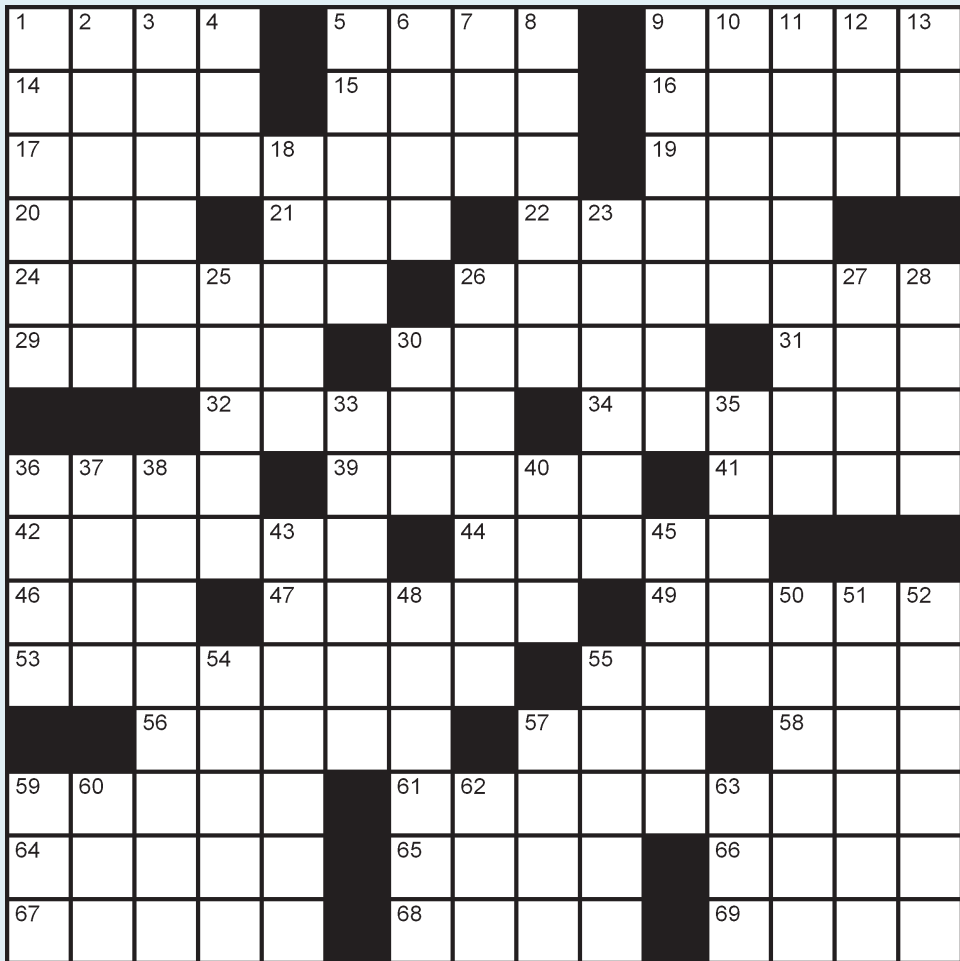


RR Xing by Michael Schlossberg

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Ali, 5 Nudge, 9 'Forever Your Girl' singer Paula, 14 Beyond dry, 15 Chicago mayor Lightfoot, 16 Like myths about Asgard, 17 'What a British chef says after botching a pasta topping?', 19 Fluctuates wildly, 20 ___-Wan Kenobi, 21 Blast producer, 22 Perfect basketball shot, 24 Ancient Japanese assassins, 26 'Earworm?', 29 Stories that can be read backward?, 30 Complete, as this puzzle, 31 WOW upside down, 32 Seat, 34 Go to a diner, say, 36 Letters before a texter's POV, 39 Time off, briefly ... or two letters dropped from each starred clue's answer, 41 Coffee dispensers, 42 Lipton packet, 44 Painter's support, 46 .. and the list goes on!: Abbr., 47 Stale-smelling, 49 Sprays near waterfalls, 53 'Build farm enclosures?', 55 Mr. Peanut's headwear, 56 Zesty dip ... or dance, 57 Corn serving, 58 Tipper's banknote, often, 59 'Time is money,' e.g., 61 'Young cat's Elizabethan collar?', 64 Coyotes' cries, 65 Sandy shade, 66 Nourish, 67 Liability's counterpart, 68 Appear, 69 10:9 or 8:7, DOWN: 1 Conductors wave them, 2 Saudi ____, 3 Sharp, like a cold wind, 4 Name hidden in 'lead actress', 5 Strategies, 6 Beat decisively, 7 Tolkien beast, 8 What keeps a trucker going?, 9 'Do you have a guess?', 10 Uplift, 11 Deadpan comedy, 12 G.I. entertainers, 13 '___ Miz', 18 Squirrel away, 23 Is indecisive, 25 Twin of Esau, 26 Charlotte hoopsters, 27 Any thing, 28 CPR pros, 30 'Cheap Thrills' singer, 33 Bickers, 35 Flower in a 17th-century Dutch economic bubble, 36 Tabloid twosome, 37 Prefix with 'physical', 38 Fine-toothed hand tools, 40 February 29, 2020, but not February 29, 2022, 43 Most abundant, 45 University near Georgia Tech, 48 Mambas and boas, 50 Chased away, 51 Sun-kissed, 52 Mounts of yore, 54 Two under par, 55 Channing of 'Magic Mike', 57 Raison d'___, 59 'Caught ya!', 60 Hairstyles, informally, 62 Diamonds, slangily, 63 Money exec

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022 Mercury's Makeover Secret



Improvement is a precarious aim. Once you start moving things around, you run the risk of ruining what was right about the situation. That's why it's safer to try to improve a complete disaster. This Mercury and Pluto conjunction lends luck for honing your makeover skills by attempting upgrades on situations that can't get much worse.