

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Thanksgoofing: Go around the table . . .

BY PAT MYERS

Just in time for Thanksgiving — or, for our print-edition readers, just in time to be too late for Thanksgiving — in **Week 1251**, we asked you to tell us things to be thankful for.

4th place

I'm thankful that turkey breasts don't have nipples. (Kel Nagel, Salisbury, Md.)

3rd place

I'm thankful for the tax cuts we'll be getting, because life can be unsettling if you don't know where your next billion is coming from. (Nancy Provorny, Silver Spring, a First Offender)

2nd place and the plush roast-turkey hat:

I'm thankful that you can't smell Twitter. (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

I'm thankful that Harvey won't ever be grabbing me again. — Oscar (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

No merci:

Honorable mentions

I am thankful that Google doesn't ask, "Why do you want to know?" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

. . . for family! What, someone already said "family"? Damn you all. You suck. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

. . . that the president's bone spurs didn't keep him from going to Vietnam this time. (Paul E. Milligan, Columbia, Md., a First Offender)

. . . that Ken Burns hasn't made a documentary about the Hundred Years' War. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

. . . that I live in a country where anyone can grow up to be president. In fact, you don't even NEED to grow up! (Larry McClemons, Annandale, Va.)

. . . that they invented the euphemism "toilet" paper. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

. . . that my generation is the first to be so cool, our kids always want us to go out with them and their friend . . . Wait, sweetie, I'm still putting on my Uggs! (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

. . . that Grandpa no longer has the capacity to produce his usual flow of racist and sexist jokes. (Christy Tosatto, Brookeville, Md.)

. . . that I'm not famous, so when two celebrities die, I don't have to worry. (Steve McClemons, Arlington)

. . . that our constitutional democracy was strong enough to survive 44 presidents in a row. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

. . . that my fellow woodworkers call me "Old Ten-Fingers." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

Bros everywhere are grateful to Harvey Weinstein for giving them a good reason not to watch Miramax films. "I'm sorry, honey, I just can't see 'The English Patient.' It's just a matter of principle for me." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

. . . that the current state of cellphone technology still lets me use the "I guess we got disconnected" excuse. (Frank Mann, Washington)

. . . that I don't live in a tiny, picturesque town in England, because I know from TV mysteries that half my neighbors would be murderers. (Melissa Balmain)

. . . that the president is a teetotaler because OMG CAN YOU IMAGINE?? (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

. . . that Tofurky contains no toe fur. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

. . . that we're expected to eat the mascot only for Thanksgiving and not Groundhog Day. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

. . . that Hershey's Kisses are wrapped in tinfoil, because otherwise they would all be melted by those mind-controlling radio signals. (Dudley Thompson)

. . . that I'm not Robert Mueller's food taster. (Duncan Stevens)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1255: Tour de Fours XIV: SANT is coming

INSANTA CLAUS: Mr. Kringle, it's cold out — please put your boots back on!

GYMNASTINESS: Whoa, it's not nice to spit on the tumbling mat . . .

KAKISTAN : A country ruled by its least qualified citizens. (Location unknown. Okay, known.)

Tour de Fours is an annual Invitational contest almost as old as the Empress's reign, run each time with a different set of four letters: **Coin a word or multi-word term that contains the letter block S-A-N-T** (since the results will run right before Christmas) and describe it, as in the examples above; **the letters may be in any order, but there may be no other letters between them** (you may insert a space or hyphen). You might include a funny example of how the term would be used; that's how you'd beat out another Loser who thought up the same term.

Submit entries at this website: wapo.st/enter-invite-1255 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives — maybe but probably not in time for Christmas — this special **Invite Holiday Pack** containing (a) a two-piece gift set of bath "fizzies" spelling out "HO," which the Empress snapped up immediately at a yard sale; (b) a "Christmas pickle" ornament, alleged to be an old German tradition in which whoever finds the pickle on the Christmas tree gets to open the first present, though, alas, it seems actually to have been thought up by an American marketer; and (c) a little red bag containing some pieces of fake coal, a promotion for some long-ago movie — and one piece of real coal.

Other runners-up win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No Childishness Left Behind" or "Magnum Dopus." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Dec. 4; results published Dec. 24 (online Dec. 21). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Thanksgoofing" is by Jesse Frankovich; Jesse also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/conv1255.



PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

"Bath fizzies," a Christmas pickle and lumps of coal: Our 2nd-prize Holiday Gift Pack.

. . . that the Silver Line will supply efficient public transit between Dulles and downtown D.C. in all likelihood at some point before I die. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

. . . that my kid doesn't remember me screaming "Stop stomping on my bladder, you little brat," at him before he was born. Also, I'm thankful he stopped stomping on my bladder. He's 17. That would hurt. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

. . . that a huge tax cut for the rich may bring me larger tips when I wait on their tables. (Robert Schechter)

. . . that I received my colonoscopy pictures back in time to share them with you. (Frank Osen)

. . . that the president has won the war on coal, because now there will be something in my kids' Christmas stockings. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

. . . that I can use this year's wall

calendar again in 2062. (Mark Calandra, Sudbury, Mass.)

. . . that so many people in my phone exchange care enough to call me every day. (Chris Doyle)

. . . that the Internet allows me to buy ribbons for my manual typewriters. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

. . . that I'm naturally warm, because otherwise my cat wouldn't spend any time with me, since I am not tuna. (Dan Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

. . . that Zargoth the Implacable is, as yet, unaware that I have escaped to your dimension. (Frank Osen)

. . . that Grandma never found out that my first Communion was also my last. (Jon Graft, Centreville, Va.)

