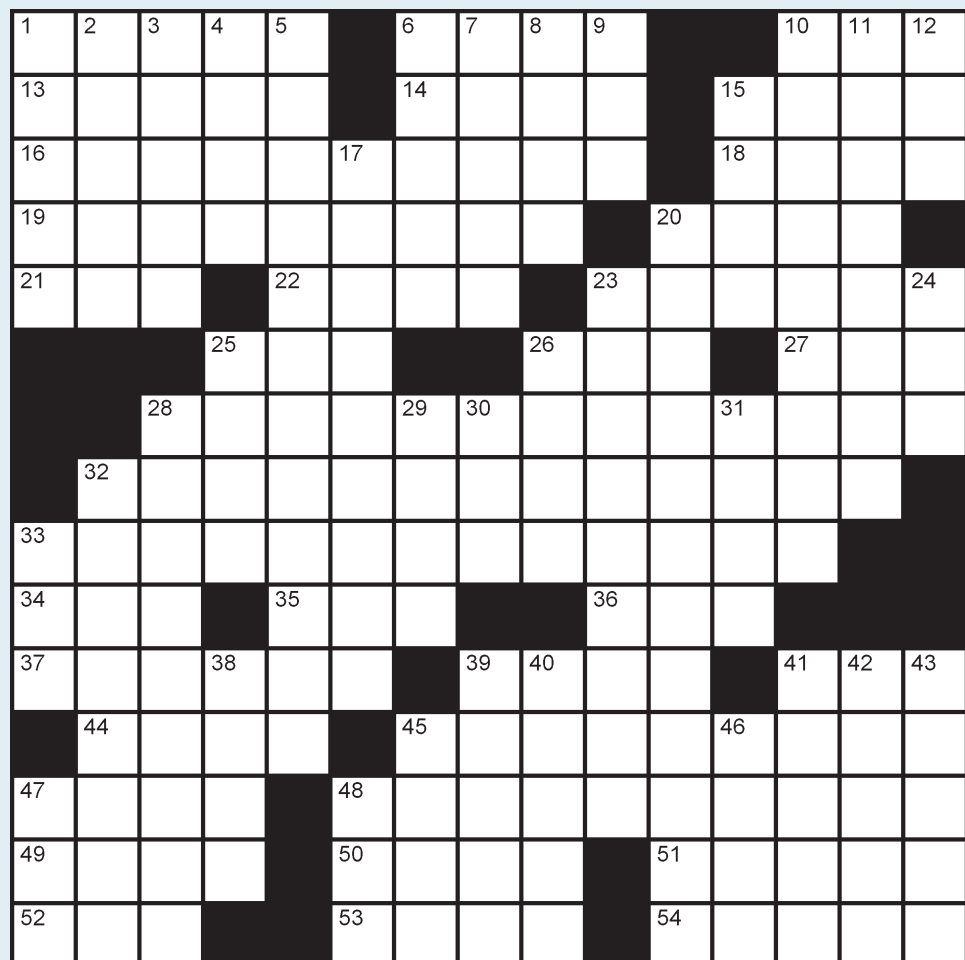


Universal Freestyle 18 by Billy Bratton

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 What a hole in a lid is for, 6 Sour, 10 Prepare to throw a beanbag, 13 Spanish for "I love you", 14 Moisturizer ingredient, 15 Vessels with pedestals, 16 Grown-up's playful side, 18 Fender blemish, 19 Doesn't hold back, 20 He's close to the Edge, 21 Otherworldly beings, briefly, 22 Number for a pair?, 23 "A ___ Blast That Lasts" (breath spray slogan), 25 Gamer's vowelless verb, 26 Nourished, 27 ___ + blue = purple, 28 Strumming sessions, 32 Phenomenon in which many people misremember something, 33 Spoke convincingly, 34 "I Like ___", 35 Try to win over, 36 Borzoi sound, 37 Speed Stick deodorant maker, 39 Walk back and forth, 41 About 20-25% of sleep: Abbr., 44 Ticket leftover, 45 Beyond cool?, 47 "Stop stalling!", 48 Defiant response to a vague threat, 49 Women with habits, 50 Apply blacktop to, 51 Rental document, 52 Dined, 53 Nonbinary pronoun, 54 Bad words?, DOWN: 1 Subway entrance, 2 Palindromic principle, 3 Angry speeches, 4 City in central Iowa, 5 Term abbreviated at the start of many addresses, 6 Lake in the Sierras, 7 Elite group of stars, 8 Play part, 9 Conference where Chimamanda Adichie gave the talk "The Danger of a Single Story", 10 Music style named for a large venue, 11 Not guilty, 12 Winter hrs. in Utah, 15 Shabu-shabu noodle, perhaps, 17 Had trust in, 20 Says goodbye, 23 Meaty foods to eat on Tuesday, maybe, 24 TV plugs, e.g., 25 Genre that inspired emo, 26 Run away, 28 Female friend celebrated on February 13, 29 Highest male voice, 30 Cheer syllable, 31 ___-help book, 32 Kisses passionately, 33 Name within "Mortimer", 38 "Dang it!", 39 "Pet" annoyance, 40 Bowling night hangout, 41 2006 hit for Amy Winehouse, 42 Delete, 43 Lodging that may be L-shaped, 45 Surfer dude, 46 Two, in Berlin, 47 "I got loyalty, got royalty inside my ___" (Kendrick Lamar), 48 Elect (to)

