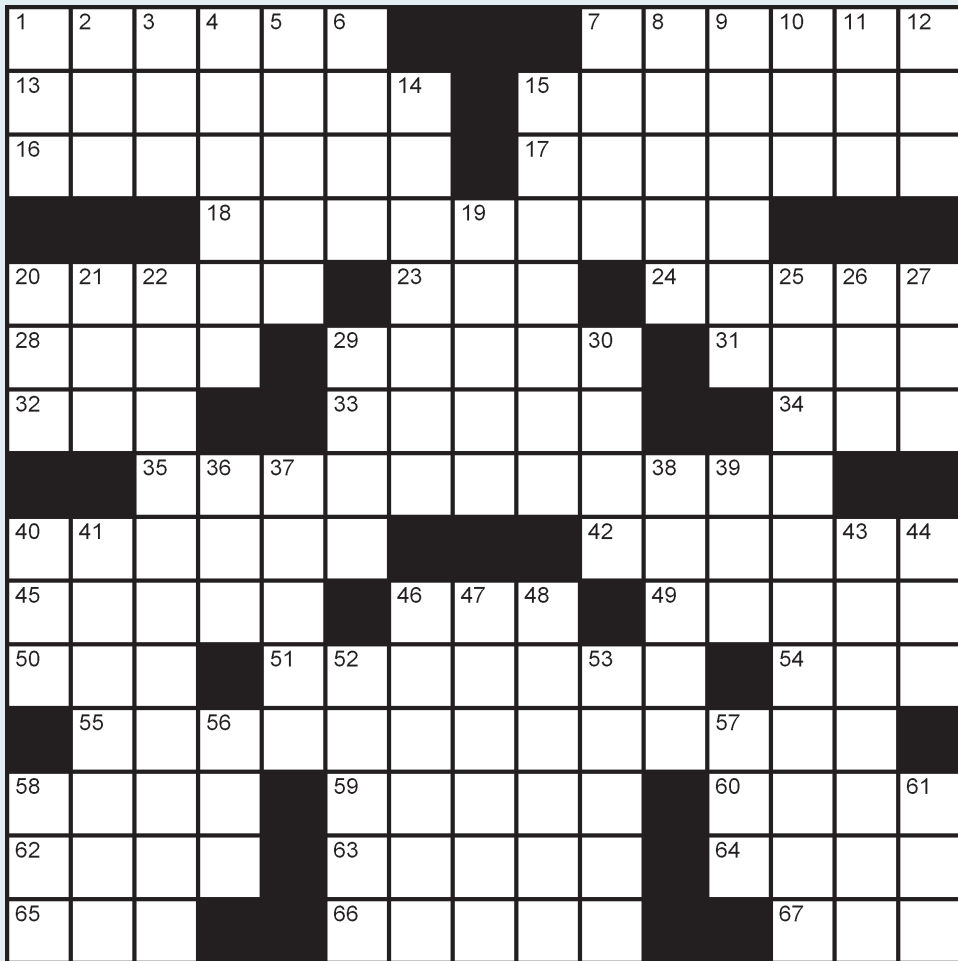


Fruitless by Zachary David Levy

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Snacks with a Pizzeria Pretzel flavor
7 Hit rock bottom, financially
13 Toy in "Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins"
15 "I hear ..."
16 Tube-shaped Italian pastry
17 Name hidden in "vegetarian nachos"
18 Post cereal that doesn't contain fruit
20 Destinies
23 Cool, in dated slang
24 Mar. 17 honoree
28 Awed crowd's noises
29 Ceremonial procedures
31 Word after "fire" or "tag"
32 Barely make, with "out"
33 Not satisfied, as demands
34 \_\_\_ and tonic
35 Tea that doesn't contain fruit
40 Narrow waterway
42 Included in
45 Gets ready for the OR
46 Debut discussed in the WSJ
49 Mars on Earth
50 Was appropriate
51 Clue in about
54 Tyrannosaurus
55 Hong Kong pastries that don't contain fruit
58 Pixar film inspired by the Day of the Dead
59 Response to a bad pun
60 Gaiman who wrote "Coraline"
62 Woeful exclamation
63 Oafs
64 Pasta resembling rice
65 Zippo
66 Lauder who was much-lauded
67 \_\_\_ chromosome
DOWN
1 Org. for Rochelle Walensky
26 Boxing legend Laila
27 X
29 Smallest puppy
30 Individual instruction
36 Knock hard
37 Grocery store division
38 Food on a skewer: Var.
39 Apt-sounding surname for a rower
40 UV-blocking measure
41 Libya's capital
43 Description for an adjustable hat, perhaps
44 Sly animal
46 Tech support whizzes
47 Really catch the eye
48 Like "Saturday Night Live" and "The Tonight Show"
52 Two under par
53 Needing to relax
56 Rejections
57 Game with many red cards
58 Is able to
61 Bagel topper

