

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Refurb madness: Second-use ideas

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1488 we directed the Losers to the website of RepurposedMaterials Inc. and asked how they might reuse any of the surplus items listed there. Most of them, it seems, didn't know (or, more likely, didn't want to know) that a bung barrel is just a vat with a hole where you can put a stopper or faucet — no, it doesn't hold bung. Meanwhile, a disturbing number of people wanted to match up those 500 pieces of rope with members of Congress. Ugh.

4th place:

Baking pans for 32 hamburger buns; pack of 134: With these 4,288 indentations to use as breeding pools, my mosquito breeding farm is going to go BIG! (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

3rd place:

Pink steel pipe nipples: Even better than tearing down Confederate statues is giving them long-lasting pink nipples! (Kevin Dopart, vacationing in Naxos, Greece)

2nd place and the vintage Elvis tray:

Mall kiosk display unit: During a pandemic, or just to save on gas, you can still get the mall experience by setting this up in your living room and walking right by it. (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

80-foot roll of artificial turf: Do you enjoy hiking, but hate rocks, tree roots and mud? Just unroll this baby every 80 feet and you'll keep your shoes neat and your toes from getting stubbed. Turns the Appalachian Trail into a stroll in the park in just 145,200 easy stages! (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Secondhand noes: Honorable mentions

55-gallon bung barrel: For those mornings when 54 gallons of coffee doesn't seem to be enough to wake you up. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

8-by-80-foot roll of artificial turf: Perfect for a roof garden where you can grow artificial flowers and vegetables. (John O'Byrne, Dublin, Ireland)

500 31-inch pieces of rope: Great for elementary school science fair projects, like a diorama of Clifford the Big Red Dog's intestinal worms. (Kevin Dopart)

Examination gloves, small: Five-use condoms! (Did I say small? Large. I meant large.) (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

20-foot, 8,000-pound concrete highway barrier: I live at the end of a dead-end street and cars keep turning around in my driveway. When I put this in the way, that'll be the end of that annoyance! (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Highway barrier: A perfect prop for kicking off the Christie 2024 campaign in Fort Lee, N.J. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Highway barrier: Build a wall next to the Mexico section of "It's a Small World" at Disney World, because it's not THAT small. — R. DeSantis, Tallahassee (Mark Raffman, Reston)

300 7-by-9-inch foam food trays: Paint them gray, yellow and green, and hold Giant Wordle games on the Mall. (Jon Ketzer, Cumberland, Md.; Duncan Stevens)

300 foam food trays: Use a hamburger mold to cut out as many foam disks as needed. Season with salt and pepper. Pop them on the grill for no more than two seconds, et voilà, the best vegan barbecue ever! (Lee Graham, Reston)

300 foam food trays + Zycosil Multi-Surface Water Repellent, 5 quarts: Well, you have been wanting to re-tile your bathroom ... (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

20,000 2-oz. plastic bottles: Now you can carry on more than 300 gallons of wine on your next flight. (Kevin Dopart)

5 gallons multipurpose synthetic grease: Begin your company's big-city construction project by inviting local officials to a "hands on" planning meeting. (Mark Raffman)

500 31-inch pieces of rope: Lay them end to end and use the measurement of 24.46338383838384 percent of a mile to calibrate your pedometer. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

500 31-inch pieces of rope: Package each piece separately for



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1492: Set us right — conservative humor

What's the difference between a conservative commentator and a liberal commentator? One is called a conservative commentator; the other is called a commentator. (Jeff Contompasis, Week 558)

How can you tell if a pickup truck is owned by a liberal? That's a trick question — Volvo doesn't make pickup trucks! (Bruce W. Alter, Week 558)

One of the entries to Week 1488 (ideas for reusing various odd surplus items) included this note to the Empress: "Interesting to see if any conservative leaning entrants get published." The accompanying entries: "55-gallon bung barrel: The latest thing Joe Biden blamed for inflation." "Baking pans for 32 hamburger buns: What the Biden White House sent to red states instead of baby formula." "500 31-inch pieces of rope: Group of Philadelphia voters in the 2020 election." Okay, Mr. Michael Magee of Arlington, they're published!

The E's still puzzling over that last one with the rope, but she was inspired — especially in Week 1492, evoking a year that, to much of our polarized nation, is no longer one to celebrate joyfully — to bring back one of her first contests. Noting that the political jokes in her most recent contest in 2004 had "ranged from Gentle Tweaking of the [G.W. Bush] Administration to Raving Leftist Screed," she asked for this, and now does again: Send us conservative-leaning humor in a Q&A joke format or a knock-knock joke, as in the examples above.

