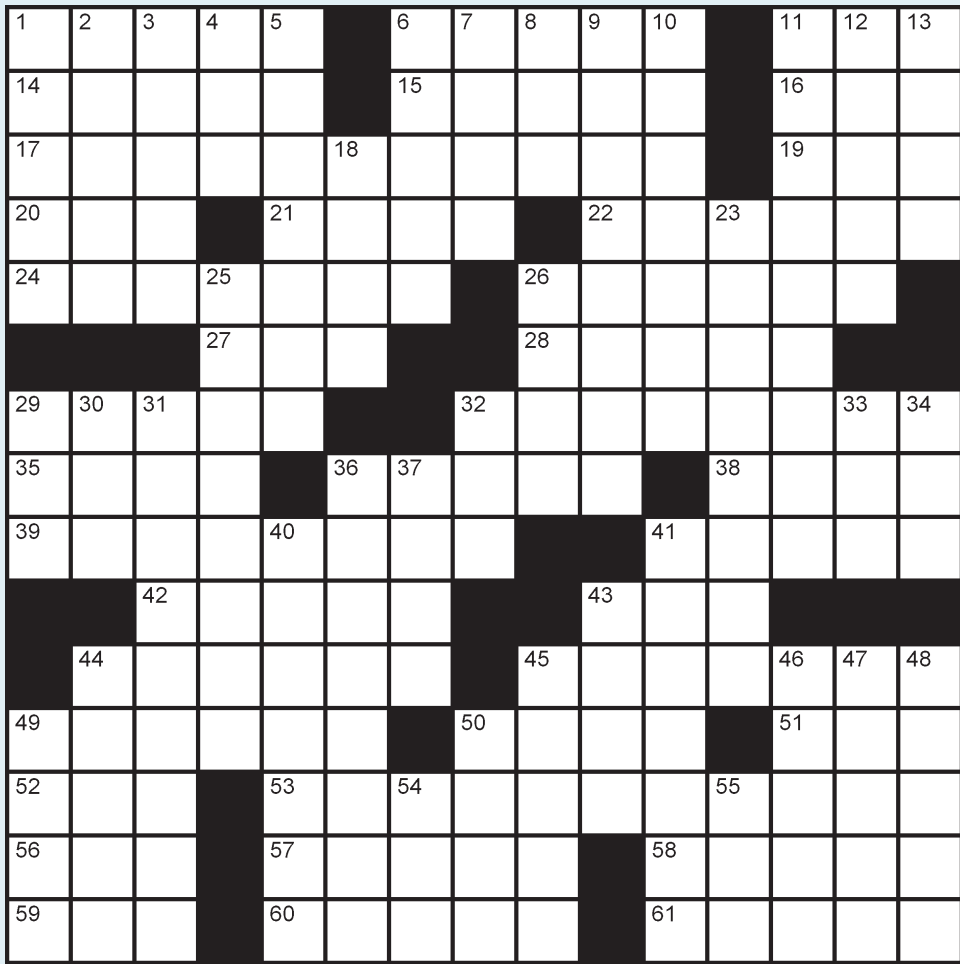


Wet Paint by Paul Coulter

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Common fast-food side order, 6 So far, 11 Backstabber, 14 Middle meal, 15 Montoya in 'The Princess Bride', 16 'A likely story!', 17 Inedible fruit that surprisingly isn't a citrus, 19 Anger, 20 Cleopatra's snake, 21 Bit of aerobic exercise, 22 Up-and-coming whiz, 24 'Let's see you do better!', 26 Split, like a hoof, 27 'For ___ a Jolly Good Fellow', 28 Former legal drama that starred Susan Dey, 29 Howled, 32 Metaphor for a potential crisis, 35 Extol, 36 Line with triangles, on a weather map, 38 Before long, to a poet, 39 Become established, 41 The way things are going, 42 Track shapes, 43 Big name in outdoor gear, 44 New York NBA team, 45 Candor, 49 Pooh's pink pal, 50 Monotonous routines, 51 One may be short-sleeved, 52 John, in England, 53 Contents of some palettes ... or what 17-Across, 11-Down and 31-Down could be, given that their starts are rivers?, 56 Bird that hoots, 57 High up, 58 Not throw away, say, 59 Person celebrated in June, 60 Abominable snowmen, 61 Construction spots, 62 Down, 1 Ice-cream treat served with a straw, 2 Rene of 'Ransom', 3 Like 'Candy Crush' purchases, 4 Heart record, for short, 5 Relative of a man cave, 6 Buenos ____, 7 Lose your temper, 8 Yang's counterpart, 9 Baba ghanoush ingredient, 10 Initial bit of progress, 11 Drink such as liebfraumilch, 12 Composer Copland, 13 Not us, 18 Elevator pioneer, 23 Saint of Hollywood, 25 Lucifer, 26 Extended family, 29 Its first letter doesn't stand for 'bread', 30 Battery size, 31 Potato variety developed in Canada, 32 You may bid or build on it, 33 Oui's opposite, 34 No ___ in sight, 36 'Pecos Bill' or 'Paul Bunyan', 37 'Friends' character with a Ph.D., 40 Saratoga or Daytona, 41 Stretching muscles, 43 Campus military org., 44 Southern Plains native, 45 What the truth does, per Lizzo, 46 'I'm a little teapot/ Short and ___', 47 Brusque, 48 Affirmatives, 49 Trudge, 50 Mortgage change, for short, 54 Pampered one?, 55 Fragrant neckwear

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 Aspects of Warmth