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 Instructions for the Venus Change



Self-consciousness is a product of not knowing yourself. When you feel uncomfortable with being seen or overly aware of critical eyes, take it as an invitation to learn yourself better. The stronger your relationship with yourself, the less other people's opinions will matter to you. This is the first lesson of Venus in Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If anything close to perfection can be achieved, it will only be without the ego. But without the ego, perfection doesn't matter in the least because being fully present to the process is all that matters.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Making a wrong choice doesn't mean you owe yourself admonishment. This is all a learning process. Now you know the right move, and soon you'll do it so many times it will come automatically to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know what you want, and you ask for it in a way that makes it easy for people to say yes to you. Just make sure they are really qualified to follow through and you're golden!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're courageous and adventurous. Even when something is completely unfamiliar to you, you are still able to open your mind and heart to it. You'll thrive creatively because of this.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The mystic Osho said that all artistic activity is on the way toward becoming religious. Start a practice of creativity today, and it will lead you to a sacred place in your own soul.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Add people to your world. The more reciprocal and uplifting relationships you have, the better balanced your perspective will be -- and, it follows, your mood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No role can represent the entirety of your being. A role is something you do, not someone you are. An expansive spirit pervades your being and inspires you to handle things without defining yourself in the process.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have built much in your life, but the current relationship will not be created through building. It will come together through allowing, granting and gaining access to another person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People will say just what you wanted them to. Is it as satisfying to hear as you thought it would be? Does it accomplish your original goal? Decide what to do next with your growing influence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The stressful situation will pass; the problem will be solved; the transition process will be successfully completed. When they ask why you're so confident, ultimately, you will credit this experience.

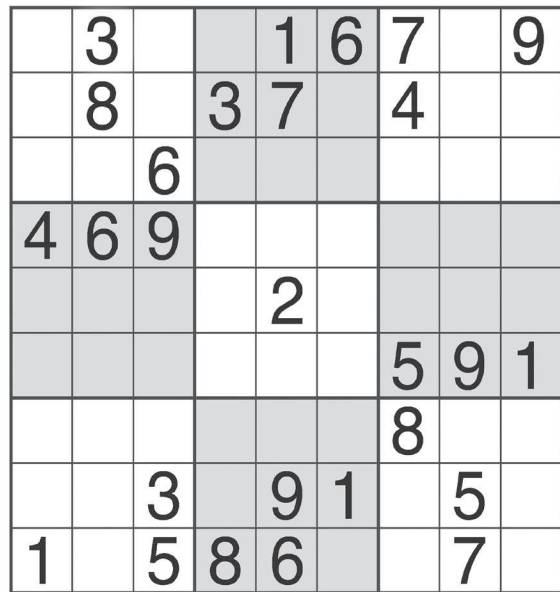
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The scene may meet your standard on paper, but that doesn't mean it really fits. Try things for a while, and then decide. Take your time because this decision will alter the course.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Avoid twisting yourself up into a knot to prove how flexible and willing to please you are. Instead, walk tall and follow your own rules. Just for today, it's better to err on the side of rigidity.

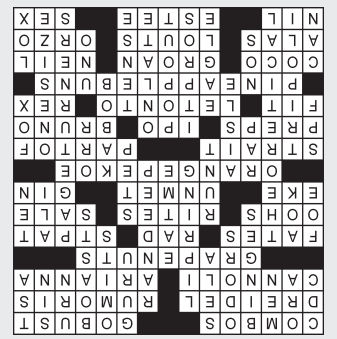
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 10). The Venus transit coinciding with your solar return shows a shift in relationships. Some get deeper; others lighten up. Also, new subjects will fascinate you, and as you follow your changing interests, different people come into your world. The fresh influences enliven your scene and make existing ties more dear. Sagittarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 15, 4, 44 and 39.

