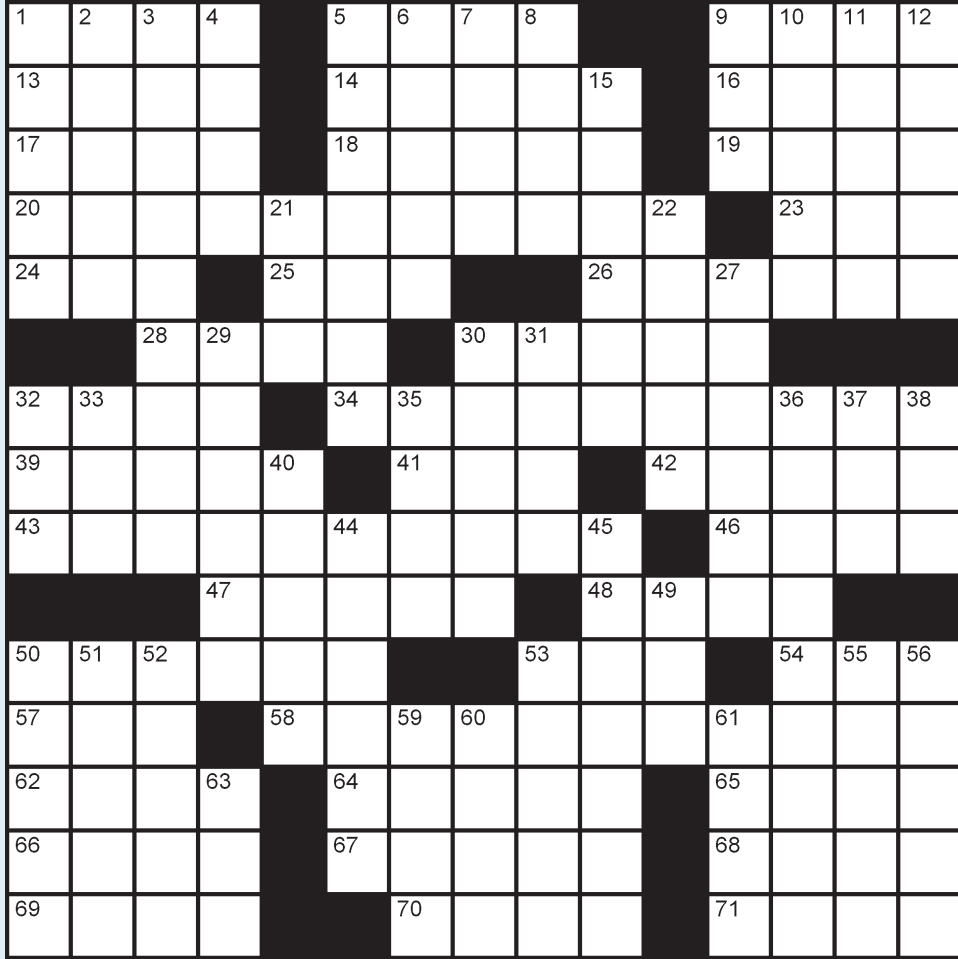


Hot Meal by Adam Wagner

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Alarm clock toggle, 5 Competes in a musical battle, 9 Gently urge, 13 "Moana" demigod, 14 2, 4, 6, 8 and so on, 16 Good engine noise, 17 Fizzling noise, 18 Treat with a hole, 19 Capital of Latvia, 20 The chicken thief tried to ____, 23 Delight, 24 Chatter, 25 Getting on in years, 26 Ones who eat a fully plant-based diet, 28 Ibiza, por ejemplo, 30 Founding Father Thomas, 32 Got an A+ on, perhaps, 34 The whiskey thief tried to ____, 39 Italian lawn bowling, 41 Shape of Martin Luther King Jr.'s moral universe, 42 Arabian capital whose name has three A's, 43 The chocolate thief tried to ____, 46 Apartment payment, 47 Goes up, 48 Network point, 50 Sycophant, 53 Camera initials, 54 What holds water?, 57 Get on in years, 58 The dessert thief tried to ____, 62 Politician Andrew, 64 Device with tuners, 65 "Handling that right now!", 66 "Er, uh-uh", 67 Hangs out in the backyard, say?, 68 Airport area, 69 Little bird's sound, 70 Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, for one, 71 Places for soaks, DOWN: 1 Great way to be rewarded, 2 Crime group, 3 Overly complimentary article, 4 Softball glove, 5 Warning sign, 6 Not touch with a ten-foot pole, 7 Ivy in the Keystone State, familiarly, 8 Comfy, 9 Chest-pumping skill: Abbr., 10 Board whose name combines two words for "yes", 11 Alphabetically first noble gas, 12 Inside looks?, 15 Sugar substitute, 21 "You've got mail!" company, 22 Tears apart, 27 Butler of "300", 29 Camera memory chip, 30 City of Love ... and the Louvre, 31 The basics, 32 Core components?, 33 Foldable bed, 35 Leaf-gathering tool, 36 "This 3 p.m. crash is hitting me hard!", 37 Photographer Goldin, 38 Kit ____, 40 Poet T.S., 44 Loki's home, in Marvel movies, 45 George Carlin became the first one in '75, 49 Catan resource, 50 Easy basketball shot, 51 Athlete's best effort, 52 __ alla vodka, 53 Piggins, 55 Dog breed from Japan, 56 Doles (out), 59 Mario __ (racing game), 60 Falco of "The Sopranos", 61 Gear teeth, 63 Org. symbolized by an elephant