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022 Beltane Blessings



As we stand between the new moon and the Venus change on the blessed day of Beltane, we may linger, but we are not waiting. Life is inside every breath. It's in the ramp-up, the pre-show, the major event and the afterparty. Life is the anticipation, the in-between, the running start and the dreams you have while recharging for the next sprint.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll often be inventing as you go, so refining the presentation before anyone sees it is not always possible. You can't refine what hasn't been invented yet!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Take your time with the written word today. Read instructions and contracts carefully. In the words of the great Tom Waits: "The large print giveth, the small print taketh away."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When your influences are people of exemplary character and remarkable talent, being overly impressionable is a plus. It's a good day to keep yourself in good company and soak up the vibes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today's cosmic message is both literal and metaphoric: It is possible to stumble over even the smoothest of surfaces, especially if you're wearing the wrong shoes for the terrain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can only veer off the script if there is a script in the first place. Sometimes the moment you realize what you're expected to say is the exact moment you're saying something different from that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a relationship on your mind. Things could really develop if you had just a few more common interests. What might you be willing to learn about or do together in the name of a stronger bond?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Avoid social comparison of all kinds, even the seemingly harmless check to who is wearing what, living where or dating whom. It's better today to flow all focus to your own goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll trade unwanted items for something useful, like cash or the self-esteem that comes from generosity. Owning fewer things leads to greater happiness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your goal will be much more of a challenge than you previously thought, and the benefit of its pursuit will reflect the substantial personal cost involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Go on and dance your tap shoes across the public tiles today. You know what you're doing, and there's rhythm and style in your execution. You'll find great satisfaction in making an artful noise.

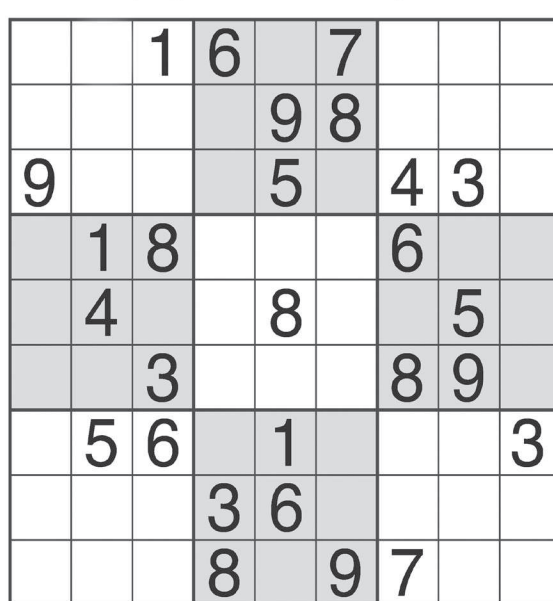
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You wouldn't shame a baby for not being able to walk or talk, yet you expect yourself to do well with tasks you are brand new to. This is silly, of course. Be kind to yourself in the infantile stages of learning.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Teamwork is where it's at. Effective teams are diverse teams. They roll to the goal because they are balanced and cohesive, not because of the particular qualifications of each member.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 1). The solar return inspires an upgrade of your thought processes, and you'll enjoy a brighter emotional and intellectual atmosphere. Obstacles to love will be cleared as you prioritize togetherness and friendship. You'll sell an idea or property and leverage deals into something you've had your eye on for many years. Pisces and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 3, 2, 12 and 41.