Universal SUDOKU

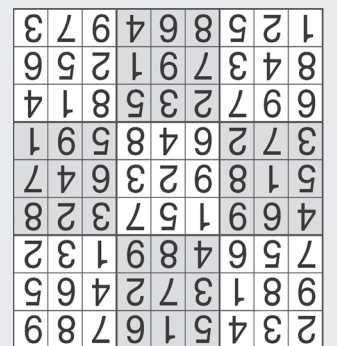
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

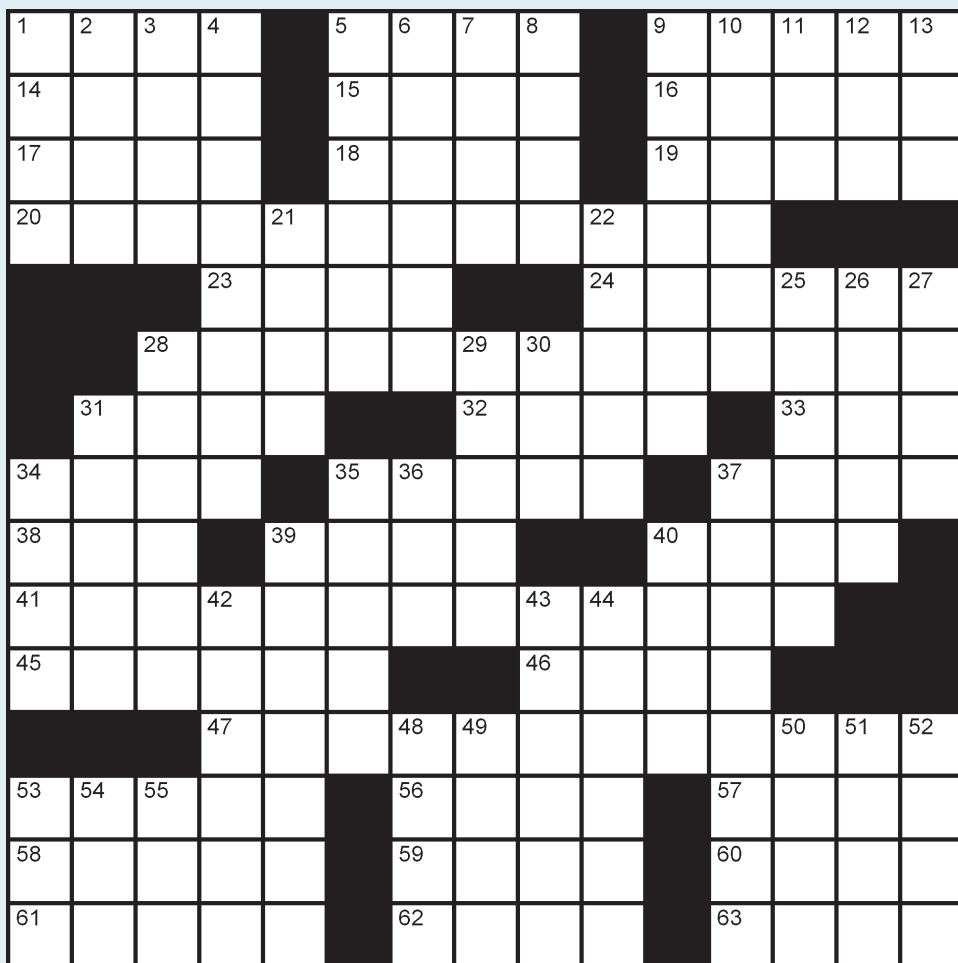


SOLUTIONS



Whirly Bird by David Bloom

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Fake call from the IRS, e.g.
5 Courts
9 Good news after a job interview
14 Cab
15 Colts' city, for short
16 Lionhearted
17 "I agree 100%"
18 Extra-bright
19 Stereotypically cringey H.S. subject
20 Iconic fast-food logo (see letters 9 to 5 in this clue's answer)
23 Ride a sloop, say
24 Writer Hemingway
28 Dutch spirit named after its original still (letters 11 to 8)
31 Comedy routines
32 \_\_\_ Pods (inedible laundry pouches)
33 Big League Chew product
34 Charitable offerings
35 Joke targets
37 Soccer great born Edson Arantes do Nascimento
38 Animal with a pouch, briefly
39 "Here today, \_\_\_ tomorrow"
40 Certain baby
41 Often-complex details (letters 6 to 3)
45 God, in Hebrew
46 Ilhan of "The Squad"
47 MTV series based on "An American Family" (letters 9 to 7)
53 Bipolar phase
56 Jackie Robinson's Golden State sch.
57 "Attention, please!"
58 Startle
59 "Anything but \_\_\_!"
60 Baseball stitching
61 Uses an e-cigarette
62 Gardener's tube
63 View on something
DOWN
1 Dateless
2 Pattern for blending in, informally
3 Ice skater's 1.5-turn feat
4 Attitudes
5 \_\_\_ the Pooh
6 Low tie
7 Skunk funk
8 In \_\_\_ (harmonized)
9 Watch carefully
10 California city north of Bakersfield
11 Send via modem, perhaps
12 December 24, for one
13 Like a cooked lobster
21 Gobbles up
22 Listens to, as advice
25 Tools used on lawns' borders
26 What a calavera depicts, on the Day of the Dead
27 Not racy
28 Kobe robe
29 Adorable animal in a river
30 Trivial thing to pick
31 Light hair color
34 Diva's solo
35 Knife variety
36 108-card game
37 Barbecue event popular in Hawaii
39 Teddy \_\_\_ (bear-shaped snacks)
40 Chew on wood, say
42 Whole
43 Australian animals known for sleeping
44 Untimely comment?
48 Baseball great Babe
49 Video call issue
50 Seehorn of "Better Call Saul"
51 Security breach
52 "Let's chat privately," on Twitter,
53 Dallas hoops pro
54 \_\_\_ carte menu
55 Kindergartner's break