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021 Last Day of Venus in Virgo



As we savor the last day of Venus in Virgo, there's an awareness of experiencing life with more than just our five senses. Our memory informs us -- as does our perception of context -- of place and time; beliefs around status; prejudices and preferences; and a million other subtleties that shape how we'll move through this puzzle of a day.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To ready yourself for something new, you must first reset. You can't try again until after you've hung up. Put in new numbers all you want, but it won't start a new call until you disconnect the old one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). One thing leads to another. You'll soon find yourself sorting through a mystery with an uncomfortable awareness of the risk factor. This is the start of an ongoing adventure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have something to say, though it will benefit you to hold back. Ask another question. Listen hard. There's more to learn and at least one key piece of information that will have you changing your mind or your strategy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You did what they wanted last time -- and the time before that, and before that. It's your turn to do it your way and in the timing you'd prefer to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get puzzled looks and field questions that can't be answered. Sometimes, the moral of the story is that there is no story -- just a list of things to figure out before a foundation can be laid.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Getting to know people is your forte and pleasure. You've a talent for drawing out the real story so you can better understand who people are and their motivating passions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may be able to execute a solo mission cheaper and faster, but it won't be nearly as useful as what you do in a team. Collaborations will net the best results and come together more easily than you anticipate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are fancier and trendier ways to solve problems, but new isn't always better. The old tool works; use it until it doesn't. You'll save time and money not having to deal with a learning curve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There will be something or someone driving you crazy all day, making you yearn for peace and quiet. As a result, you'll be motivated to do remarkable things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love is intense and transformative. Love overshadows, overtakes and renders all prior messes and mistakes insignificant. Love is a reset button.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are in charge of what you say and do, but the meaning others extract from it is entirely their own. Let go of caring about that and you will be set free.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's strange to admit, but you do get tired of seeing things from your own point of view. You'll be won over by the person who offers you another perch and a different experience.

