

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

From there to har: Puns on places

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1385, we asked you to slightly change a place name and describe the new place. Several of the 2,300 entries suggested **Mara-Lego**, playhouse of a giant toddler.

4th place:

Napless: Home to both Italy's crankiest toddlers and Florida's crankiest seniors. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

3rd place:

Ohaha, Neb.: Where people are slow to get the joke. (Ken Liss, Brookline, Mass.)

2nd place and the toy dysentery bacterium:

Germ Man Town, Md.: In an attempt to generate publicity, this nondescript D.C. suburb has changed its name to honor Anthony Fauci. (Ed Scarbrough, Germantown)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Tea 'n' a Mint Square: A lovely, peaceful plaza in the Chinese capital where nothing bad ever happened. — X.J., Beijing (Ben Sack, Leesburg, a First Offender)

Nether regions:

Honorable mentions

All Paso, Tex.: West Texas town with no exit ramp off I-10. (Bill Cromwell, Keswick, Va., a First Offender)

Alpacastan: Hiding place of the notorious Osama bin Llama. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

Bantucket Island: No bawdy limericks permitted! (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Barcalounga, Spain: Where the highlight of the day is the siesta. (Ann Houston, Silver Spring, a First Offender; Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

Belchum: Famed for its deeply satisfying beer. (Dave Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

Bethesduh: The birthplace of Captain Obvious, obviously. (Chuck Helwig, Centerville)

Biden-Biden: Spa town famous for its gaffe courses. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

BryceH Canyon: No matter what you shout at Echo Point, all you hear is "Traitor! Boooo!" (Carol Passar, Reston)

Bugdad: The first words of children born here are "Are we there yet?" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Butt, Mont.: Drop by, drop 'em, and enjoy a full moon in Big Sky Country! (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

Caca Beach: A Florida town unfortunately adjacent to a sewage treatment plant. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Cute d'Ivoire: Where Dumbo the elephant comes from. (Jonathan Jensen)

Cyberia: Where Putin sends ineffective trolls and hackers. (Ray Gallucci, Frederick; Chris Murphy, Germantown)

Erode Island: It used to be the 13th largest state, but now it's the 50th! (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Forgo, N.D.: Just keep driving to Canada. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.; Mary Hanisco, Takoma Park, a First Offender)

Fucson, Ariz. Motto: "Um, it's pronounced 'Foo-sahn.'" (Jesse Aronson, Arlington)

Hampa: This Florida city tried to keep a lid on a messy socks scandal. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Handover, Mass.: A town with a 95 percent tax rate. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

Happylaychian Trail: A healthful alternative to the Mile High Club. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

Helstinki: Something may be rotten in the state of Denmark, but it absolutely reeks in the state of Finland. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Hecksinki: It's said that no vice happens here, but you can't swear to it. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Idahno: Hey, Typical American, what lies between Wyoming and Oregon? (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Ignorefolk, Va.: We always do social distancing! (Wendy Shang, Falls Church)

Isle of White: Steve Bannon's fantasyland. (Lee Graham, Rockville)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1389: TankaWanka IV: Haiku plus two

One thing we have learned: Melania's no dummy. For living with him The price was a small cleanup In the terms of her prepup.

The TankaWanka is a form of verse that the Empress coined back in 2014, as a variation on the venerable Japanese tanka. It's like haiku with a little extra oomph: instead of three mini-lines, you have five mini-lines, and you get to rhyme, and you don't write about precious exquisite moments etc. but instead about Stuff in the News.

We haven't TankaWankaed since the still-in-shock summer of 2017. So many shocks later, let's give it another go. **This week: Write a TankaWanka about something that's been in the news lately** (this gives you considerable latitude, but not enough to, say, grouse about your mother-in-law, unless your mother-in-law is, say, Betsy DeVos). The poem must consist of **five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7 and 7 syllables** in that order. And **at least two of the lines must rhyme**, as in the example above by Gene "Willy Wanka" Weingarten, who will be sorry that he can't win this week's second prize. You may add a title, perhaps quoting a news headline.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1389 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, June 29;** results will appear July 19 in print, July 16 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **Poo-Dough** — a Play-Doh-type goo and mold to make, well, you know. To judge from reviews on YouTube, the final product has a pretty convincing appearance. It even comes with some yellow clay, along with the brown, to make some corn kernels you can embed. Gyaaaadddh, are we running out of prizes here at Mount Vermin or what? Donated eons ago by 430-time Loser Nan Reiner.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug 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 "From There to Har" is by Tom Witte; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkoftheday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkoftheday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. See wapo.st/conv1389.



