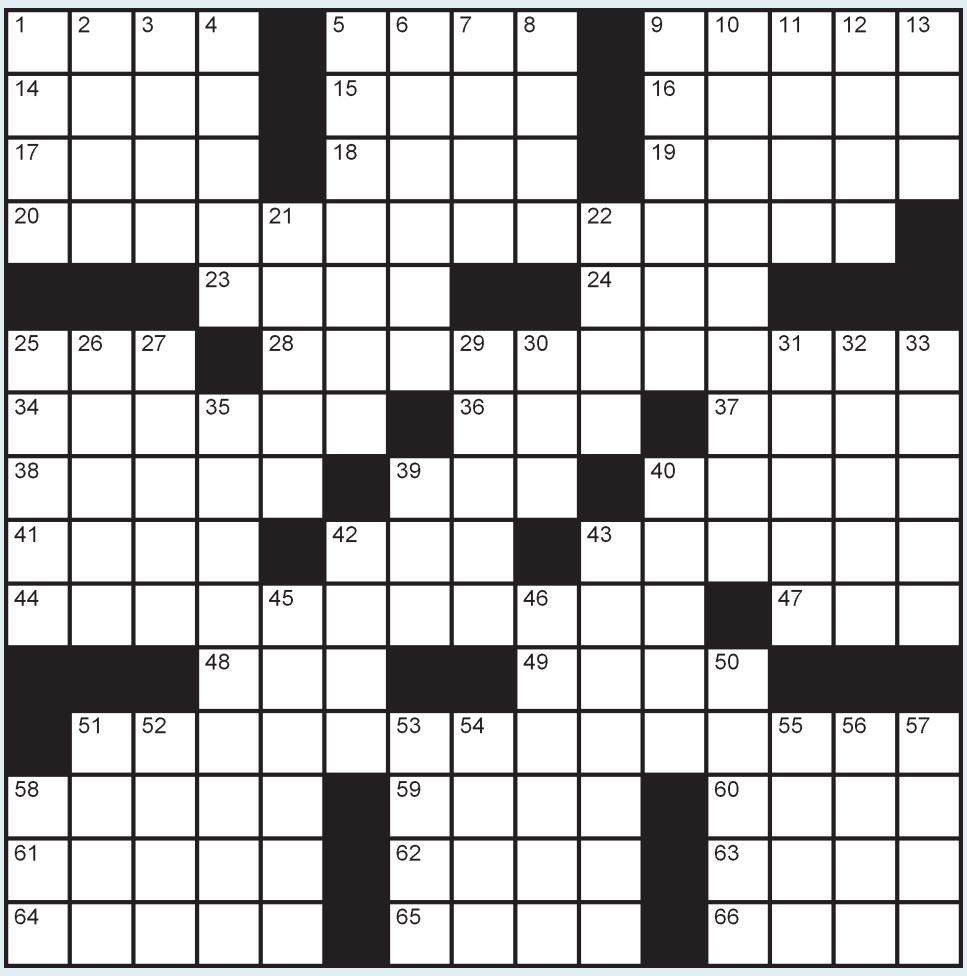
Your Average Puzzle ... or Is It? *by Elizabeth Leonard and Carly Schuna*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS

1 Kitchen head
5 What you do when you add 2 + 2
9 Burn with steam
14 Zero, in tennis
15 Purple smoothie berry
16 Integrity
17 "If I may interrupt ..."
18 "___ get better"
19 Some saxes
20 Run-of-the-mill state?
23 Furry, red monster on TV
24 ___ sum
25 Tiny fiend
28 Run-of-the-mill legume?
34 Latin pop singer Ricky
36 Billiards implement
37 Societal problems
38 Beautify, as with jewelry
39 Animal that loves truffles
40 With joy
41 Bear whose bed was too soft
42 Levi's competitor
43 Soup dumpling
44 Run-of-the-mill bazaar?
47 ".. and so forth": Abbr.
48 Korean car manufacturer
49 ___ mater
51 Run-of-the-mill descendant?
58 Small role for an A-lister
59 "Ish"
60 "Let's do it!"
61 Little green man, perhaps
62 Rams, Eagles or Panthers
63 Opposite of "flows"
64 "Same"
65 Effortless quality
66 Student's stress source

