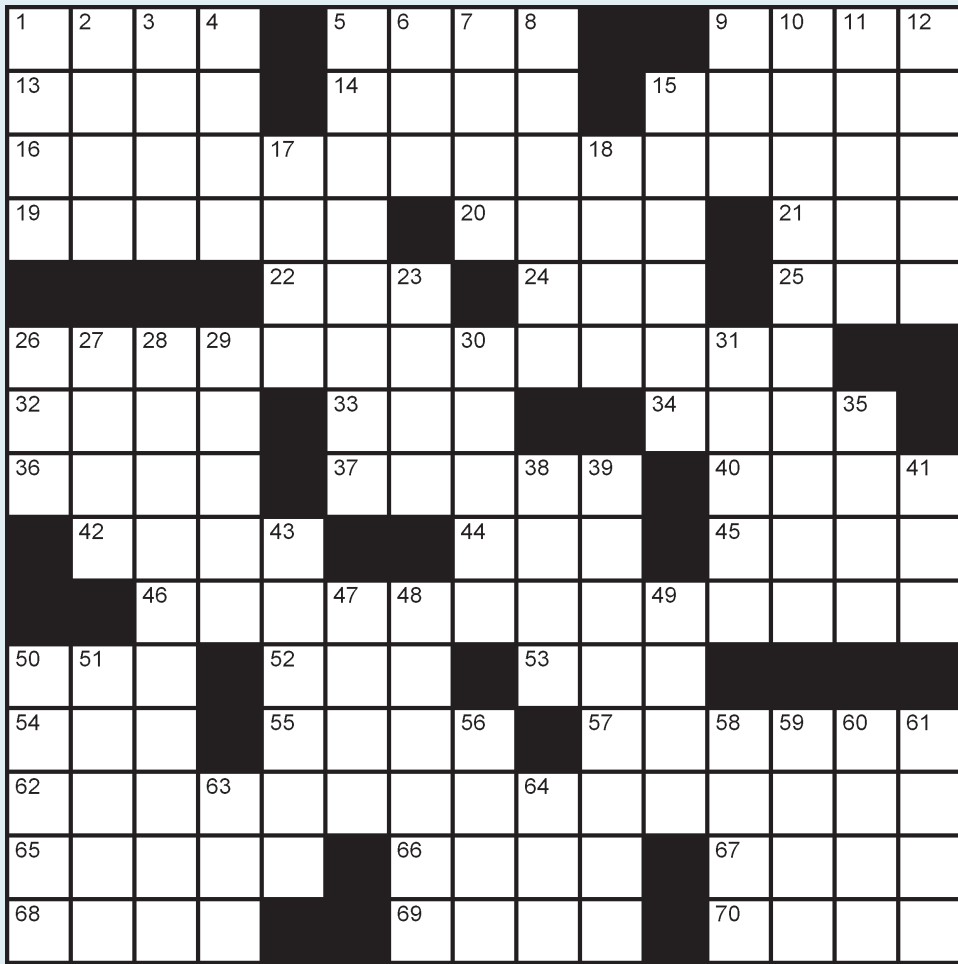


Active States by Jon Pennington

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Swabs the deck, 5 Throw away, 9 Amaze, 13 "That's my cue!", 14 Cry audibly, 15 African country where W.E.B. Du Bois lived, 16 Sushi bites made with crab and avocado, 19 Titillating, 20 Tracy's mom in "Hairspray", 21 Baby fox, 22 DEA agent, e.g., 24 Shut down, 25 Filthy abode, 26 Popular dances of the Jeffersonian Era, 32 Driver among movie stars?, 33 No. on a business card, 34 Tomato type, 36 "Julius Caesar" costume, 37 Microphone holder, 40 Fairy-romance, 42 Garlands on a King, 44 Daisy Ridley's "Star Wars" role, 45 Glasgow resident, 46 Southern rock band fronted by Brittany Howard, 50 "Don't think so!", 52 ___ Talks, 53 GPS suggestion: Abbr., 54 O.J. trial judge, 55 Senior follower?, 57 Prepares to suntan, say, 62 Home of the U.S. Air Force Academy, 65 Word after "bread" or "butter", 66 Jai ___, 67 Buddies, 68 Sunni or Shia, e.g., 69 Root beer, for one, 70 Rotisserie component, DOWN: 1 Rats' smaller kin, 2 "Squad" member, 3 Horseback sport, 4 Foul mood, 5 Monetary worth of an opinion?, 6 What Moana used to steer her boat, 7 Opposite/hypotenuse, in trig, 8 Mini burger, 9 "Billions" channel, for short, 10 Makes boastful insults, 11 Totally dark, 12 Mean-spirited, 15 Exam season job, 17 Minnie Mouse's dog, 18 Baby photographer, 23 Nutritional plan, 26 Brewing vessel, 27 Golden calf, e.g., 28 Anger management candidate, 29 Message service linked to YouTube, 30 Car or clock feature, 31 A whole bunch of, informally, 35 Succulent used in lotion, 38 In proximity to, 39 Depressing sci-fi setting, 41 UFO passengers, 43 Stephen Colbert specialty, 47 Test version of software, 48 Sneaker brand with a three-stripe logo, 49 Claimant to the throne, 50 Minor shaving cuts, 51 Make reparations, 56 Unaccompanied, 58 Parts to gloss over?, 59 Flip out, 60 Unattractive-sounding fruit, 61 (Hey, you!), 63 Frequently, in poetry, 64 Down in the dumps