What's "conservative"? In the past 19 years, "conservative" has become equated by many with "bigoted," "hateful," etc.; well, duh, don't send us anything bigoted or hateful. But surely the Blue World has lots of valid wit-targeted out there. (This week's cartoon illustrates Steve Honley's winning "News in Preview" prediction in Week 1260, that on Oct. 12, 2018, the city of Columbus would get a new name.)

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1492 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, June 20; results appear July 10 in print, July 7 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a pen topped with a young Donald Trump wearing boxing gloves. Press levers on the back and the arms punch out. If you replace the battery it also says things like "My attitude is huge" and "Don't touch the hair," but it's now out of power. Donated by Loser Steve Leifer. And we'll even throw in an old paperback collection of "The Speeches of Spiro Agnew," regifted by Loser Howard Walderman.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or

"Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviteFAQ. The headline "Refurb madness" is by Jon Gearhart; Kevin Dopart and Chris Doyle each came up with 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, featuring past conservative ink, at wapo.st/conv1492.



Win Slim Trump the Boxer on a Pen!

sale at MAGA rallies as "Authentic Jan. 6 souvenirs." (Lee Graham)

500 used burlap coffee bean sacks: Perfect for storing 500 31-inch pieces of rope. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Used turf from a sports arena: Kids play soccer? Install this in your basement, and they can practice falling down, writhing around, and grabbing a knee or ankle to trick the ref into calling a foul, just like the pros! (Roy Ashley, Washington)

750 feet of bubble wrap: I cut this up to sell as Mini-Bubble-Stress-Anxiety-Fidget-Relief-Push-Popper-Sensory-Squeezers — with the holistic advantage of being single-use: That way, if they're used with enough mindfulness, they may be discarded along with all of your negative energy. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

750 feet of bubble wrap: Next Halloween, go as the Michelin Man with monkeypox. (Kevin Dopart)

Wood from bowling alley lanes + steel rivet shelving: The floor looks great in my family room, and the shelves hold all the shoes I rent to my guests. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

1,800 disinfectant wipes: Whip these out the next 1,800

times your preteen does something gross! Then restock next week. (Duncan Stevens)

Industrial crane: "Honey, can you get that can of tomato paste from the top shelf?" (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

(1) Tie the 31-inch pieces of rope together to rappel from the skylight at the Rome, Ga., election center. (2) Steal the ballots. (3) Place them in the 300 7-by-9-inch food trays and those inside the used burlap sacks. (4) Carry them out to a large truck and hide them with the roll of artificial turf. (5) Attach one end of the fire hoses to a giant fan and blow fake, altered ballots through the skylight into a 50-gallon bung barrel marked "VOTE HERE."

And THAT is how the election was stolen. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

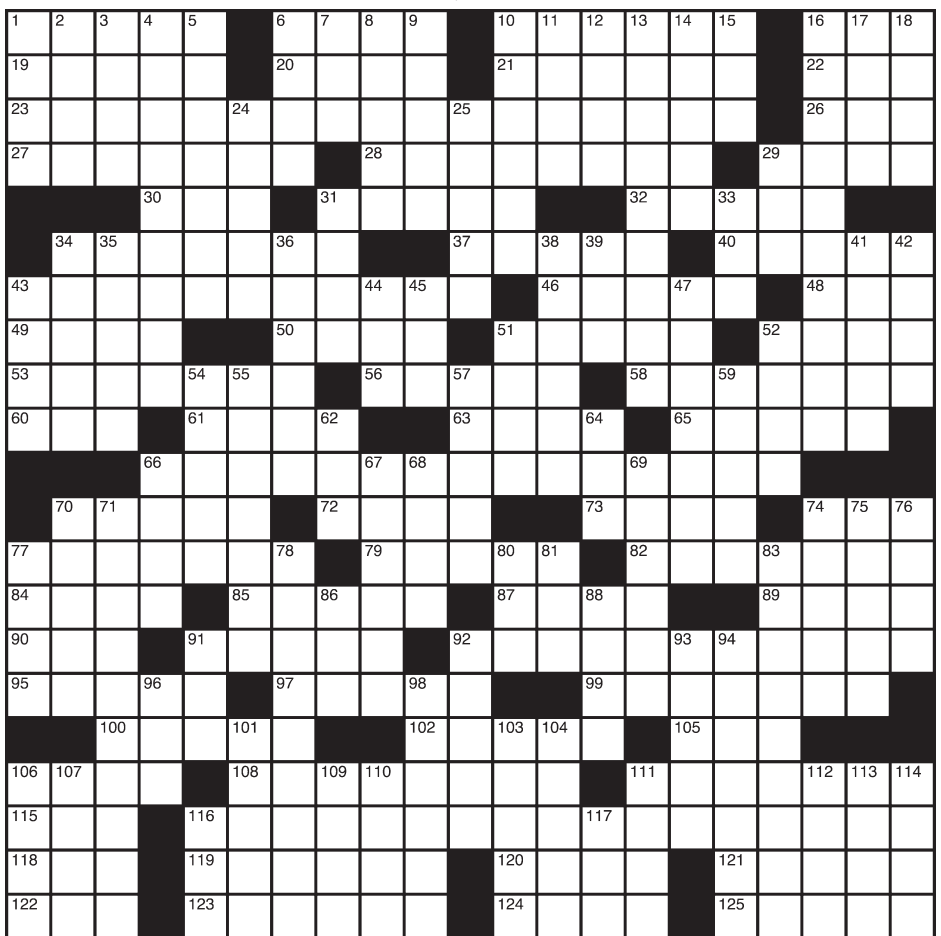
And Last: 500 magnet strips: "Oh, these old things? Just a few times I got ink." (Color printer sold separately.) (Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

