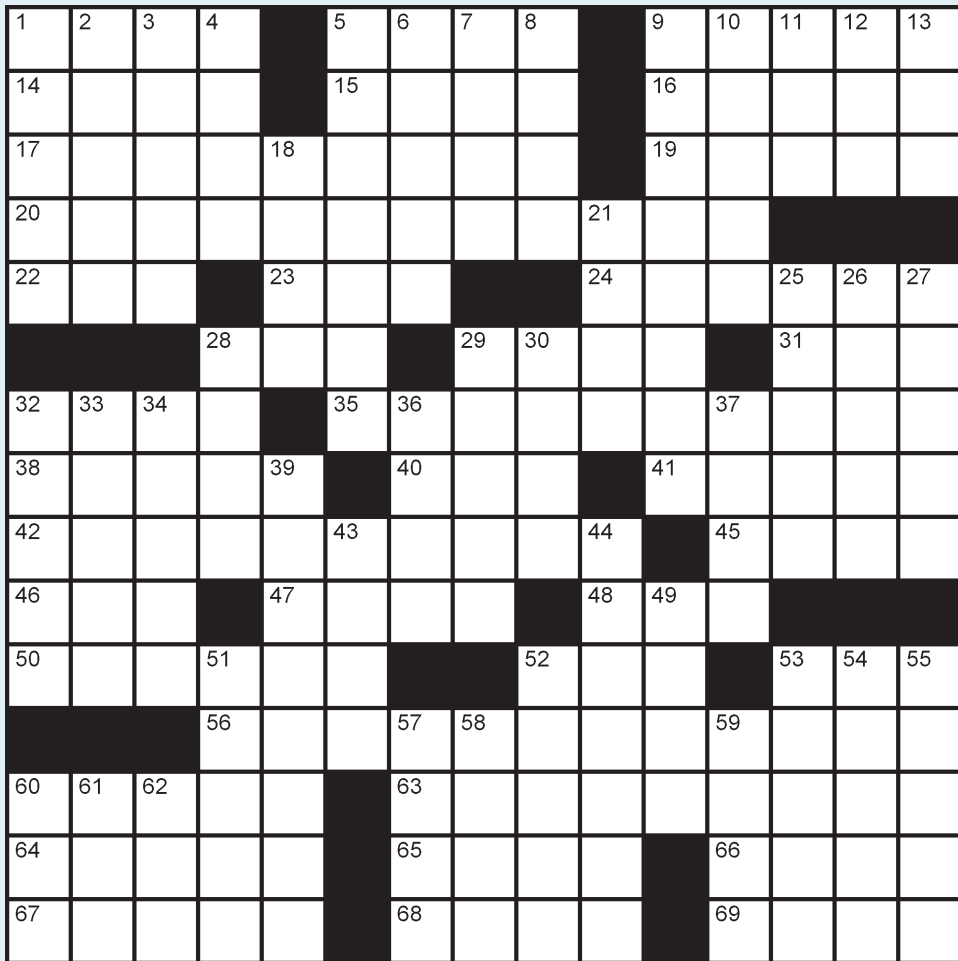


Taken for Granite by Kathy Lowden

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Hunter's garb, for short; 5 Sullen; 9 Stinging insects; 14 Word after "Dutch" or "brick"; 15 Muppet who testified before Congress; 16 Political topic; 17 Control over one's emotions; 19 "Divine Comedy" poet; 20 Speaking in a raspy tone; 22 "\_\_\_ a darn shame!"; 23 Honey producer; 24 Baked \_\_\_ (dessert with meringue); 28 Course number?; 29 Pepsi rival; 31 \_\_\_ Arbor, Michigan; 32 Arrived; 35 Showing no emotion; 38 Followed a curved path; 40 Channel that aired "Breaking Bad"; 41 Number of blind mice or little pigs; 42 Uncompromising; 45 Some burrow in sandbanks; 46 Moody music genre; 47 Roughly; 48 Nightmarish street in movies; 50 Place for a massage; 52 Person who runs the numbers: Abbr.; 53 "Where \_\_\_ I?"; 56 Apt profession for one who is 20-, 35- and 42-Across?; 60 One more time; 63 Denies one's true self; 64 Artist Frida; 65 "Leave it as is," to an editor; 66 Muslim leader; 67 Extremely pale; 68 Make less severe; 69 Bronzes at the beach; DOWN: 1 Short-legged dog; 2 Turn away, as one's gaze; 3 Flat-topped hills; 4 Currently airing; 5 They may work with cars or cards; 6 Greek salad tidbit; 7 "We-e-ll, maybe not"; 8 Naan alternative; 9 Turn a truck might make; 10 Carne \_\_\_; 11 IRS ID; 12 Opposite of call, to an options trader; 13 Get a look at; 18 McEntire of country music; 21 Layered dessert, often; 25 \_\_\_-Coeur (basilica in Paris); 26 Prepare to pray; 27 Peruvian mountain range; 28 Quick glimpse; 29 Small jazz band; 30 \_\_\_ upon a time; 32 Showed concern; 33 Yummy smell; 34 The real \_\_\_; 36 What parents may keep on their kids; 37 Throat-clearing noise; 39 Visit unannounced; 43 Neighbor of Turkey; 44 Use up; 49 Neighbor of Thailand; 51 Photographer's directive; 52 Gives in; 53 Olympic sprinter Rudolph; 54 Like some elephants; 55 Roses' supports; 57 "What \_\_\_ is new?"; 58 Meter maid in a Beatles song; 59 Way of walking; 60 Lead-in to an alias; 61 Neon or freon, e.g.; 62 Sound made at a 50-Across

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022 Rise and Shine



If you make it a point to be outside when the sun goes down, you get the one-of-a-kind light show of a sunset on a day that will never be repeated. And if you are awake early enough to catch the sunrise, too, you get double the majesty in one 24-hour period. The fates will favor the early risers with this and more spectacular luck today.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Being around people who don't understand you is lonely. It is far better to go solo and be completely free to focus on what brings you joy than be in proximity of others whom you cannot relate to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may find that something you used to enjoy doing now feels like work. The energy has simply run its course. Pressing on may do more harm than good. Take a break to avoid total burnout.