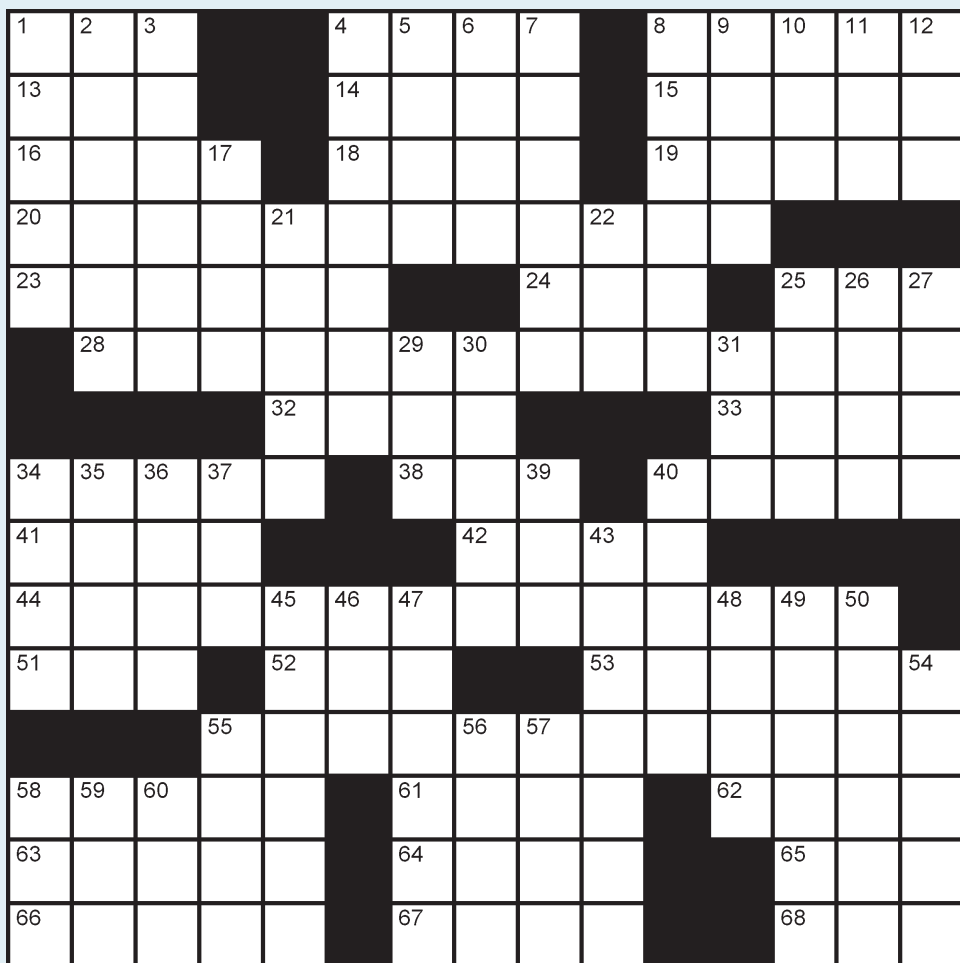


SOLUTIONS



Set a PR by Brook Husic

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Spitball, e.g.
4 Hurting
8 Part of a harness
13 Had some chilaquiles
14 "Well said!"
15 Montalban of TV's "Cinderella"
16 Appendectomy evidence
18 Scary tooth
19 Finished
20 People may dance along them in June
23 Gazes playfully, as a model
24 Jar top
25 Insect associated with Beyonce
28 Bisexual blooms
32 Showcase before a marathon
33 "Statt!"
34 One may play "StarCraft II"
38 Branch of a company
40 Fidgety
41 (Sigh)
42 Leg day groupings
44 Spanish for "Why not both?"
51 Messy place
52 Trois : Francais :: ___ : Italiano
53 Looked quizzically
55 Part of the biromantic flag representing dual attraction
58 Really great
61 Stash away
62 Quick message
63 "Wavin' Flag" rapper
64 Heaviest fencing blade
65 Nora ___ aka Awkwafina
66 Yellow parts of eggs
67 What Tinker Bell waves
68 Committed couple?
DOWN
1 Insects in nests
2 Where you might make your first s'more
3 "Honey"
4 You may learn about it from plannedparent-hood.org
5 Democratic-Farmer-Labor politician Ilhan
6 City near Lake Tahoe
7 Completely immerse
8 Beach getup, perhaps
9 Does a beach activity
10 Night vision cell
11 Pub order
12 Orca group
17 Flip phone whose name sounds like a shaving tool
21 Postpone
22 "How Long ___ Black Future Month?" (Jemisin collection)
25 The "B" in BFF
26 Notable stretches
27 Award for boxer Kim Clavel
29 Tax pro
30 ___ twist (ab exercise)
31 Concerningly pale
34 Spaces
35 Boatloads
36 ___ J. Blige of R&B
37 Abbr. on a lawyer's business card
39 B or C of the Spice Girls
40 Positive attribute
43 First-ranked athlete
45 About-faces
46 Mess up
47 Certain nibbling
48 Laura honored by the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles in 2020
49 Bird associated with Baltimore
50 Place fora nasal piercing
54 Judges to be
55 Summit
56 "Break My Heart" singer Dua ___
57 Country singer Brooke
58 Blue expanse
59 One, in Oaxaca
60 Buddy

