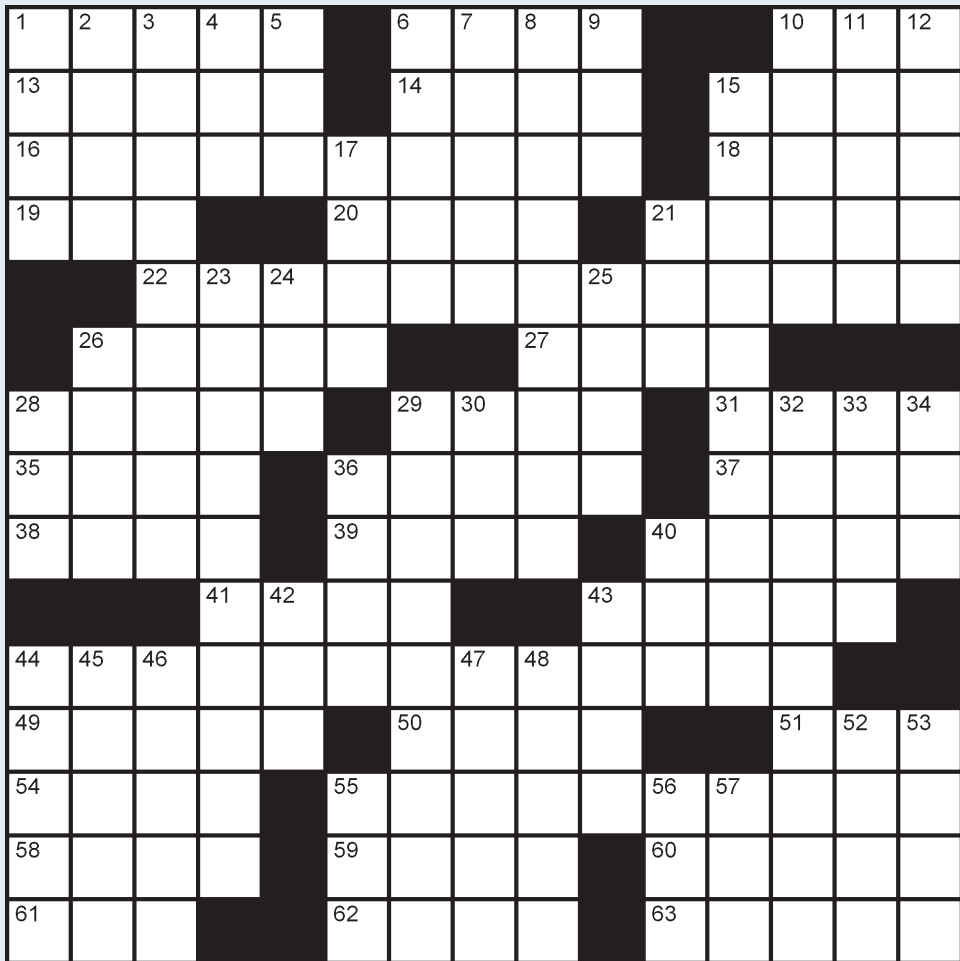


Zap! by Drew Schmenner

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Stereotypical math whizzes
 - 6 Harvard rival
 - 10 Org. pursuing cartels
 - 13 "Centipede" game company
 - 14 Leave out
 - 15 Crystallize
 - 16 Execs at an electric company?
 - 18 Sad piece in an alumni mag
 - 19 Malia Obama's middle name
 - 20 Poker starter
 - 21 Like mocking remarks
 - 22 Promoter at an electric company?
 - 26 Climate activist Thunberg
 - 27 Tweet written in all caps, perhaps
 - 28 Palindromic Honda model
 - 29 IOU
 - 31 ___ fail
 - 35 Drive a getaway car for, say
- DOWN**
- 1 County in Wine Country
 - 2 Prestigious English boarding school
 - 3 What controversial topics "touch"
 - 4 Nickname that drops "An"
 - 5 Knight's title
 - 6 Without gray hairs, say
 - 7 Friendship
 - 8 Classic toy with illuminated pegs
 - 9 Klingons or Ewoks: Abbr.
 - 10 Credit alternative
 - 11 Suppress, like a syllable
 - 12 Modify
 - 15 "The Daily Show" host from 1999-2015
 - 17 Singer Bareilles
 - 21 Jem, to Atticus Finch
 - 23 Concurrence with a denial
 - 24 Possible substitute for many things, briefly?
- ACROSS**
- 36 Casual talks
 - 37 It may be taken out of your sails
 - 38 Netting
 - 39 Tardy
 - 40 Bulletin board fasteners
 - 41 Actor McGregor
 - 43 Urban green spaces
 - 44 Happenings at an electric company?
 - 49 One end of a battery
 - 50 Leave the stage
 - 51 Bitter brew, for short
 - 54 Puerto ___
 - 55 Storage containers at an electric company?
 - 58 Thor's brother, in Marvel comics
 - 59 Small part of Hawaii
 - 60 Smart ___ (know-it-all)
 - 61 None in particular
 - 62 ATM charges
 - 63 Things to work on?
- DOWN**
- 25 Bits in granola
 - 26 Taunt
 - 28 Zoom call device, informally
 - 29 Cabaret singer
 - 30 Fedora or fez
 - 32 Interceptions returned for touchdowns, in football slang
 - 33 Signs, as a contract
 - 34 Sleeves : records :: cases : ___
 - 36 Group of families
 - 40 Soak up the sun
 - 42 Tiny
 - 43 Townshend of the Who
 - 44 Rhea's "Cheers" role
 - 45 Merger
 - 46 ___ road ice cream
 - 47 Possible fate for a deposed ruler
 - 48 Immoral activities
 - 52 Light kiss
 - 53 Poses a question
 - 55 Skippy alternative
 - 56 Dreadful
 - 57 Cheer in Chile