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone can be cheerful under blue skies and in happy circumstances. To be just as pleasant among bad moods and weather is for the super-human. You'll be rewarded for your efforts to rise above the circumstances.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just because you obsess over a project doesn't mean it will turn out better. The opposite could happen. If a task feels like it's taking too long, it probably is. Change your mindset and pick up the pace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's futile if not dangerous to try to control massive entities with many moving parts. State what you want then get out of the way and let things work themselves out. Have faith things will naturally settle at the best outcome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There have been times you communicated with pristine clarity because you knew just what you wanted to say and you said exactly that. But today you won't know what you want to express until sentences fall from your lips.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The agitation you feel is lucky. It's telling you that you're ready for a change of scenery. You've wrung all the sweetness you're going to get from the current situation. New challenges are around the bend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are riding the wave that happens when creativity and inspired action come together. Surfing in the flow of life, you'll enjoy a particularly focused form of concentration. You'll make smart moves without thinking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People who can give you what you need won't require convincing. You'll just notice that what you need is there, and you'll make a deal -- simple. If you find yourself having to persuade, something is off. Keep moving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Aim your delusions at a new calendar. What's real now would have been unfathomable 100 years ago. Inventing a better tomorrow requires some degree of unrealistic thinking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Needing to know everything about how things work could slow the progress. Trust people to do their jobs today. Let the experts handle what they are experts at handling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). For some reason, accepting compliments can feel a little embarrassing to you, but you'll eventually get used to being around people who can really see and appreciate you.

