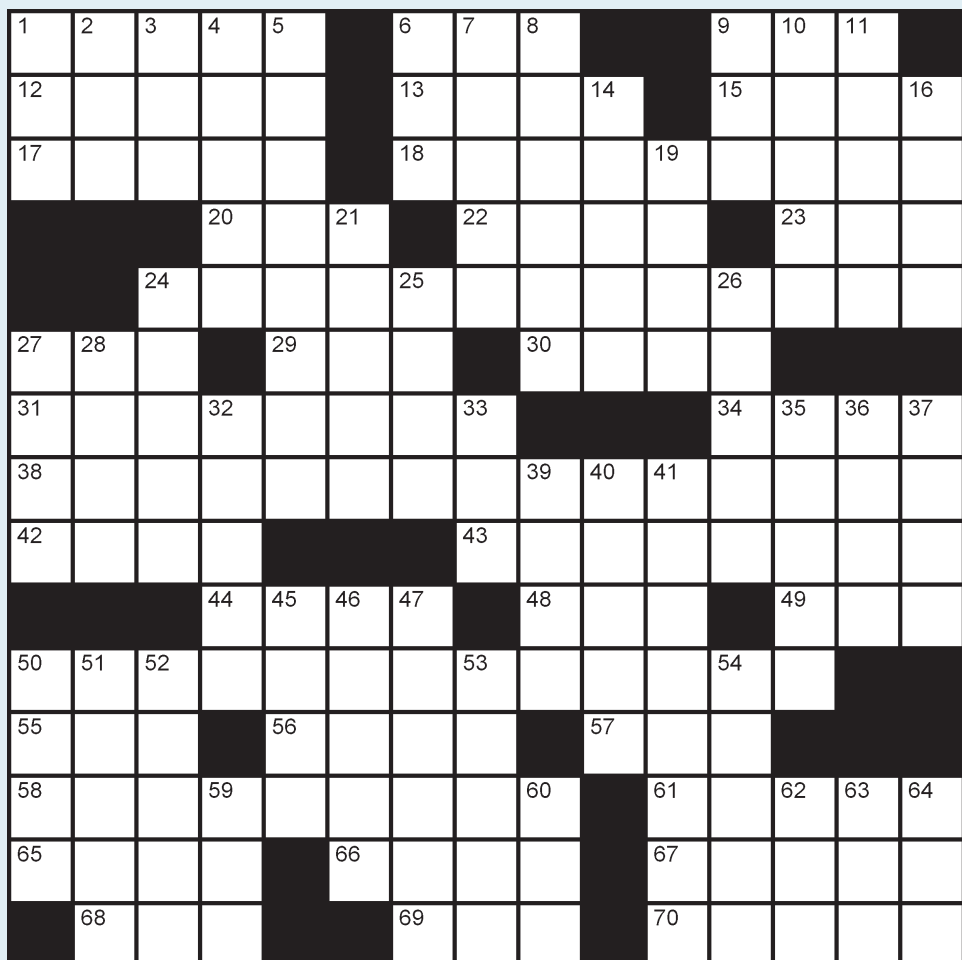


Absent Note by Jess Shulman

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Sasha or Malia, 6 Egyptian biter, 9 Cooling systems, for short, 12 Evidence, 13 Sporty car roof option, 15 Seed found in health foods, 17 Clean type of energy, 18 *Manufacture mannequin toppers?, 20 Score, as great seats, 22 Update, in real estate lingo, 23 Kind, 24 *Split ends?, 27 "Eww, I didn't need all those details", 29 Ready to deliver a baby, 30 "___ of the d'Urbervilles", 31 Not required, 34 Petro-Canada competitor, 38 *Anticipate a drink at a dance?, 42 Fill fully, 43 Like a certain continental union, 44 Creative writing degs., 48 Rapper ___ Baby, 49 Moody music genre, 50 *External investor?, 55 Device for taping TV shows, 56 Feathery fish hook, perhaps, 57 Battery in a toy, often, 58 Write a letter, or a hint to the deletion that formed each starred clue's answer, 61 Word after "blow" or "spin", 65 Hang on to, 66 "Bye-bye," in Bristol, 67 Tapenade ingredient, 68 So far, 69 Place to park, 70 Used a keyboard, DOWN: 1 Chances, as for photos, 2 Sis' sib, maybe, 3 Dial-up pioneer, 4 Polynesian Disney protagonist, 5 Scared about, 6 Money dispenser, for short, 7 Drummer Ringo, 8 Prod with a finger, 9 Get a perfect score on, 10 Lead, as a