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022 Three Rules of the Retrograde



A Mercury retrograde in the sign of communication is very easily navigated with the instatement of three key rules: -- No. 1: Speak well of others or don't speak of them at all. -- No. 2: Recognize the expectations that words set up and use them to lead others to ideas that will be useful to them. -- No. 3: Treat other people's attention as the precious resource it is.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to disconnect with the world to connect with yourself, but it does help to have fewer distractions. You will win the day by simply focusing well for two straight hours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There was a time when you pursued beauty through the lens of envy. You saw someone else with the loveliness you wanted. But your style of chase has evolved into something playful, creative and effective.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Instead of making excuses, you'll make decisions. You'll be too busy commanding the scene to concern yourself with the insecurity and self-doubt you once knew so well. Someone will be attracted to your powerful vibes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The people you want to impress and win over are rather easy to pay attention to, but you will not be sorry if you tend to your familiar faithful crew first. There is much to be gained from spoiling those close to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Teaching is the fastest way to learn. So, whatever you want to know about, make a goal to relay the information to someone else very soon. You are a sponge and will soon come to understand this entity so well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Incuriousness is the usual in some environments, and this is why any time you draw attention to your active, questioning mind, it will stand out and cause a reaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the case of children and exceptionally honest people, you can't ride on reputation or coast on past good work. It's all about what's happening in the present. You get what you put in. You'll find this utterly refreshing!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone has colored the sky of your mind in unexpected ways. Your focus on this person will be intentional. The telepathic connection between you is tangible and real.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's easy to get seduced by or even addicted to the approval of others, as the brain has a most favorable response to receiving signals of acceptance. Just be sure to keep an eye on the cost of said approval.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In racecar design, sleek lines aren't just aesthetic but they're a practical necessity to eliminate drag. Anything sticking out creates friction that gets in the way of moving fast. Today, you'll cut something in the name of momentum.

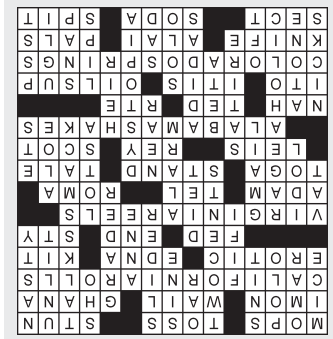
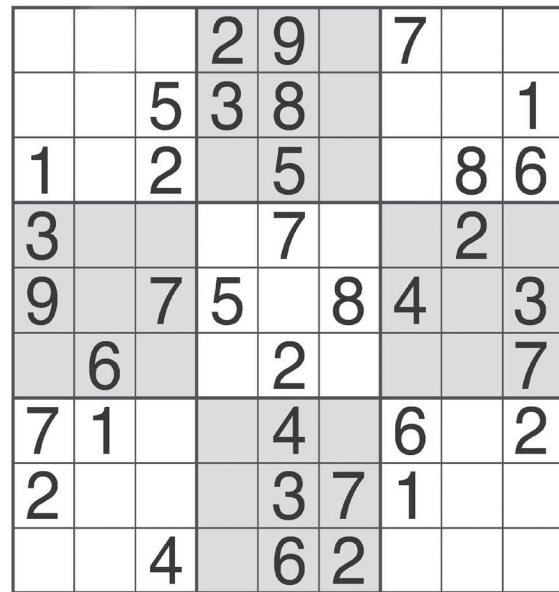
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whatever you most want from the day can really happen if you're willing to make everything else wait while you put all your focus into priority No. 1.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is a boulder in the path, which is certainly big enough to deter any large vehicle from taking this route. You, however, needn't worry as you take the form of a river and rush right on through.

