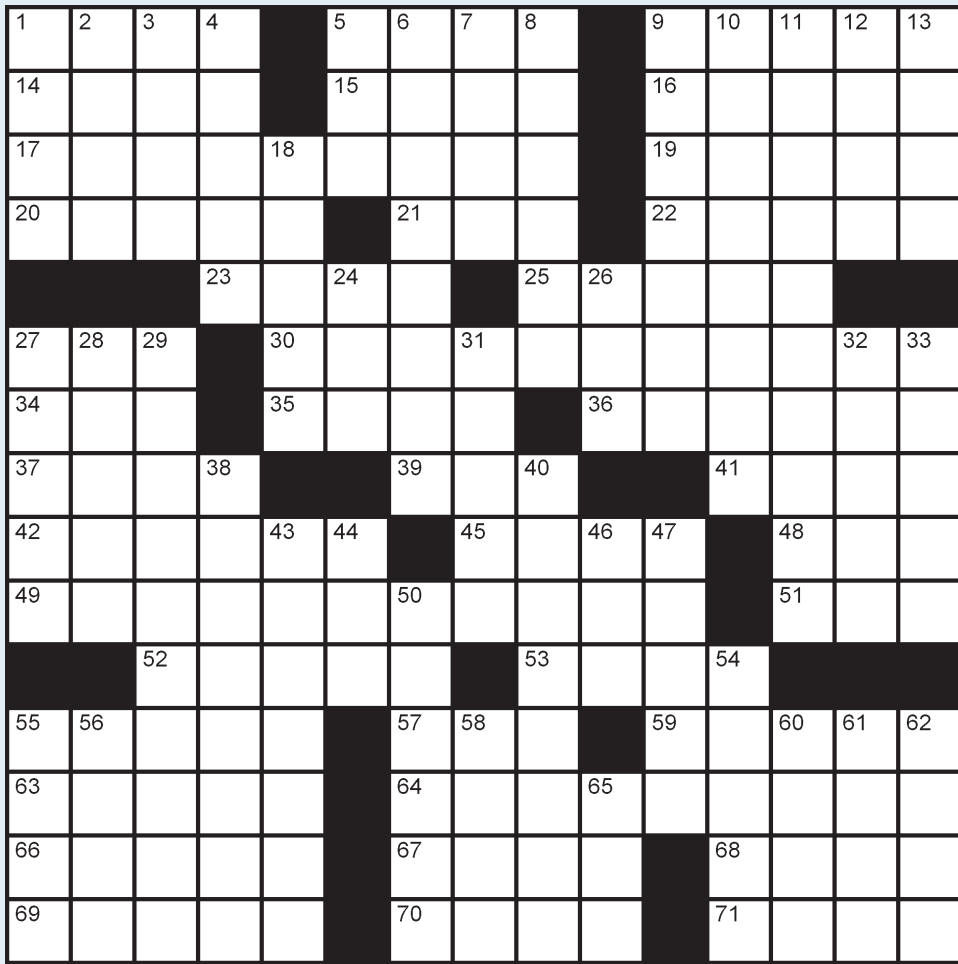


Ahead of Time by Trent H. Evans

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Toot your own horn, 5 Waffle brand, 9 Sound of a perfect basketball shot, 14 Put to sleep, perhaps, 15 Queen consort of Jordan, 16 Japanese bread crumbs, 17 "You kids hush now!", 19 Muppet with a rubber duckie, 20 Gambler's wager, 21 Genome molecule, 22 Game of checkers?, 23 Back talk, 25 Ingredient in fries, informally, 27 "Dropped" drug, 30 "Flying saucer's purpose, 34 Artist Yoko, 35 Christmas lights might hang from one, 36 "Mad Men" hat, 37 Gear teeth, 39 Psychic power, briefly, 41 Knighted fellows, 42 Impede, 45 Part of B.A., 48 Army bed, 49 "When college students may hit the beach, 51 Triage ctrs., 52 En pointe, in ballet, 53 "Judge" of taste, 55 It floats up the flue, 57 He/him/___, 59 Big name in cubism?, 63 Alumnae, e.g., 64 "Complete 180 (Note: The title hints at what can follow both words of each starred clue's answer), 66 Declares, 67 Diagram type with circles, 68 Cut loose, 69 Unlike this clue, which is far too wordy and could have simply been just "cut", 70 CEO, CFO, COO or CTO, 71 "I've ___ better", DOWN: 1 Jul. 4 cookouts, 2 Defeat soundly, 3 Big song at the Met, 4 Some speak fluent Klingon, 5 Finish, 6 "Talked your way out of that!", 7 Oscar night dress, 8 Lavishly decorated, 9 Titular org. in a 2015 Bond film, 10 "Extreme Sour" candies, 11 What only you can hear, 12 Goes down a snowy hill, say, 13 Tools to break up soil, 18 Taunt, 24 The aptly named business Face It, for one, 26 DOJ division, 27 Bodies of water that sound secure, 28 Be nosy, 29 One who makes a boxer look smart?, 31 Labor activist Chavez, 32 Editor's catch, 33 Isn't just a fad, 38 Bad eggs or rotten eggs, 40 "To continue in English, ___", 43 Like a strong feeling, 44 "The GOAT" hides it, 46 "The Joy Luck Club" author Amy, 47 Hybrid activewear garment, 50 "Act nice!", 54 Polishes, 55 Sultan of ___ (Babe Ruth nickname), 56 "You're in my way!", 58 Goat with curved horns, 60 Naked, 61 Slushy treat, 62 Avid, 65 Tar Heels' sch.

