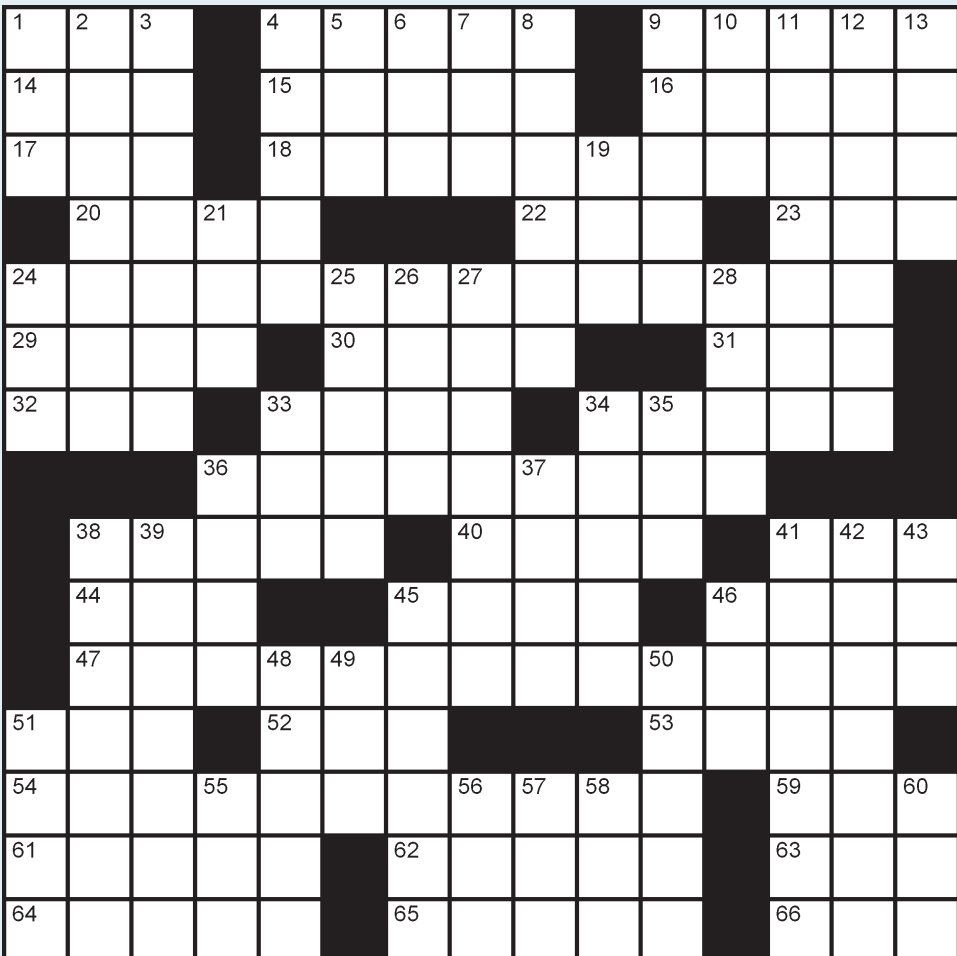


Commercial-Free by Taylor Johnson & Dylan Merrill

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Collision sound
4 Sauvignon (white wine)
9 Outset, slangily
14 Monster within "armor-clad"
15 Home that's always cold
16 Exit sign symbol
17 Knee tissue, for short
18 *Assignment to pick up a laundry detergent?
20 Part of a devil's head
22 Rink surface
23 QBs' successes
24 *Workday-ending performance?
29 Zealous
30 Eye part, or something over an eye
31 Half of bi-
32 Home for cubs
33 Self-referential
34 One born in the early 2010s, in 2022
36 *Initial untruths?
38 Move in together, with "up"
40 George of "CSI"
41 Drink from a bowl of hot ramen
44 ___ system (GPS)
45 "The Lion King" lioness
46 Maniacal Melville mariner
47 *Gown for a presidential ceremony?
51 ___ and downs
52 Make after taxes
53 Stops waiting around
54 Product for carpet stains, and a theme hint
59 Spoke connector
61 Contradict
62 Delete
63 Australia's unofficial national bird
64 Walk like a giant
65 Polite fellows
66 "Indubitably"
DOWN
1 Squeezing snake
2 Record holder?
3 "Romantic" alias in "Superbad"
4 Definitive rejection
5 Queens airport code
6 Mahershala of "True Detective"
7 Prefix for "binary"
8 Stand-up people
9 Neon and xenon
10 Trauma centers: Abbr.
11 Interval of three whole steps, in music
12 Ginnifer of "Once Upon a Time"
13 Possesses
19 "Eww"
21 Like a literary herring
24 It's hot until it's not
25 Judge's assistant
26 "Why don't we!"
27 Killing it
28 Shades of color
33 Word before "drop" or "check"
34 Powerful kind of wave
35 Name hidden in "narrow escape"
36 Broad kind of bean
37 Syllables repeated while plugging one's ears
38 Bit of a conversation
39 Chewbacca's co-pilot
41 Trans person's pronoun pair, perhaps
42 "That's my guess"
43 "POV" network
45 Component of pumpkin spice
46 Lob trajectory
48 General Assembly figure, for short
49 "Aw, shucks!"
50 Takes a risk
51 Some PC ports
55 Actor Curry
56 Rock to assay
57 Moving vehicle?
58 Winter setting in NYC
60 City tour vehicle

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022 Virgo Season Retrograde



In the passionate Leo season, it was harder to tame the inner rebel. Now the Virgo sun and a Uranus retrograde urge self-compliance through simple measures.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It makes sense to be discerning in the early stages of a relationship. You go out of your way to show up strong for your people, so you want to make sure that new candidates are doing the sorts of things you'll love showing up for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Something about an interaction doesn't seem quite right. Make a mental note to consider in your private contemplations. Your subconscious is alerting you, though it may not be quite time yet to act on the information.