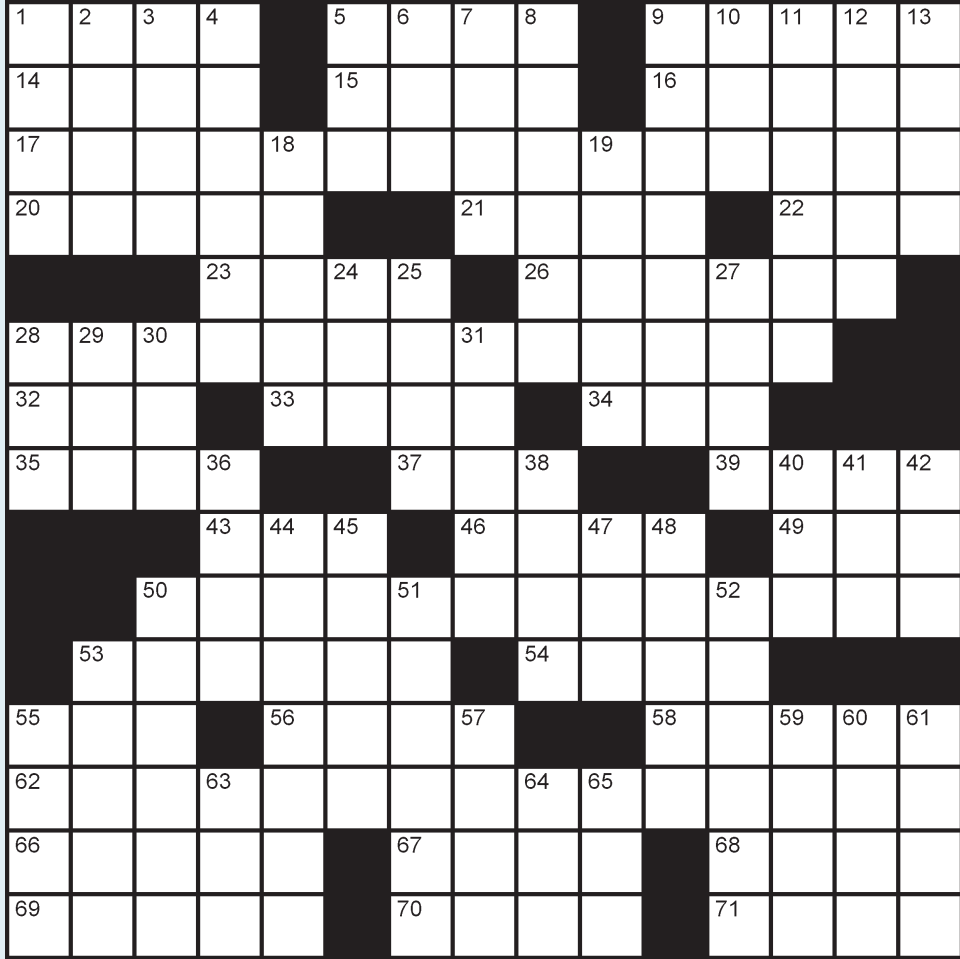


Lead Single by Mike Torch

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Uber offering, 5 Where to find 12 landlocked countries, 9 Dance "for two", 14 Low-pH substance, 15 Diagram style with overlap, 16 Continent separator, at times, 17 Certain gourmet truffle, 20 Come together, 21 Veggie dip herb, 22 Hi-___ monitor, 23 Former columnist Bombeck, 26 Prestigious prizes, 28 Safe space to tweet?, 32 Nest egg option, briefly, 33 Jump that's harder than a lutz, 34 Swim-bike-run race, for short, 35 Small salamander, 37 Mannequin's headwear, 39 Meadow mamas, 43 Owns, 46 Give shape to, 49 Enjoyed empanadas, 50 Pure chance, 53 Winery visitor, 54 You can dig it, 55 Water, in France, 56 McEntire of country, 58 Everything ___ (deli choice), 62 1978 hit whose title is sung after "You're once, twice," ... and a hint to the starts of 17-, 28- and 50-Across, 66 Nickel and dime, 67 Garr of "Young Frankenstein", 68 On any occasion, 69 Takes, as advice, 70 Flip out, 71 Russo who played Frigga, DOWN: 1 Prego alternative, 2 Smartphone symbol, 3 Conn of "Grease", 4 Changed the language of?, 5 Director DuVernay, 6 Jiffy, 7 How many TV shows air, 8 Consecrate with oil, 9 Office strip?, 10 Knee injury initials, 11 Almost, 12 Stadium entry points, 13 Singles, 18 "... and vice ___", 19 Social influence, 24 Upper bound, familiarly, 25 Once more, 27 Cedar Point's lake, 28 Storage container, 29 Feeling after a driver cuts you off, 30 Uncooked, 31 Steep face, 36 Therefore, 38 Person who often wears dark makeup, 40 Major conflict, 41 Incoming flight stat, 42 Repair a teddy bear, perhaps, 44 Certain cast member, 45 Sport with clay disks, 47 Pi follower, 48 Kind of toast, 50 Hugh who made "House" calls?, 51 Planets' paths, 52 Casino employee, 53 Lake in the Golden and Silver states, 55 Engrave, 57 "I agree 100%", 59 Donated, 60 Biblical paradise, 61 Ancient stringed instrument, 63 Conclusion, 64 Page of history, 65 Small drink