meeting, 11 Move furtively, 14 British coins, 16 Requests, 19 Have the ___ for (find attractive), 21 Pop star Mars, 24 Bandleader's "Gol", 25 What a chicken feels?, 26 Deplete, 27 Pulls along, 28 Film-rating org.'s longtime name, 32 Bullet points, 33 4G ___, 35 Scornful look, 36 Phishing attempt, e.g., 37 "That's not good!", 39 Dance at a luau, 40 PlayStation thriller game whose title is a girl's name, 41 Spot that won't come out in the laundry, 45 Nike competitor, 46 Act like a grown-up, in slang, 47 ___ comma (punctuation mark that sparks much debate), 50 Likelihood, 51 Bit of light that burns, 52 Cache, 53 Japanese box lunch, 54 With time to spare, 59 Word before "name" or "food", 60 Partake of latkes, say, 62 Puppy's sound, 63 Preceding night, 64 Like cinnamon candy

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 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.

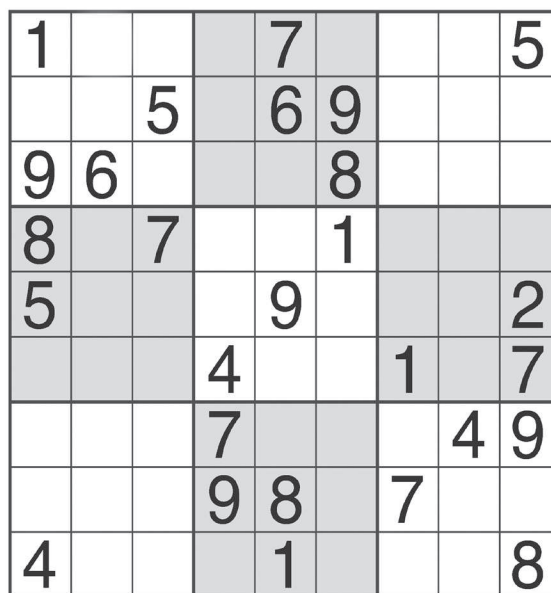
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are in charge of what you say and do, but the meaning others extract from it is entirely their own. Let go of caring about that and you will be set free.

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

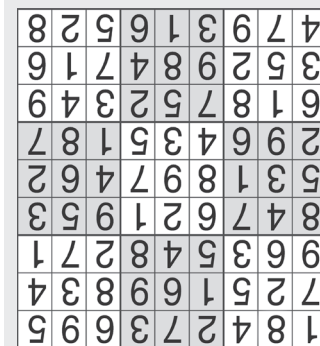
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

