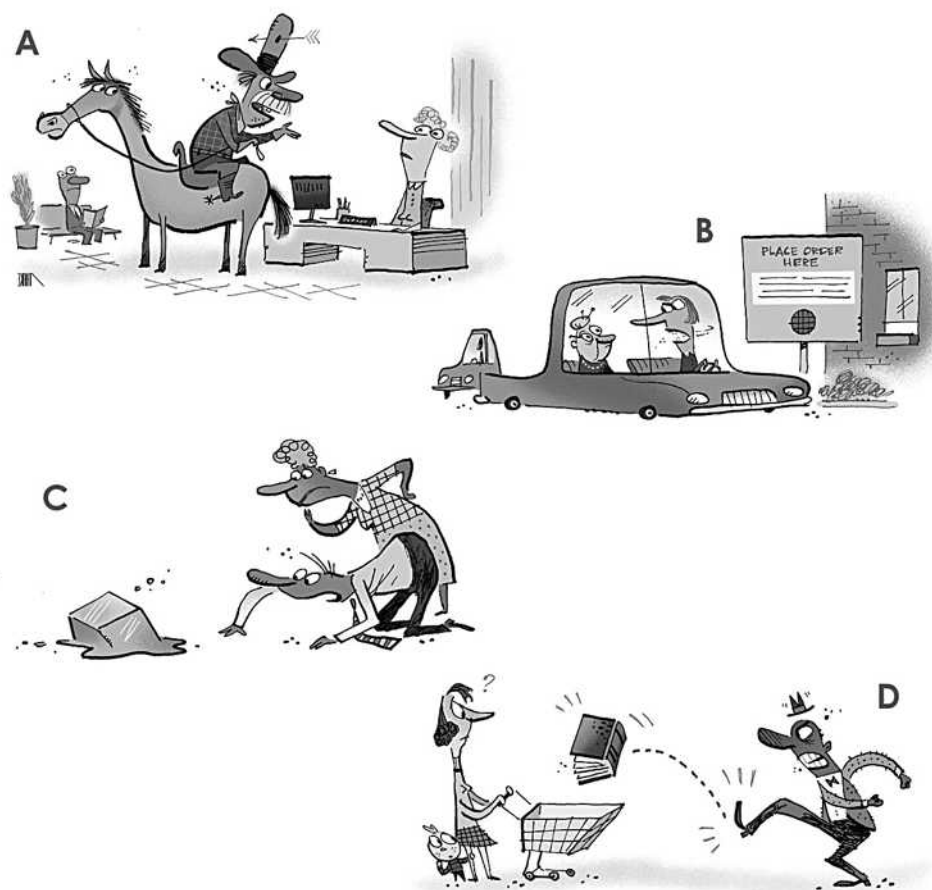


DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



Wit hunt!! Our Mueller report findings.

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1334 we provided you some links to the full (minus redactions) Mueller report investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election...

4th place:

Hoax Hicks: The president's former Miscommunications Director. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

3rd place:

Decision-balancing: I prefer not to use the term "procrastination." (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

2nd place and the trio of googly-eyed windup chattering teeth:

Coal comfort: Thoughts and prayers for black-lung victims. — A. Wheeler (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Trump-tweet: To make a wrong story short. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

Muellarity ensues: Honorable mentions

Ally-oops: Foreign Service slang for the president's blunders at NATO meetings. (Chris Doyle)

Alabama baby: A zygote. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

All-hands Love: Safe sex. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

Attachment expert: Staple genius. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Brown collar: An exceptionally enthusiastic sycophant. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Catherine Okay: The Russian empress's less accomplished daughter. (Duncan Stevens)

Constitutional options: All those articles and amendments. — D.J.T. (Kevin Dopart)

Dated dirt: Gossip that's past its tell-by time (on Twitter, 12 hours) (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

Exploratory fabrication: "Dad, what if we said we just talked about Russian orphans again?" (Frank Osen)

Factual report: FAKE NEWS FROM THE FAILING MEDIA (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Giuliani assertion: A pronouncement made with toe firmly in cheek. (Kevin Dopart)

Hannity probe: The Fox host investigates all the ways President Trump is the greatest. (Frank Mann, Washington)

New contest for Week 1338: Picture This — cartoon captions

Yet again, as we have twice or more each year since 1994, we offer a set of inscrutable cartoons by Bigger Shot Than Ever Bob Staake and ask you to scrut them. This week: Supply a caption for one or more of the cartoons above.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1338 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy.