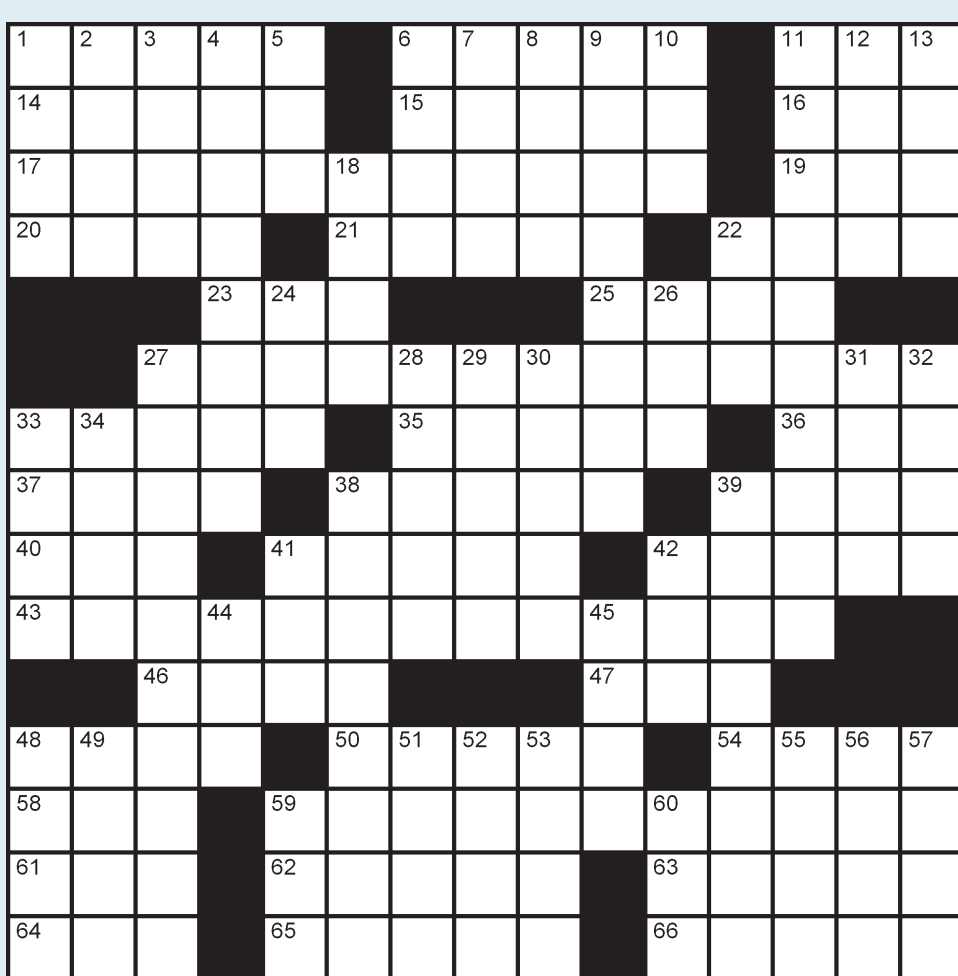
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 20). This year highlights deep learning and thinking for you. Intellectual progress is hard to measure until it becomes a part of the physical world, but your faith and patience will pay off. You'll assert unique viewpoints, methodologies and more and later be proven right. Someone considers you a rare joy, then many do. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 1, 37, 17 and 6.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. 4/19 © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

