

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Cluenacy: Reverse-crossword ink

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1364 was our annual Clue Us In contest; the Empress presented a filled-in crossword grid and asked for novel clues. This year, for the first time, we used a Sunday grid, which has dozens more words and phrases, but they still generated a lot of duplication among the entries. Still, lots of fun answers, with some requiring a bit of flexible thinking: GREATS can be read as Gr-Eats, LOCALTIME as Lo-Cal Time, THEME as The Me.

4th place:

BOTS: The one news source Americans seem to trust (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

3rd place:

MOOLA: It's obtained by milking a cash cow (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

2nd place and the genuine taxidermied jackalope:

OHOH: A snack cake that's way past its sell-by date (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

INTHELAPLOFLUXURY: A better place to be than in the armpit of luxury (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Clue less: Honorable mentions

AAR: What a doctor tells a pirate to say (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

AAR: An organization for the not-so-OK boomers who can't hold their P (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

AIRS: Something to put on for the Met Gala. (Gary Crockett)

ALTO: Alfredo Pacino, \_\_\_ his friends (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

AMO: Cupid's stockpile of arrows (David Ballard, Reston)

AMOEBAS: "The Three \_\_\_," a group Rick Perry thought he was in (Frank Osen)

AONE: Rep. Schiff, on a scale of 1 to 100, how would you rate the Trump presidency? (Richard Franklin, Alexandria)

CALLSONTHECARPET: Why Aladdin's phone bill was so high (Ben Aronin, Washington)



L.A. TIMES CROSSWORD BY PAUL COULTER/ TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

The crossword we used for Week 1364 contained 136 answers; inkworthy clues weren't quite as numerous.

CALLSONTHECARPET: Strange command to say, "Okay, son, you're the carpet" (Frank Mann, Washington)

CATHODE: It begins, "I think that I shall never see / A tube so nice for draining pee" (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

COUCHPOTATO: Boob tuber. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

COUCHPOTATO: A leftover french fry between the cushions, or the person who dropped it there (Jeff Loren, Seattle)

EMO: He wore eyeliner and a man-bun on Sesame Street (Frank Osen, Jeff Contompasis)

FAMILYTREE: Common source of nuts (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park; Peter Boice, Rockville)

FAMILYTREE: For Giuliani, it's the sic-em-more (Mark Raffman, Reston)

ETSY: Feeling that ets are crawling all over you (Frank Mann)

GERMANS: B (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

GLIDING: Some people have guiding principles; Trump uses this kind (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

GREATS: What a grizzly says, and then does, when he meets a camper in the forest (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

HOTMESS: Fantasy of every combat soldier on K rations (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

HOTMESS: What can be caused by a hot Miss (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

ICECAPS: After MAGA hats, the second best-selling merchandise at Trump rallies (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

ITER: More in vogue than, say, things that are so 2019 (Eric Nelkin)

LOCALTIME: Weight-loss resolution period that typically ends by Jan. 15 (Kevin Dopart)

NEEDS: First World's wants (Sarah Walsh)

NOIR: Answer to "R U not?" (Neil Greenberg, Melrose Park, Pa., a First Offender)

NOSES: Where toddlers find easy pickings (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

NOSES: A GS-15 without hope of promotion (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

OHOH: When Santa's sleigh is stuck in reverse (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria; Sarah Walsh)

OLEO: "Ahem, Mr. DiCaprio?" (John Foise, Bryans Road, Md.)