Ask the yoga instructor at the hot yoga studio, the dragonfly sunning on a rock and the partygoers around the bonfire: Warmth changes things. It can make us move through life with more fluidity, bring us to a more energized physicality or draw us together. Today's heat source will be the friction of Venus and Saturn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be given plenty of leeway to do what you want with a project. However, it will benefit you to ask for input from many and work in conjunction with a team, getting overall approval before you begin the work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will be as lucky as you are daring. Find out what happens when you take an uninteresting aspect of your day and push it a little further, and a little further, until the action moves into a territory of absurdity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's good that this fond wish of yours doesn't come true right away. The anticipation is part of what makes an outcome wonderful. And besides, the journey is where all the learning happens.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes, your nurturing ways allow others to relax enough to grow into the next move. But nurturing isn't always warm and soft. Today, your care may have a tougher side.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). First comes a realization; then comes your plan. To make a plan before you recognize the true nature of things would be to plan in vain. You cannot force your knowledge, but you can observe well, holding a space for all to come together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The cosmic gift of the day will come wrapped in humor. Whether you laugh silently to yourself or raucously with friends, you'll be healed by the body shake a joke can make.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Oddly enough, knowing too much about a problem could inhibit you from seeing the solution. Children and newbies may have a more helpful take on it than those mired in the issues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can't change the past, but you can change the backstory. Challenge yourself to see things a little differently than you did yesterday. Find the spin that makes you more excited about who you are right now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Although there may be no tangible prize for the endeavor you now spend so much of your life on, there are rewards to be had here, tangible or abstract, overt or implied.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're adaptable, with a wide social vocabulary to draw from. If you have to change your communication style to get the message across, you will. Understanding your listener is key.