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First Child by Beth Rubin

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Invited speaker; 6 Observe; 11 Ping-Pong table feature; 14 Let up; 15 Allergy season sound; 16 Sense of self; 17 \*Jeri Ryan's role on "Star Trek: Picard"; 19 Type of nondairy milk; 20 Peeling onions, chopping peppers, etc.; 21 Medical tube; 22 Command-Z, on a Mac; 23 Penn of "Harold & Kumar" movies; 25 Breezy; 27 \*Certain evening broadcast; 33 Word after "mud" or "water"; 35 \_\_\_ couture; 36 Fifth zodiac sign; 37 Pea holders; 38 Snowball fight hideouts; 39 Large, flat piece of clay; 40 Homophone for the letter after q; 41 "That's the answer!"; 42 Computer screen lineup; 43 \*Parting words on Zoom, maybe; 46 Running behind; 47 Colorful card game; 48 "Don't go!"; 50 They may be stolen or loaded; 54 Snare; 58 Brought home the gold; 59 1960-'72 sitcom starring Fred MacMurray, and a hint to the initials of the starred clues' answers; 61 Character's transformation path; 62 Love, at the Louvre; 63 Hands, slangily; 64 The end of night?; 65 Camping structures; 66 Beginning phase; DOWN: 1 Shocked reaction; 2 App with driver ratings; 3 Roof overhang; 4 Certain children in blended families; 5 Number of pins topped in a strike; 6 Drift, as an aroma; 7 Spots, collectively; 8 Like some pizza crust; 9 Alternative to glasses; 10 Gardening tool; 11 Popular highlighter color; 12 Old-fashioned "Yikes!"; 13 Pooch in Oz; 18 Norwegian Maritime Museum's city; 22 Big coffee dispenser; 24 Woodcutting tool, as some spell it; 26 Name within "Nairobi, Kenya"; 27 Quick look over the shoulder; 28 Cheech & \_\_\_; 29 Slowly, in music; 30 Not just short on; 31 Withdraw gradually; 32 Weeps; 33 Places to be pampered; 34 Chicago mayor Lightfoot; 38 "I'm cool with that"; 39 Moves one's chair forward; 41 Comedy shtick; 42 Hampton \_\_\_ (hotel chain); 44 Opposing vote; 45 Melt together; 48 Hit with a paw; 49 Ripped; 51 Lots and lots; 52 Closed; 53 Drops the ball; 55 Becomes a bad apple, say; 56 Initial bet in poker; 57 (Hey there!); 59 Yoga surface; 60 Punk rock offshoot

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 Earthy Practicalities



In the down-to-earth vibration of this new astral season, we are reminded that there are lows lower than the lowest valley, but you have to dig to get to them. There are also highs higher than the highest mountaintop, but it takes the effort of flight. Two practical lunar trines highlight the benefit of accepting the natural parameters of a thing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is something you are tired of carrying by yourself. Someone else can help you lug the burden if you are willing to share it. Better yet, don't think of it as a burden. Call it a fun project and see who shows up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being in the midst of change can feel painful and difficult. On the other hand, having changed feels like life-affirming vitality -- something to keep in mind as you're slogging it out to get to the other side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You prize efficiency and gravitate to those who can make things happen cheap, fast and right. Usually, you do not get all three. Typically, two of those qualifications are the most you can hope for at once. But today you'll get lucky.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've mastered the tasks, ridden the rides and learned the personality quirks of everyone involved. But just when you think you know all there is to know, a surprise will inject some adrenaline into the scene.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even if you have a map and the wind in your sails, forward motion still takes internal fortitude. To make it to the brave new world across the ocean, you must have the courage to lose sight of the shore.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your success comes from being aware and responsive. While many around you are ignoring or resisting the facts of reality, you are managing them deftly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The thrill of discovery isn't reserved for explorers, scientists, archeologists and diamond miners. You'll uncover wild facts, raw gems and other hidden treasure in your daily life today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Unresolved feelings can feel very uncomfortable indeed as they rattle around in your body and mind, looking for somewhere to settle. On the bright side, this is the chaotic buzz of enormous creative potential.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Once upon a time, you walked away because it seemed better than getting into an argument or worse, wasting your time with something boring and unchangeable. Today, you'll repeat that very effective move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The same challenge you faced last month is coming back in new forms, affording you the chance to test out different responses. Later you'll count this problem among your finest teachers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can alter a relationship dynamic without waiting for the other person to change. Just thinking differently will be enough to interrupt unwanted patterns.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As for work that's over your head or the challenge that seems out of your league: Move forward anyway. Illusions abound. Smoke screens and props are at play. The great boulder is made of tissue paper.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21). The reason this will be a shining jewel of a year is well expressed by the words of Abraham Lincoln: "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing." Your spirit of determination will spread to a network who will root for the completion of one goal after another. Capricorn and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 14, 33, 28 and 10.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. 4/20 © 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication

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