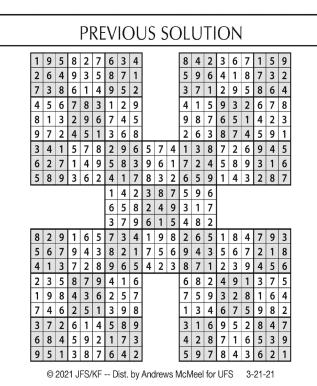
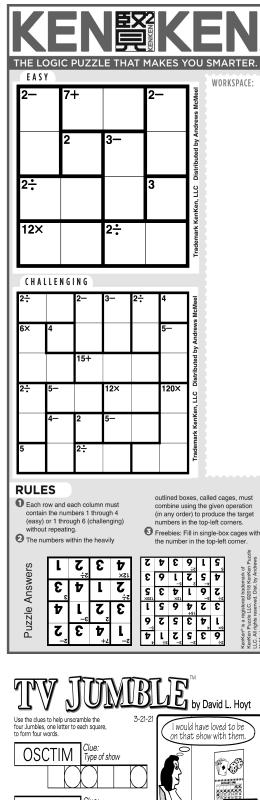
# PUZZLES

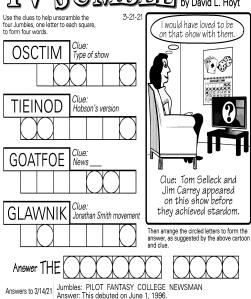
# **SUDOKU High Fives**

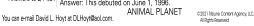
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HOW TO PLAY: Sudoku High Fives consists of five regular Sudoku grids sharing one set of 3-by-3 boxes. Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition. The numbers in any shared set of 3-by-3 boxes apply to each of the individual Sudokus.









Antelope Valley Press, Sunday, March 21, 2021 D3

## Slow driving can be as dangerous as speeding

Dear Car Talk: My wife and I have differing opinions on how fast to drive. I think driving 5-7 mph under a speed limit is not being discourteous to other drivers. I also like to drive slower when approaching a signal.

Your column is awesome; I look forward to reading it every week. — Richard

Buttering me up won't help you today, Richard. I have to side with your wife.

If you're able to drive at the speed limit and do so safely, that's what you should do. I'd never criticize anyone for driving at the speed limit, even though many people drive faster than that. But I don't recommend being the guy moseying along at 23 in a 30 zone. It is discourteous to drivers behind you, especially on a road where people can't legally or easily pass you.

You may be in no hurry whatsoever. You may be retired. You may be enjoying the sounds of the birds singing and your wife complaining about your driving. But most people aren't in that situation and get frustrated behind someone who appears to be slowing down traffic for no reason.

There also are studies that show that speed differential leads to collisions on highways. So if you're going 48 mph and someone else is driving 62, that's a recipe for a crash, regardless of who's right and who's wrong.

Now, if you simply feel like you can't drive safely when doing the speed limit, then it's time to consider whether you should still be driving at all.

Dear Car Talk: Years ago (back in the Dark Ages), my uncle told me to always buy a vehicle in the even-numbered years. He said that most changes were done in the oddnumbered years, and the even numbered years were when they worked out the bugs from the changes the year before.

Not sure if whoever told him that had all their fries in one basket or if that really was the truth then, or ... if it still applies. What do you think? - Christine

I'd file this under Old Husbands' Tales, Christine, but I'm not sure an uncle qualifies. I may need to start a whole new category.

Car redesigns have never been on such a rigid schedule. In the old days that you're probably referring to, the 1950s and '60s, the manufacturers did

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI

make a big deal every fall about "next year's new models." But in reality, that often meant a tweak of a taillight or a new piece of trim. The real, mechanical guts of the car were not changed every year. Or every other year.

The truth is that the complete redesigns - new platform, new engines, new interiors — are all over the calendar. And while product life cycles are shorter today than they've ever been, the average vehicle is still only redesigned once every six to seven years. And there's no gen eral assumption you can make about when that will happen. You'd have to check each manufacturer's product schedule.

Top-selling cars get morefrequent updates. Poorer-selling cars get ignored for years on end, because the costs of redesigning them may never pay off. And pickup trucks don't get redesigned that often, because their buyers aren't as eager for change. To make things more complicated, some manufacturers stagger different types of major improvements.

So a car may move to a new platform and yet carry over its old engines to avoid shaking out too much new stuff at once. Then, a couple of model-years later, the car may get new engine or transmission options.

Redesign plans also can be changed — and they are all the time. A recession can push back a planned redesign by a year or two, or more. Or a drop in sales due to a redesign of a popular car may lead to a soon-er-than-expected "emergency" restyling.