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022 Lunar Negativity Bias



Lunar squares abound, the cosmic strife throwing focus on unwanted thoughts and feelings. Negativity bias is a fact of human survival that has kept humans safe through the ages. Even so, we would often do better to focus on what it is we do want and keep reminding ourselves of it often. Tell yourself what to think and follow through.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Respect is one of those things that has to be given before it is received. Following the rules and customs will be easy when you know what they are, and tricky in foreign situations. Go deftly into learning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What you pay attention to will love you back today. Consider turning some of your focus inward. Attention to your deeper feelings and subconscious layers will repay you in resounding fulfillment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Relationships will be eventful in both good and bad ways, but when they are built from the heart, whatever happens, love will be the constant -- a rhythm uncomplicated, consistent and enduring.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The way you see things may not match up with how others do, and that only makes it even more important that you capture memories in your own way. Your point of view is vital to the big picture.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Looping thoughts lead nowhere. Order them into a mental arrow instead. This is best done with action. Look straight ahead and shoot yourself into the future. It's awaiting you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are those who have a cause and those who have a plight. You could help in either case. Those with a cause will pay the help forward. Those with a plight will continue to require the same help indefinitely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Small changes throw off your plans. You'd rather the changes were big instead! If things aren't going to go the way you imagined, you'd rather be very surprised than mildly annoyed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Those who are highly motivated by the last hours of a deadline (which is a nice way of saying "procrastinators") will get just the inspiration (push) they need to finish strong (or at all!).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Style doesn't necessarily cost money, though it does take creativity and effort. Put in the time to learn what works for you. You love how good style makes you feel and how people react to you as a result.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Into every relationship, little rain must fall. Conflict is normal, and when done right, working out differences will bring people closer together. Lead with compassion and you won't go wrong.

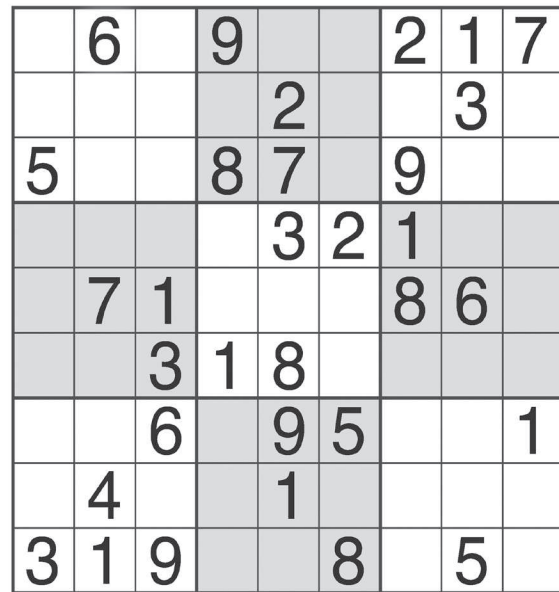
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Saying "I love you" doesn't always occur to you, but when it does, don't hesitate. Someone needs to hear the words and feel that they are valued for just being themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Appearances lie. People who seem like they should be happy often aren't. You'll see past the exterior and connect with how people are really feeling instead of projecting onto them what you think they should be feeling.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 4). You're the novelist of your life. You'll center your plot around a beautiful event this year. A perfectly imperfect relationship dances through your days. Tenacity is the quality that influences your work life. The payoff that comes at the end of an arduous journey will be strong indeed! Young people study you; older people hire you. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 49, 13 and 27.