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are not just one person. You are many people at once. You identify with several groups and even see yourself in these groups' opposing groups. There's freedom in accepting your complexity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). "If you can't be a good example, you'll just have to be a horrible warning," said novelist Catherine Aird. Today's ambition will be served by such warnings. Research to get a better understanding of what could go wrong.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The veil of time conceals many facts. This will be an entry point for your imagination. Be careful not to fill in someone's backstory in such a way that it glorifies and elevates them. Pedestals have a way of eventually toppling.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone who's easy to be around will instantly relax you. All worry, resistance and thought will dissolve as you become absorbed into a natural shared rhythm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll do for others what you wish someone had done for you. You'll be generous when you don't have to be and tend to those who have nothing to give you back. If you ever need evidence of your goodness, that last bit will do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The words you long to hear represent a truth you wish was so. Perhaps it already is so. In that case, it will be just as true whether you hear the words or not.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll get encouraging signs that your investment is paying off. Chances are this isn't a financial investment; rather, it deals in something much more precious, like your energy and time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's something you've enjoyed numerous times, never losing your enthusiasm, only to show it to another person and see, for the first time, its flaws. There's no teacher like sharing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Commitment is not merely an agreement, it's a mindset. Cost-benefit analysis, speculation and negotiation have no place in the attitude of commitment, which is based in one idea: The thing will be done, whatever it takes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While you'd love to come off smart, appropriate and attractive, any attempt to do this indicates your disbelief that you actually are these things. No need to sweat, stumble, cry or try. You're fine as-is.