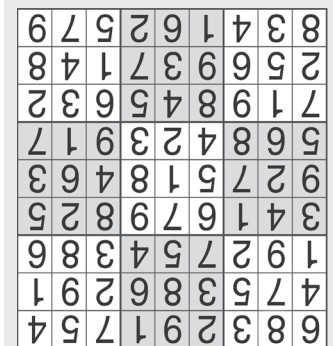
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 11). A shift in work will have you filling a different role. What follows is an exciting transformation. Making people happy is your talent, but you don't do it selflessly; you genuinely enjoy figuring out how solve the problems of the moment -- and you'll be paid to do it. You will also visit beautiful places and make friends there. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 40, 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.

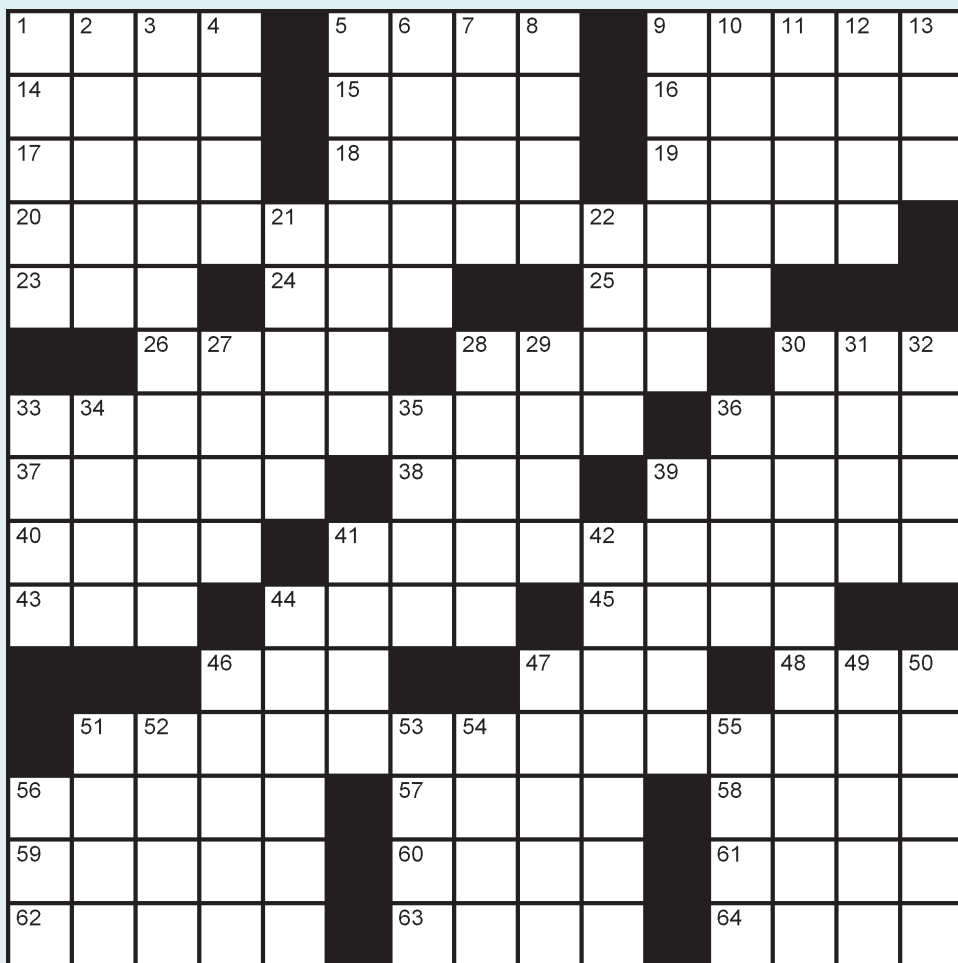


SOLUTIONS



Interior Designers by Kevin Shustack

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Women, folksily, 5 Mess up 007's martini order, 9 Cultural dish variety?, 14 Woodwind that Julia Roberts played, 15 Where the heart is, it's said, 16 Love, in French, 17 Bureaucratic document, 18 Barely, 19 Appears, as the day, 20 It's heard but never seen (In this answer, see letters 3-6), 23 Google Maps offering: Abbr., 24 LP speed, 25 "___ aboard!", 26 Canine meme, 28 On the same ___, 30 Cell reception unit, 33 Winter figures (letters 4-7), 36 Periodic trig function, 37 It's often preceded by "safe," redundantly, 38 End of UCLA's URL, 39 Slightly ahead, 40 Column with a perspective, 41 Cow or pig (letters 2-7), 43 Expected golf score, 44 Savior, 45 Attack like Dracula, 46 Roofing gunk, 47 ___ tip (expert pointer), 48 Beaver's creation, 51 Novel featuring Mrs. Whatsit (letters 6-10), 56 "Foxy Brown" star Pam, 57 Part of a phrase, 58 RuPaul, e.g., in the world of drag, 59 Didn't feel well, 60 Very excited, 61 Delivery vehicles ("If you ___" ("OK, then")), 63 Not any, 64 '70s gymnast Korburt, DOWN: 1 Win at life, 2 Give or take, 3 Acted superior to, 4 Big rig, 5 Give a good tip?, 6 Sacred carving, 7 Apple desktop, 8 Start over on, 9 Pickleball racket, 10 What many a meeting could've been, 11 Theatrical finale for "Our" or "On the", 12 Ladder level, 13 Tax refund org., 21 Church instrument, 22 Starting point for many an inspiring tale, 27 Was in the red, 28 Retired pitcher Martinez, 29 Former "SNL" cast member, e.g., 30 Kind of engineer who may design a surgical robot, 31 Netflix's "Inventing ___", 32 Stagger, 33 Indulge in retail therapy, 34 Golden State wine region, 35 Paraphernalia, 36 Stick on the barbecue?, 39 Labor group, 41 Plant with spores, 42 Shorten, like a dictionary, 44 Stylist's cut, 46 Shade sources, 47 Eva portrayed by Madonna, 49 ___ friends (in good company), 50 What you'd be smart to join?, 51 Opera solo, 52 Cunning, 53 "Crazy Rich Asians" author Kevin, 54 FedEx's has a hidden arrow, 55 DVR maker, 56 Ethane or methane

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 Love in a Retrograde



Words can be the sweetest keys, twisting in places we didn't even know were locked. The moon in the sign of lovers and partnerships of all kinds forms auspicious angles to Pluto, and then the Mercury retrograde. This bodes well for saying just the right thing to open doors and hearts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do you know what happens when you wake up a sleepwalker? You'll be tempted to find out, as you'll see the opportunity to nudge an oblivious person into a more alert and aware state.