

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Buzz words: Spelling Bee neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1424 we once again saluted the addictive New York Times word game Spelling Bee, presenting 30 of its past seven-letter "hives" and asking you to coin a new term from any of them.

4th place:

From BAMNRTO > Bun tuba: Unfortunate generator of sound (and more). "The other guy in the elevator played the bun tuba pretty much all the way to the 39th floor."

3rd place:

CAILMNR > Miracall: When you answer your phone and your young adult offspring says: "Hi, Mom, how are you doing? ... No, I don't need any money, just wanted to say hello."

2nd place and the 'awful sounds' noisemaker:

CAILMNR > Clam mail: Louis DeJoy's new "improvement" on snail mail. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

BEFILON > Foible file: Where your brain stores the memories of every mistake you ever made so it can bring them all out when you're trying to fall asleep. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

TIMPRUY > Pity: Honorable mentions

- ABEGMTY: - MAGAByte: A unit of digital disinformation. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)
- MAGAbaby: A person who deserves support and protection, until the person is born. (Mark Raffman)
- Gabbage: Talk show content. (Stu Segal, Charlotte)
ABILTVY: - Lavity: Potty humor. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)
- Tabby alibi: "I couldn't have knocked over the plant, Your Honor: I was napping the entire day in question." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)
ACFILRY > Caffilry: Emergency reinforcements in the form of java.

BEFILON > BFFN: Best friend for now. "Just being honest with my abbreviations," Mona explained. (Steve Honley, Washington)

BAMNRTO: - Buttbra: It lifts, but ideally doesn't separate. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

EACLTYZ > Lay-Zee: The acclaimed nap artist. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

HCDEIKL: - Hick dickie: Just the collar and surrounding six inches of a T-shirt. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

- CheckHide: A game repeatedly played by dining partners. "No, I'll pay!" "No, I insist!" "This one's mine!" "You paid last time!" Winner: "Okay, but the next one's on me." (Kathleen Delano, McLean)

FACELPT > Faceflap: Mouth of a nonstop talker. "Jeez, will you tie down your faceflap for just one minute?" (Ann Martin, Brentwood)

KCEHINT > Theheck: What Southerners cook out of their vegetables. (Mia Wyatt, Ellicott City)

LBDFINO > Li'lbidio: You at 50



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1428: The Tile Invitational VIII

- ADNRSUW AEIITVV CDEEKLK AABGINT
DHILRTY BEEQSTU AEEINTV AOPRSTW
BEERRWY EEHMORT AAEPPRT AABCELN
EILNNT AAGHSRW EFHIRSY CEHIMNY
AENPRRT CEORRSY EMPRTTU EELPRTZ
BDEITUY CEOPRTT EIHNPNP ACLOOPR
ABDGINW AAEGNPT FILLNUY BELMORT
CIIMMRY ILMNOOT EEKNOTY DGIOPRY
AEGMNR EENOPTY CEIPRST AALNSTY
ADINSTT AAEGPSS ACELNPU DGLNOUY

The letters ADNRSUW rearrange to SUNWARD. But you could also make:
ADNRSUW > URNWAD: The sodden lump of grounds and filter you have to take out of the coffeepot.
ADNRSUW > UNDRAWS: What a pencil eraser does, at least till it gets dirty, at which point it undraws.
ADNRSUW > RUS-WAND: A hammer or sickle.

As we present this week's winning neologisms drawn from letter sets of the New York Times Spelling Bee game, we'll return once again to a similar — but notably different — challenge, based on the syndicated feature that's appeared in The Post for decades: Above are 40 seven-letter "racks" taken from the 2005 "Big Book of ScrambleGrams." This week: Create a five-, six- or seven-letter word (or phrase) by scrambling the letters of any of the sets and define it, as in the examples above from one of this week's sets.

The difference between ScrambleGrams and Spelling Bee is that this time, you may use each letter in the set only once in your word. (If the set contains two of the same letter, you may use them both, of course.)

How to format your entry: Begin EVERY entry with the letter set you're unscrambling — look at the examples again, please! please? — so the Empress can sort them all into 40 tidy groups and compare similar entries. Don't put the letter set and your word on different lines, because you will ruin the sorting and make the E tear at her curls.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1428 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, March 29; results appear April 18 in print, April 15 online (it's why the tax deadline was extended).

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a "You're Invited" coffee mug



2nd prize, complete with a Staake cartoon of Mike Gips and generic Loser.

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, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." 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 "Buzz Words" was submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Roy Ashley: Dave Prevar 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; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1428.

versus you at 20. (Pete Morelewicz)

LBIMOTY > Lobotommy: What a sleep-deprived mother of an infant can feel like. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

MACHNOR > Rancorman: "Now that Rush is gone, Tucker seems to be assuming the Rancorman mantle." (Bob Kruger, Rockville; Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

TABDMOR - Mortarboardom: That feeling when it's been 45 minutes and the dean just started calling up the G's. (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

- Doormattador: A really bad bull-fighter. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

THILMNO > Lint-Mint: A fuzzy piece of candy that you find in the pocket of the jacket you never wear, when you suddenly realize you have bad breath. (Frank Osen; Diane Parham,

Columbia, S.C., a First Offender)

UACNORT: - No-u-canto: An aria with impossibly high notes. (Tom Witte)

- Urñata: A fun way to spread your loved one's ashes. (Jeff Hazle)

VAEGLUY > Luvvy-Guvvy: The feeling that once pervaded Albany, N.Y. (anachronism). (Steve Smith, Potomac)

BEFILON > Enbee: Include a word in the New York Times game that nobody uses anywhere else, like "enhalo." (Kevin Davis, San Diego, a First Offender)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1428.

