

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Laugh racks: ScrabbleGrams finds

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1428 was the eighth installment of The Tile Invitational, in which we supply a list of seven-letter "racks" from the ScrabbleGrams syndicated word game...



New contest for Week 1432: Turn tale and run with it

To sabotage giants, to truly defeat them, don't waste your time planting some magic legumes — just stir them (like I did) with salsa and eat them, then jet through the sky on the power of fumes.

This week's contest was inspired by a typically devilishly delightful new book by the poet, humorist and 174-time Style Invitational Loser Melissa Balmain. In "The Witch Demands a Retraction: Fairy Tale Reboots for Adults," published by Humorist Books...

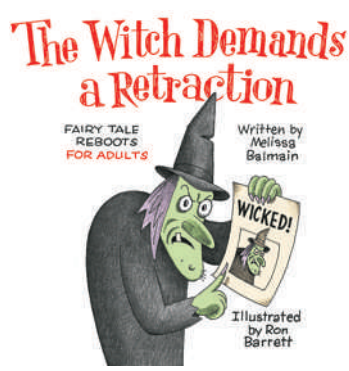
Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1432 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, April 26; results appear May 16 in print, May 13 online.

Winner gets the Cloning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a copy of "The Witch Demands a Retraction," which Melissa will sign and send to you.

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).

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1432.

The "You're Invited" podcast: A dozen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.



This contest's inspiration and second prize all in one.

trajectory of your backyard investment from family novelty to neighborhood gathering spot to scum-green frog-breeding pond/money pit.

ADINSTT > STANDIT: The most difficult part of a job: If you can't, you quit. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

AEIINTV > AIEE-TV: 24 hours of horror movies, bungee jumping and roller coasters. (Ken Gallant, Sequim, Wash.; Leif Picoult, Rockville)

AEGMNR > GRAMNET: What your kids call Facebook. (Milo Sauer, Fairfax; Mark Raffman)

AENPRRT > ENTARP: What to do when "entomb" is not immediately feasible. (Deanna Busick)

AENPRRT > PERTNAR: Almost. "I'm pertnar through putting up with yer lip." (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

AENPRRT > PRATNER: Stan, to Ollie. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

AOQRSTW > WAP-O's: The hot new cereal endorsed by Cardi B & Megan Thee Stallion. (Jamie Martindale)

AOQRSTW > AWPSPORT: Kindergarten soccer, or the Puppy Bowl. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

BELMORT > BRO-MELT: A "grilled" cheese sandwich that's heated up in the "press" of an armpit. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

CEOPRTT > PET ROT: An extremely fleeting novelty toy consisting of googly eyes pasted on a ball of garbage. (Duncan Stevens)

DGIOPRY > DIG-PRY: A nosy question that also manages to be

an insult. "So what did you pay for that interesting, um — I guess that's a purse?" (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

DGIOPRY > GOD-PRY: "So tell me: Have you been saved?" (Roy Ashley, Washington)

DGIOPRY > PODIGY: An amazing remote-schooled student who actually learned something during the pandemic. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

DGIOPRY > GOD-RIP: You know how when you were a kid they told you that thunder is the sound of the Lord bowling? Well, it's not. (Danielle Nowlin)

DGLNOUY > UNDOGLY: Frustratingly untrainable, like a cat. (Adie Peña, Makati, Philippines)

EEHMORT > METR'OH! Abbreviation for "I knew I should have just driven to work today!" (Mark Raffman)

EELNNT > ENLINT: What my dryer does to my socks. (George Thompson, Springfield)

EFHIRSY > HEIRSY: A belief that appalls your parents. "George Jr. was written out of the will after admitting the heirs of voting for him in 2016 AND 2020." (Richard Franklin)

ILMNOOT > LOIN-TO: A love shack. (Tom Witte)

ILMNOOT > MILTOON: "Paradise Lost," the Classics Illustrated version. (Jim Derby; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg)

And Last: ACLOOPR > CORPOLA: Useless items emblazoned with advertising. "She calls them 'limited-edition Bob Staake artwork,' but aren't those magnets really just cheap corpola with the Washington Post logo on them?" (Jon Gearhart)