Universal SUDOKU

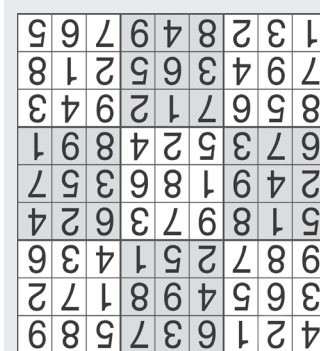
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

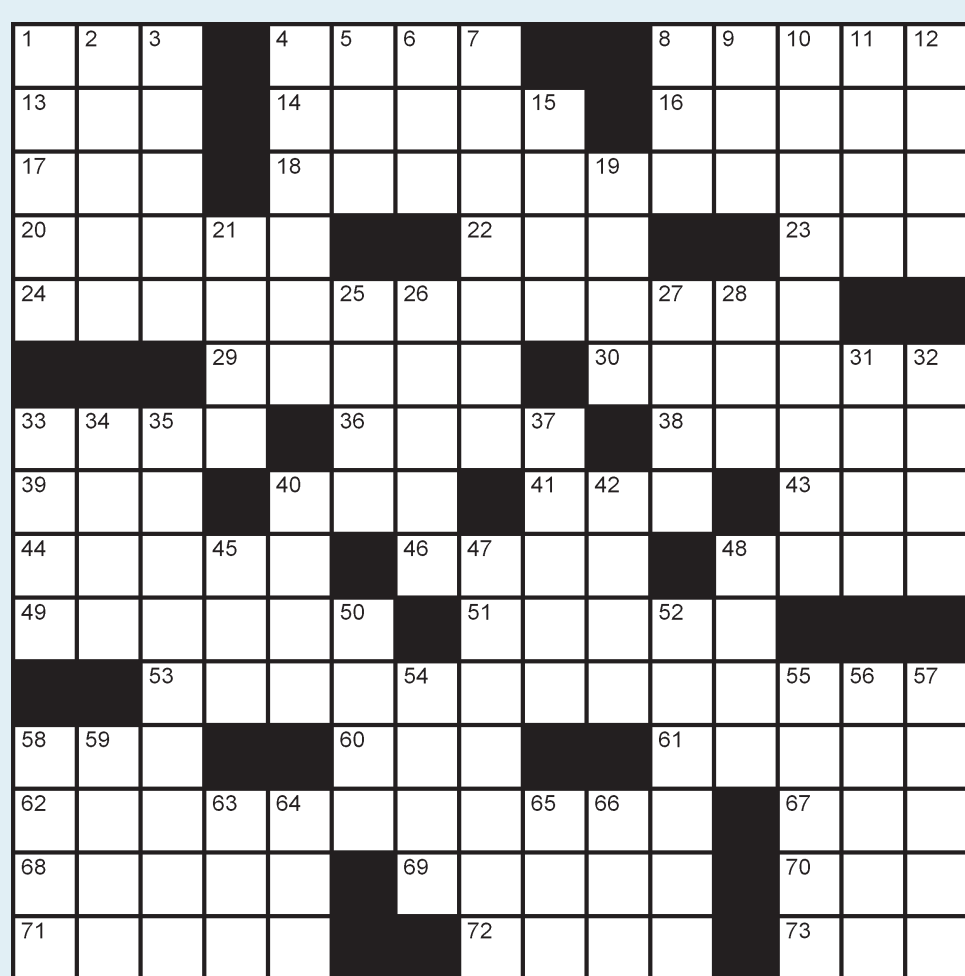


SOLUTIONS



Athletic Division by Zhouqin Burnikel

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Internal audit pro, 4 Walked (on), 8 Generation after Z, 13 Workplace for a physicist, 14 Team racing event, 16 Shows boldness, 17 Tandour residue, 18 *Sign near a construction zone (Note the first word of each starred clue's answer, and think "curling" for this one), 20 Blizzard or typhoon, 22 Soviet org. in "Bridge of Spies", 23 "Nova" network, 24 *Women's health app, 29 Not chicken, 30 Fried Indian appetizer, 33 House sitters may feed them, 36 "Look, I did it!", 38 Comb or saw part, 39 "So relaxing!", 40 Gloomy, 41 Caustic compound, 43 Texas longhorn's sound, 44 One uses pounds in the U.S. but not in the U.K., 46 Tall building on a farm, 48 Kids' observation game, 49 Comedian's routine, 51 Chocula or Dracula, 53 *Make the Guinness book, say this one, 58 Greyhound sound, 60 Land developer's unit, 61 Square root of nine, 62 *Brief pause on a score, 67 Turn down, as lights, 68 Bring together, 69 Organizing expert Kondo, 70 Self-image, 71 Feel the same way, 72 Place for a kiddie pool, 73 ICU staffers, DOWN: 1 Bracelet fastener, 2 Miso or doengjang, e.g., 3 Loathe, 4 Small earthquake, 5 "The Last Jedi" villain Kylo, 6 Ancient, 7 Crimson, for one, 8 Say further, 9 Public defender's field, 10 Places for stage accessories, 11 Sage or shiso, e.g., 12 Makes a request, 15 Exercise with a bridge pose, 19 Grade school basics, 21 Heart-protecting bones, 25 Statistical numbers, 26 Sitcom interruptions, say, 27 Beckinsale of "Love & Friendship", 28 Expressive rock genre, 31 "Knock it off!", 32 "___, matey!", 33 Skip a turn, 34 Per item, 35 "Valid point", e.g., 37 Give the go-ahead, 40 Splinter group, 42 "Make up ___ mind!", 45 False statement, 47 Frozen cube container, 48 Bug bite symptom, 50 Leafy green that you may "massage", 52 Earned after taxes, 54 Societal standard, 55 Select from a menu, 56 Empress's time in power, 57 Software samples, 58 Blue-green hue, 59 Step on a ladder, 63 Mail carrier's circuit: Abbr., 64 Top for a fun run, 65 The "E" of BCE, 66 Title for Sidney Poitier

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022 Venus Aflame



Venus is a high school graduate as she waves a tearful goodbye to the soft poetry of Pisces to face a fresh trip around the zodiac. The new chapter opens with an initiation by fire; the flames of Aries challenge the very nature of love. When the love goddess burns in the realm of warriors, we will quickly find out what our hearts are made of.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be moved to generosity, perhaps by someone who has much less than you do. For today, giving of yourself will be far more satisfying than giving (SET ITAL) to (END ITAL) yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People will tell you who they are. They won't even realize they are doing it, but the truth of your presence will draw out the truth of theirs, and all will be known.