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022 Cosmic Odd Couples



Three luminaries radiate the Pisces energy while four swim in the realm of the sea goat, bringing diverse forces to the ocean. It's a sky that evokes the wondrous blend of odd couplings: art and commerce; poetry and math; Bert and Ernie. The sound of one hand clapping may be peaceful indeed, but you've never seen a television show about it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ignore the numbers. The metrics like money, followers, distance and time, although relevant, have little to do with what you'll produce today with your heart, hands and best intentions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you're working for the result, you'll burn out at some point. It is not as sustainable as the sort of work that you enjoy and would do whether you got the result or not.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You love it when the people around you feel warm. However, you're not willing to set yourself on fire to accomplish this. Think in terms of your own needs, appetites and delights.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You provide what they want; they buy it. Neither showmanship nor influence nor persuasion will be necessary because the deal already satisfies the desires of all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While you could do many things today, only one is important to your main goal. Humorist Josh Billings advised, "Be like a postage stamp -- stick to one thing until you get there."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you're relaxed, they'll relax. When you're lifted, they'll be lifted. Relationship rifts and more can be healed with hugs. There's no better relief than a heart-to-heart embrace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You, at full concentration, are a powerful force. But if you divide yourself among too many responsibilities, there won't be enough of you to create impact in any single role.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As a result of your ambition, you'll set lofty goals that you're unlikely to achieve. Even so, you'll get further than if you hadn't aimed so high. All success is significant, and your spirits stay high as you interpret it as such.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll attend events your friends invite you to. The Scandinavian proverb applies: Go often to the house of thy friend; for weeds soon choke up the unused path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The crowd takes notice... you're in excellent form. You'll interact with someone who is clearly enchanted by you, and you can soak it up without worry. You offer excellent attention and should expect the same from others.

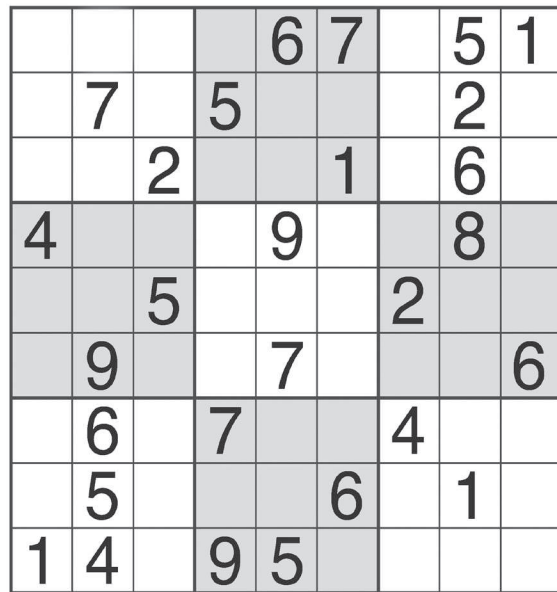
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your life and work experiences will prove useful. A profound impact can be made without even telling your story. Rather, you influence others through your example.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today's challenges require boldness. Your bravery, your support of what you believe is right and your facilitation of justice make you indispensable. It will be easy to sleep tonight, knowing that you put in a solid day's work.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 25). It's as if something in you quickens as the solar year begins. An energy shift is taking place both in relationships and at work, and you'll warm into a new level of authority. You're clearly needed, and you'll use your power carefully. Save your money in the spring. Summer brings a stellar investment opportunity. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 3, 33 and 18.

