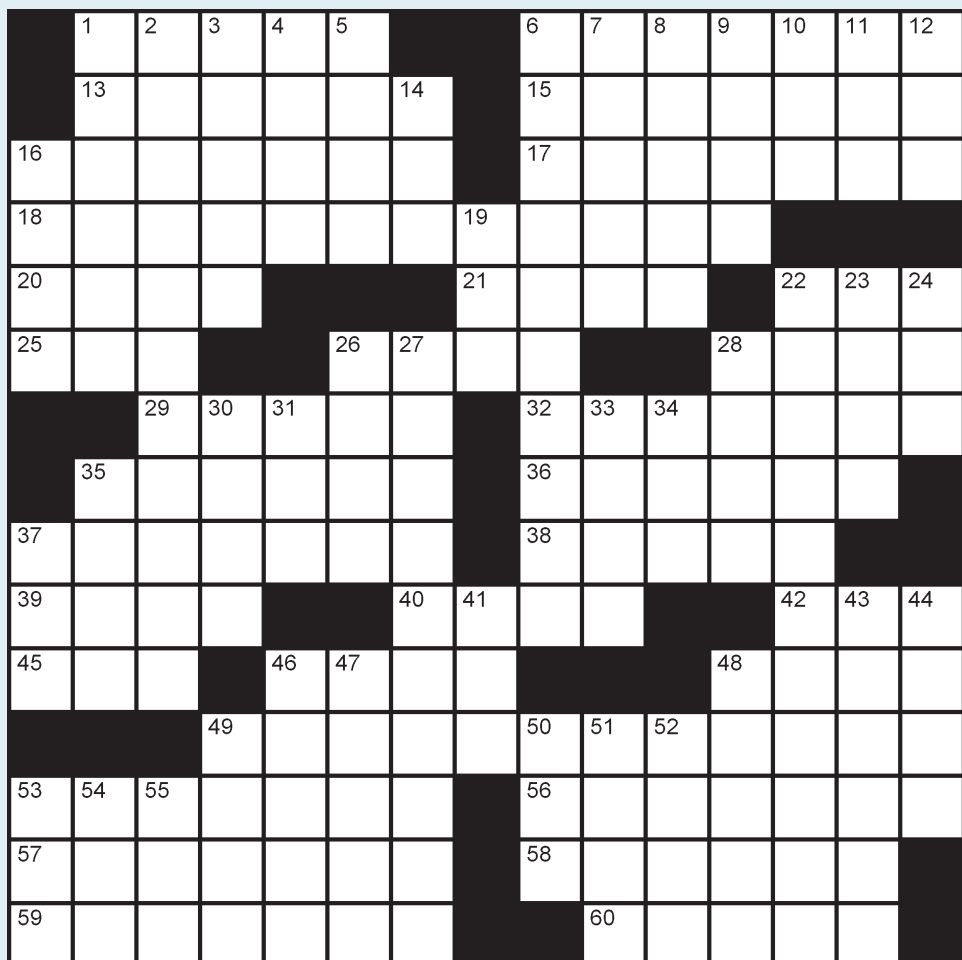


Universal Freestyle 23 by Derek Bowman

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Many racetracks, shapewise; 6 ___ stickball (oldest field sport in North America); 13 Upgrade, like a bathroom floor; 15 Captain Marvel, e.g.; 16 Narrowly defeat; 17 Work on a Pixar movie, perhaps; 18 U.S. soccer star on the 2019 Out100 list; 20 Badly injure; 21 Country where Nowruz is celebrated; 22 Sound from a sheep; 25 The "A" in IPA; 26 Distort; 28 People at a meet and greet; 29 "___ Move" (Young MC song); 32 Some workplaces; 35 With 36-Across, MSNBC host on the 2020 Out100 list; 36 See 35-Across; 37 "I'm such a dope!"; 38 Ohio city where Sojourner Truth delivered the "Ain't I a Woman?" speech; 39 Fizzy brown drink; 40 Word after "sugar" or "candy"; 42 U-turn from NNE; 45 "___ a double rainbow!"; 46 Stable newborn?; 48 Instrument with a bent neck; 49 "Pynk" singer on the 2020 Out100 list; 53 Alternative routes; 56 Went too far with; 57 "Mark my words ..."; 58 Pork-based dog treat; 59 Strew randomly; 60 Drivers often change them to go faster; DOWN: 27 Leafy salad with croutons; 28 Classic dog name; 30 George Takei's alma mater; 31 Still owing; 33 Like lashes and tattoos that come off; 34 Prez who used a wheelchair; 35 Hilarious person; 37 Discovery Channel subj.; 41 Every last bit; 43 Flights in an Escher print; 44 Dandelion, e.g.; 46 "It's not my ___!"; 47 How pastrami is often served; 48 Sophia who played Aida; 49 Caffeine rush; 50 ___ off (prune); 51 Nefarious; 52 ___ Millions; 53 Start to appear?; 54 "Yadda yadda yadda ..."; 55 Brewed drink