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022 Neptune's Bright Bubble



Mercury and Neptune, the planet of illusions, align to turn up the Technicolor on this dream sequence. There's a bubble of specialness around new situations. As it goes with bubbles, they eventually pop. (The arrow of the Sagittarius moon will be the culprit in this case.) Regardless, before the piercing happens, enjoy this light, bouncing feeling.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The loud voices of the world may request your attention -- or demand it, steal it, hoard it -- and yet you do have a choice. Location is everything. Let your feet take you to realms you can control.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If it feels like you've made more than your share of mistakes, then pat yourself on the back. It means you try harder, attempt more and ultimately are stronger and better for it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You gravitate to positivity, and people follow your example. Give hope to someone who needs it. Tonight shows you negotiating. It's when you're willing to lose that you're in the best place to strike a deal.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Right now, it may not look like you'll win. Perhaps it doesn't seem like this is even the right place for you. But don't take yourself out of the game. There's something for you and it's just around the bend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in a straightforward mood. You'll be prone to sharing unfiltered thoughts and stating your intentions outright, regardless of anticipated approval.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Anyone who is moving forward is going to falter; that's part of the growth process. Forgive yourself and keep going. The right kind of failure is as impressive as success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do everything you can to prepare yourself for an upcoming presentation. Take twice the time you think you'll need. Preparation is the most important element and will determine to a great extent the outcome.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Motivating yourself is more a matter of planning than discipline. If you have a plan that's easy to follow, you'll follow it. If you don't, you won't. Simplify as you go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe life is no more lively "over there" than it is where you are, but it doesn't hurt to find out. Follow your curious mind. Whether it's another country or two doors down, investigate, engage and enjoy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not in the mood to do just a good job; you want the results to be nothing short of greatness. The trick is to give yourself enough time to bring your project to the realm of excellence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are impressionable. Fill your eyes and mind with the loveliest of visions. Gazing at beauty makes you even more beautiful than you already are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Gauge how hard the job is. What will it take to make it easy on yourself? Bursts of effort will progress you quickly, but ultimately, you'll need to settle into an effort that's sustainable. There's an art to shifting gears.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 23). People ask you to do hard things because they think you're limitless. Indeed, you exceed expectation and tend to progress in leaps and bounds this year. Your nurturing side will be an asset to your company, community, family or all of the above. Your ideas and care contribute to a thriving environment. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 25, 4, 17 and 19.

Universal SUDOKU

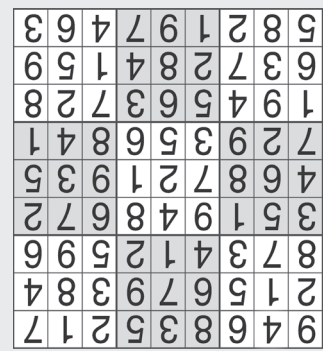
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