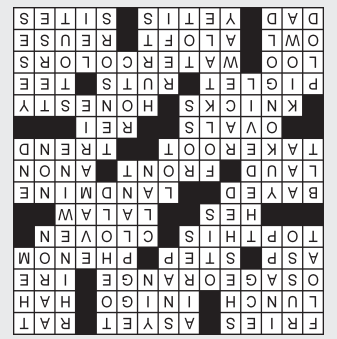
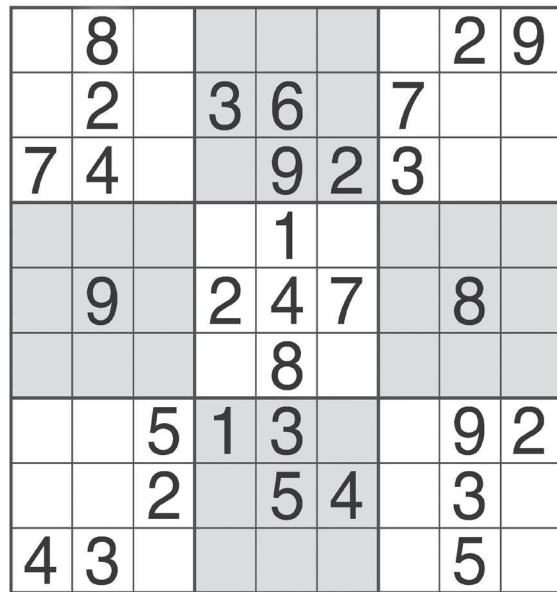
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In certain tribes where bravery is more prestigious than anything that can be bought, scars are status symbols. You have emotional scars no one knows about. Would you consider wearing one with pride?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If there is pressure to do things right, either get the most qualified person for the job or find a way to eliminate that pressure. The spirit of innovation cannot thrive where people are afraid to fail.

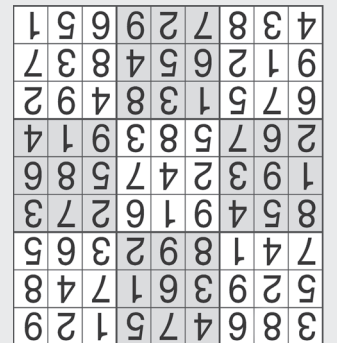
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 17). You'll make this new era beautiful. Once you start the work, you'll get plenty of help, so take initiative, and execute your impulses with gusto. Assemble a posse; make good on the strength in numbers. By losing some individualism, you gain access to more than you thought possible. Lessons will be worth the price. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 10, 3 and 29. 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.