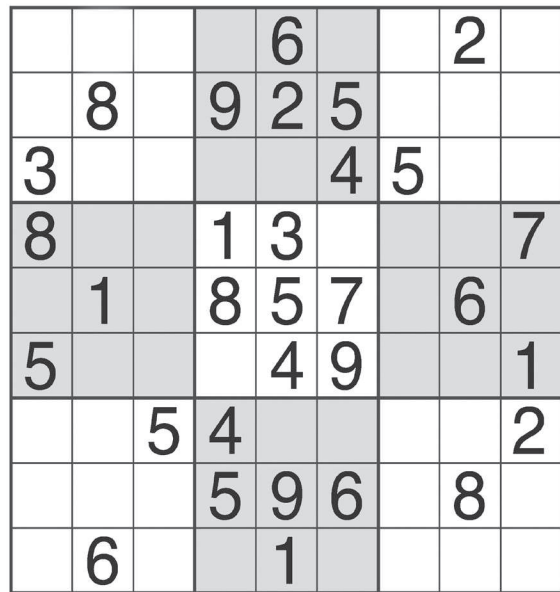
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are benefits to analyzing a past relationship as objectively as possible. Understanding why you made the choices that led you here will remind you of who you are and why you're deserving of your own respect and compassion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just like all the imaginary things in the world, the monsters under the bed are only as real as you make them. Use the principle to your advantage today by mentally constructing the friends and environments you wish for.

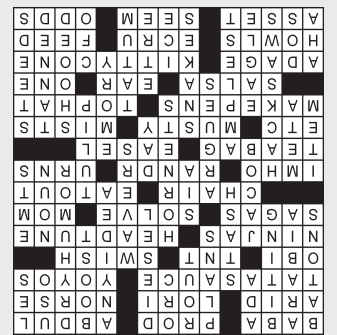
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 28). You'll raise your energy with ease as you tend to your body like an animal, listening to what makes it happy and responding quickly when it's not. Though you will have luck with a program or other new things you try, the best care isn't rational, but intuitive. A professional breakthrough introduces you to a fun social circle. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 3, 33 and 38.

Universal SUDOKU

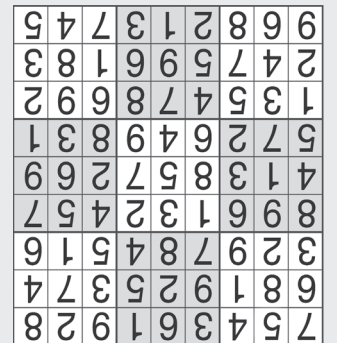
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