Our second prize this week is intended to address the lamentable gender imbalance in Invite ink: Over the years, entries by XYish individuals have outsourced XXies 2 to 1.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de)Merit."

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses the week's new contest and results. Check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

Investigative intercourse: Tryst but verify. (Kevin Dopart)

KGB lunch: "Have your peephole call my peephole." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Mnuchin-land: A mythical country paved with gold bricks and landscaped with hedge funds. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Moniker leaks: What's happening in the brain area that stores the names of everyone I know. (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

More-on: Someone who doesn't disrobe at a nudist colony. (Chris Doyle)

Oligarch-crazy: Totally into totalitarians; MAGAGA. (Kevin Dopart)

Poke-eon: How much time my kid has spent on that app. (Sam Mertens, Washington)

Possible fire: Though there's definitely a dumpster. (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

Questionable translation: He said Xi said. (Beverly Sharp)

Redaction figure: A plastic William Barr doll. Comes with a black Sharpie that actually redacts! (Bill Dorer, Indianapolis)

Scott obstruction: Malady of the low-flow toilets. (Dave Prevar)

Ship covers: Tarps that keep a naval vessel out of sight when the president's out of his mind. (Steve Smith)

Sit, Deliver: In this film, a math teacher returns to East L.A. 50

years later. (Duncan Stevens)

Sociopath Santa: Who got our 8-year-old son a drum set? (Luke Baker, Columbia)

Stone Hannity: Maddow bucket list item. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Tennessee Twitter: A postcard. (Rick Haynes, Ocean City)

Tool-holder: The driver's seat of a BMW. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Troll-house: Cookies you should avoid unless you're a WORTHLESS PHILISTINE with NO TASTE who should be SHOT. (Duncan Stevens)

Unclear warfare: "The president just told us we're bombing Nambial! Wait, hang on." (Duncan Stevens)

Unlikely infomercial: Ronco Spray-On Armpit Hair. (Jesse Frankovich)

Post Magnitsky: Newspaper's puny prize for putting on capitalist refrigeratorsky. (Chuck Helwig, Centreville)

Express dumping: What the Empress seems to do with most of my brilliant entries. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

Inapplicable-Inappropriate-Not-Reading-Or-Listening-To-The-Instructions-Invite-Troll-Entry: Deliberately failing to follow the rules in the hopes that the Empress will give you ink for being cute. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 1: our contest for jokes with anagrams in the punchline. See wapo.st/invite1337.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"CAN YOU DIGIT?" By PAM AMICK KLAUITTER

ACROSS

- 1 Prepared for a selfie
7 Pizzeria chain, familiarly
11 Grey Cup gp.
14 ER figures
17 What worms help do, solitwise
18 Rowing teacher
19 Brewpub choice
20 Silk on the Seine
21 Unite in a common cause
23 Extinct bird
24 Duds
25 Official fuel of NASCAR since 2004
26 Unobstructed view
32 Mustard, e.g.: Abbr.
33 Bruins legend
34 Lacking freshness
35 Place to find a hack
38 Blood prefix
40 Problem for the weary
41 Eight hours per day?
42 Nods from NASA
43 Loner of a fish?
44 Prospecting tool
45 Laryngitis docs
46 Post-Civil War economic growth period
51 Food service trade org.
52 Midsummer arrivals
53 Vintage autos
54 Kid __ reading genre
55 Shopper's indulgence
58 Newspapers
60 Lord's domain
61 Audi's rings, e.g.
62 Fortuitous
64 On a lark
66 Co-star with Goldie, Ruth, Henry, et al.
67 Courtroom attention-getter
68 Reference volumes
69 Musical markings
70 Toon bartender
71 Circle makers
72 Sham
73 Phishing target, briefly
74 With no time to spare
77 Nero's 902
79 Six-pack muscles
82 Walked Into My Life": "Mame" song