DOWN

1 Scottish extended family
2 Twinkie relative
3 Always
4 One whose presentation isn't stereotypically masculine
5 Dog's foe, sometimes
6 "Lights, camera, ___!"
7 Like most NBA players
8 Word after "ant" or "mole"
9 Country singer Twain
10 Venezuelan's neighbor
11 Dead set against
12 Places to go overseas?
13 O.R. workers
21 Simon and Theodore's chipmunk brother
22 Doing nothing
25 Muslim prayer leaders
26 Angry with
27 BOGO, for one
29 More frigid
30 Haul
31 Top-tier
32 Mete out
33 Timberlake's original band
35 Long-running event?
39 Mattar paneer legume
40 "No idea"
42 "Hahaha," in a text
43 Greet warmly
45 Kabuki performer's attire
46 Home to Dorothy and Toto
50 It's a plus
51 City that a 10-Down might live in
52 Leave out
53 Make a mental ___
54 Carpeting calculation
55 London metro, with "the"
56 Spheres
57 Silence, in music
58 Scoundrel

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022 Establishing Shot: Leo Sun

Like the MGM lion's roar that opens a new world on the silver screen, the transit of the sun into Leo starts up a new story. We will ease into the change with the next four days as a sequence to establish typical daily life. Then comes what's known to screenwriters as "the inciting incident," a moment from which everything will change.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to be dazzled and are therefore looking out for any source of potential amusement in your world. You'll find yourself looking into bright eyes, hoping to see the spinning wheels of a mind at work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Most attraction follows the principle of "It takes one to know one." The qualities you value, like humility, patience, charm and humor, are also in you. Even if you don't have them to the extent you want to, the seeds of virtue will grow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have time for play, levity, laughter, exercise and relaxation. You have time to be creative and also to do nothing. You have time for anything you say is important. You have time because you make time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mind gives you words and pictures, sounds and stories, and that is the experience you live inside. Not everything your mind mixes in will be true or helpful. So, pick and choose what you think will keep you moving along in light.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To experience the poetry of life requires a breadth of soul and a wide array of experiences. It's wonderful to think and feel deeply, though when this goes in a painful direction it doesn't feel like the tremendous asset it is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Anyone trying to distract you from your work and goals is prioritizing their own needs over yours. The ones who are on your side want you to succeed in the ways you desire and wouldn't dream of tempting you in another direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a child or childlike person who needs what you can offer. Give generously. Though you will not be repaid, at least not directly, you will also become much richer for having offered this kindness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your work needs exposure. Show the world who you are and let the world show you the needs and niches you can fill. Fresh ideas, people, lifestyles and locations are out there for you because you're willing to take a risk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It may be hard for someone with natural social talents to understand but participating in groups takes skill that some don't have. Your compassion will be appreciated, and your style will be imitated by those eager to learn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's strange how we sometimes forget to acknowledge the very people who do the most for us, or at least try to. You'll get the chance to make up for any oversights or mistakes that may have recently occurred.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You want to know that the other person will be there and be loyal. This is not too much to ask, though it may not be the right time to ask for it, at least not directly. Can you say it without words?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are times you have succeeded because of something outside of yourself going in your favor, but right now it's all on you. You'll count this among your most satisfying accomplishments, run entirely on internal resources.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 22). The sweet music of a relationship will be the soundtrack giving zest to daily life. Your enthusiasm will bring brightness to everyone around. Also: an electrifying event gets you used to a new scale of excitement; you'll apply a skill, make more money and contribute significantly to something that matters to you. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 29, 1, 15 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: ★★★★☆