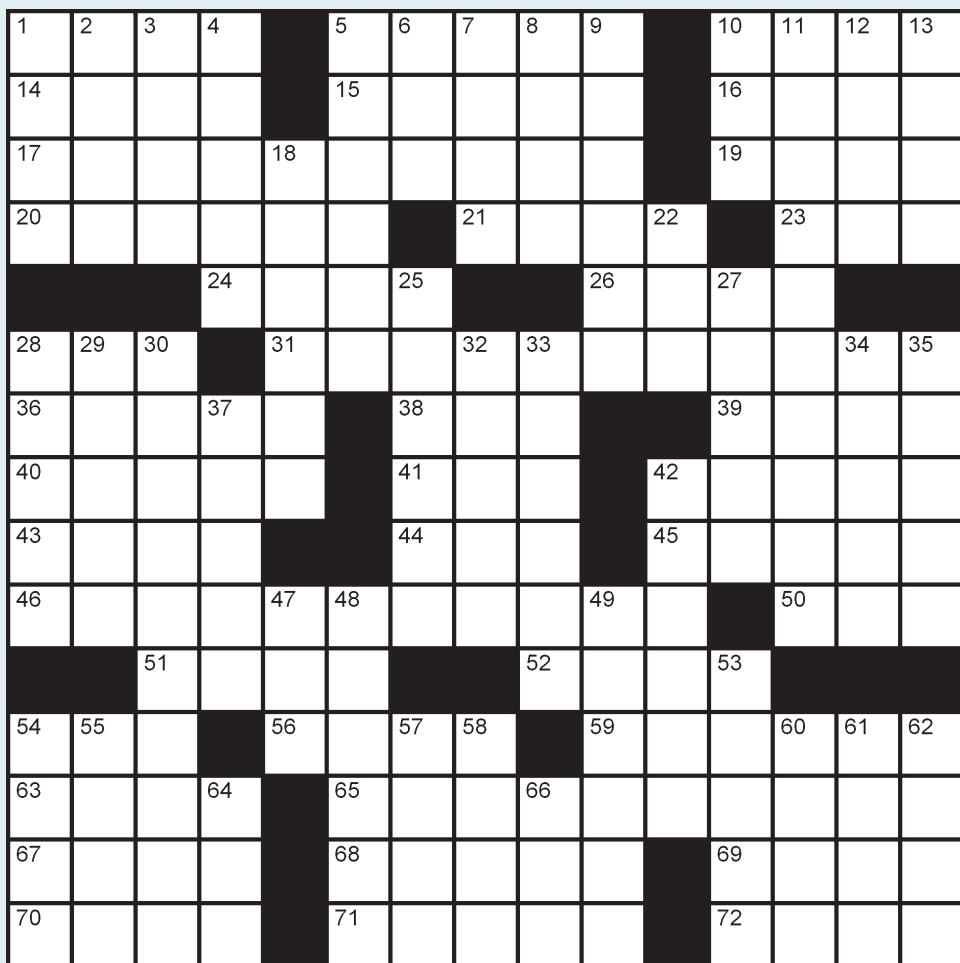


SOLUTIONS



Knife Edges by Sterling MacLeand

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sign up
 - 5 Corp. shuffle
 - 10 Orangutans, e.g.
 - 14 Bone, on an Italian menu
 - 15 Fighting
 - 16 Folk knowledge
 - 17 Hundred-to-one shot, e.g. (In this clue's answer, note the first 3 letters + the last 2)
 - 19 Filet mignon source
 - 20 Empty talk
 - 21 Word after "aisle" or "window"
 - 23 Christmas bulb, briefly
 - 24 Tie in chess
 - 26 "NCIS" actor Murray
 - 28 Trade-___ (certain cars)
 - 31 Bad place to see a fox (... first 2 letters + last 2)
 - 36 "Las Vegas of Asia"
 - 38 Greek X
 - 39 Circle dance
 - 40 Rings around castles
- DOWN**
- 15 Fanta and Sprite
 - 18 Arrows, to an archer
 - 24 Rock grp. hidden in "free love"
 - 25 Election predictors
 - 26 Wonder Woman's secret identity (... first 2 letters + last 2)
 - 27 Dallas-to-New Orleans dir.
 - 28 King of tragedy
 - 29 "Twist, Lick, Dunk" cookie
 - 30 TikTok star Addison
 - 31 Intentions
 - 32 Give in
 - 33 Off-kilter
 - 34 Avoid elimination, or a hint to 17-, 31- and 46-Across
 - 35 Show of hands, maybe
 - 36 Full of energy
 - 37 Gets an A+ on Anna's sister in "Frozen"
 - 38 Unit of volume
- ACROSS**
- 24 Cattrall of "Sex and the City"
 - 25 Fanta and Sprite
 - 26 Arrows, to an archer
 - 27 Rock grp. hidden in "free love"
 - 28 Election predictors
 - 29 Wonder Woman's secret identity (... first 2 letters + last 2)
 - 30 Dallas-to-New Orleans dir.
 - 31 King of tragedy
 - 32 "Twist, Lick, Dunk" cookie
 - 33 TikTok star Addison
 - 34 Intentions
 - 35 Give in
 - 36 Off-kilter
 - 37 Avoid elimination, or a hint to 17-, 31- and 46-Across
 - 38 Show of hands, maybe
 - 39 Full of energy
 - 40 Gets an A+ on Anna's sister in "Frozen"
 - 41 Unit of volume
- DOWN**
- 1 Tease playfully
 - 2 Capital of Norway
 - 3 "That so?"
 - 4 Wanderer
 - 5 Enthusiastic ... or a sarcastic laugh backward
 - 6 Greek H
 - 7 Takes responsibility for
 - 8 Drag strip event
 - 9 Pink Ladies' rock musical
 - 10 The whole shebang
 - 11 Foam flotation device
 - 12 Lake that sounds chilling
 - 13 Word by a paper plane icon, in Outlook
 - 18 Unicycle site
 - 22 You may count to it
 - 25 Porch furniture material
 - 27 Sound an allergist hears
 - 28 "Grrl!"
 - 29 Osaka of tennis
- ACROSS**
- 30 Phishing notifications, e.g.
 - 32 Spicy topping for a hot dog
 - 33 Japan's national dress
 - 34 Spoken exams
 - 35 Out of style
 - 37 Make amends
 - 42 Gettysburg Address, for one
 - 47 Roadside boost org.
 - 48 Like basic instincts
 - 49 Earthen bowl?
 - 53 Humpback's home
 - 54 Great review
 - 55 Deserter's acronym
 - 57 Neighbor of Algeria
 - 58 Funny sketch
 - 60 Danish shoe brand
 - 61 Club payments
 - 62 Amazon Handmade competitor
 - 64 Formal affirmative
 - 66 December 24 or 31

