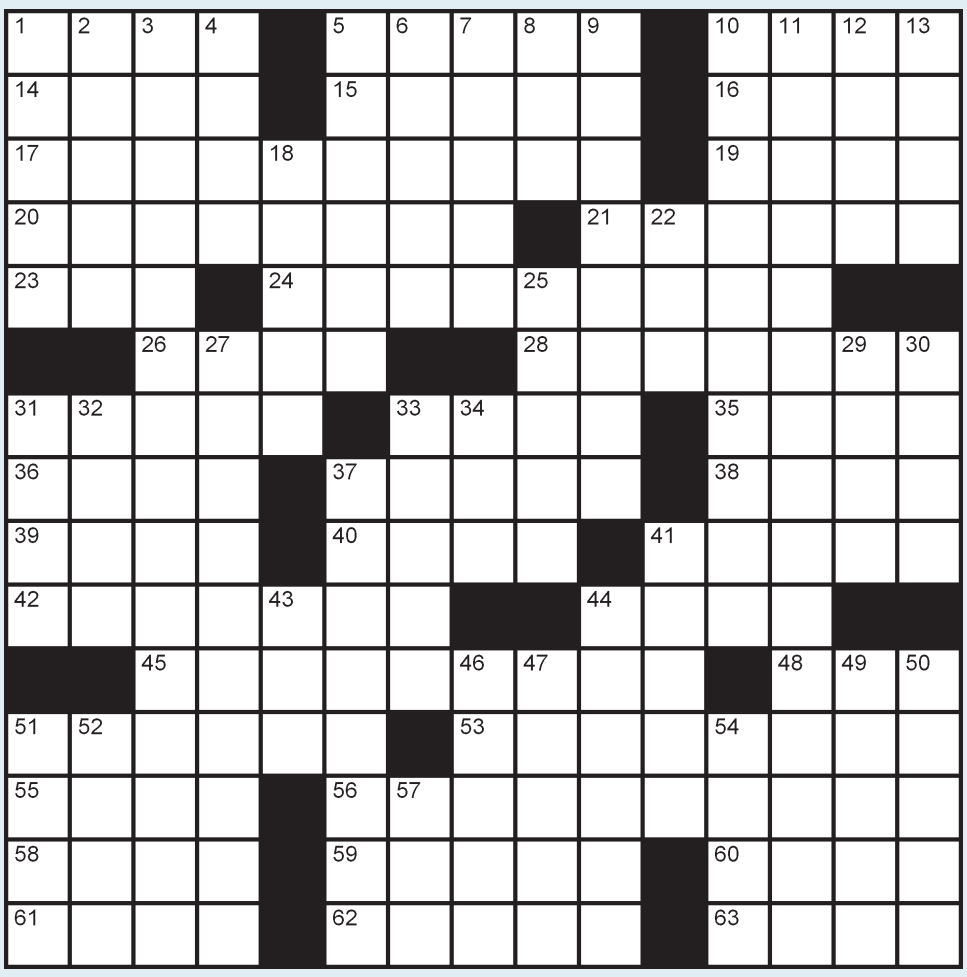
Universal Freestyle 24 *by Billy Bratton*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS

1 "Yeah, right!"
5 Real bores
10 Move slowly (along)
14 Quick snack
15 Accumulated, as charges
16 Qatar's fastest-growing city
17 Drawing out one's feelings?
19 Send forth
20 Cloth in a British kitchen
21 Bricklayers
23 "A ghost!!"
24 Feminist slogan created by the band Bikini Kill
26 McGregor of "Christopher Robin"
28 Mountain whose Tibetan name is Qomolangma
31 PictureMate printer maker
33 Country hidden in "Somalia"
35 MTV show where Olivia Rodrigo won Best New Artist in '21
36 Fly sky-high
37 Sample
38 Bombeck who wrote "If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?"
39 Tyler's presidential successor
40 Jumping skills, in slang
41 Less coarse
42 Bill with a large contract, say?
44 Chase rival, for short
45 "C'mon, tell me!"
48 Crow's sound
51 Exclusive stories
53 Catwoman or Harley Quinn, e.g.
55 Drive-___ voting
56 Young person who spends hours scrolling social media, often
58 Food, or has food
59 A8 and Q8, for two
60 Littlest of a litter
61 Learned
62 How deadpan humor is delivered
63 Legend