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone is not on the same page. Some around you are not even in the same book. For this story to go right you must establish common ground and build from there.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you knew that the best was yet to come, would you stop worrying, settling or putting up with things you don't enjoy? Get ready for your good fortune, it's just around the bend.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The people with more power may be taking too much without even realizing their greed. You can do something to make the distribution of resources more equitable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It is easy to take things for granted, which is precisely why those who don't will stand out. To be rich in gratitude is to be rich indeed! And though the rewards of a thankful heart are inherent, there will be lucrative extra bonus rewards too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may decide to do things differently from how your predecessors did because new tools are available. Experimentation takes time and the risk doesn't always pay off, but you'd be remiss not to try. The future is for the brave!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As for the one who doesn't understand what you're doing... it could be a perceptual limitation of theirs, but it could also be that you've yet to effectively impart the vision. How can you explain it differently?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some were planned, some happened purely by chance, but your various interactions of the day will all seem to point to the same conclusion. It's a sign. Take action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Choosing from options that are hard to compare will result in decision paralysis. Because the analysis of your options produces no clear winner, you may opt to do nothing at all -- which is a favored pick of the fates!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A car can provide the perfect atmosphere to sing, yell, cry, talk and generally express yourself instead of keeping feelings bottled inside where they can cause harm to the body.

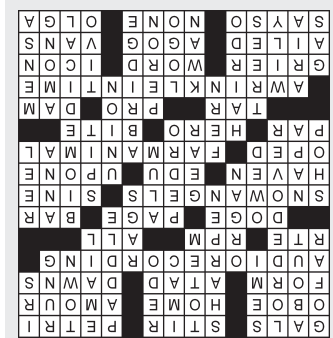
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The situation involves you, but it's not about you, which comes as a relief. As you let go and watch what happens, your detachment will help you understand where the opportunities lie for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Here's an argument for keeping it simple: If the issue at hand grows more complex, and the stakes are raised too, the analysis of choices will consume more energy, which may lead to decision fatigue and delays.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 12). Your victories will be satisfying and numerous. Through the next 10 weeks you work unwaveringly, with unshakeable focus and resilient intelligence. A complicated relationship irons out. As a result of your efforts to broaden your intellectual horizons, your earning potential will increase. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 3, 33 and 19.

Universal SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