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 A Love Goddess Paradox



It's the first full day of Venus in Scorpio, a sign of paradox. Truth and mystery intermingle. No one is all good or all bad. With maturity, we can respect the complex humanity of others. Just remember, no matter how shiny and winning the persona, humans possesses both features and flaws, and are capable of failure and triumph.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This weekend won't ignite the flames of passion, and this is better for you now. The balance allows for friendship, conversation, adventure and fun to keep flowing into next week.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't have to solve a problem for everyone to solve it for someone, nor do you always have to stand out to do well in a venture. This applies to both business and personal interactions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The one who said, "Truth does not blush" wasn't paying close attention. The truth can be very uncomfortable to hear indeed. Today's honesty will provoke a visceral response.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel like you're patting around in the dark to find the light switch. These temporary outages can't be helped. No one is illuminated all of the time. Move slow, and enjoy the way nondominant senses come alive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Step back to look at the big picture. You'll wake up to a surprising reality. For instance, if you only feel like you're doing a good job when you're meeting one person's needs, there's something wrong with the job.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A goal has slipped out of reach and will continue to drift away unless you act now to reel it back in. You're very lucky now. You have an extremely good chance of getting this one, so make an action plan and commit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Money is a motivator, but it's not in the top three. Your true desire is for knowledge, experience and wisdom, which are the golden keys, more helpful than money for moving beyond your current limitations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Frustration is natural but immature. Do you really have time for self-directed anger? You can solve the problem or leave it blank and move on. You'll be happy either way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Spontaneous travel and/or travel plans are favored. In new places, you are someone else, partly because you are suddenly with people who you may never see again.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're a giver sometimes and a taker other times. The fact that you get to be both is a signal of health, as embodying only one of those roles is a sign of a troubled imbalance.

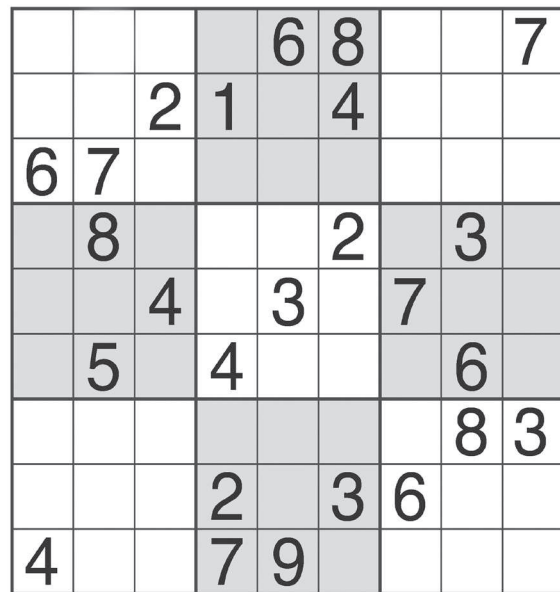
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Tenacity and stamina are your winning attributes, which you'll apply to marvelous effect. Good fortune comes via sales, efforts for your family and community projects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A sacrifice will appease the powers that be. It doesn't matter if it's something hard or easy for you to give. What matters is that it's something they need and want. So, before you give, find out what they are looking for.

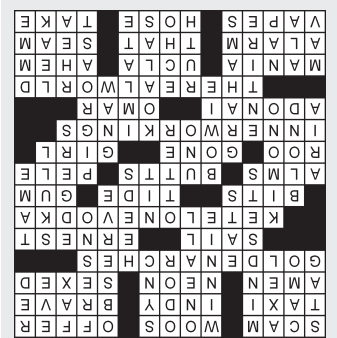
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 11). You'll explore vast distances of the mind, heart and earth, traveling far and wide to complete your mission. Your social instincts are on point, and destiny is altered just because you are welcoming to someone at the moment they most need it. Your finances will reflect your diligent, intelligent work efforts. Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 33, 21, 51 and 15

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