Universal SUDOKU

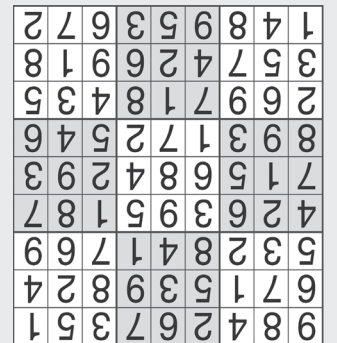
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

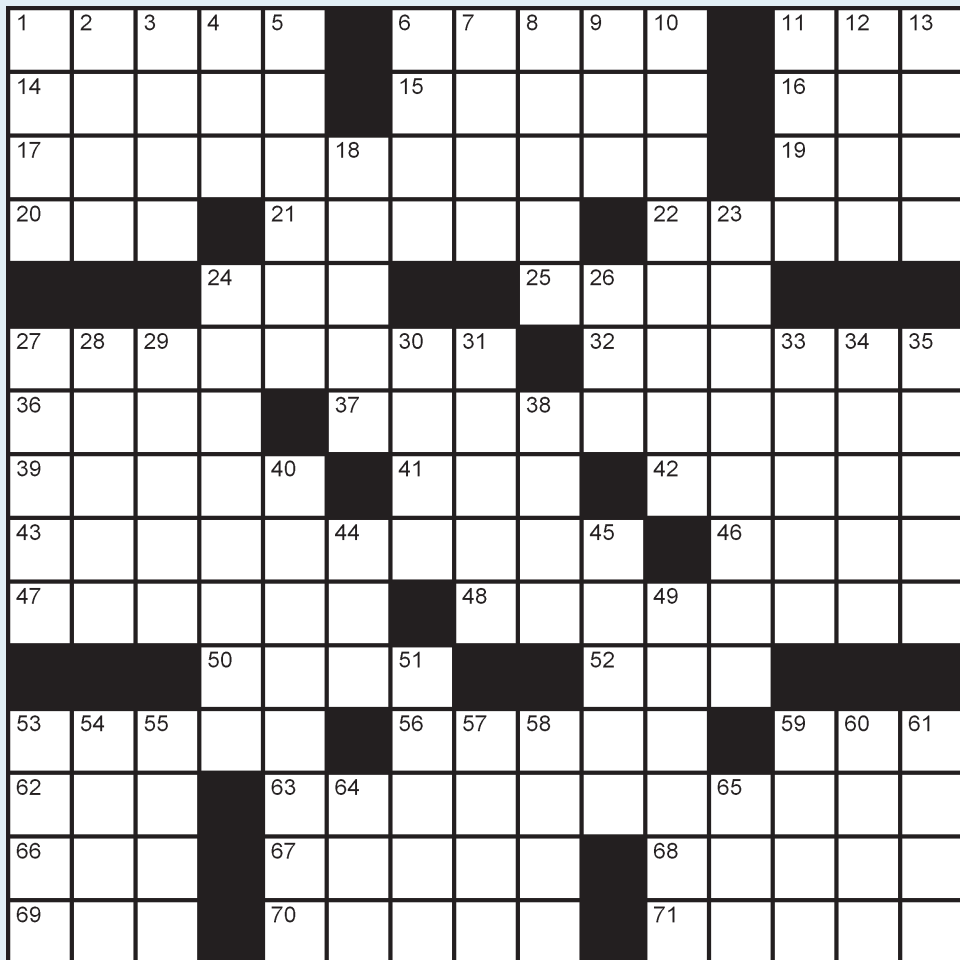


SOLUTIONS



Ripple Effect by David Bloom

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 He has the weight of the world on his shoulders, 6 Recurring theme, 11 Naughty, 14 Babbling waterway, 15 Savory taste, 16 A two may beat it, 17 Appliance for a stylist, 19 Fuming feeling, 20 Date, 21 Can't help but, 22 In pursuit of, 24 ___ Castellana, voice of Homer Simpson, 25 Caesar wrap, 27 Go for broke, 32 Cozy spot, 36 Norwegian name whose last letter is often "f", 37 Gentle winds at the beach, 39 Clog bottoms, 41 Physician's org., 42 Michael's surname on "The Office", 43 Eagles enthusiasts, e.g., 46 Pay for a poker hand, 47 Nosy people, 48 Many grandparents, 50 Seeing things?, 52 Like Sen. Sanders, for most of his career, 53 Eagles and falcons, 56 Relative of a stadium, 59 End of USC's URL, 62 Edson Arantes do Nascimento, ___ Pele, 63 Causing trouble, or emulating 17-, 37- and 43-Across?, 66 Hawaiian souvenir, 67 Change, as a law, 68 Like Simone Biles, 69 Word before "joke" or "bod", 70 Pucks' shapes, 71 Speaks angrily, DOWN: 1 Basics, 2 Word before "blue" or "colors", 3 Tales of old, 4 "You've got mail" co., 5 Cap worn with a heavy jacket, 6 Faces, in slang, 7 Neglect to include, 8 Fortune-telling deck, 9 Texter's "Personally ...", 10 Deviously obtains, 11 Switch's partner, 12 Part of a plot, 13 Animal that may be XING, 18 Grannies, 23 Queen or jack, 24 Changed the course of, 26 Rower's need, 27 Like a controlling older brother, 28 Have a Vegas wedding, say, 29 Avian claw, 30 Maple ___ (Canadian symbol), 31 2019 NFL MVP Jackson, 33 Its chemical formula is O3, 34 Mustang alternative, informally, 35 ___ Park, Colorado, 38 Thorn in your side, 40 Holds a grudge, 44 U-turn from NNW, 45 Jellyfish defense, 49 Kinda sorta, 51 Sushi bar beverages, 53 Like some eagles, 54 Place to buy a FNISS or a plate of meatballs, 55 Insecticide brand, 57 Where to watch the Ducks play the Blues, 58 Finishes, 59 Malicious, 60 Farmer's place, in song, 61 Takes advantage of, 64 French friend, 65 Datum for a bounce