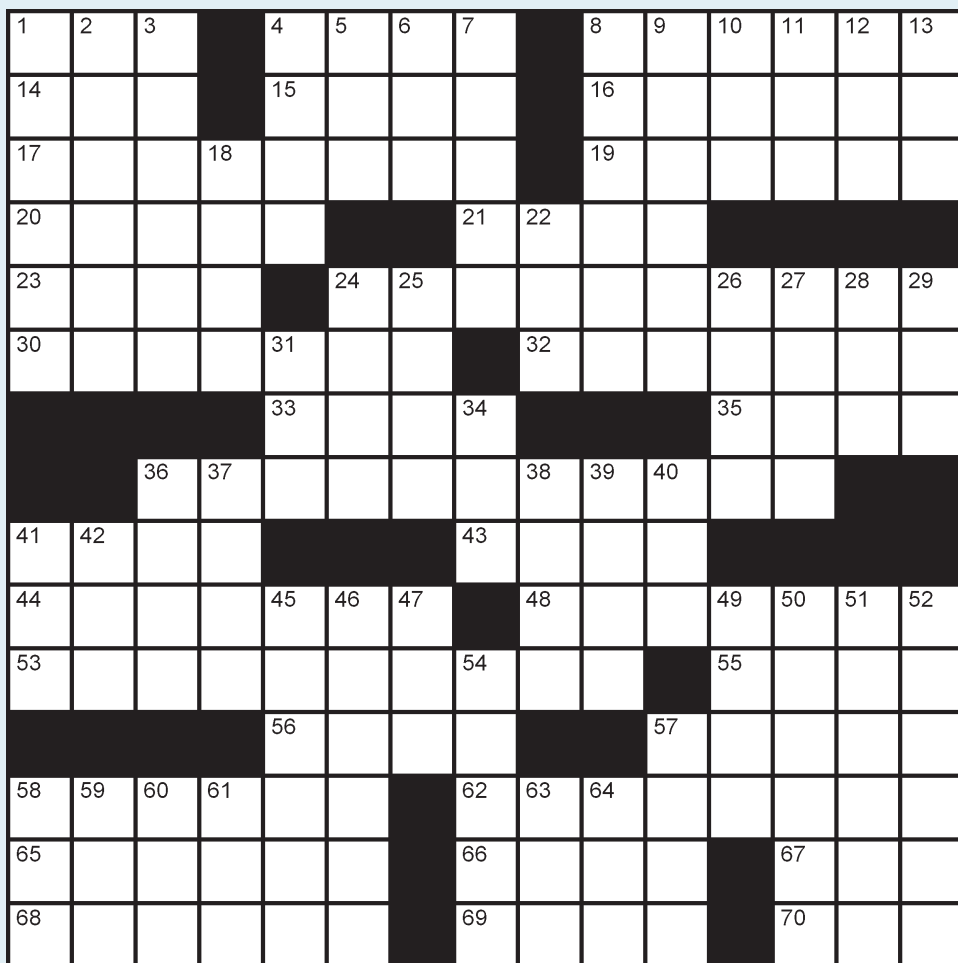
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 15). Close relationships are the beautiful music of your life. You'll make connections with astounding ease. You're never more than a few sentences away from striking the chord of familiarity. Harmonious dealings will be your trademark. You'll highlight commonalities, bridge differences and inspire brilliant collaborations of prosperity and healing. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 1, 18 and 30.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Grid with numbers 3, 4, 6, 1, 7, 8, 5, 9, 7, 4, 8, 5, 2, 3, 9, 3, 4, 2, 1, 4, 8, 3, 4, 7, 8, 5, 2, 3, 9, 2, 5, 6, 4, 3, 8. DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

SOLUTIONS Grid with numbers 8, 9, 3, 4, 6, 7, 5, 2, 1, 2, 5, 7, 1, 4, 8, 6, 9, 7, 4, 3, 8, 1, 5, 9, 4, 2, 6, 2, 9, 6, 2, 8, 4, 3, 5, 7, 1, 9, 6, 2, 2, 7, 1, 9, 4, 8, 5, 3, 6, 5, 6, 2, 3, 8, 1, 4, 7, 9, 5, 6, 2, 3, 8, 1, 4, 7, 3, 9, 6, 1, 7, 4, 8, 5, 2, 3, 9, 5, 8, 2, 3, 9, 7, 6, 1, 4, 3, 9, 4, 6, 1, 2, 7, 8, 5.

Alternative Education by Gary Larson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 "___ making a list ...", 4 Bedside fixture, 8 The San Diego Chicken, e.g., 14 Number not found in "The Twelve Days of Christmas", 15 ___ fresca (Mexican drink), 16 Bird that may be black and yellow, 17 Study of government revenue?, 19 Sent an emoji, say, 20 Classic sporty Ford, informally, 21 Be worthy of, 23 Ultimatum word after "or", 24 Study of "Bodak Yellow" rapper B?, 30 Inverse of addition?, 32 Feeler, 33 Give a ticket to, 35 Former student, briefly, 36 Study of supermarket conveyances?, 41 Slightly open, 43 Core, or meat, 44 Coped, 48 Writer's block?, 53 Study of the Punxsutawney groundhog?, 55 Relative of Hindi, 56 Stomach woe, 57 Gradually exhaust, 58 Word after "physical" or "mental", 62 Areas of study, and a hint to 17-, 24-, 36- and 53-Across, 65 "Let me get back to you", 66 Peach or beech, 67 Youngster, 68 Shower problem, 69 Toy that isn't fun in the summer, 70 Full show letters, DOWN: 1 More popular, 2 Allow, 3 What the Equal Rights Amendment combats, 4 Come down, 5 Previously, 6 It's the word, sometimes, 7 Single-___ system, 8 Pain relief brand, 9 Playground taunt, 10 Half a dozen, 11 Simple place to sleep, 12 Spanish cheer, 13 Kind of talk on the internet, 18 Layered cookie, 22 Org. that approves toothpaste, 24 "I Am ___" (Jenner's former reality show), 25 Voice below soprano, 26 She and her sister married Jacob, 27 Nothing but, 28 Antelope seen on safari, 29 Thanksgiving root, 31 TV adjunct, once, 34 Food that might be juggled, 36 "Pretty please?", 37 Disappearing sea in Asia, 38 Well-off, 39 Like a dirty fireplace, 40 School meeting grp., 41 Sound booster, 42 Rastafarian deity, 45 Tony Stark's beard, 46 Shun, 47 Quote from Homer, 49 Like distilled water, 50 Real estate developers' plots to you, 51 Person who may read a book many times, 52 Reaches a total of, 54 Pains in the neck, 57 Spun some records, 58 That tomat, 59 ___ Lilly and Company, 60 Everyone, 61 Trip essential?, 63 www address, 64 Insect like a drone