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022 Cosmic Casting Call



Mercury is direct but still in a slow, stormy mood. This and other cosmic indicators point to a need for a clever and whimsical uplift. We could all use a Mary Poppins figure, practically perfect in every way, with a carpet bag of magic. If you sing out your request and none come to save the day with a spoon full of sugar, maybe it's your turn! LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If the only agenda you pursue is to have a good time, you'll do just fine. You'll follow your curiosity straight to enjoyable circumstances, delightful surprise and auspicious connections. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Gossip is a poison spell. If you resolve not to talk about people or listen about people either, you'll avoid the toxic effects. Wholesome intent will eventually lead you to good people. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The chance to bounce around ideas is not to be missed. No matter who you interact with, your notions will only improve today, sharpened by the mere act of sharing. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll experience persistence winning out. Whether you're the tenacious one or are acted up on by insistent forces, it will be heartening to see diligence win out. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are times when sticking to the budget felt dreary, but now it feels like a victory. The win you experience comes about as you follow the simplest of rules: Earn more than you spend. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've a vision for the future. The more people share it, the stronger it gets. Intense moods carve their own reality. Passion and certainty make for bigger and faster change. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 5). Your gratitude practice goes to new levels; the better you get at counting your blessings, the more arrive at your door, ready to be counted until happiness floods your world. Other highlights include: a certificate of education, a strange but auspicious professional twist and the maturation of an investment. Libra and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 40, 11, 9 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. 6/4

	6		9	5				
							8	
		8		3	4			5
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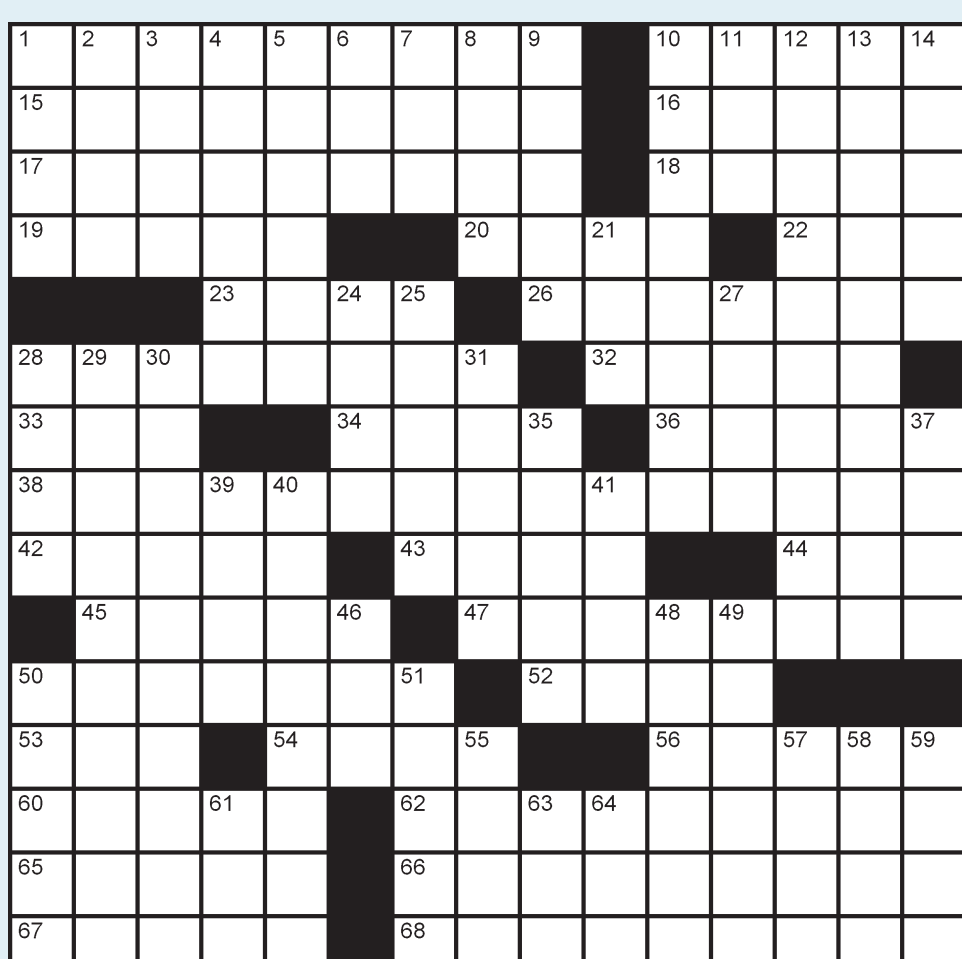
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