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Blending in works well for you now. You can be interesting and interested at the same time. In fact, interesting people are usually the ones who follow their curiosity, ask the questions and listen very well to the answers.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Sometimes your own behavior can be a mystery to you, but you can be sure the action serves you in some way, otherwise you wouldn't do it. You'll get creative in this regard, imagining other ways of handling a challenge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A fun goal will add sparkle to your days leading up to its realization. Plan an exciting event about 90 days from now. It will be the sort of target that puts a dozen other desires and aims into alignment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though complaining to the right people can be the first step in changing a dynamic, the complaining itself is not what fixes things. You'll skip this step and go straight to coming up with possible solutions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People stick to their own agenda unless given something better to do. To get what you need, you'll first have to get their attention. You've a keen sense of what people want, and you'll use it to charm and disarm them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You exude warmth and empathy. In your embodiment of loving qualities, boundaries can still be maintained. Help people set reasonable expectations of you by making your preferences and limits known up front.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've been influenced by memorable people. If not for the lasting impression they made, you wouldn't still be following their advice and examples. You'll now consider how you can create such memories for others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Think about what you need. It would be nice if people around you would notice your situation and figure out how they can fit into it, but you'll probably have to be the one to come up with deals, pitches and collaboration ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Include more people in your life and plans. There's a point in which involving too many will make things complicated and cumbersome, but you have a long way before you hit that number, so keep the invites rolling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Keeping relationships vibrant isn't about doing what's expected. It's about going beyond those expectations, which should always be in a state of flux. You aim to surprise and delight, and you'll certainly deliver today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 24). The year brings deeper levels of self-acceptance and the integration of things you celebrate about yourself with things you're working on. You'll establish rhythms and relationships to bring about optimal productivity and satisfaction.