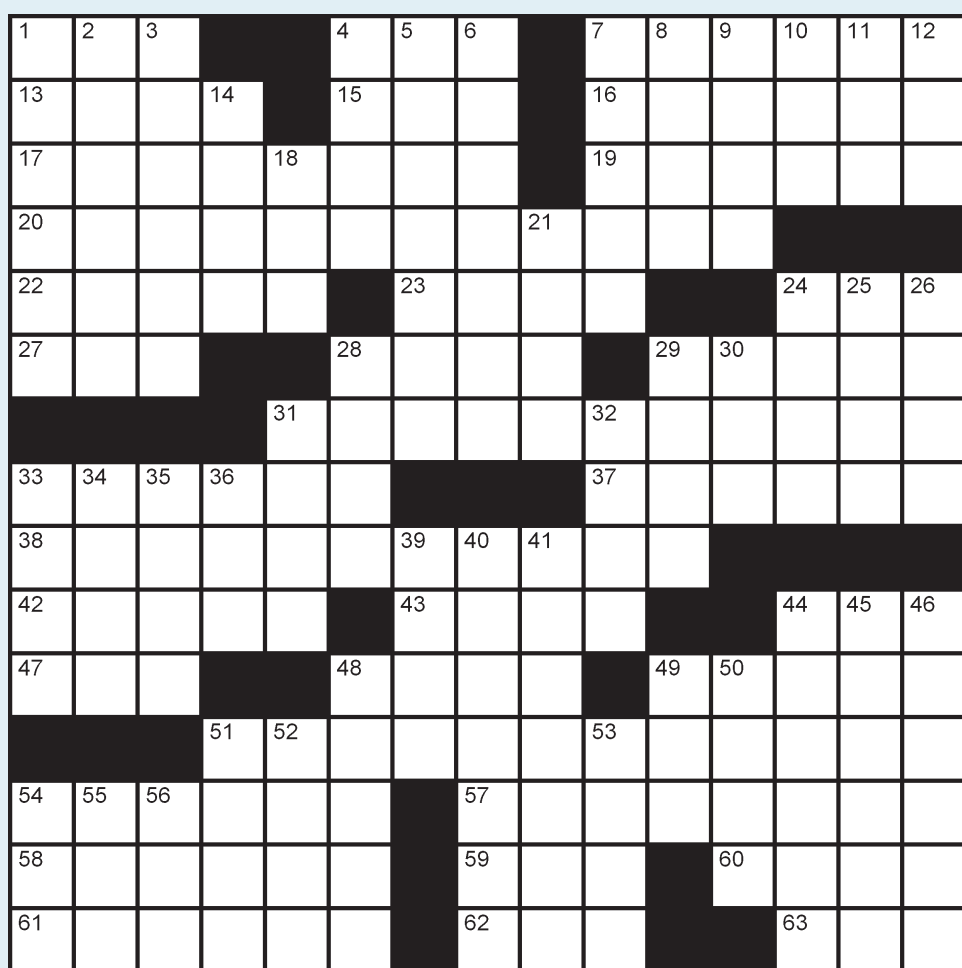


SOLUTIONS



Finding That Niche Job by Pam Klawitter

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Soup with Hanoi and Saigon styles, 4 Tiny unit of work, 7 Cornstalk topper, 13 Takes the wrong way?, 15 River, in Venezuela, 16 On full-time duty, 17 Remark after something fortuitous happens, 19 Readied for shipping, as oranges, 20 Specialized role at a school of wizardry?, 22 Take a stroll, 23 They follow sigmas, 24 Race, as an engine, 27 GPS lines, 28 "Sweet!", 29 Cooktop's appliance, 31 Specialized role at a coalpit?, 33 Gems Myanmar is known for, 37 Cafe or bistro, 38 Specialized role at a tent factory?, 42 Person who takes your car key, 43 New York City's Central ___, 44 Small social circle, 47 High degree?, 48 One is inherited naturally, 49 Broadway's Menzel, 51 Specialized role at a sweet shop?, 54 North African expanse, 57 "IMHO", 58 Good luck charm, 59 Agent, briefly, 60 Cheekiness, informally, 61 Religious doctrines, 62 Rx providers, 63 Word with "mattress" or "mouse", DOWN: 1 Spectrum makers, 2 Chinese meal cooked at the table, 3 Constantly think (about), 4 Stonestreet of "Modern Family", 5 "You said it!", 6 Lost control, 7 Bulletin board fasteners, 8 Forestland unit, 9 Toronto newspaper, 10 Basic dog command, 11 First lady?, 12 Was in first place, 14 Blowout or BOGO, 18 Crafty, 21 Sticks in pool halls, 24 Only Clue weapon whose token isn't metallic, 25 "... happily ___ after", 26 Part of VIP, 28 One ran away with the spoon, 29 Cook quickly, as scallops, 30 Hanoi holiday, 31 Track event, 32 Wall calendar row, 33 Get back to the host, 34 State whose official snack is Jell-O, 35 Like worn tires, 36 '50s presidential nickname, 39 Angled column?, 40 Cord that may hold an ID card, 41 Nightstand's companion, 44 Add one's two cents, 45 Largest lake entirely in New York, 46 Flitted, 48 Summer pests, 49 Form 1040 org., 50 South Beach or Beverly Hills, 51 Storm lead-in?, 52 Tiler's calculation, 53 Pieces of inside information, 54 Inapt rhyme for "glad", 55 Word from a Latin lover, 56 Greeting for a grandchild

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 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.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