- 83 Love interest of 58-Down
84 Liability
86 Aussie leaf munchers
89 "Yeah, right!"
90 Front door, usually
91 Week attachment?
92 Banned bug spray
93 Fla. NBA team
94 Barcelona bears
95 What "I don't wanna" do, in a Zayn/Taylor Swift hit
99 Crew member
102 Butcher's cut
103 __ Today: magazine for teachers
104 5 1/2 and 8 3/4, e.g. ... and a hint to this puzzle's circles
109 RSVP cards, say
110 Terrible start?
111 "Come-faithful" filler
112 Clavell's "Shogun" sequel

- 113 Deli choice
114 People fixers: Abbr.
115 TV's "New Girl"
116 Involve

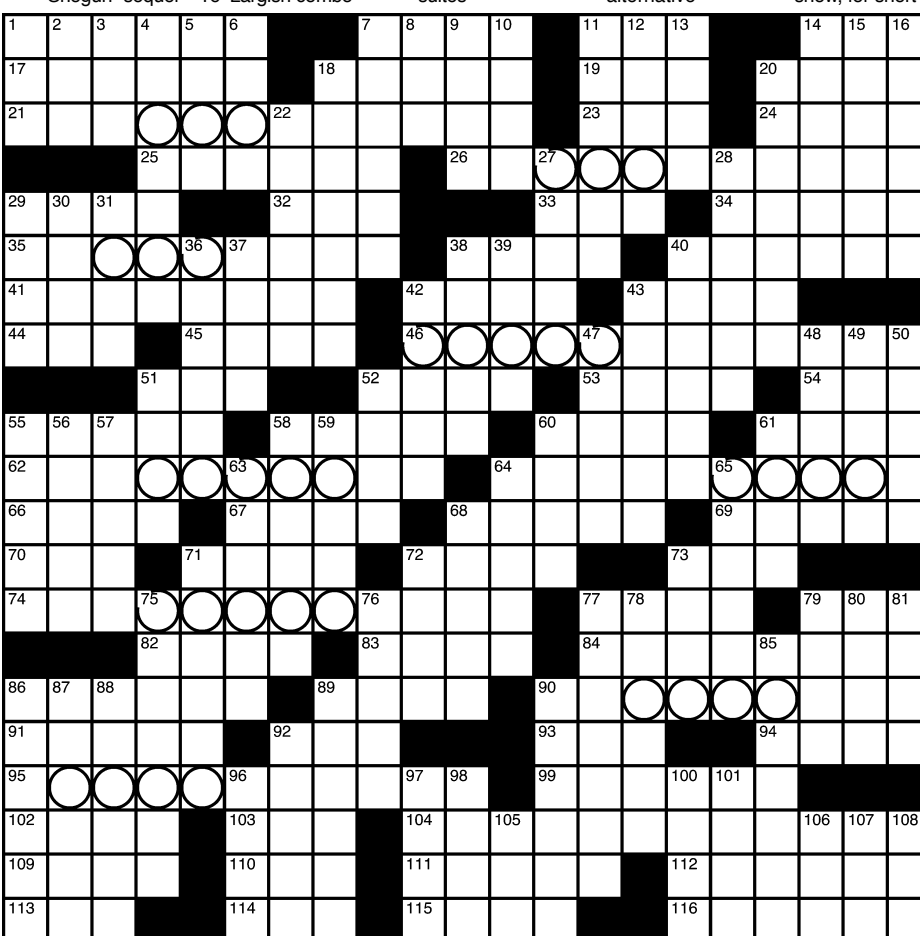
DOWN

- 1 Hangdog
2 Cousteau's sea
3 Nest egg letters
4 Action in a legal thriller
5 Words from Caesar
6 Cole of "Angie Tribeca"
7 Incalculable
8 "Guess again"
9 GM subsidiary until 2017
10 LPGA star Pak in the World Golf Hall of Fame
11 Smartphone feature
12 It's underfoot
13 Foliage element
14 Dr. Howser of '80s-'90s TV
15 They involve responsibilities
16 Largish combo