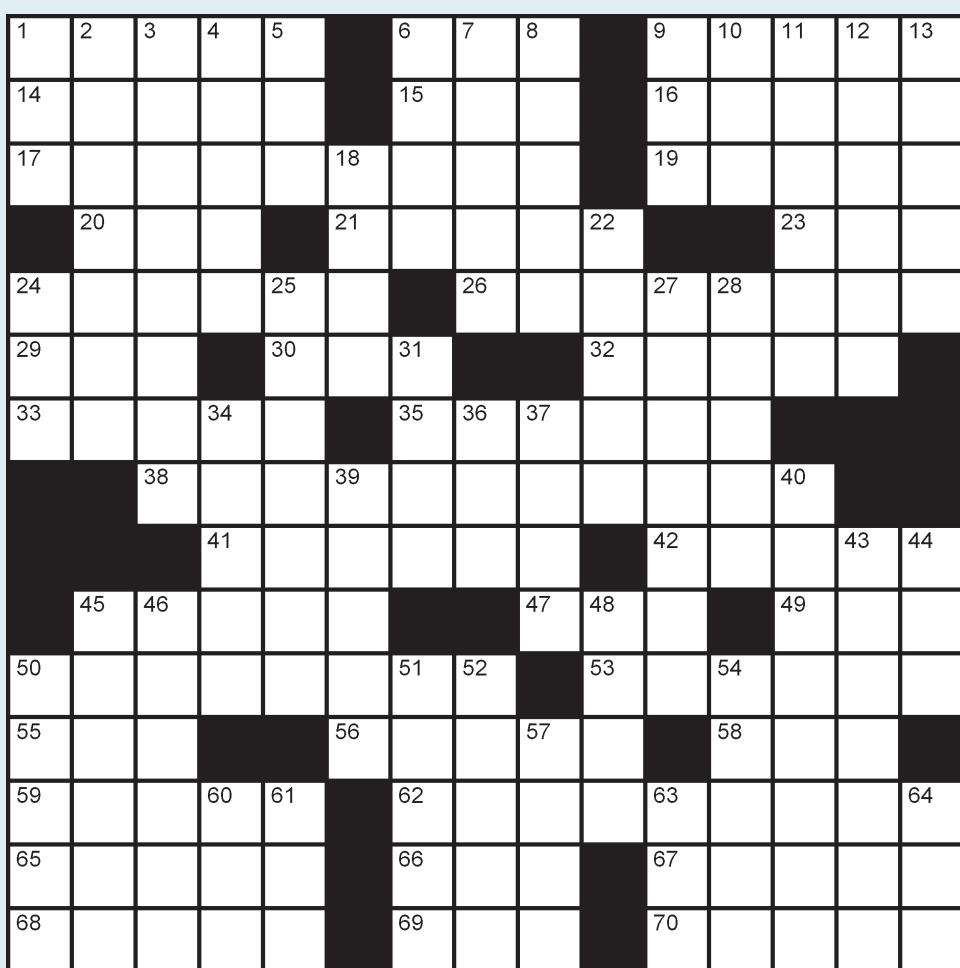


SOLUTIONS



Matching Pairs by Alex Eaton-Salners

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 'Ditto', 6 Monitor for TV?, 9 Persuasive assignment, 14 Company in a 2001 fraud scandal, 15 Evian, par exemple, 16 Hot, frothy drink, 17 *Leslie Odom Jr.'s Tony-winning 'Hamilton' role, 19 Goryeo Dynasty's land, once, 20 Roofer's supply, 21 Deviate from the script, 23 Popular site for a stud, 24 Latin epic poem, 26 *Marine plant that grows in beds, 29 Word after 'jet' or 'time', 30 Paleo's opposite, 32 '___ the way you think', 33 Soft lock, 35 Places for sweaters?, 38 Like some tape ... and each starred clue's answer, based on its first and last two letters?, 41 They may have creaky boards, 42 Stonehenge worshipper, 45 Mandolin's kin, 47 Regret, 49 Earth-friendly prefix, 50 *Rib cook-off need, 53 Some weight lifters, 55 Devour, 56 Ivory and Irish Spring products, 58 ___ Peter to pay Paul, 59 Activist Thunberg, 62 *License to drill?, 65 Fire-setting crime, 66 Ernie of golf, 67 Exposed as a fraud, e.g., 68 Waiting in the wings, perhaps, 69 Actor's workplace, 70 Jawaharlal in Indian history, 31 Nobel Peace Center's home, 34 First sound in 'Georgia', 36 ___ Lingus (Irish carrier), 37 Cold War initials, 39 Yeltsin of the 37-Down, 40 Straight up?, 43 Brew that's frozen during production, 44 Cinco menos tres, 45 Pizza Hut competitor, 46 Exam for an aspiring Mensan, 48 Sch. in La Jolla, 50 Started, 51 Gold deposits, perhaps, 52 Big spoon, of a sort, 54 Have a dispute, 57 Vowelless summons, 60 Excessively, 61 ___ Arbor, 63 Many, many moons, 64 End of Brown's URL, 31 ___ otter, 2 Experiencing great success, 3 Like some marriages, 4 'G.I. Jane' star Demi, 5 Cozy stopover, 6 Prolonged quarrel, 7 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' author Eric, 8 Marie who was the first winner of two Nobel Prizes, 9 Grand Teton beast, 10 ___ Tome and Principe, 11 Run out of pants?, 12 'Relax,' to a drill instructor, 13 Many moons, 18 Said, as a farewell, 22 Russian pancakes, 24 PC key that modifies other keys' functions, 25 Narrow-minded, 27 Comparatively pleased, 28 Choir platform