Still running — deadline Monday night, March 22: our contest for "A, or B" puns about historic events. See wapo.st/invite1427.

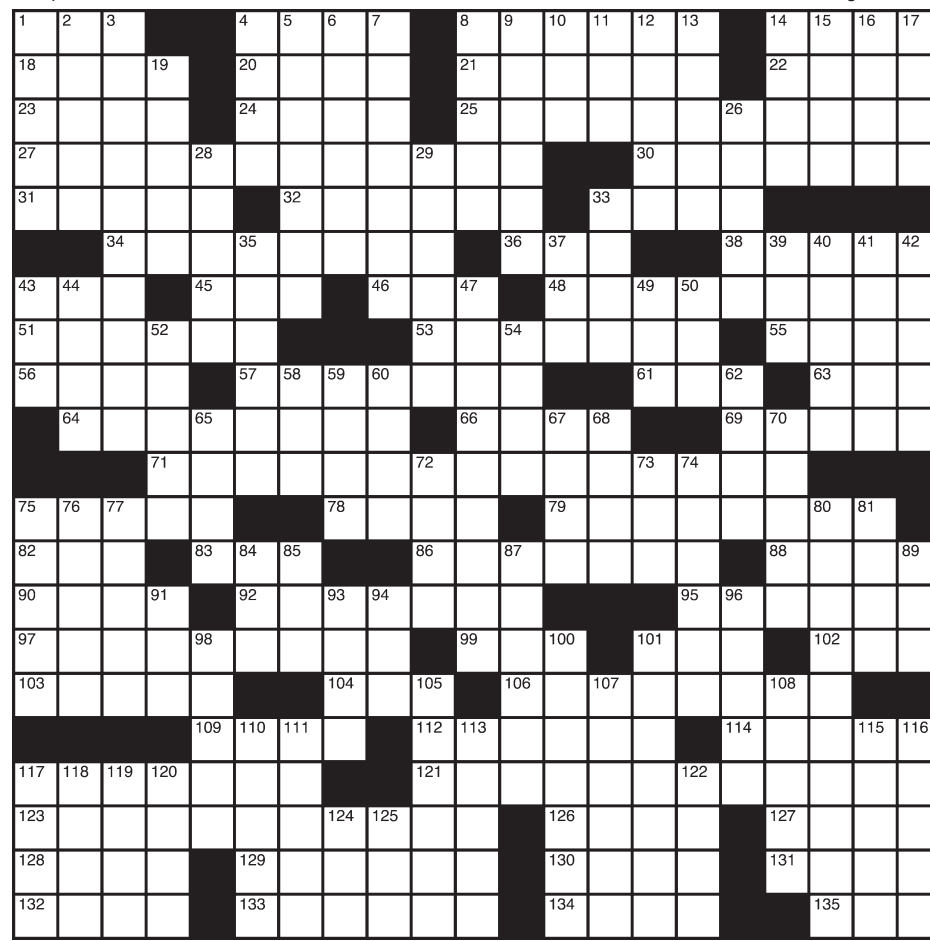
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"OH, THAT CHANGES THINGS!" By GARY LARSON
97 Intoxicated to the point at which getting a tattoo sounds like a good idea?

- ACROSS 1 Gretchen of "Boardwalk Empire" 102 Play for a sap 4 Takes steps 8 Takes time drinking 14 Tiff 18 Dr. Skoda, J.K. Simmons' "Law & Order" role 20 Dory, e.g. 21 Pricing word 22 Whiskey cocktail 23 "Must-see" review 24 Cheese with an edible rind 25 Sketching an infamous emperor? 27 Outdoor barbecue area for wings? 30 Loses it 31 Yemen's capital 32 Conger catchers 33 Georgia et al., once 34 More coarse, as sandpaper 36 Named time span 38 Big brand in card collections 43 Stubborn equine 45 Albany is its cap. 46 Brave opponent 48 iPad, iPod and iPhone? 51 More relaxed 53 "Word on the street is ... " 55 Funny Fey 56 Shirt named for a game 57 Land 61 Grassy plain 63 Admit, with "to" 64 Never again 66 Ragout, e.g. 69 Leaves alone 71 Theme park beast, perhaps? 75 Actress Woodard 78 Spot in the Senate 79 Tattoo target 82 Road sign caution 83 Great Lakes' Canals 86 More inclined 88 Gym site 90 Scarlett's plantation 92 Windpipe 95 Woodlouse, e.g.