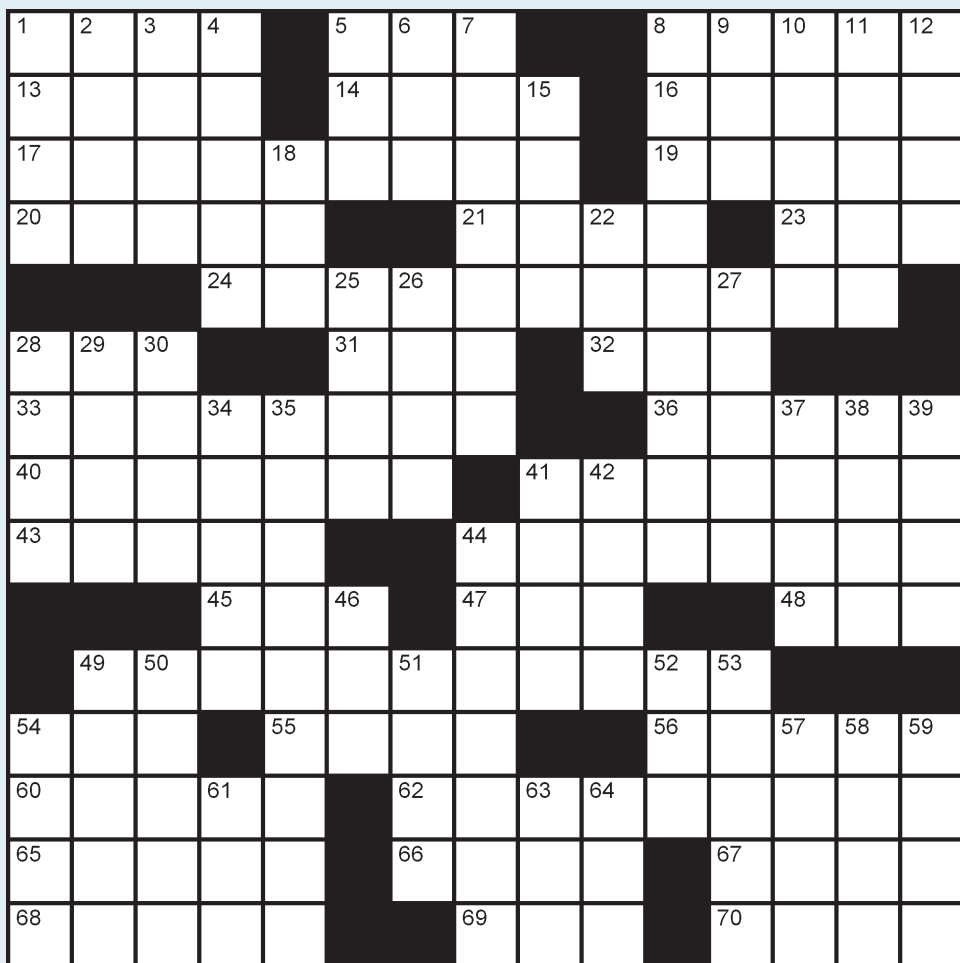


SOLUTIONS



Sounds Complicated by Adrian Johnson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Make into a paper crane, say, 5 22, for this constructor, 8 Practices sawm during Ramadan, 13 Cleveland's lake, 14 Hello, in Montevideo, 16 Cottonwood relative, 17 'Bits steeped in a bag (Theme hint: Say the first words of the starred clues' answers in order), 19 Country where a 4,000-year-old bowl of noodles was found, 20 Largest artery, 21 Silent entertainer, 23 Brewery barrel, 24 'Everyone good to go?', 28 Celebrity gossip site, 31 Apt word within 'GMC Savana', 32 Sisters, aunts, etc., 33 'Where to see a big E', 36 Language in Iran, 40 Overworks, 41 Birthplace of Motown, 43 Beachwear choice, 44 'Marine gastropods with no shell', 45 FedEx rival, 47 Eats, 48 Biblical possessive, 49 'Necklace chain?' Word before 'dog' or 'banana', 55 Altar exchanges, 56 'Another card, please', 60 Baseball's 'Hammerin' Hank', 62 'What's the point?', 65 Lose a staring contest, 66 Reader of the future, 67 10.04 square miles, for Tuvalu, 68 Small Business Saturday events, 69 Genetic stuff, 70 Wheel tracks, DOWN: 1 Greek cheese, 2 Treat in 2012's Daily Twist campaign, 3 Polygraph target, 4 The Nile's includes Alexandria, 5 'I see it now!', 6 www. medicare. ____, 7 Tin or hydrogen, 8 Procedures that reduce jowls, 9 Volcanic emission, 10 Sharp increase, 11 Principle, 12 Small holdup, 15 Home to about 60% of people, 18 Organ with a drum, 22 Big initials in civil rights, 25 'Dear ___ Hansen', 26 'Storage ___' (show in which bidders compete), 27 Boxer's warning, 28 Part of a 'Jeopardy!' audition, 29 Legend, 30 20 - 20, 34 Swedish Fish, e.g., 35 Boisterous fun, 37 Shellacking, 38 (It wasn't meant to be), 39 Tiny, informally, 41 Distribute cards, 42 Worry-free feeling, 44 Relative of a man cave, 46 Headed, as a conga line, 49 Down Under marsupial, 50 Month of showers, 51 Really impresses, 52 Letter after pi, 53 Raga instrument, 54 Surfer's accumulation?, 57 By way of, on some signs, 58 Swimmer's event, 59 Paleozoic and others, 61 Number also written as 'I', 63 Strong desire, 64 Supportive garment