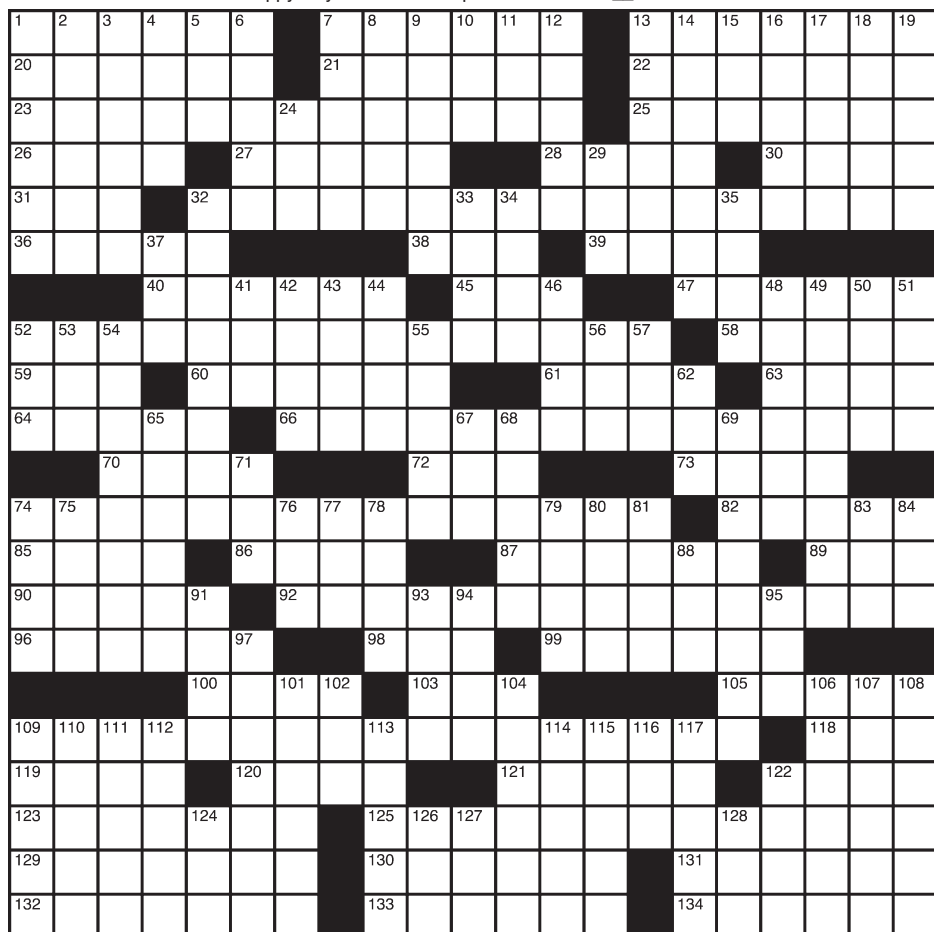
And Even Laster, by too many people to credit: ACELNPU > PUNACLE: What Invite contestants strive to reach.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 19: Our contest about what will change post-pandemic. See wapo.st/invite1431.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "DIAMOND JUBILEE" By JERRY MICCOLIS. 99 Court chroniclers. 100 Really long time. 103 Pitching stat. 105 Cell alerts. 109 Dugout denizens. 118 Big-eyed bird. 119 Astronaut Shepard. 120 "Mon _ _ _" Super Mario's dinosaur. 121 Garage job. 122 Middle East economic center. 123 Contrived competition ... and what the 109-Across comprise in this puzzle? 129 Hurricane warning responder, maybe. 130 School skipper. 131 Finally. 132 Hunting dogs. 133 Medicinal shrubs. 134 Like some grins. DOWN 1 Hip-hop tops. 2 Steamy. 3 Name associated with Jesuit schools. 4 Somali supermodel. 5 Poivre partner. 6 Go deep or go yard. 7 Former name of the Mariinsky Ballet. 8 Novelist Zola. 9 Weasel out. 10 West of Hollywood. 11 Home of 123-Ac. 12 Company that makes Ball Park Franks. 13 Polite titles. 14 Arctic parkas. 15 Addams cousin. 16 Bump-related. 17 American Airlines Arena city. 18 Williams of "Happy Days". 19 Classic sodas. 24 2010 health law. Abbr. 29 NYC subway org. 32 "Mind your manners" Persia. 33 Present-day. 34 Rare blood type, for short. 35 Croupier's tool. 37 Trident-shaped letter. 41 A, in Argentina. 42 School closing? 43 Writer Wiesler. 44 "Darl". 46 In stitches. 48 Seder prophet. 49 Dessert made with mascarpone cheese. 50 Bok ___. 51 Attila's army. 52 "All Things Considered" network. 53 "Eureka!". 54 Emmy-winning portrayer of Gary Walsh in "Veep". 55 Enjoying crumpets, maybe. 56 Kid. 57 NBC show since 1975. 62 "Certainment!". 65 Fool. 67 Pitching stat. 68 Trimming tape. 69 Large penguins. 71 "Lord, is ___?" Andrews and Edwards: Abbr. 75 Subtle stratagem. 76 Diminutive devil. 77 Greek X. 78 Time long past. 79 Grub. 80 Send out. 81 Stuffing stuff. 83 Member of the fam. 84 Time sheet abbr. 88 Buddhist discipline. 91 Sign of healing. 93 Protected, at sea. 94 Afghanistan's _Bora. 95 Show with Miami and NY spin-offs. 97 More intoxicating. 101 Martini garnishes. 102 Phillies' div. 104 "The Joy Luck Club" novelist. 106 Main Milky Way makeup. 107 W.J. Clinton successor. 108 Wintry, in a way. 109 Creepy film motel. 110 Motrin alternative. 111 Stuttgart starter. 112 Pass. 113 Clumps. 114 Polynesian Disney heroine. 115 Aides: Abbr. 116 Prayer possessive. 117 Red Sea resort. 122 Composer Schirrin. 124 Saturn SUV. 126 Exist. 127 Sister. 128 DDE's WWII command.



