Choice Words by Lewis Rothlein

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16					
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55				56						57				
58			59				60	61	62					
63							64				65			
66							67				68			

ACROSS

- With 24-Across, newspapers and such
- 5 Be sick 8 Has faith in
- Deal prerequisite, in poker
- It's hidden in
- "tooth and nail" 16 Majestic bird's
- baby 17 Choice of hair
- terms? Comfortable
- 19 (with) Brick in some
- Santa Fe houses 21 Other than that
- 23 Typist's stat
- 24 See 1-Across High-pitched
- woodwind 26 Navy noncom Choice of
- produce section terms? 31 Acronym on a
- poolside bottle 34 Total up
- 35 Chocolate tree

messengers

20

35

39

44

48

56

63

68

ACROSS

abs

They're above

14 Sentry's order

range

16 Spew lava

17 Ideal piece of

pasta, e.g.,

informally?

19 Gets together

Thing for walking

Type of sauce in

teriyaki dishes

20 "Seriously!"

the doa?

Tickled doll

15 Gladys Knight's

57

53

36 Old-timey

- 39 Becomes an expert in
- State Farm (Atlanta Hawks' venue) 42 Slump
- 43 Turn blond, say
- 44 Choice of sailing terms? 49 Acer Aspire 5 and
- others 50 He was jealous of Abel
- 51 Sit tight for
- 55 "That feels nice!"
- 56 Crooked 57 African capital dubbed the Hollywood of the
- Middle East' 58 Body of water parted in the Bible
- 60 Choice of pro wrestling terms?
- 63 Gotten outof bed 64 Dublin's republic:
- Abbr. 65 Dole (out)
- 66 Urban diversion? Four-legged
- friend's foot

15

37

40

49

18

45

58

68 Pomegranate

DOWN

- Title whose "d" can also be an apostrophe
- 2 A current flows through it
- 3 Got to one's feet 4 Novak Djokovic's
- homeland 5 Tumult
- 6 Business magazine
- 7 Erie's bottom, e.g. 8 Magazine cover,
- essentially 9 Give a 10/10, say
- 10 Cry of disgust 11 Leisurely
- 12 Opposite of 'permanent"
- 13 It may bear fruit
- 18 "Quantum" change 22 Flat can?
- Alero automaker, briefly
- 26 Conversation in a dating app 28 Enhance, as a
- resume Some duplicate letters, in two
- ways 30 Aspirin amount

16

19

47

55

70

73

52

62

67

51

Have a B-last! by Christina Iverson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

26

41

54

66

60

46

59

65

69

72

- 31 Suffragist Anna Howard
- 32 Outer edge 33 Beef sandwich
- served au jus Common
- connecting words Palmas,
- Spain 39 See 52-Down
- 40 Before the present
- It may include gondola rides
- They produce much of Earth's oxygen
- 46 Was published 47 Soft or crunchy
- Mexican food
- 48 Groups in hives 52 With 39-Down,
- 'Save Me" singer 53 Like The Hulk
- 54 Carried around League 55
- (Qatar's group) 56 Individuals in
- 59 9-digit ID source Presidential

12

13

period, perhaps 62 Not a lot

hives

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021 How to Avoid the Mars, Jupiter Trouble



Thoughts are soft as clouds floating by, impermanent as bubbles that rise, float and burst. Like waves, they cannot be caught or held. Thoughts are not facts. Mars and Jupiter square off, and the tendency to exaggerate or catastrophize is problematic. Don't believe everything you think. Let thoughts inform the moment, not define it. ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's noise in your head that's too cacophonous to sort. You'll do better to listen for the silence around it. Eventually, everything organizes around your own pulse, the beat that connects

you to all of life. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As for those things you feel you must or mustn't do, though you really don't know why, your obedience won't apply to today's little puzzle. To work this one out, you will have to forget there were ever any rules.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one is born knowing everything. You'll glimpse a gap in your knowledge. There's no shame in ignorance -- only in pretending to know. That is what keeps people from learning.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The hours with people you do not enjoy can be like long, weary roads that lead to the wrong place. Since you can't always choose your company, you like to exercise exciting options when the choice is yours to make. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This scene you're a part of

exists in a state of tenuous balance. You've an urge to test things to understand what's important and how it works. Remove every element one by one to see what is lost or

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If there's no such thing as perfection, then why does today's peaceful, easy feeling seem like it just may have all the qualities of pristine goodness? The only flaw will be that it doesn't go on LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You need someone to agree to your plan, or to choose you over the others. A direct approach won't work. The game you're playing requires a subtle strategy. Employ principles of attraction. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't yet know enough to make your next move, and to complicate matters further, not everything you're told is the truth. Instead of voicing your doubts or challenging people, keep observing

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Meditations and mantras that focus on detaching from unhelpful or stressful situations, thoughts and patterns will be helpful. Deep breaths and the simple mantra, "Let it go," will do wonders

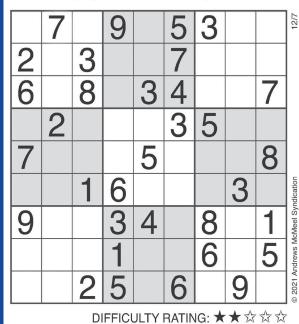
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People want what they can't have. Do you think it's mean to offer a reason for someone to reach out and then pull it away, causing them to grab at space? Maybe. Or maybe setting up such a game is a kindness -- a gift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As for the things that make your life full and interesting: If you didn't have them, you'd pay a lot to acquire them. In fact, you already have. Don't let the newness wear off. Enjoy it like it's your first time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What was once exciting can be, in another season, quite taxing. Familiarity can ease the way or complicate everything. Tension will make or break an endeavor. You'll dance between polarizations and delight in ironies.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 8). You give the love you want to receive, thus modeling with magnetism and attracting just your brand of attention and affection. In the end, your triumphs are celebrated. What you care about is supported, and people will go out of their way to accommodate your wishes or just spend time with you. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 10, 33, 1 and 38.