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022 Piscean Pleasure Principle



The sensitivity of Pisces energy is offset by a grounded Capricorn moon. No need to look hard or pay much for sensory delights. Pleasure is a matter of perspective, a state of mind, and totally free. Seize opportunities for sensory cross-referencing. Go where the scents rhyme and the colors beat a rhythm your eyes can dance to.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Come out of hiding: Show off your quirks! The things about you that you think are weird may just be the most appealing and adorable qualities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You respect law and order, but you recognize how power can corrupt people. Therefore, you won't follow orders until you have considered the source and seen the reason and purpose behind the direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Sure, it can be risky to express your thoughts and feelings, but that's exactly why you'll share them. Risk allows courage, and courage inspires others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What people really need and want will be much different from what they claim. Talking about those deeper desires is delicate. Use discretion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Keep going even if the process is less than ideal. You're not out of the woods yet. It's still early in your learning curve. This will soon become second nature to you. Quality follows quantity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Being mad for a ridiculous reason is still being mad. Nobody said emotions made sense. Jagged feelings can be alleviated in unexpected ways. For instance, exercise will make you feel better and forget your troubles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today's strong creative vibes can be applied to create magic in your world. Imagine what you want as if it has already been granted. Set a mental scene. Become a part of it and let it become a part of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Instead of merely fulfilling your obligation, you will think about how you show up. Your style, mood, attitude... it all affects others. Your efforts to show up with enthusiasm will take more energy at first, then not so much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You believe in unseen forces like wind, true love and human goodness. The search for proof in the matter will continue to brighten your life in surprising ways.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you invent new methods for attaining your goals, make sure you've given the old ones a chance to work. The action that will be most effective may also be so obvious that it's easy to miss.

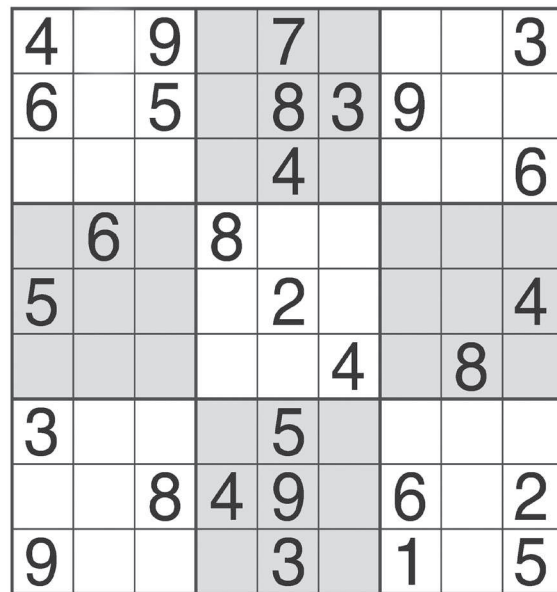
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The world wants you to keep doing things a new way, but it's not always necessary. The traditional methods will work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Driven by strong intuition or a desire to stave off boredom, you'll take a spontaneous risk. Your optimism eases the way. You run on hope. Suddenly, everything seems possible.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 26). You won't rest until your goal is reached. People will be drawn to your remarkable determination. They'll want you on their team. Make sure to ask a fair price for the services you provide, which are rare and valuable. Summer themes of art and whimsy will attract premium friends. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 14, 3, 19 and 41.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