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 18: Original, insistent and inventive, your approach to life is filled with constant activity. This year, you will be successful through sheer force of will. You reaffirm your confidence and will make an impression on those who matter.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Get the ball rolling with plans for a family reunion. Arrange a Zoom call with relatives to brainstorm about the arrangements. You yearn to spend more time with people who know you like a book.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take your time reading the Sunday paper and watching news shows. Go for a walk on a path you don't usually follow. Chat with neighbors with whom you have more in common than you think.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You made a professional breakthrough for which you didn't receive credit. Reward yourself. Buy something a bit indulgent for yourself that is not too pricey. Ask a friend for suggestions and shop online together.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Use your winning smile to get the attention of someone you admire. Stand by a decision you made even if it goes against what others think. Turn on the charm, and others will see things your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your vibrant personality often belies your need for peace and quietude. Claim a bit of time today to meditate or ponder a problem that's been playing out in your mind. An old memory brings a smile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your desire to make the world a better place will guide you today. When you think about what is best for everyone involved, you perform a noble service to your community. A friendship arises from common goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Enthusiasm for your work could cause you to lose track of time. Family and friends will alert you

when you need to come up for air. Delegate responsibilities and you'll get things accomplished and smell the roses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Try your best to explain a complex set of ideas in simple terms. You'll arouse curiosity and cultivate the desire to learn more. Move around more to escape overthinking things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take the time to really listen to someone who wants your opinion. You might not think you have a solution, but something you say could resonate and provide someone with exactly what's needed.

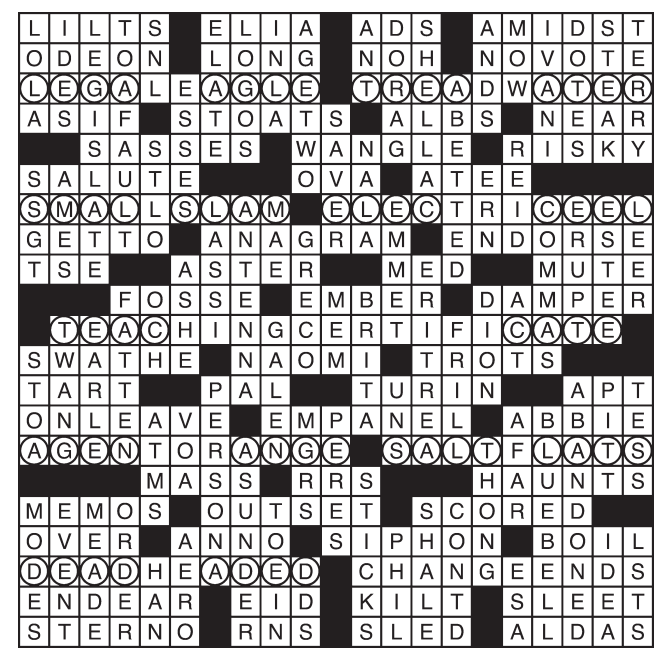
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Look for people who make life

easier. A home-improvement whiz or a sharp assistant will take excess burdens off your shoulders. It's a good day to call on someone you consider to be your best friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Organize your space so you spend less time searching for items you need at a moment's notice. Don't be stubborn. Let people you love offer advice and help you get started. Exercise outdoors and you'll feel fabulous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Let your imagination run wild today, and you could stumble upon the solution to a long-term problem. When your creative juices begin to flow, magic happens. Share a funny story with a child or grandchild. Giggle freely.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/11/21

ABDGINW > WINBAG: Someone who can't stop talking about the election that was "stolen" from him. (Lawrence McGuire, Jesse Frankovich)
ACELNPU > UNCLE PA: Villainous character in "Hamlet of the Ozarks." (Mark Raffman, Reston)
ACLOOPR > LOCO APR: What the car dealership offered on its "Crazy Cinco de Mayo Sales Event!" (Dave Silberstein, College Park)
ACLOOPR > POOL ARC: The