Two contests still running — deadline for both: Monday night, June 13: Week 1490: Write a song parody about the news (see wapo.st/invite1490); and Week 1491: Add a letter to a word or name to make a new one (wapo.st/invite1491).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "WHERE R U?" BY PAM AMICK KLAWITTER
ACROSS
1 Language of many a motto
6 Sheepherding pig in a Best Picture nominee
10 Some bowling feats
16 Chef's toque, e.g.
19 Maine college town
20 Lena of "The Artist's Wife"
21 Some Tuscany natives
22 Actress Thurman
23 U
26 Neither here ___ there
27 Grand spreads
28 Unproductive activity
29 Sitcom home of Johnny Fever
30 Embrace
31 Made less stringent
32 "I'm with you"
34 Sound sleepers?
37 Pet adoption org.
40 On the up and up?
43 U
46 Eye-related
48 With 69-Down, MVP of Super Bowl III
49 Posted
50 Verizon communications service
51 Beatrice Potter's real first name
52 Cougar on a sneaker
53 Orchestra leader
56 100 smackers
58 Conference session
60 Low-risk investments: Abbr.
61 Glacier breakaway
63 College football fans sporting a blue "Y"
65 Smells awful
66 U
70 ___ acid
72 Trillion: Pref.
73 Stand in line
74 Waze display
77 Washer cycle
79 Employee who works a lot?
82 Team symbols
84 Senate staffer
85 Bar mixers
87 Greek earth goddess
89 Santa ___ dry California winds
90 "The Big Bang Theory" astrophysicist with a Yorkshire terrier named Cinnamon
91 Worked (up)
92 U
95 Leaving nothing out
97 National Forest northwest of Orlando
99 Wrinkly dog
100 Wayfarer
102 Break up
105 Mai ___ cocktail
106 "Billions" actor
108 Home for a pride
111 Road trip break
115 Old hoops gp.
116 U's
118 ___ La Table: cookware shop
119 Clear up
120 Nestlé chocolate
bar with a bubbly texture
121 Time being
122 Barnyard pen
16 U
17 Love, in Spain
18 Waterproof cover
24 Jason of "How I Met Your Mother"
25 Lipstick mishap
29 GATT successor
31 Actor Morales
33 "Waterfalls" pop trio
34 Golf legend
35 Dressed to the ___
36 Campaign promise
38 Written in verse
39 Certain NCO
41 2011 Literature Nobelist
Tranströmer
42 12 months
43 Camp
Pendleton org.
44 "What's up, ___?"
45 Last letter of many plural
14 Ramen mushroom
15 Govt.-issued ID
16 U
17 Love, in Spain
18 Waterproof cover
24 Jason of "How I Met Your Mother"
25 Lipstick mishap
29 GATT successor
31 Actor Morales
33 "Waterfalls" pop trio
34 Golf legend
35 Dressed to the ___
36 Campaign promise
38 Written in verse
39 Certain NCO
41 2011 Literature Nobelist
Tranströmer
42 12 months
43 Camp
Pendleton org.
44 "What's up, ___?"
45 Last letter of many plural
nouns
83 Noisy toy gun
86 Last mo.
88 Research org.
91 Netherlands airline
92 "On it"
93 Use DoorDash, say
94 Classification for some violent films
96 "2 funny!"
98 One paying a flat fee?
101 Extraterrestrial
103 Make more lean
104 Gather
106 "No thanks"
107 Share a border
109 Quadri-doubled
110 Georgia Tech basketball coach
111 Senior moment?
112 Song
113 Keiko in "Free Willy," for one
114 Hammer end
116 Inflation fig.
117 Ocean State sch.
81 Kind of cross