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Is your personal life a roller coaster, an elevator or a walk in the park? As you focus on the basics like health and well-being, other things fall into place to put relationships on an even keel.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It does seem that exciting events should be coming into your life on their own, but unfortunately, the cosmic coordinator isn't getting the message. No worries -- this is an opportunity to plan it just the way you like!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). However well-defined and obvious your needs may be to you, another person still isn't seeing it. Maybe you don't want to spell it out, but that may be what it takes to get the fulfillment you so deserve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're able to be generous with those who need you because you invest your energy well. Sometimes that means declining frivolous asks and avoiding those who want you to do their dirty work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't overthink the day. What occurs naturally will be the harmonious and best. To overprepare, strategize or obsess will put weird vibes into your project. You'll get successful outcomes from a chill attitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The smart plans don't always come from your conscious mind. You've been making simple, intuitive decisions based on what your heart and body need, and as you continue in kind, you'll grow in strength and joy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not such a bad mistake to accidentally repeat the same thing to the same person. You might even call it "branding" and do it on purpose. People around you will need to hear things multiple times before it sinks in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You work through things easily with those who share your ability to laugh at life. With humorless people, it's a little harder to make things jive. So whenever possible, go where the funny ones are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'd walk across hot coals to help someone, but unless that person is on the other side of hot coals, it's totally unnecessary. Discover what's needed before you put yourself out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Finding a tranquil space within yourself will be much easier after you find a tranquil space in your environment. Either clear or create a space of your own or go exploring to find one.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 2). There's an aspirational theme to the opening of your solar return. You'll pitch your ideas, make deals and find yourself in a position to give back. You'll help people you love and love the people you help. A new environment will become important to your days. Projects and relationships are born in this interesting place. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 38 and 2.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