The prize for this week's No. 2 finisher.

Kentucky: Where your family tree is a single vine. (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

Kentacky: Home of the Run for the Artificial Roses. (Ann Martin, Brentwood)

Lake Flaccid: The perfect retirement location in Upstate New York for folks from Viagra Fails. (Brian Cohen, Winston-Salem, N.C.)

Lake Wokebegan: The little town where Garrison Keillor should have moved back. (Steve Smith)

Las Vagueness: What happens here stays here, because no one can remember the details. (Richard Wexler, Alexandria; Jonathan Jensen)

Mehtropolis: Home of the semi-superhero Adequateman. (Jeff Contompassis)

Mount Tushmore: First site of Gutzon Borglum's presidential monument; it had to be abandoned

when large cracks developed during the stonecutting. (Larry Passar, Reston)

New Jersey: Its motto: "WTF YOU looking at?" (Steve Honley, Washington)

North Pool: Santa's home in about 30 years. (Mike Phillips, Chevy Chase)

No Truth, No Consequences, N.M.: They'd like to move the Republican National Convention here. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

Nude York: The city that never sleeps in pajamas. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Palm Bench, Fla.: Where second-string foreign officials wait to pay their emoluments. (Darren Timothy, Bristow)

Pencilvania: The nation's No. 2 travel destination! (Pia Palamidessi, Cumberland, Md.; Danielle Nowlin)

The Outer Boinks: A great place to go for spring break. (William Kennard, Arlington)

Triple-E, Libya: Clown Shoe Capital of the World. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Worster, Mass.: If you don't like Boston, you'll really hate this place. (David Young, Falmouth, Mass.)

YoMa, Ariz.: City that's smelly and excessively large, and its lights are pretty dim. But it's very easy to get to. (Duncan Stevens)

And Last: Tsk-a-Loser, Ala.: Folks 'round there disapprove of that Style Invitational. (Gary Crockett)

Still running — deadline Monday night, June 22: Our contest for business/product names containing anagrams. See wapo.st/invite1388.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"BACK TO BASICS" By C.C. BURNIKEL

ACROSS
1 "True Detective," e.g.
6 Worshippers of the sun god Inti
11 Chinese smartphone brand
15 Organization with an ElderWatch program
19 Dollar, to Enterprise
20 Snookums
21 Rice, for one
22 "That explains it"
23 "Match Game" host
25 Arenal Volcano home
27 Crash site?
28 Blonde
29 The mariachi's guitarrón is one
31 Settled on a papasan, say
33 Senegalese-American actress — Rae