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022 Venus Power Moves



Lady Venus makes her power move from the skyrise headquarters of Capricorn, reinstating the authority of love. This isn't a hostile takeover -- more like a mass memo reminding us that love is in charge. There are benefits, perks and other rewards for following the heart and negative consequences for violating its rules.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). "When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing," said the comedian Georgie Jessel. You'll joyfully and generously make up for the stinginess of those who can't bring themselves to contribute.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're so well thought of, you'll worry whether you can rise to the expectation, let alone return the same level of admiration. The truth is, you don't have to do either right now; just enjoy!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be pitched for this and that, mostly with uninspiring proposals. You can save yourself a lot of time with the simple phrase, "Thanks, but that doesn't work for me."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can be as logical as a mathematician, but today's solution can't be found with equations of rationality. Instead, push your feelings into the situation and sense whether it will be good for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life gets unpredictable, just how you like it. This is partly true because you've become braver and more adventurous. You no longer need to be in familiar settings to feel safe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The smartest people aren't the surest. Intelligence flies on the wings of questions. An event will cause you to review what you thought you knew. On closer inspection, not all of it will hold up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Mothers everywhere suggest, "There is no 'bored,' only 'boring.'" You'll let today's restlessness stir your creativity toward one of the most exciting and promising pursuits you can think of: an escape.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). One new influence on the scene is all it takes to shake everything up. Suddenly your interests are broadened, slightly at first, then exponentially.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One person's attention and support makes life easier. It also brings attention to the ones who (SET ITAL) aren't (END ITAL) supporting you and should be. What would it take to surround yourself with more supporters?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You receive special privileges because of a relationship or association. Regardless of whether you feel you deserve these benefits, just enjoy them now. It's your turn.

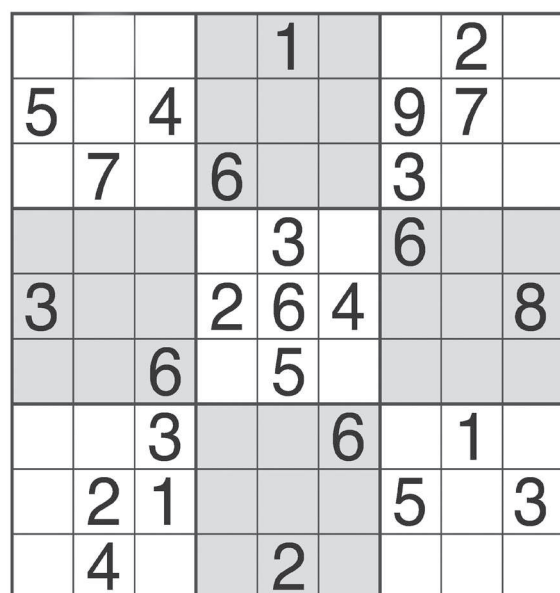
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have an extra dose of daring at your disposal. Use it to approach new people, attempt a difficult task, perform publicly or knock on the door that was once closed to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Tense situations settle into neutrality. Egos deflate. The unreasonable are now willing to negotiate. Anxieties will be allayed. All is working toward resolution.

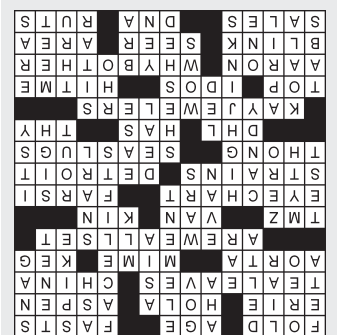
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 29). Your excitement grows through the first 10 weeks of the year as you realize that your vision of life is being fleshed out. Double down on your talents, play your advantages and leverage your strengths. You'll make a big push, get lucky, then coast a while. Romance fills your life when you're not working as hard. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 44, 20, 1 and 38.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