SOLUTIONS

8	4	9	3	5	2	6	1	7
6	9	2	7	4	1	3	8	5
7	1	3	1	9	8	6	5	4
8	1	7	8	1	2	7	8	1
5	9	5	4	2	7	3	6	8
1	7	4	5	6	9	8	3	2
2	9	8	7	3	4	1	5	6
5	4	7	6	2	1	8	9	3
3	6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4

Themeless Sunday by Trent H. Evans

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 "I'm innocent!"; 10 They lower pools' pH levels; 15 "That's what a little birdie told me"; 16 Small, in France; 17 Strands at a buffet?; 18 Crew; 19 Simple question type; 20 Goes through some ups and downs?; 22 Tuna variety; 23 Carry along; 26 Like some bad senior pictures; 28 "Anybody else want a piece of me?"; 32 They can be checked or packed; 33 Payment promise letters; 34 Like tornadoes in Alaska; 36 Bassoon inserts; 38 "Over my dead body!"; 42 Lifted or swiped; 43 It sometimes gets high at the beach; 44 What Va. ratified in 2020; 45 Submit tax forms online; 47 Scene for a Mad Hatter riddle; 50 Standing sentry; 52 Cut from a course schedule; 53 Reaction to a massage; 54 Be a sore loser, maybe; 56 ___ nerve (visual system part); 60 Trap, or part of a trap set; 62 Brokered a treaty; 65 Like Machu Picchu; 66 Forestalled; 67 Wanda of "The Upshaws"; 68 Fast connection source?; DOWN: 1 "Heavens!, to a Brit; 2 Word after "dial" or "muscle"; 3 Barristers' headwear; 4 Insurance salespeople; 5 Bar in a Western; 6 Like the utmost degree; 7 Lil Wayne's "___ Carter III"; 8 Shrimp lo ___; 9 Mistake; 10 Source of iPhone downloads; 11 Jane Fraser, for Citigroup; 12 "Don't throw that out!"; 13 Spreads gossip; 14 Oktoberfest mug; 21 Girl who's coming out, for short; 24 Polo of "Little Fockers"; 25 Obtain, as revenge; 27 Quadruple ___ (jump never landed in the Olympics); 28 Comes in first; 29 Jam session for folk; 30 Haywire; 31 Narcissism or modesty; 35 Wrapped up; 37 "Don't go so soon!"; 39 Pelvic bones; 40 Many Sharpies; 41 Try, as a case; 46 Prefix with "friendly" or "warrior"; 48 Totally worn out; 49 Tack on; 50 Desert haven; 51 Camel features; 55 It covers a field; 57 "Bye-bye!"; 58 Rapper with a refreshing-sounding name; 59 Give up rights to; 61 "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly ___ Jepsen; 63 End of the road?; 64 First mother in the Bible

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022 Planetary Rewards Program



Between the creativity of the Leo sun and the industriousness of the Virgo moon, we're in for a strongly productive start to the week. Venus helps out with luxurious or financial incentives. Of course, the best scenario is when you enjoy a task so much, the work is its own reward. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You want to bring joy to someone. Make no assumptions on the matter. What qualifies as enjoyable to them is not what you would have chosen for yourself. Regardless, if you can make them smile, you'll be happy. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Good manners, common courtesy and conforming to expectations will convey respect. Any breach in this regard will pack more punch than usual, but follow the rules and all goes smoothly. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're skilled at turning negativity around on itself. Instead of thinking you're not good at a task, you think, "This one isn't coming easily, but I'm good at many other things. If it's worth it, I'll work on it and improve." CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Routines are comfortable; ruts aren't. Sprinkle in surprises, detours and new experiences. Even when things are going quite well, you'll benefit from changing it up. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's nothing wrong with negative feelings. In fact, they can lead to your best discoveries. A pang of dissatisfaction will lead to trying something new. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even though you're a social creature at heart, your solitude is precious to you. Today's solo experience might just be so sweet that no other company can compete. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 6). Risking with your heart feels dangerous, but fortune favors your spontaneous expressions of love as well as the daily routines that hold your relationships in good stead. Other highlights: the happy conclusion of months of struggle, assets changing into a more useful and liquid form and a team effort that nets a trophy. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 19 and 45.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. 6/6

	8		5					
1		3	7	6	8			9
2	9	5		1	4			7
3			4				6	8
	1		2	8	9			3
9	5		7					1
5			4	3		8	7	9
	6		9	5	1	3		4
				7				5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

SOLUTIONS

6	9	1	7	2	8	6	3	9
4	5	1	3	2	4	7	9	8
6	9	8	7	9	3	1	4	5
1	4	3	2	4	1	9	8	6
5	8	7	3	7	6	8	2	1
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2	6	9	3	1	4	6	8	7
1	4	3	7	6	8	9	5	2
7	8	6	5	9	2	4	1	3