OMA: Gawd's first name (Mike Hammer, Arlington)

PLEA: Bassist for the Red Hot Chili Perps. (Frank Osen)

RAILROADBED: Where trains go to couple (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

RIPEN: Cal with a strikeout (Brian Collins, Olney)

SENSORS: Devices invented so mechanics could charge to fix something that isn't really a problem (James Scarborough, Arlington)

SETON: What Miz Muffet did with her tuffet (Bill Rippey, Montgomery Village)

SLIM: One of the Chance brothers (Richard Franklin)

TEN: "This many Supreme Court justices think I shouldn't release my tax returns!" (Drew Bennett)

TEN: Type of hut used by the military (Roy Ashley, Washington)

THEME: "The Donald," to Donald (Mark Raffman)

TONI: How to get a knight to provide a shrubbery (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

TONI: Prefix for ght (Steve Langer, Chevy Chase)

TSETSES: Where to kick a fly to make it hurt (Sam Mertens)

And Last: TRUNCATE: What the E will do if my wording becomes too (Joanne Free, Clifton)

Still running - deadline Monday night, Jan. 27: Our contest for job- or person-specific pickup lines. See wapo.st/invite1367.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"EM DASH" By BLAKE SLONECKER

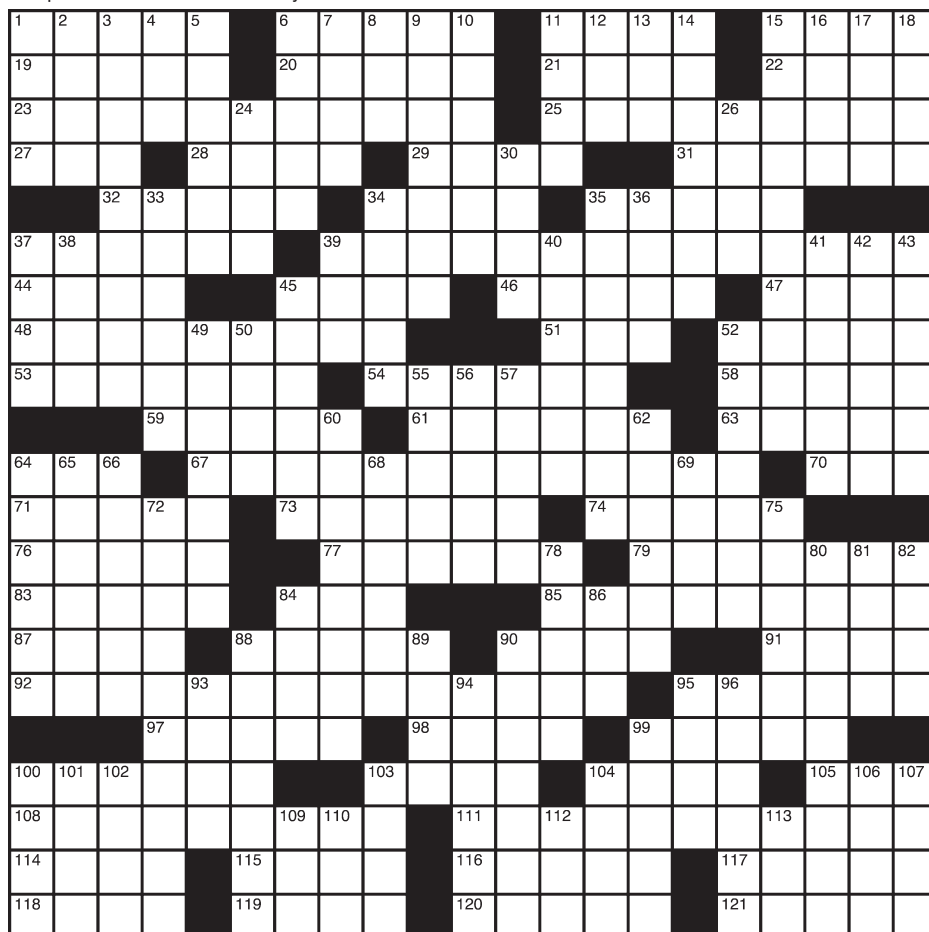
ACROSS

- 1 Sent regrets, say, briefly
6 Tank to go under
11 Sweater predator
15 Morsel in a linguine sauce
19 Get around
20 Upstanding
21 Twistable treat
22 "The Godfather" enforcer
23 Tales of woe?
25 Piggy bank?
27 High hybrid stat.
28 Organization for the 50+ crowd
29 Train units
31 Musical corps members
32 Feminist poet
34 Delicate fabric
35 Explode
37 Inflated accommodation
39 Leave politics to wander?
44 Historian's Muse
45 The Emerald Isle
46 Attack
47 Yamani port
48 App for getting a hip escort?
51 Diego
52 What some hounds follow
53 Fails to understand
54 Plug
58 Car dealer's offering
59 Karma
61 Illinois-to-Washington family
63 Early fur trader
64 Tired routine
67 Precipitation not yet visible?
70 Busy hosp. areas