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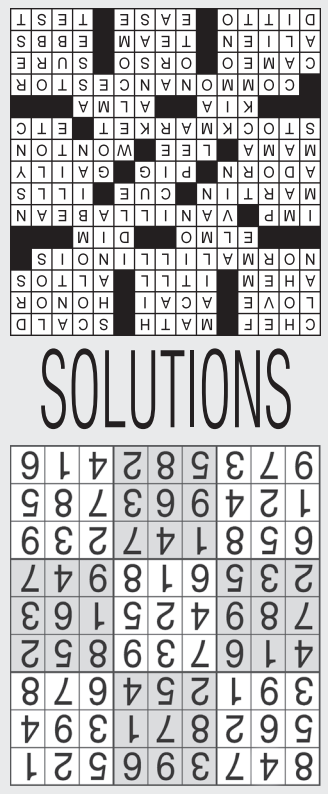
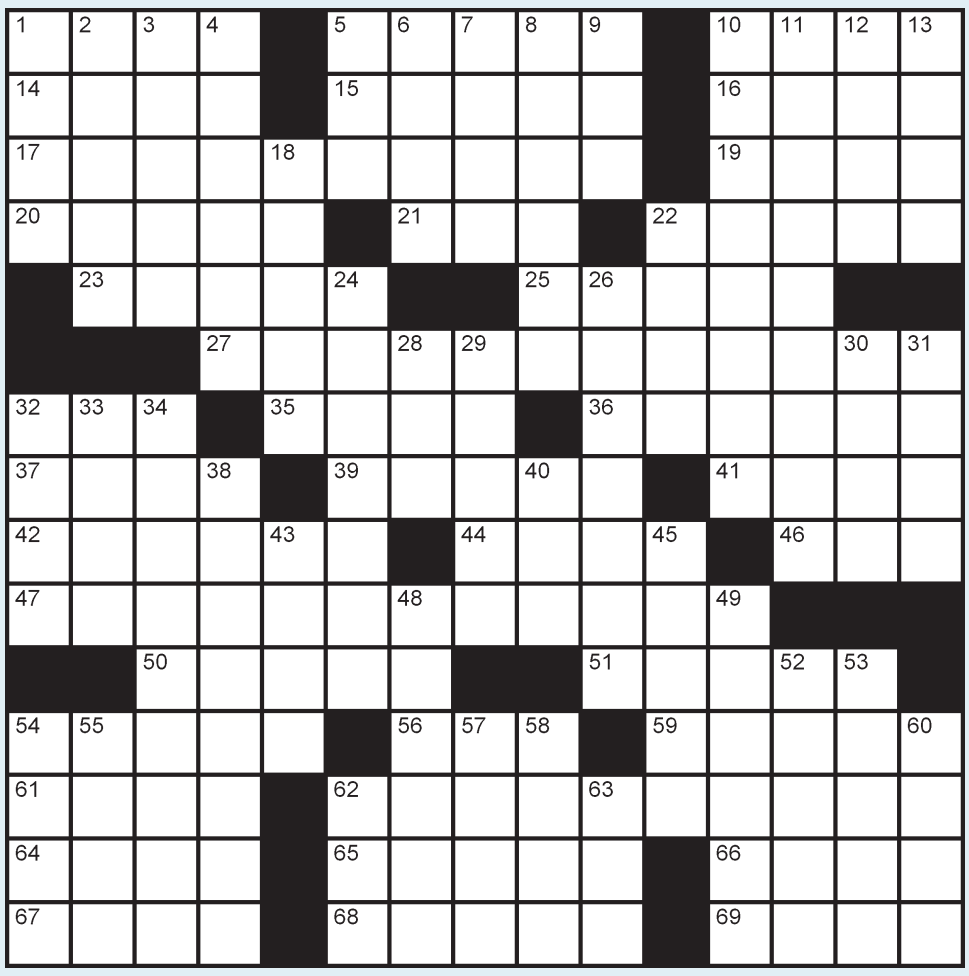


Case in Point *by Paul Coulter*

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



ACROSS

1 Apart from that
5 Lustrous
10 Letters on an invitation
14 First light
15 Double-reeded instruments
16 Duel tool
17 *Keg?
19 Immense
20 "Snowy" bird
21 Number of Canadian provinces
22 Popular mints
23 Nebraska city that's home to the largest indoor swamp
25 Midwest hub
27 *Leg?
32 Stomach muscles, briefly
35 Ward of "The Fugitive"
36 Ape found in the Congo Basin
37 Pressing need?
39 Genre for H.E.R.
41 Worry ___ (Guatemalan figurine)
42 Alaska's tallest mountain
44 Takeover
46 Name shared by two Spice Girls
47 *Peg?
50 Not domesticated
51 Spread, like fingers
54 Decrease
56 Rowing stick
59 Vatican-related
61 It's a long story
62 "To illustrate ...," and a hint to interpreting the starred clues
64 Word after "spark" or "power"
65 Speak your mind
66 Vocal range below soprano
67 Moral transgressions
68 Exams for HS juniors
69 Briny expanses