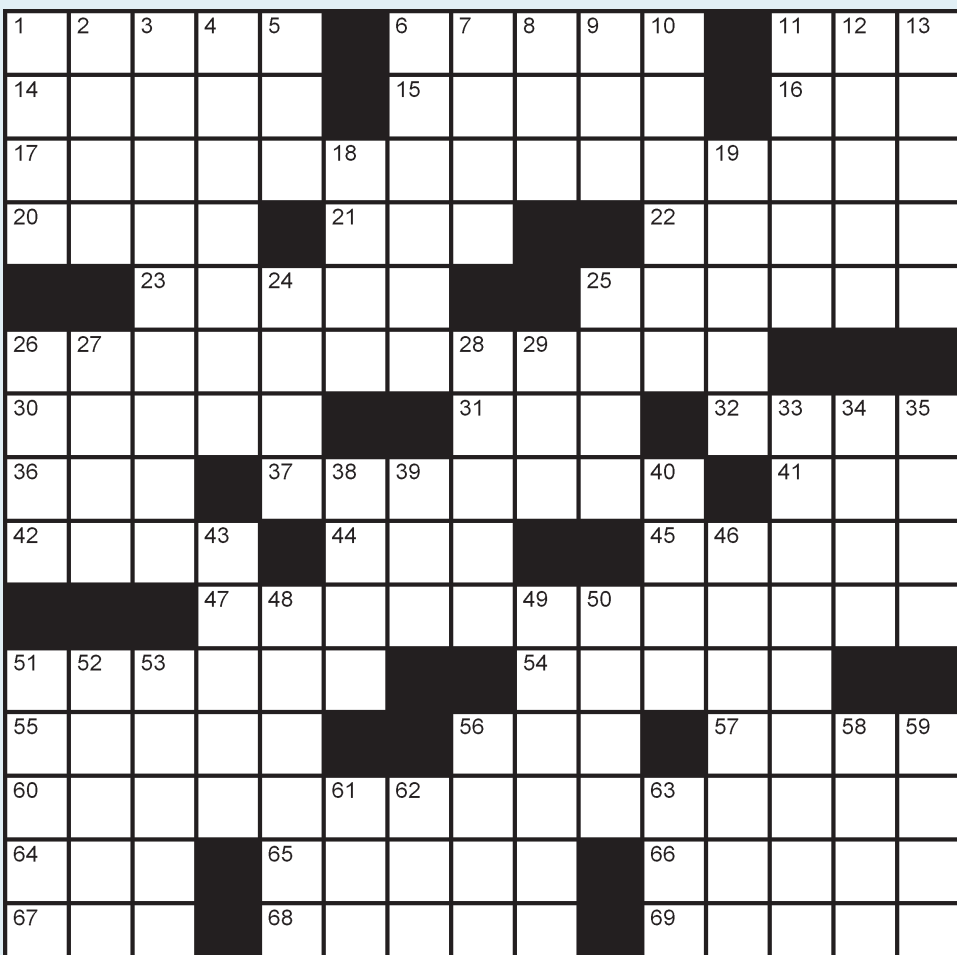
More highlights: a juicy bit of poetic justice and finally hearing words you yearned for. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 15, 13, 9 and 18.

Universal SUDOKU
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
Grid with some numbers pre-filled: 7, 6, 4, 9, 5, 8, 2, 2, 7, 4, 8, 6, 5, 9, 1, 4, 2, 1, 8, 6, 1, 4, 9, 6, 1, 9, 1, 3, 4, 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8.

SOLUTIONS
Grid with the completed numbers for the Universal Sudoku puzzle.