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 Cosmic Toll Roads



A lunar conflict puts a tollgate on the freeway of life. If you've been down this road already, you were expecting it. You may even have a fast pass to prove it. But with these strong Aries solar vibes, many find themselves on new routes. It's time to see if you can find enough change in the car to satisfy the coin slot.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone's decision will affect your future. You eagerly await an answer. Whatever way this goes, there's a way to work it to your advantage. Start thinking about all your plans and contingencies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Resist the urge to prove yourself. The ones who know about your kind of talent will see it in you immediately, and the clueless ones never will, so there's no point in trying to impress them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A small group will become more and more important to you in the weeks to come. As you participate in activities and learn more about its members, you will gradually develop a deeper connection.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your knowledge of human nature will help you attain your goals. You're well aware of how people tend to want what they can't have. Work with that principle. Build a sense of scarcity into your offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to move a mountain, so little by little you will make it move. This will occur with one simple action you can repeat hundreds if not thousands of times.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will pursue higher education and develop your sharp mind. The ability to remember names and faces will help you advance your political and professional goals. Financial barriers will fall.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've a talent for organization and you'll arrange the environment to make it easier to keep clean and orderly. It's amazing what a few well-placed bins can accomplish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Prescient information pops to mind. What's the difference between intuition and imagination? You'll get the sense of knowing something immediately without understanding how you could. That's intuition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you're not sure why you're so popular lately, it could be the charmingly unpredictable element you bring to conversation. Quite the opposite of the usual interactions, your contributions are unexpected.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A lot of people have ideas, but far fewer have the bold determination to follow through. Consider yourself among the elite. Planning is a pleasure. Get as much on paper as you can now while you're thinking clearly.

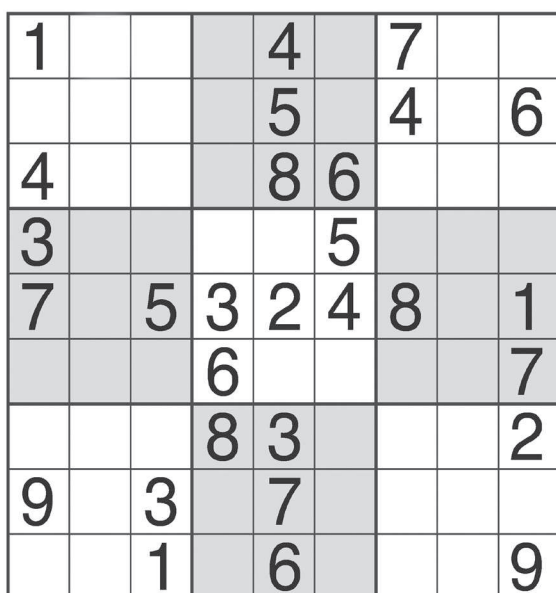
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When someone says you can't do it, it's like the gunshot that starts the race. Anything worth doing will have its share of naysayers. Have fun proving them wrong.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're so organized, the expected work goes efficiently and the unexpected challenges are manageable too. You'll be confident and relaxed whether things are going to plan or not.

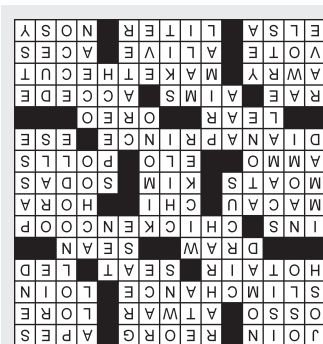
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 24). Your heart's compass will be magnetized to mutually helpful relationships. Life is energized by what you encounter together. The challenges of work are straightforward. You'll figure out what you need to be good at and then, with persistence, you'll master it. You put big plans in motion with a July windfall. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 1, 15 and 11.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