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021 Lunar Sensitivity Warning: Armor Up



As the moon goes soft in Pisces, armor up against harsh realities. The temptation to identify as a victim will be strong, especially because we are justified in the hurt we feel! And yet, it is disempowering to see oneself as small inside of life's circumstances. Power grows as we recognize feasible actions and take control wherever possible. ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are those who would withhold their approval as a means of inclining you toward the fulfillment of their wishes -- a lot of rigamarole for you. Ask for the honesty and directness you'd prefer, and you just might get it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Go easy. What bit of complexity can you let go of? Simplicity of thought and action will make room for joy. Patience and accordance with the way things are will bring peace to a chaotic world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is only natural to want to possess these beautiful, temporary states that, ultimately, cannot be owned. It is wise not to throw money at problems that cannot be solved with money.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The spirit of competition is alive. You wish to be as bright, quick and sharp as you possibly can be, therefore you wish only the best for your opponent. People at their best raise the level for everyone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Wandering is just what people do. Eyes, minds and bodies flow sometimes purposefully, other times aimlessly, with a restlessness that is part of the human condition. Allow for it. Guide yourself back with kindness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are like clay, and everything you let into your life will imprint on you. You're excited about what's going to happen when you let in certain influences. You've a strong sense of how you want to be formed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Relationships flow through life, some a constant throughout and others salient for a season. Either way, it is your sincere desire that everyone leaves better than before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You remember the ones you owe a debt to and you're working to pay up. As for those who owe you, you'll put it out of mind. When their payment does come, it will be a delightful surprise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love is a verb to you -- a process instead of a thing that exists in space. Finding love will be like discovering yourself in a series of movements and realizing, "Hey, I am dancing."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The best way to complain is by making something that's way better. Solutions are coming together in your mind. You're coming into a streak of brilliance.

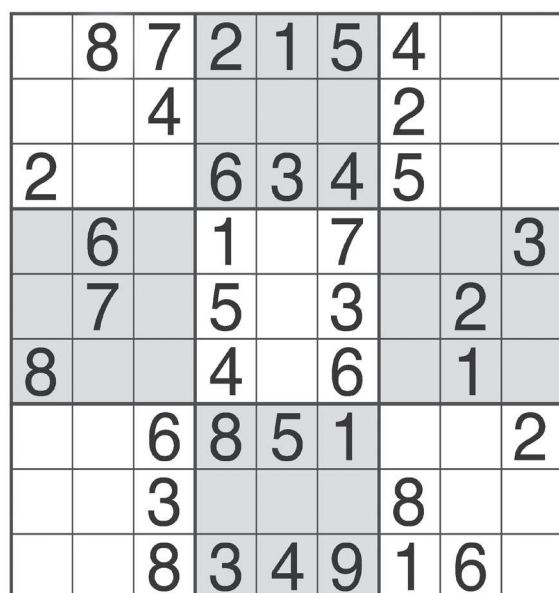
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Compromise is essential to life and relationships, and you're often better for the effort. But if you find yourself having to compromise every little step of the way, it's the sign of a bad fit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is harder for a person who is strongly identifying with every little detail of their image to give themselves over to the unpredictability of the moment. It takes more confidence to lose control than to gain it.

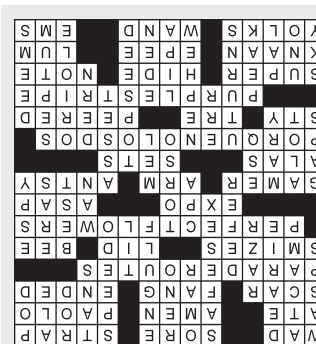
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 28). You honor your word and your reputation grows increasingly solid. Even so, you are evolving, opening up to the flow of love and letting more of it flood into every area of your life. Work gets more exciting with fresh input from people of different generations and cultures. Income spikes come in August and October. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 5, 52, 1 and 19.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