6/12/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | June 12: You are sociable, friendly, witty and intelligent. You are curious about everything, and you hate to be bored. (This can make you change moods quickly.) You have excellent business savvy. This is a year of service, especially to family and friends. Therefore, take care of yourself. Perhaps even do a makeover.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Eastern time today (2:15 to 3:45 p.m. Pacific time). After that, the Moon moves from Scorpio into Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Often, Aries has a short fuse. (You know who you are.) Therefore, if you're unhappy about financial matters today — or if dealing with banks or talking to someone older or someone in authority — zip thy lip. You'll be glad you did.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today Mercury is in your sign at odds with Saturn, and an opposing Moon, which means it's easy to fall into an argumentative mode or be grumpy with others. There is no upside to this. Your best choice is to demonstrate grace under pressure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today you have to make an effort to cultivate a positive frame of mind because it's easy to default into a bad mood. The thing about a bad mood is it makes others unhappy, and you feel lousy. (A smile is a frown turned upside down.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Avoid squabbles with friends and members of groups today, because they will easily arise. Likewise, you might have disputes with your children or about banking issues, inheritances or shared property. Remember, patience is the antidote to anger.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a classic day for family arguments, arguments with partners and spouses, and arguments with parents and bosses. (It's hard to keep your shirt on when you want to get something off your chest.) Be patient with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Steer clear of political issues and controversial subjects like race and religion, because they will quickly escalate into an argument, which is something you don't need. Put yourself first. This means don't engage in arguments; instead, value your own peace of mind. You matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Financial disputes are likely today, especially about inheritances, banking matters or something to do with your children or the cost of a social event. Meanwhile, you are one sign that needs harmony in your environment. Remember this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with Mercury and Saturn. Avoid squabbling with friends and family over plans. It's far better to chill out with a movie or something fun.

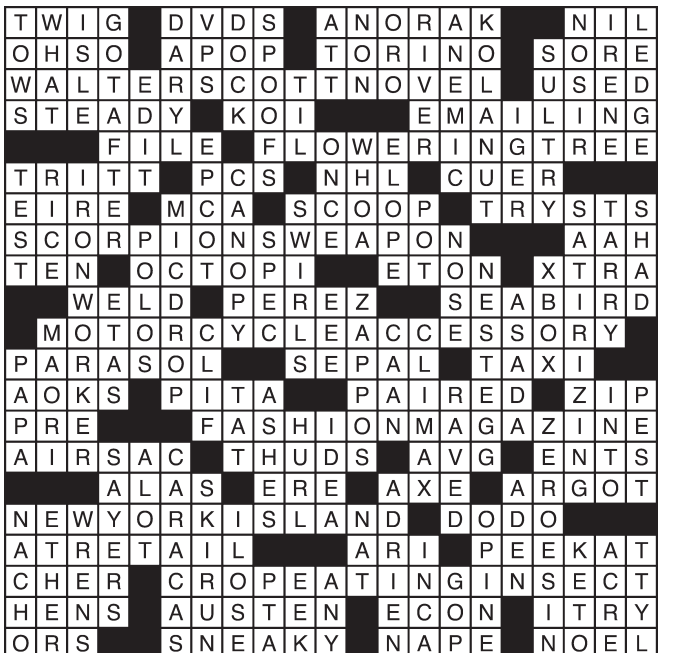
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might disagree with how a work project is going today. Or perhaps your disagreement is based on something you've been worried about, which means you feel sensitive about this subject. You're anxious. Instead, channel your energy into sports or some fun diversions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't threaten a warm friendship or relations with someone with angry squabbles today, which can easily happen. They might relate to a social occasion, your kids, or something to do with the arts or the entertainment world. Stay chill.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today you're high-viz. All the more reason to avoid arguments with bosses, parents and authority figures, because why end up with egg on your face? Not cool.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This could be an accident-prone day because of your emotions. That's because you might be angry at someone, and this anger distracts you from what you're doing. Fortunately, Venus will soften your words.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/5/22