DOWN

1 Ease up
2 "No ___, Bob!"
3 "Hey, everyone's different"
4 Boba from the planet Kamino
5 Lured
6 Less common
7 As a whole
8 Baby otter
9 Film with plants and bugs?
10 Justification for treating oneself
11 "That's the last straw!"
12 Take it on the ___
13 Bowlers, but not archers
18 Sacred Navajo home
22 Dazzled feeling
25 Pummels with snowballs, say
27 Office BFF
29 "I totally agree!"
30 Pre-1917 Russian ruler
31 Channel for Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest
32 "It just vanished!"
33 New Zealander in Keri Hulme's "The Bone People"
34 Egyptian cobra
37 "So tragic"
41 Conform socially
43 Piece of advice
44 A bit too precious
46 Late to school
47 Buck who was the MLB's first Black coach
49 "You ___ kidding!"
50 Value
51 Chili con carne, e.g.
52 Masala ___ (spiced milk tea)
54 Damage
57 Aggressive dog

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 Saturn Square Warns: Back It Up

The pros know to back up the backups. One in the cloud and two in physical form is the rule. The concept is applicable outside the digital world. It's easy to take for granted the precious parts of daily life, but to think of not having them is to realize action is warranted in their protection and keeping -- a friendly reminder from a cosmic T-Square.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your bright mind applied to the mundane brings fate's felicitous turn. An enjoyable life that runs well is the ultimate invention, and there's no one more qualified to innovate in your life than you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone is different in one way or another. Do you know how you are different? Become keenly aware of it so you can highlight this feature and stand out in a good way when it's your turn.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It seems to be taking forever for you to meet your aim. Something needs to change -- either the goal or the plan. The perspective of an outsider will be crucial in this situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who put the time in have an advantage over gifted people who don't practice. You'll work all sides of the equation, organizing your life to make daily efforts to hone your talent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Goals that are extremely specific are the most likely to come to fruition. Furthermore, keep asking yourself, what's in it for the other person? Guided by an ideology of contribution, you can't go wrong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some will disavow traditional methods just because they are old. However, the old ways were not all bad. Think before you start over; maybe you can improve everything with just a little tweak.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The consequences of truth will be weighed against the consequences of lies. People will tend to tell as much truth as they think they can tell without getting in trouble, and the same will go for the telling of lies.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may feel compelled to copy someone who is doing a thing very well -- the fastest way to learn. You'll make it your own after you learn the basic shape of the moves.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The secret you know is a glint in your eye, the intrigue in your smile, the melody of your heart. This one is worth keeping, as the moment it leaves your lips it will also lose all its attractive power.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Searching for answers will be an adventure. Though you may not find what you were initially going for, many other treasures will be uncovered, including friendship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you have no idea what your next marvelous idea will be, trust that it will come to you, easily and in the perfect timing. Believe it. You must, otherwise it will be impossible to pry your mind from the old idea.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're unpredictable, even to yourself. Take this as a sign that you're responding to the moment, unbound by ideology, a freethinker to whatever extent that is actually possible.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 12). If there were such a thing as youth in a bottle, the main ingredient would be astonishment. You're now older, but your wonder is making you younger and younger. You'll also cultivate irresistible qualities without realizing it this year. More highlights: a legacy investment, a big reunion and domestic upgrades at a bargain. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 22, 19 and 14.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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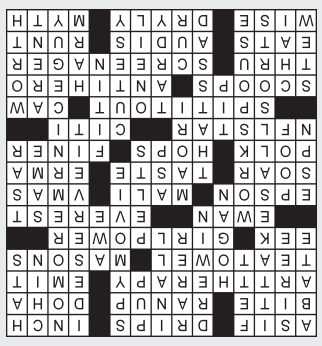
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