DOWN

1 Slight advantage
2 Slow, in sheet music
3 Bunch of bees
4 Win over
5 Sun, in Spanish
6 "Sure it is ..."
7 Subject of many songs
8 Excited about
9 Fashion monogram hidden in "fancy slacks"
10 Cleric's title
11 Where a guest might crash
12 Sleeveless suit part
13 Furry family members, often
18 Cultural value system
22 Garb for blending in, for short
24 Where "skyscrapers bloom" and "Cadillacs zoom," in a "West Side Story" song
26 Uproars
28 Words between "chicken" and "king"
29 Drew of children's lit
30 Ready and willing partner?
31 Lounge around
32 Turturro of "The Sopranos"
33 Name that bookends "bracket"
34 "Well, I'll be darned!"
38 Many of them say "Hello!"
40 ___ Perignon
43 Old Italian bills
45 Father's nickname
48 One-masted sailboats
49 Woolly animals that can hum
52 Fruit in some turnovers
53 "Big Three" conference site
54 Venomous snakes
55 Indonesian island where Nyepi is observed
57 Opera highlight
58 Flat fee?
60 Early August births, astrologically
62 Stylish dresser
63 ___ out (cancels)

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022 Fire Sign Trine

Mercury and Jupiter burning in desirous fire signs inspire a hunger that verges on greed. How do we know what we want? Most likely a feeling is stirred as we witness another person having it. The sensation might be excitement, fascination or curiosity. Jealousy and anger are even stronger indicators that this thing you're seeing is for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If emotion were an ocean, the words would just be boats bobbing on the surface. Feeling moves people like rhetoric and reason cannot. You have something to express that's deeper than words can put across.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). No one would guess the amount of work you put into making a transaction go smoothly. It wouldn't occur to you to want a reward for helping others, though you will be rewarded nonetheless with the respect of your peers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be the host and the center of attention. For many, this would be a lot of pressure, but you're ready for it. You are so creative that you can take any situation and turn it into an opportunity for warmth and connection.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). With your quick mind and strong intuition, you will solve problems of all kinds today. They don't even have to be your problems for you to experience a great deal of satisfaction in the solving of them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People have said you're psychic. Remember when you predicted the future accurately and accidentally, without even intending to make a prescient statement? You'll do it again today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While many of your relationships bring sweetness to life, some bring a good amount of stress. You still believe that in time you will be grateful for these relationships and eventually you'll understand their purpose in your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Opportunities are missed by those who rush to completion. Endings are very important, and they deserve time and attention. It's not a race and there is no ribbon to break through at the end. Slow down and savor it all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll express yourself well without calculation or rehearsal. The message simply rises up and leaps out. The act of speaking up is important to your self-esteem. Whether or how things land is beside the point.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's much to enjoy about where you are today. The next voyage seems more glamorous than this one, but that's only because, like all that exists in the realm of the future, it reflects the light of pure potentiality.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're sensitive to all kinds of vibrations, and when you feel tension in the air it's so tangible to you that you'll either be driven to find its source or determined to get as far away from it as possible. You can trust your instincts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Supercharged feelings race through your veins. You'll make the powerful choice to use your emotions instead of letting them use you. You'll organize, compartmentalize and act on only that which will serve your purpose.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Knowledge, topical medicine and beauty products are all things that must be fully absorbed before they will work for you. Soak in your experiences. Take full possession of the moment before you move on to the next one.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 23). You'll meet new people and learn from those with different backgrounds. As you pursue what intrigues you, the plot takes a turn. You'll buy, sell and invest, honing strategies that will continue to hold you in good stead for years to come. There's a family expansion and a chance for more inclusion and love. Taurus and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 32, 28, 18 and 41.

Universal SUDOKU

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4	7			1	6			
		1	9					
			5	4	8	6		

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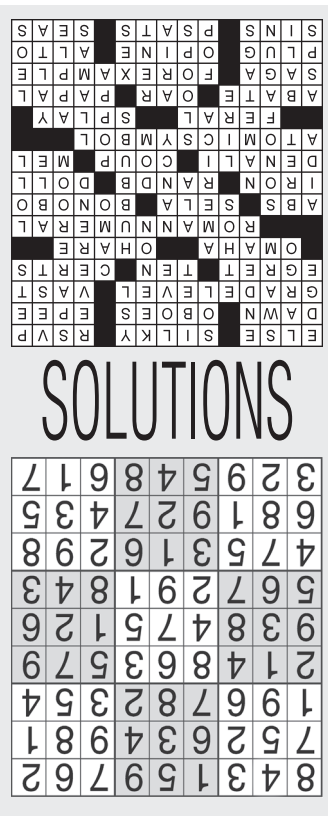
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