Universal SUDOKU

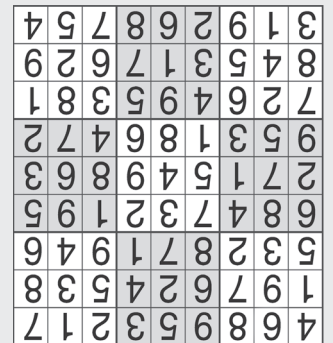
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

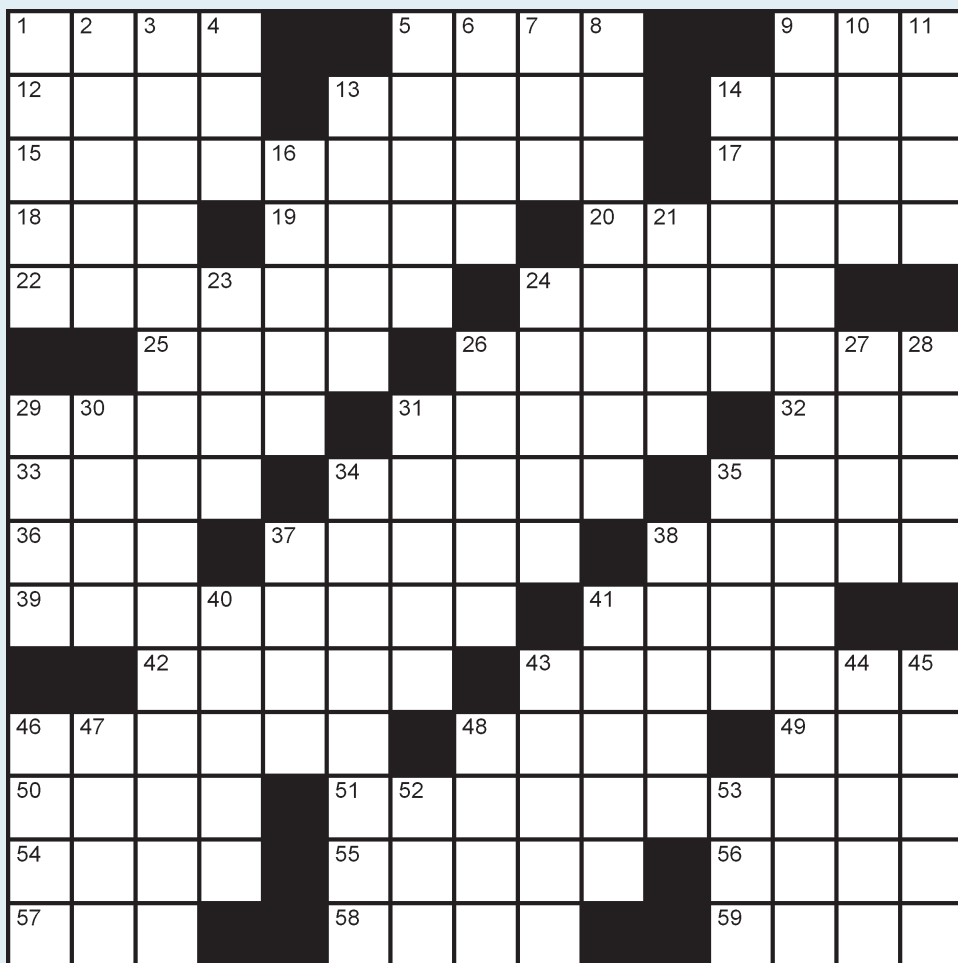


SOLUTIONS



S-moo-th! by Kyle Dolan

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Direction not used in U.S. state names, 5 Wild guess, 9 Mind the ___ (subway station warning), 12 Hieroglyphic snakes, 13 Sparkly headwear, 14 Pine branch hanger, 15 Skin care product, 17 "All finished", 18 Nay's opposite, 19 "Dancing Queen" group, 20 Country side, 22 "I'm open to questions!", 24 Spoke at greath length, 25 The "O" of REO Speed Wagon, 26 Skin care product, 29 Super cool, 31 Hole in the wall where you may pick up a check?, 32 "Aw, shucks", 33 Regarding, 34 Argument's, foundation, 35 Comparison connector, 36 Radar gun measure: Abbr., 37 Victors' shout, 38 London :, 39 Skin care product, 41 Wood used for some decks, 42 Float with the current, 43 Improv-style word game, 46 Compose music, say, 48 Fingernail job, briefly, 49 Do some darning, 50 Races, as an engine, 51 Supermarket section where you won't find this puzzle's products, 54 Kimono sashes, 55 Super-, 56 Facebook's parent company, 57 Chum, 58 Feel bad for, 59 Sound akin to a tap on the shoulder, DOWN: 1 Low-stress course, 2 Fire remnants, 3 "We were just talking about you!", 4 Airport screening org., 5 Remain passive, 6 "Cheerio!", 7 "We ___ the Champions", 8 Caribbean island that became a republic in 2021, 9 They're given at bedtime, 10 Gothic writer Rice, 11 Fellow citizen, 13 Big band instruments?, 14 Largely obsolete storage format, 16 Amusingly indecent, 21 Dark gem, 23 Voice above tenor, 24 Bird associated with spring, 26 ___ buddy (BFF), 27 Shakespearean king, 28 Casino game with balls, 29 First part of many email addresses, 30 Road trip game, 31 Seek attention from, as a pet might, 34 Strengthened, 35 Bluish hue on a certain duck, 37 Judge's issuance, 38 News shows and such, with "the", 40 Indelicate, 41 "That '70s Show" actress Roberts, 43 "Will you ___ me?", 44 Pants supporters, 45 React to heat, say, 46 Something to harvest, 47 McEntire of country, 48 Catcher's catcher, 52 Boxer/poet Muhammad, 53 One causing trouble