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 Memory-Making Moon



Like a party animal at the end of the night, the moon gets up to quite a ruckus on the journey from Aquarius to Pisces. Mercury, Jupiter and the sun each receive the lunar attention, swelling the noise and pushing their social agenda to the point of maximum interactions. Friends and memories will be made.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You accept responsibility for the way things unfold in your life. Even when you didn't cause events, you look at how you might have influenced or allowed them to happen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). 'All's fair in love' they say, but how could it possibly be? Even if it's (SET ITAL) mostly (END ITAL) fair in love, civility still goes a long way. You can override bad form with good manners.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do what it takes to bolster your self-esteem. It would be a shame to reject the abundance of this day out of a feeling of unworthiness. You're deserving of all this love and more.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're open-minded, intellectually flexible and willing to question your ideology. Consider that whatever you believe, the opposite belief could also be true.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Leave strategizing the end game to the chess masters. It's a projection that won't help you too much now. The problem with the next moment is that you can't live it, so stay in this one -- the only one you have real power in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As the sign that rules natural growth, you're patient with the time it takes to develop. There are those who seem to plant the seed in the ground and then dig it up every few hours to see how it's doing. Teach them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A special relationship demands heart and soul. Your willingness to be uncomfortable is, at the end of the day, what makes the commitment heroic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Clear communication is a cornerstone of respectful interactions. The problem is we all communicate differently. Be patient and receptive. It helps to lead with a belief that others are well-intended.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Since it is unkind to tempt the weak or push painfully into tender spots, you're careful to learn more about people before you get too forward with your playfulness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's a thread running through this pattern. You may get glimpses of it, or perhaps you won't see it at all right now, but stay open and aware. Later, you'll be able to follow it, and all will make sense.

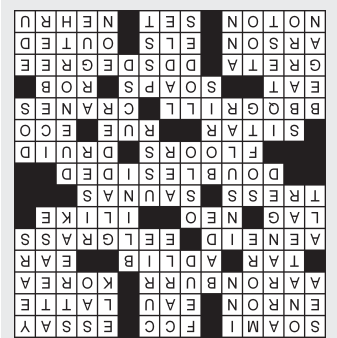
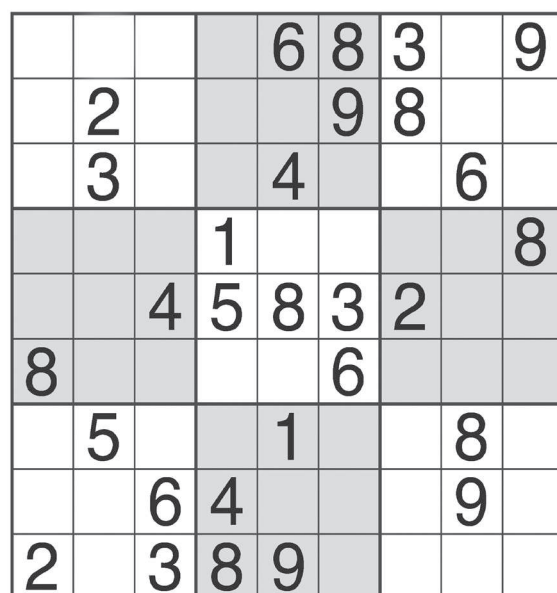
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do you really know when you're satisfied? A storm of thoughts and feelings could interfere with the signal. The voice of satisfaction can be so mild. Instead of trying to hear through noise, get calm.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Getting intimate knowledge of a tool is not really high on your list of fun things to take on. You'd rather focus on the job itself! And yet, taking the time to master your tools now will ultimately save you time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 18). These are the days of wonder, of tender loving care, of sweet arrivals. Your ever-evolving sense of humor will have you sailing through a tricky dynamic. The togetherness of your growing family will be a source of soul fortification. It will be extraordinarily lucky to make a hobby, talent or interest a higher priority. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 13 and 5.

Universal SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