71 Absinthe flavoring
73 Sarges' superiors
74 English glam rockers since the '70s
76 Someone to pay?
77 Big bomb trials
79 Ties
83 Cher and Che
84 Big
85 Mafia hopefuls' repressed personas?
87 Artful
88 Really dug

DOWN

- 1 Copier supply unit
2 Freudian \_\_\_
3 One with unrefined tastes
4 Peck in the park, briefly
5 An era may be confined to one
6 Camping treat
7 Brilliant stroke
8 One may be measured in cups
9 It's under Wayne Manor
10 French border region
11 Off-beaded footwear
12 W. state whose largest city is named for a New England city
13 Perfect score, often
14 Hurry, with "it"
15 Challenges for climbers
16 Swanky
17 Taiwanese tech giant
18 Rover's destination
24 ID \_\_\_
26 Tick off
30 Ones crying foul?
33 Curved fasteners
34 Leapers in a carol
35 Avoided unhappy consequences
36 Muscat's land
37 "Back in Black" band
38 Pelvic bones
39 Cristo Redentor city
40 Job application component
41 Brainstorm
42 Bleeping official
43 Joins, as a club
45 TV chef
49 Ones taking a lot of interest in their work?

- 50 Org. that sued SealWorld on behalf of orcas
52 Libel, in speech
55 Comedian
57 Fields
58 French comics series set in Gaul in 50 BC
59 Entreaty
60 Lively movement for a brewer, with "the"
61 Spanish New Year
62 One-named Tejano singer
64 Quick, in Quito
65 Peace Prize-winning relief org.
66 Hoops jump ball
68 "Couldn't agree more"
69 Floof edge
72 It follows a guilty verdict
75 "Sawitched" witch
78 A and B, on LPs
80 Harmony
81 "Do \_\_\_ others ..."
82 Sibilant attention-getter
84 Soup step
86 "Henry & June" diarist
88 French comics series set in Gaul in 50 BC
89 Entreaty
90 Lively movement for a brewer, with "the"
91 Royal Crown, for one
92 "Terrible" leader
93 Tea's "Madam Secretary" role
94 "Doubt it"
95 Sticks by the pool table
96 Per se
99 In a wily way
100 Little handfuls
101 Little handfuls
102 "Terrible" leader
103 Tea's "Madam Secretary" role
104 Home to most of the Silk Road
106 Ingredient in Off!
107 Best Upset, e.g.
109 Shot spot
110 Soul supplier
112 Blue
113 Glass of NPR