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 Cinco de Mayo Cosmic Conjunction



The sun forms a conjunction with rebellious Uranus on this day of remembrance for the time a Mexican army was outnumbered yet prevailed with the victory in the Battle of Puebla of 1862. In the United States, the 5th of May is an opportunity to celebrate Mexican culture and heritage, in this case, under a patriotic Cancer moon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The longer a story is, the more entertaining it should be. Humor helps, but the most important thing of all is to read the room. A good match of message to audience can be a game changer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Choose and then let go of the other options. This is the way of power and grace. Regret, rumination, comparison and the like are habits of weakness. Rule out these disempowering options.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Gentle forces will outlast volatile ones because intensity is hard to sustain. Fires die. Volcanos expire. Tornados disperse. For millions of years the placid lake remains.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The interaction you've been worried about will come together beautifully and you'll have a sense of satisfaction akin to flipping an omelet at the exact right moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Solar circles and social circles both run on principles of attraction. Usually, you follow your instincts on such matters, but today your conscious awareness of what some people like will also play into the decision-making.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To lay your heart on the line would normally require courage, though today it just requires math; the potential gain from expressing your feelings is worth the risk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just when you think your hard work is going unappreciated, praise and appreciation will come from unexpected directions. This is the start of a trend!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Any work you do to wrangle and order your scattered thoughts will contribute to your success. Tell yourself what you're going to think about, write it down, and then keep reminding yourself to stay on track with that line of thought.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). More than anyone else in the entire world, you know what it's like to be you. Use this to guide key decisions. As for the others, it will be fine to let them figure out what's right for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The point of putting some of life on autopilot is to conserve energy for what you'd love to give your attention to. You'll be transferring more habits to the no-think zone as you ready yourself for something big and juicy.

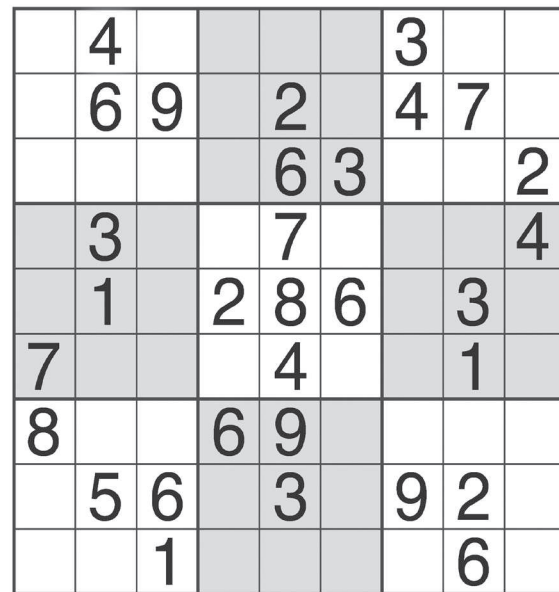
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whenever you put yourself or your work on the line, you risk rejection. Ultimately, this is the risk that will make you see yourself better. And seeing yourself allows you to align with the needs of those around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Many limitations are illusions, and you must alter your perception to see your way past, through or around them. Keep trying to see it different ways. Get close, back off, go cockeyed... you'll find it eventually.

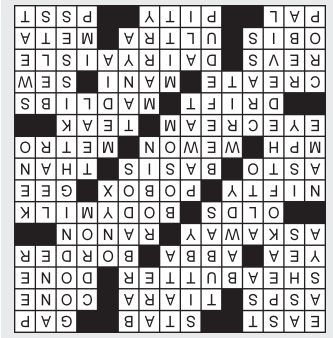
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 5). When you commit to love, the decision doesn't feel heavy or confining. Instead, playful levity, imagination and possibility rule your interactions. Work gets easier because you learn who you can trust. You're also excellent at coming up with systems. The trick is in re-investing well. A mentor will help! Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 30, 1, 11 and 28.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