- 18 Difference between winning and losing, maybe
20 Word in an iconic cocktail order
22 Small racer
27 Asian menu promise
28 Inedible wraps
29 Vette roof option
30 Maui's scenic Highway
31 Babe's relatives
36 Wilson of "Walker, Texas Ranger"
37 Brown of publishing
38 Snack cake brand
39 Scratches (out)
40 React to a boring speech
42 "This is only __"
43 Comes down hard?
47 Angelou's "And Still __"

- 50 Stiff collars
51 Snow in le Alpi
52 Kay of "Rich Man, Poor Man"
55 Longtime SeaWorld orca
56 Eva of Argentina
57 Used Yelp, maybe
58 Love interest of 83-Across
59 Baseball's Pee Wee
60 Blow one's top
61 Scientist Hubbard
63 Bridge positions
64 Stand-up fare
65 Risky kind of kick
68 Mystic's deck
71 Kennel double talk?
72 Let go
73 __ Fein
75 Actresses Brennan and Davidson
76 Vehicle for Hulu and Roku
77 Pretense
78 E-file alternative

- 79 Talent show entries
80 Pressure: Pref.
81 Northern __ apples
85 How much space debris travels
86 Sullivan's pupil
87 Like some bagels
88 It may be unwanted
89 Things to aspire to
90 Walks unhurriedly
92 Hardly look forward to
96 Bar words that make you smile
97 Key with four sharps: Abbr.
98 Tick off
100 Renaissance instrument
101 Yemen neighbor
105 Tee sizes
106 92-Across banner
107 Bollywood star Aishwarya __
108 Popular skit show, for short



6/30/19 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 30: This year, you'll gain an understanding of others and what drives them. You could find some of their motivations curious. If single, you'll get into the dating process.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Although you may have the best intentions, what you say might be taken too literally, even if you mean to be humorous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You might want to see a situation differently. Listen to the other parties involved and imagine being each one of them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have a lot to do and complete. Focus on one item at a time; you'll reach your goal fast enough.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might want to rein in your spending. You love beautiful things. You appreciate quality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You express a willingness to share more with a specific person. One-on-one relating could be rewarding.

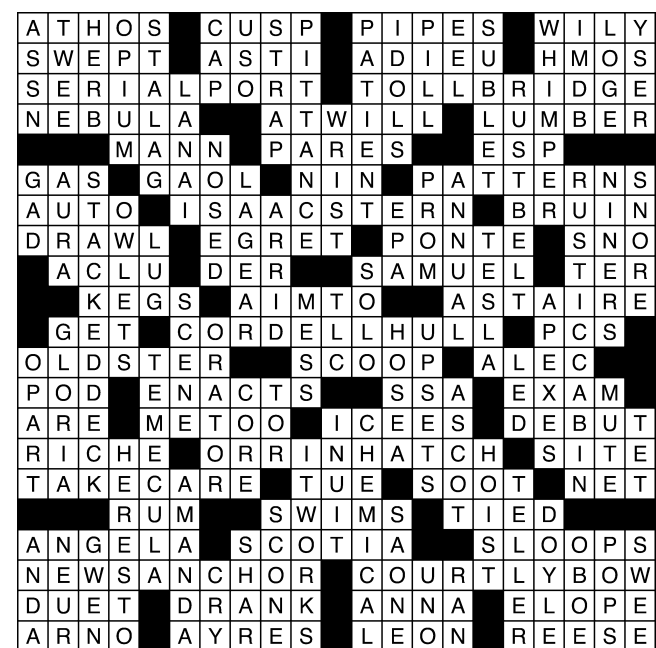
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your inner child demands release. You're likely to pursue some hobby that you've enjoyed for years.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Although you might not be doing anything differently, you seem wittier and more content than you usually do. A partner cannot get enough of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) No matter what you decide to do, you'll tend to go to excess. A partner or loved one could come up with one tempting idea after the other.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You might be more tense than you realize. Your source of stress might come from a judgment that you're making around your personal life.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



6/23/19