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



HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 Meaning and the Moon



easy for us and we're excellent at it. This is why it's more fun when the meaning demands to be assembled, assumed, reduced, extracted or made up. Figuring out what it all means will be the game of the day, and the Pisces moon helps us play it with great sensitivity and imagination ARIES (March 21-April 19). To execute your task with

great style, it helps to get rid of every unnecessary element. Think of each addition as optional until it is proven essential. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't tell how real a thing is until it's on the outside of you. What stays in your head cannot get enough oxygen to be alive. Test things on

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'd like to make an important discovery. It's been said that part of discovery is determining what's worth discovering. Maybe. Or maybe that's all of it. Either way, it will happen close to home today. CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes you talk to yourself. You've also been known to stage conversations in your head. You've been annoyed by this habit at times, but it will be a real asset today, helping you work things out and sharpen your thinking. **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Confidence comes from trusting

yourself. Not trusting yourself to be perfect; like every human, you'll make mistakes. But you can trust yourself to rise, learn and keep doing your best. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll present an idea. Just

as you want a pair of jeans that suits your proportions, use a flattering format on which to serve your idea up. Consider the desires of your audience and work backward from there.

To imply is to invite interpretation. Every interpretation is a thread of energy. The more threads woven between you and your audience, the greater the connection will be between SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As long as you're thinking

about the "what-ifs," you may as well throw in a full range, from the terrible to the ridiculous and of course the outrageously fantastic. Because what if you succeed wildly? SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to be embroiled in a scandal to offer "no comment." It's always an option, especially when no one (other than your own brain) is commanding you to speak. By not weighing in, you leave your options open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Avid readers are better writers. Admirers of style are more stylish. Great athletes are first and foremost avid sports fans. Whatever you want to become, you get there through appreciation. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's moving day. Whether

you're moving furniture, your body, your address -- a new you takes over and life quickly snaps to fit the fresh identity. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Those who are too proud to ask for directions are at a disadvantage. And you don't have to wait until you are lost either. Sidle up to an expert and you'll learn more than you asked for. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 9). You use your freedom,

not to do as you please, but to do what's best. Ever aware of what the people around you need, you're on the constant lookout for opportunities to serve. Vigilance earns you position in the world and in people's hearts. None of this is difficult for you; it's who you are, and it brings you happiness and wealth. Taurus and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 13, 4, 17 and 9.

73 Tidbit of vanilla 30 Did a crossword 5 Event with deep-44 One with many in the waiting fried food world views? **DOWN** room, say 9 Dishonest person the 32 Even a little

28 Chance to hit

29 Mowed path

33 Like eggs over

34 "Heavens to _

become

now

36 What polarized

lenses reduce

42 12 months before

45 To the extent that

indiscreetly

59 Wee, cutesily

What bills might

easy

Confessional

- groundwork
- network of relationships at Buckingham Palace?
- baseball
- follower

- 60 Lift
- 65 "My life has been reduced to these few sentences on
- 68 Feature of 70-Across's clue

briefly

- Skirts with a pancake variety 28 Query "I've never heard 31
- simultaneously," for one?

Thing to keep

your eye on

that song sung

35 Bit of kindling 37 Ready 38 Switch topics

in two keys

- a wombat 43 Go on a tirade
- confessions 48 Complicated
- 52 BOS rival, in
- 53 Postpone "Table" or "sea"
- 56 Do something
- 58 Strongly against 63 Prickly plant
- a dust jacket!"?
- 69 Male deer
- 70 Peter, Paul and Marry, for one

Project details,

- 40 "Bear" related to
 - 1 Tammy Duckworth's deg. 2 Bring in, as

72 Feature of

70-Across's clue

- money 3 Activist and poet Wade
- 4 Not fresh 5 One might have a nose wire
- 6 Apple pie mode 7 Modest response to praise
- 8 "Mr. _" (Styx song) 9 Show stoppers?
- 10 Mine cart cargo 11 "Nope, try once more'
- 12 No more than 13 Site for
- handmade goods 18 Breast feeding option)
- 22 Loud laugh sound 64 Theater chain Cookie that can

be personalized

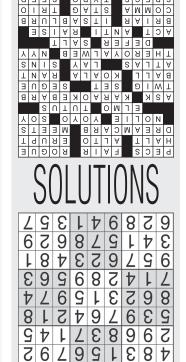
27 Lyft alternatives

- 49 Longing 50 One who creates Chatter
- 55 Charges, as at windmills 56 Alphabet 57 Corn or barley
- 61 Certain (baby-62 Lake by Toledo
 - 66 Tree's "blood" 67 Weightlifter's pride, briefly

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

12/8 5 3 8 3 9 8 4 6 5 Andrews McMeel Syndi 2 6 6 2021

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆



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