SOLUTIONS



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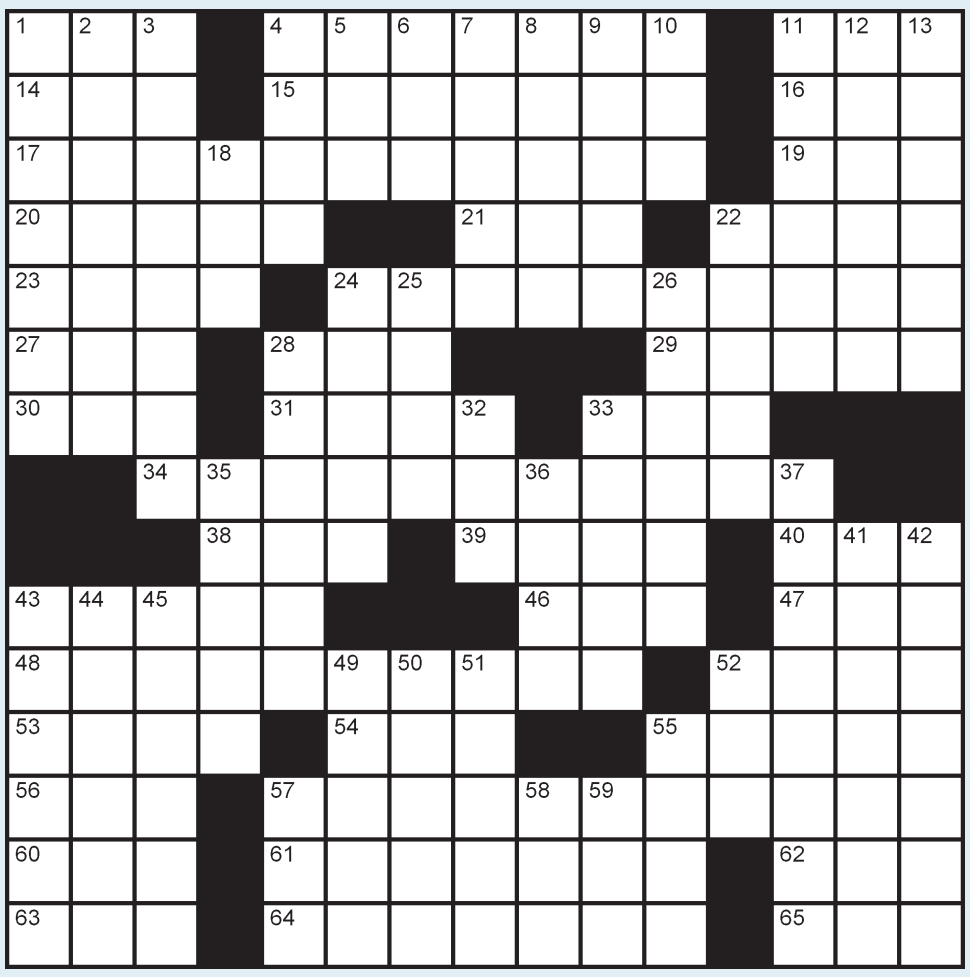
Three-peats *by John Pennington*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS

1 "Deck the Halls" contraction
4 Tyrants
11 Roofing goop
14 Singer DiFranco
15 "Oh, so that's the reason!"
16 1 or 11 in blackjack
17 Radio station identifiers
19 Covertly include on an email
20 Protest like Kaepernick
21 Silicon Valley startup exec
22 Ripped
23 Dryer detritus
24 "Surely that could be more subtle!"
27 And so on: Abbr.
28 Gooey mass
29 Lets up
30 Go green, perhaps?
31 ___ Canal (Mohawk Valley waterway)
33 (Shivers)
34 Dame Kristin who starred in "The English Patient"
38 Had a meal
39 Garment worn by Indira Gandhi
40 Medical drama settings, for short
43 Orzo, e.g.
46 Spy novelist Deighton
47 Goat's cry
48 Feminist punk rockers of the '90s
52 Like the egg whites in a good mousse
53 "Works for me!"
54 Tee-___
55 Digs for gold
56 Piece of advice
57 Initialism for a Tolkien series, and what can be found in 17-, 24-, 34- and 48-Across
60 "homage to my hips," e.g.
61 Completely destroyed
62 Apt name for MGM's lion mascot
63 Silent acknowledgment
64 It lights up OPEN signs
65 Bird that won a 1932 Australian "war"