Leading Edge by George Jasper

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS
1 Dull pains
6 Islamic officials
11 Shade tree
14 Bird's perch
15 Established fact
16 Fifth month
17 Back-and-forth switching between scenes, in film
20 "___ you no shame?"
21 Quaker grain
22 Sixth zodiac sign
23 Bankrupt energy company in 2001 news
25 Knowledgeable (in)
26 Jokey name for a wastebasket
30 Like days of yore
31 Dedicated poem
32 Roaster setting?
36 Surveillance grp.
37 Playground devices for two, and a phonetic hint to the starts of 17-, 26-, 47- and 60-Across
41 End of a prof's email address
42 Be on the ___ wavelength
44 N.Y. engineering school
45 Ohio's "Rubber City"
47 1967 Aretha Franklin hit whose lyrics mention a weak link
51 Brass and bronze
54 Physics Nobelist Bohr
55 The underworld, to Hades
56 Hi-___ graphics
57 Centurion Card's corp.
60 Method used to handle stress
64 180 degrees from WSW
65 Liberty Mutual rival
66 Mesa's kin
67 Indian lentil dish
68 Prying tool
69 Hollywood's Hawke
DOWN
1 Lead-in to "enemy"
2 Countess Crawley of "Downton Abbey"
3 Lake Mead's creator
4 Intrinsic nature
5 Canonized people: Abbr.
6 Lizard with a dewlap
7 Fly catcher
8 Wide rd.
9 ___ student (aspiring dr.)
10 Whine and whimper
11 Middle Eastern leaders
12 Two-time Oscar winner Jessica
13 "Goodness gracious!"
18 Like fall temperatures, often
19 Weary
24 Bleeds in the wash
25 Penthouse perk
26 Deceitful schemes
27 Rick's "kid" in "Casablanca"
28 Violin bow need
29 Pfizer overseer: Abbr.
33 "Toys in the Attic" band
34 Fan club focus
35 Basks by the pool
36 Historic times
38 Prefix for "center"
40 Word before "house" or "passage"
43 Meat recall reason
46 Caffeine-rich seed
48 Pew songbook
49 Like a small garage
50 Carp or cod
51 Curved like a rainbow
52 British pop singer Lewis
53 Corsage place
56 Name hidden in "bare necessities"
58 "Como ___ usted?"
59 Mutant heroes of filmdom
61 "Goodness gracious!"
62 VJ employer
63 "Honest" prez

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 Mercury Gets Collaborative



Babies, children and pets remind us that life is about the moment. Amusements and curiosities abound but we can miss them if we're too focused on an agenda. Mercury slips into Libra, a sign of creative and collaborative days ahead.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If all this foolishness has you tempted to put on a stoic face and just get through it, you won't be taking full advantage of the situation. Have a little fun. Use the confusion like a magician uses flash-pot powder.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To advance you must first to defend your current position. Take stock of your assets; ask for what you need. Whether you get it or not, you will work with what's available and employ the talents of those around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can relax a bit because there really is no way to force things to go faster. You can force, but it will be the same outcome, so you may as well conserve your energy. It's simply unnecessary to exert your will at this juncture.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your intuitive powers are heightened. Act on a whim and you'll stumble into success. A friend in need may be a friend indeed, but tonight's unexpected delights are the outcome of focusing on the ones who aren't in need.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're highly motivated with more than enough energy to get the job done. Your thoughts and desires will seem to be right in line with the universal agenda, so the way will be smooth. Embrace love in its many forms.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your creativity is boundless, and this actually makes it more difficult to finish your work. Lay down some rules for yourself and all goes better. You'll produce something that is both novel and useful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're still not sure how much to trust someone. Giving faith arbitrarily won't make anyone a faithful person; rather, it makes for foolishness. Trust is really a matter of knowing others so well you can predict their behavior.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The others may be loyal and true, but they'll never know you as well as you know yourself. Since you're the person you have to spend time with every day, you may as well learn how to make yourself comfortable and content.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The things you surround yourself with are meaningful to you and meant to be observed and enjoyed -- except when this isn't the case at all. You'll make things nicer by weeding out the visual distractions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll honor the tradition, follow the recipe, conform to the expectation -- and then change it all to your liking. The flourish and twist will captivate your crowd and keep them coming back.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may be surprised at your own words, and perhaps you'll notice yourself expressing something you weren't aware that you felt. Your awareness of the conflict is fortuitous. You'll be rewarded for working through it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will thrive in the in-between moments of unstructured time. Relaxing your muscles is a way to relax your whole attitude toward life. Start at the head and breathe out the tension in each section until you get to your toes.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 25). Past lessons align themselves with this fresh era and your work takes off. Clear about what you want, the way becomes obvious, and your motivation is built into the plan. More delights: A holding pattern will finally be broken. You'll enjoy time in an environment that's completely alien to what you've known. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 3, 13, 37 and 1.

Universal SUDOKU
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
Grid with some numbers pre-filled: 2, 6, 8, 1, 4, 6, 3, 9, 5, 2, 2, 3, 5, 9, 1, 8, 7, 6, 1, 5, 3, 7, 9, 6, 7, 9, 6, 7, 1, 3, 8, 8, 1, 3, 8, 9.

SOLUTIONS
Grid with the completed numbers for the Universal Sudoku puzzle.