- 133 Navy builder child 134 WWI spy org. 26 Chansons de medieval French poems 28 Clinton running mate 29 Revered Mother 33 Weakens 35 Coup target, perhaps 37 Charlotte of "The Facts of Life" 39 Six-time N.L. home run champ 40 Number on a tag 41 noir 42 Bars not for drinking 43 Swiss peak 44 In a bit 47 One watching a shepherd, say 49 Amigo 50 Cleaning 51 Man of La Mancha 52 IRS ID's 15 Hardy work family something 16 Certain 17 Walked over 19 Aptly named Renault 60 Toledo's lake 62 Snakes in hieroglyphics 65 Valuable rocks 67 River to the North Sea 68 Hard-hitting sound 70 Ginza locale 72 Wallet contents 73 Wrath 74 J.R.R. Tolkien feature 75 Up 76 Peruvian plain 77 Travelers' decision points 80 Spur-of-the-moment Tinder profile? 81 Sgts. and such 84 Plains tribe 85 Leftover morsel 87 California locale where "Maria Maria" fell in love, in a Santana hit 89 Vitamin C source 91 Six-pack contents? 93 Speck 94 Legendary fire starter 96 Office group 98 Permissible 100 Son-of-a-gun 101 It makes everything better, purportedly 105 Safe and sound 107 File 108 Fat, say 110 Hawaiian feasts 111 Nitrogen compound 113 Selected 115 Rulers before the Bolsheviks 116 Gets ready to file 117 Jane Austen novel 118 Student 119 Mongolian tent 120 "The Mikado" weapon, briefly 122 Anthem opener source 124 Eavesdropper org. 125 Young socialite



3/21/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 21: Innovative, enterprising and active, move forward with plans that have been on the back burner. This year, you will seek out new beginnings, from starting a side business to rearranging your living situation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today brings an appreciation of your home environment. You might need to rearrange furniture or adjust the lighting. Feng shui tips might help. Start building your family tree. Contact relatives you have not seen since childhood.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Grab a few hours to yourself. Make a journal entry, practice an instrument or just meditate. Follow through on a planned family outing. A bicycle ride, scenic drive or hike will please everyone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Pay attention to finances, but don't obsess for long. Stick to a budget that suits you. Shop with friends, but watch your impulses. Buy what you need and admire the rest. Join an amateur choir or singing group.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today feels as if you can conquer the world. Set down your intentions and visualize how to make them happen. Create a plan B in case of a detour. Invite your closest friends to a gathering.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Give yourself permission to sleep in. Write down your dreams if you remember them. Keep a pad or notebook by your bed and research what they may mean. Insights are priceless and will answer your questions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Chat with friends about groups you can attend together. A yoga, Pilates or dance class will get your body moving. Join a book club that speaks to your diverse interests. Suggest a title and lead a session.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Take advantage of new opportunities. Update your résumé and upgrade your skills. A family

member could help with new technology. Be wary of false leads that go nowhere. Make time for a cause you are passionate about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Revisit a desire to learn a foreign language or study an obscure subject. A class opening may finally materialize. Do a bit of quick research to see if you can fit it into your busy schedule.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today, do something physical such as running, bicycling or martial arts. Release tension. Stop overthinking and analyzing. Take a few deep breaths and smell the roses. Get a massage to knead the knots and ease physical stress.

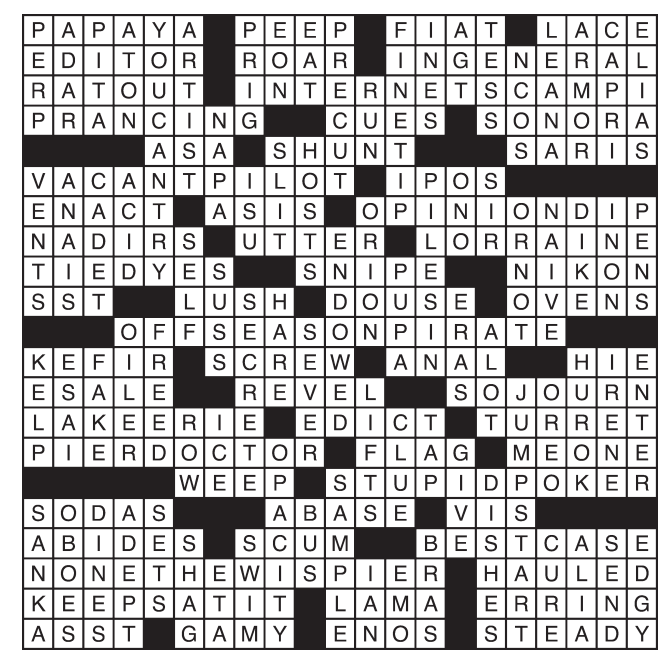
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Expect the unexpected. Someone

might contact you from out of the blue. It might cause you to revive an old friendship or revisit one that ended badly. This is your chance to make things right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Pamper yourself with a relaxing bath and sweet-smelling salts. Family may make demands on your time. Delegate chores and responsibilities. If you are overruled, stand your ground. Promise a reward that you can stick to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Prior commitments cut into time with children or grandchildren. No need to panic. You're a wiz at organizing when the crunch is on. Follow up on a romantic proposal. Give someone you love lots of attention.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/14/21