1/26/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 26: This year, your innate creativity and uniqueness break through. You draw many people toward you because in many ways you are more authentic than you have been. If single, sorting through admirers and deciding if you want to date someone might be okay. If attached, you might not always be able to identify with your sweetie this year. Try to walk in their shoes. Spend more time together and look at your differences with respect. Fellow Aquarians can be very stubborn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might be overly focused on bringing others together for a particular cause. The problem might be that their judgment and free will might not be in sync with your perspective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your reaction to another person's initiative could be stunning to many people. For you, it is a knee-jerk response. You might not understand where you are coming from. Know that it is okay to head in a different direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Reach out for someone or several people who are at a distance from you and rarely can visit with you. Catching up on their news might be more validating than you think. Be forthright and direct in your dealings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might be in tune with a loved one. What that person and you would like to create, whether it is a trip, an evening together or a simple conversation, is very much the same. Do not worry as much about your interactions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Others come toward you with willingness and openness. Though you are personality-plus, try to respond as authentically as you can. You value interactions with people. Do not always take them lightly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A close friend or loved one demonstrates how much they appreciate your efforts. Take this moment and remember it, should you feel ignored in some fashion. Express your caring as you are important to this person, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your playfulness and willingness to be childlike delights a child and those who are light of heart. You could end up making memories that will make you smile for years. Just let the kid within out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A child or new friend cannot stay away from you. This person's admiration is obvious. The question remains: What will you do with this situation? A domestic matter needs to be handled early on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You tend to say the right thing at the right moment. You might wonder why you do not find communication as easy today. You seem to be coming from a more appreciative or loving place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have only the best intentions when having a meaningful conversation with a loved one. They might feel that you are being overly warm and not understand your attitude. If you run into cynicism, explain.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might be overly focused on yourself and your interests. Make a point of being more aware of others and their needs. You might not intend to be egotistical, but you could come off that way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Gentleness continues to emanate from you. Others pick up on this quality. You might enjoy the surge in your popularity, but be aware of others and their foibles. Few people are as authentic as you.

New contest for Week 1368: Picture This - cartoon captions



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A new year and, once again, a set of brand-new WHA??? from Style Invitational Cartoonist Almost Forever Bob Staake. This week: Supply a caption for one or more of the cartoons above. As always, a number of people will come up with the same general idea, so the funniest descriptions or dialogue will get the ink.

YO! It would help the Empress a great deal if you began each entry with "Picture A," "Picture B," etc., so that she might not have to take all day to sort the captions and can instead leave the task to Ms. Word. So don't start them with numbers, cute little symbols, your opinion that it's the best entry ever, etc. Just "Picture B" or whatever. The E thanks you in advance.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1368 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Feb. 3; results will appear Feb. 23 in print, Feb. 20 online.

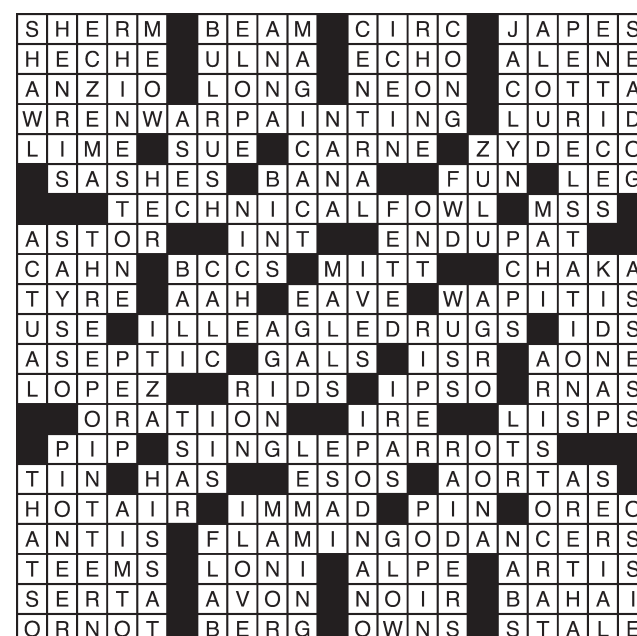
Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a "family" game called "Fart!" in which your various family members try to get rid of playing cards "while being serenaded by a fast 'n' frantic Fart chorus" (CD soundtrack included).

Can you just imagine the marketing meeting where they decided to sell this game? ("Oh! Oh! We include a CD of farts!") Donated by Loser Daphne Steinberg, who's always on the lookout for the finest prizes.

Other runners-up win one of our new "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mugs or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Cluenacy" is by Kevin Dopart; Howard Walderman wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. This week, some cartoons we didn't use. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1368.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



1/19/20