DOWN

1 Took down, in rugby
2 Ridiculousness
3 Rests, in music
4 Pickling herb
5 Suffix for "Vietnam"
6 Broadway backdrop
7 Retailer with a PupBox subscription service
8 Have a loan from
9 Pulsate
10 The "S" of GPS: Abbr.
11 Unmentionables?
12 Amass over time
13 Schoolchild's playtime
18 Allow
22 Quinceanera headwear
24 Rich cake
25 "In memoriam" bio
26 Rats and roaches, e.g.
28 Online photo's location stamp
32 UFO passengers, allegedly
33 Snoozefests
35 Subtly spiteful
36 Word after "study" or "city"
37 Florida tribe once led by Osceola
41 Jewel heist target
42 "That's not what I've heard!"
43 Positive particle
44 Japanese martial art based on "The Art of Peace"
45 ___ up (got sudsy)
49 River flowing through Lake Geneva
50 Fashionably nostalgic
51 Any "Seinfeld" episode, now
52 Feel ill
55 Fail to hit
57 ___-Manuel Miranda
58 Comedian Notaro
59 Moderna vaccine molecule

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022 Musings of a Mercury Change

The chemistry between people is part of the chemistry of creation in general. Families, friendships, projects, businesses, clubs, explorations -- all begin in that awkwardness of a first meeting. New reality is sparked in fateful moments of connection and the socializing that follows as Mercury explores Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You made a decision, and that was the starting point leading to places unimagined. Those new places became starting points. Today you ask, "How did I get here?" and retrace the winding road.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know you are growing in spirit because when you look back at the things that made you angry, they no longer do. In fact, don't they seem rather small?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you once saw as a thing you had to do you now see as a game. When you change the rules to a game, it becomes a different and new game. This is the course of your day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know who you want to be. Remind yourself of this in those moments you feel lost. Knowing who you want to be is more than a decision; it's an orientation that creates its own map, its own to-do list, its own next steps.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Just because you have wisdom beyond your years doesn't mean you'll act on it. A little foolhardy, youthful exuberance blasts through the stale air of staunch environments. You'll be a hit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Today's success will be a twist on tradition. You'll appreciate and tend to what you have and then venture out to discover something new to throw into the mix.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's heavy on the work, light on the fun, which every circus performer knows is a recipe for toppling. If you switch up the equation -- make work lighter and fun more important -- the crowd will love it, and so will you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People learn compassion through disappointment and injustice. You've moved through bad times and are now so capable of helping others through their suffering.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes you go with the tried and true and other times you feel adventurous enough to see if there's something out there you could like even more. For today's happiness, credit a balance of both behaviors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When people want what isn't good for them, giving them what they want isn't going to help anything. For best results, apply your own judgment to the actions you take on behalf of others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most are not extraordinarily objective when it comes to their own thought process, but you're the exception to the rule now. You'll look into your process and line everything up; alignment is power.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You learned not to loan money to friends and family; instead, you just give it to them without expectation of return. If you can't do it like that, you don't do it at all. The principle will apply to something other than money today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 13). Welcome to the year your optimistic hopes come true! Challenges related to work will inspire your next and most fabulous incarnation. More highlights: a support system to assist a very ambitious goal, air travel and hot tickets, and an achievement that will have your family buzzing. Taurus and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 22, 1 and 18.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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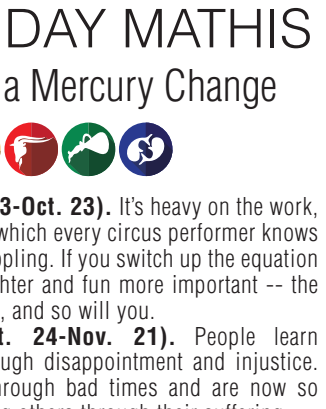
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

SOLUTIONS



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