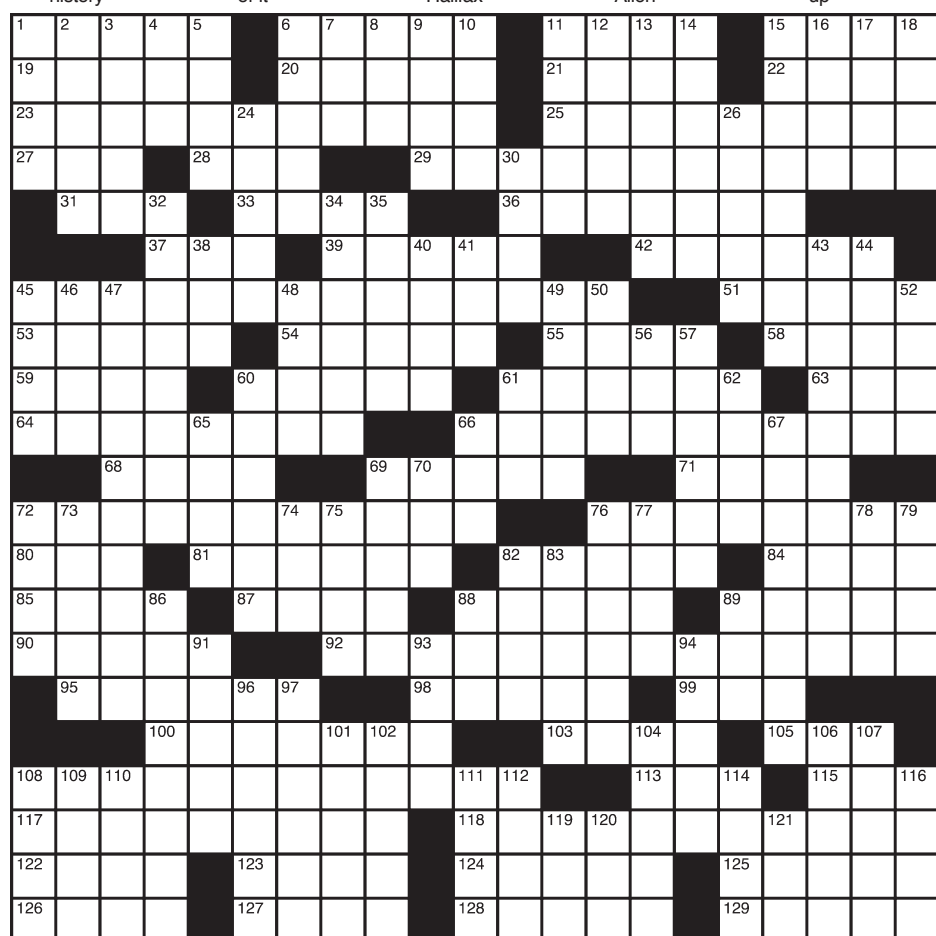
36 Idealistic sort
37 Stick up
39 Taste in kombu
42 Team to play in SoFi Stadium
45 Whole Foods fruit
51 Do figure eights
53 Sarge's boss
54 Unthinking
55 Preliminary race
58 Hungarian town known for its baroque buildings
59 Bank transaction
60 Code creator
61 Comes to an end
63 Actress Vardalos
64 Polite words while entering
66 Pollution concerns
68 Cause of goosebumps, maybe
69 Called from the flock
71 Chip dip, casually
72 Stretchable loop
76 Parents not related by blood
80 Bygone space station
81 Last bit
82 Wealthy heir
84 Motley
85 Press (down)
87 Paleo
88 Classic Ford, familiarly
89 Stuffs to the gills

90 Move furtively
92 Widespread adverse reaction, as to a new policy
95 Off the mark
98 Major artery
99 Well resource
100 Iris rings
103 Beyoncé, to the Beyhive
105 "That's a shame"
108 Item in Manet's "Luncheon on the Grass"
113 Hamm from Alabama
115 Black widow's creation
117 Savory pastry
118 Pungent deli choice
122 Indian flatbread
123 Thicker in Asian desserts
124 Rub it in
125 Beckoning elision
126 "Watermark" musician
127 Parks in American history

128 Snow vehicles
129 Moving measurement
DOWN
1 Uninteresting
2 Ticks off
3 Minnesota-based cosmetics company
4 Big
5 The Honest Company co-founder
40 Initial fee
41 Star Wars Day month
43 805-year-old document
44 "Shrek!" author
45 Paella pot
46 Place for solar panels
47 Billy's caretaker
48 High-fashion shoemaker
49 Winning language
50 They're often choppy
52 Periods of note
56 Winter hrs. in Halifax

57 "Lip Sync Battle" commentator
60 Numerous
61 A.L. Central team
62 Fish commonly known as a porgy
65 Band named for a rodent
66 Launch site
67 They might be game changers
69 Language group including Zulu
70 Furthermore
72 Defib experts
73 "Big Little Lies" novelist Moriarty
74 Sci-fi film FX
75 Clown car noise
76 Mythical mariner
77 Forum wrap
78 Cost of belonging
79 Meeting, casually
82 Tend to the sauce
83 Mojave natives
86 "Knowing all the facts": Woody Allen