So, the idea of a two-year schedule wasn't true back then, and it's not true now, Christine.

What IS true is that — if you have the option — it's not a bad idea to wait a year or two after a major redesign before buying, to let other folks be the lab rats. Despite the greatest engineering brains and quality-control systems known to Detroit-kind, screw-ups still happen.

Got a question about cars? Write to Ray in care of King Features, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

#### NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD YOUR HOROSCOPE **TAKE TWO** No. 0314

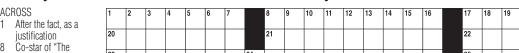
By Celeste Watts and Jeff Chen / Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

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justification

Co-star of "The



**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021** 

Keep an open mind when faced with opposition. You'll gain wisdom if you say less and listen more. Let life unfold before vou. enjoy the moment, and recognize and be grateful for what you have.

lenging yourself, and you'll gain confidence as well as respect. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change begins with you. Be original and do something that will broaden your outlook and

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Activities

that get you up and moving will be invigo-

rating. Focus on health, fitness and chal-

encourage better health.



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on expanding your skills to encourage better opportunities in a field that excites you. Self-improvement is favored.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Reach out to people you trust to tell you the truth, and you'll find out what you have to do to improve a confusing situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Jump into action, get things done and plan for the future. How you use your time will make a difference to the outcome of your day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Think twice before you do or say something you'll regret. A positive attitude and an offering of affection will bring far better results than criticism or complaints.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Offer time and skills that can make a difference to a cause you believe in or to someone you love. How you approach others will determine what you get in return.

### **MISS MANNERS**

#### By Judith Martin, Nicholas Ivor Martin and Jacobina Martin

Dear Miss Manners: What is the etiquette if you accidentally see someone naked say, in the house that you share?

I went to brush my teeth quite late at night, later than I am normally up, and my housemate threw open his door — stark bollock naked — to find the cat.

We each managed to stammer out a "sorry" as we went to different rooms, and I also let out a "No worries."

I did have a chuckle. But I am curious, what would the etiquette be in this situation?

Dear Gentle Reader: Did he find the cat? Why was it missing?

That is the only subject in which you should show an interest. But as long as you kept the chuckle out of his hearing, Miss Manners assures you that you handled it well.

Dear Miss Manners: How does one deal with false modesty?

I found myself caught flat-footed when chatting with a textile artist. I joked that he could be the one to help me with my blanket stitch, and he responded that his handwork wasn't very good.

Fine; I'd been mostly kidding anyway. But then he went on to give a rather extended account of his resume - from college professor in a textile department to heading a very important craft council, teaching handwork all the way.

I found myself complimenting him, over and again, which he surely sought. At the same time. I was a bit miffed he'd been so disingenuous at the start and left me to fawn over his accomplishments, which he'd claimed not to have in the first place. My request for help with a simple stitch and

his saying he didn't have the required talent were becoming more inane each passing minute, until I was left feeling foolish.

Similarly, my husband, a scratch golfer, will only say he "plays a little golf." I suppose that is better than claiming he can clean everyone's clock, but I find it grating nonetheless.

Therefore, I must ask: What's the best way to respond to an accomplished person who claims they aren't?

Dear Gentle Reader: Miss Manners prefers that to blatant bragging, which is now so common, and can be broadcast through out the world online. So she would just play along and supply the compliment. It is an easy way to make someone happy.

But if you must protest, you can say "Now you've embarrassed me. You're obviously an expert in the field, and yet you let me make a fool of myself because I didn't know that.'

Dear Miss Manners: What are the manners dictated for when or if someone should be corrected for a mistake in public?

Dear Gentle Reader: Presumably you are not talking about classrooms, courtrooms or other venues where strict truth is pursued. Elsewhere, the answer is never, which is why Miss Manners advises parents to cultivate a subtle expression that conveys to a small child, "Just wait until I get you at home.

Address your etiquette questions to Miss Manners at her website, www.missmanners com: to her email. dearmiss manners@gmail com; or through postal mail to Miss Manners Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

limit yourself. Put together a plan that helps you forge ahead. Look for solutions, and refuse to let regret lead to anger.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Bypass anyone who is problematic. Focus on what you want to do, and take pride in the way you handle your personal affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your time and effort into positive changes you can make at home that are cost-efficient and are sure to add to your comfort and convenience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time searching for opportunities and less time worrying about things you cannot change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Fix up your living space, find an innovative way to bring joy to someone you love or strive for personal growth and less stress

By Eugenia Last