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021 Venus Goes Home



We aren't always aware of our values. Sometimes it takes an unusual situation to remind us of what we care about. Venus floating into her homeland of Libra will bring our values into stark relief. They'll be represented in our demeanor, what we talk about and how we relate to each other. The articulation will help us better embody our beliefs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Good communication keeps it all on track. This will involve eye-to-eye contact and double-checking to make sure you hear and have been heard correctly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Is it possible to take your show on the road? The more you get out and see people -- especially strangers -- the better chance you'll have at realizing a goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Energy -- like love -- is invisible to the naked eye, though the evidence of its existence is concretely and undeniably represented in the physical world. Action is encouraged. Don't just feel it; show it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today features whimsical offerings to sate your appetite for excitement and change. Join a trend or set one. Upgrades of the domestic scene are especially favorable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The price tag of what you want may give you a kind of sticker shock, though dollars may not be the real currency to be exchanged. When you want something badly enough, you'll do quite a lot to get it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). More than one thing will be true at once. You'll sort through a multitude of options and pick the prettiest ones for a mixed bouquet on the table of your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It feels like you're starting over. Maybe so, but building from ground zero is the cleanest and most stable way to start. You won't have much to work around now. Experience has cleared your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your current venture won't go to plan, but the choice to make something happen is never for nothing. Everything you make and do teaches you something new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you want to know exactly what will happen, stay home. The unpredictable excites. You'll get out, move, interact, dare, strive and connect. Anything can happen. Anything will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're a hard worker and a wise one too. When it's time to stop and rest, make sure you have adequate time to do so. To skip that would put your future productivity in jeopardy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It takes courage to put yourself in the crosshairs of judgment. Though you'd rather not leave yourself open like that, the potential for connection requires risking vulnerability.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Love is the container you'll pour yourself into. Another will do the same to make a mix unique to your relationship, never to be duplicated by any other.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 16). You establish health habits to hold you in good stead. Your focus on doing instead of saying nets huge wins. You make plans and act on them, surprising and delighting people with your sureness. Shared education will bring together a winning team. You'll meet people who will be in your life for years to come. Scorpio and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 22, 14, 18 and 32.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Grid with numbers 9, 2, 4, 8, 1, 7, 7, 6, 2, 4, 2, 5, 6, 1, 8, 8, 5, 8, 4, 1, 4, 7, 3, 5, 2, 4, 6, 3, 9, 6, 5, 7, 1. DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

SOLUTIONS Grid with numbers 1, 7, 5, 9, 6, 3, 8, 2, 8, 4, 9, 6, 3, 4, 7, 2, 5, 6, 1, 9, 6, 1, 8, 2, 9, 6, 9, 4, 8, 2, 6, 2, 5, 2, 8, 1, 9, 4, 6, 6, 8, 5, 3, 7, 9, 5, 3, 7, 6, 8, 2, 4, 6, 9, 7, 1, 9, 5, 3, 4, 8, 2, 3, 5, 8, 6, 4, 6, 8, 6, 4, 6, 3, 5, 8, 5, 3, 2, 3, 5, 4, 6, 9, 8, 6, 9, 3, 5, 2, 4, 8, 1, 7, 6, 3, 9.