88 —pitch
89 Stick in the snow
91 "Grant County" crime novelist
93 Lie in the sun
94 Baby's ailment
96 Hummingbird food
97 Island near Trinidad
101 "Theme": "Doctor Zhivago" tune
102 Stars, to Cicero
104 Skips
106 "Shucks!"
107 Tractor giant
108 Study, with "over"
109 Prvy to limits
110 Mythical staple
112 12 ounces, at Starbucks
114 Basics appearing in reverse in eight puzzle answers
116 Ran
119 Blini topping
120 Young chap
121 Increase, with "up"



6/21/20

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 21: Intense and critical, you are success-oriented, and this year will be a triumph for you. Once you tame your ego, any dream is possible. Finances will be good. If single, you are very sensual, and there will be obsessive relationships. If attached, your partner is likely to find you demanding and needs to stand up to you or compromise. Your intimate bond is strong. Aquarius gives as good as they get.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Today highlights home and family life. A residential move may be considered, and family members are experiencing some changes. Dynamic and demanding people approach you today. Back away from confrontations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Expect to have more variety in your life today. Conversations and mail will be startling but very interesting. Reach out to others; your attractiveness and charm are in evidence. Love prospects are promising.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Today highlights your finances on a positive note. Old debts can be paid. Preparations are underway to enhance your income. Finances should become much more promising. Think big; be confident.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You will be especially strong and influential today. Old barriers can be overcome, and you can manifest a cherished wish through sheer effort. You will be highly visible to others. Wise choices build your good reputation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your need for peace and privacy is strong today. There is much you would prefer to keep to yourself. Acts of charity and personal sacrifice bring unexpected rewards. Your leadership ability grows.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Exciting planetary vibrations favor friendship, group involvement and learning. Some of you will have unexpected future travel opportunities to places you have only dreamed about. New and unusual friendships will be formed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You will be rethinking your career. Some of you will even speculate that

your true career path lies in an entirely different direction. You will have plenty of time to think this through at a later date.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Spiritual growth takes place today. Your belief system and general life attitude experience major changes. Whether your journeying turns out to be in the physical or mental realm, your experiences are likely to be intense but positive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
In simple terms, pay-up time is here. Today highlights joint income, including debts and money owed, reminding you of financial situations that took place before the pandemic began. If you have overextended yourself, you feel the sting today.

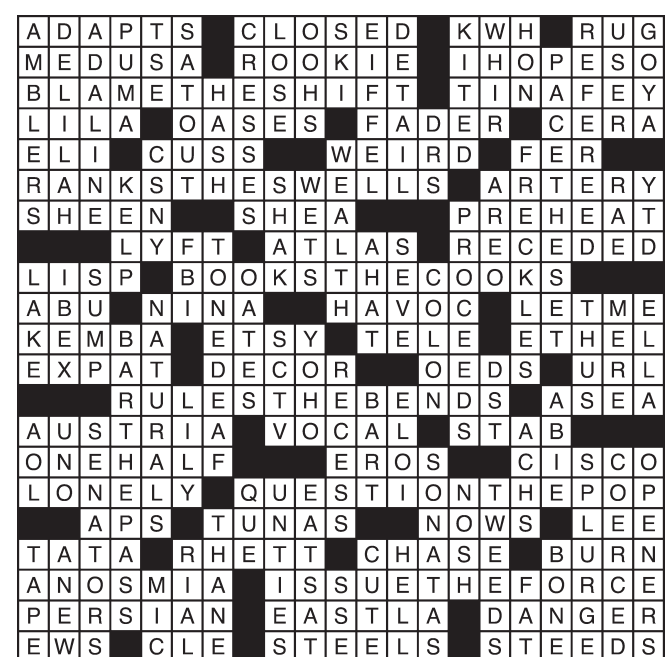
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
Today provides increased social

opportunities. Dealings with important males are favored. However, today also brings chaos in the form of upsets and arguments with a loved one, causing upheaval. You will feel torn in several directions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You will be busy today. You also feel restless and impulsive, so be careful not to sustain a minor slip or injury. Be careful on the roads. Your attention may wander because of fatigue, so take heed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today favors socializing and romance. Sparks will fly, or should I say, "fly again," as some of you will become reacquainted on an intimate level with a former love interest. Any tasks you wish to undertake have added intensity and perseverance.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/14/20