. . . to President G.H.W. Bush for the Christmas goose. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

. . . that these oysters on the half-shell don't have faces. (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

. . . that my ex's name is short enough to easily tattoo over. (Danielle Nowlin)

. . . for the advancement of human civilization — we had a pretty good run going there for a while. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

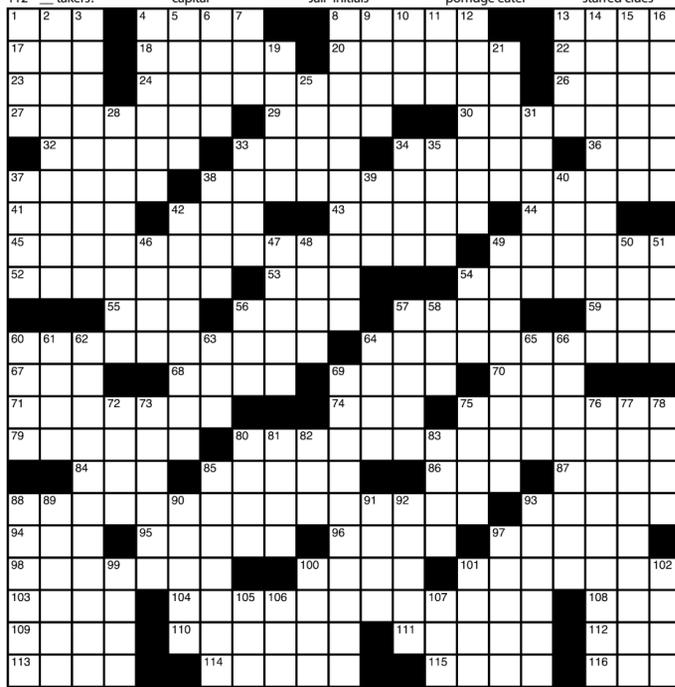
And last: **Full of great thank I am magnificent Russia not ever no-way infiltrate the Washington Post Invitation to the Style. PS glorious Empress, you get my rubles? No yes?** (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 27: Our contest to change the name of a business by one letter and name the new one. See wapo.st/invite1254.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- *"OUTSIDE SHOTS" choice By ERIK AGARD
- ACROSS
- 1 Security gp. with wands
- 4 They can print rcpets. with check images
- 8 Hooch
- 13 Spumante
- 17 Minor league ice org.
- 18 Asked too much
- 20 Chinchilla, e.g.
- 22 Give temporarily
- 23 Los Angeles athlete
- 24 "Trademark on Sealy's home page
- 26 Lamb pen name
- 27 "Show me the evidence!"
- 29 Green Giant morsels
- 30 Some oral meds
- 32 Perfect places
- 33 Nearly 25% of a marathon
- 34 Marvin Gaye's label
- 36 Understand
- 37 "We need to talk"
- 38 "Like the 'Hunger Games' trilogy Chocolate ___ cake
- 41 Oinker
- 42 Is yet to be decided
- 44 Descartes' sum
- 45 *1998 Bullock/Kidman film involving sorcery
- 49 Make it necessary to decrypt
- 52 Pepper typically hotter than a jalapeño
- 53 Paddle
- 54 Conestoga traveler
- 55 Bars in aisles, briefly
- 56 Good name for a funeral director?
- 57 See 80-Down
- 59 "Ugh, I've heard enough"
- 60 "Certain pie lover
- 64 "One might help find a lost animal
- 67 "Law & Order:
- 68 Walk with a pack
- 69 Brown rectangle?
- 70 "Ben-___"
- 71 Outlook alternative
- 74 Joe dispenser
- 75 Part-time player
- 79 Most loyal
- 80 *Checkout jeweler's slogan
- 84 "Every kiss begins with ___":
- 85 Trash
- 86 Long swimmer
- 87 Gauge on the dash
- 88 *Furry, green baseball mascot
- 93 Toast opener
- 94 Swanson on "Parks and Recreation"
- 95 Retract
- 96 1-Across check
- 97 Bespectacled "Scooby-Doo" character
- 98 Downward dog surface
- 100 Two-part tune
- 101 Mechanics' jobs
- 103 Ends' partners
- 104 "Like a 107-Down
- 108 Came into
- 109 End of a bed
- 110 Classic palindrome ending
- 111 Tuscan hill city
- 112 "takers?"
- 113 Acronymic anxiety about being excluded from the fun
- 114 Progress tracker
- 115 Team of players
- 116 Veto
- DOWN
- 1 Rain delay cover
- 2 Some free downloads
- 3 "Talk to Her" Oscar-winning screenwriter
- 38 ___ de gallo
- 39 Board game piece
- 4 Tack on
- 5 One below quatre
- 6 Ocean spray
- 7 Chess player's pride
- 8 Lose cohesion
- 9 "My bad"
- 10 Tribute in verse
- 11 Alphabetiser's ending
- 12 Puzzles
- 13 Guinness of "Star Wars"
- 14 Embarrassingly outdated
- 15 Tamsui River capital
- 16 "Gimme one moment"
- 19 Fools
- 21 Protective lymphocyte
- 25 Pay for a pad
- 28 City named by Cortés
- 31 Placing, as bricks
- 33 Anchor wrap
- 34 Author Morrison
- 35 Power couple?
- 37 Swiss high points
- 63 Engine stuff
- 64 Engine sound
- 65 Arizona retirement city
- 66 Comedian
- 62 Former South African monarchy
- 63 Engine stuff
- 64 Engine sound
- 65 Arizona retirement city
- 66 Comedian
- 67 Alonzo's self-named sitcom
- 68 TV drama
- 69 partly set on a Louisiana farm
- 72 Square serving?
- 73 Refuge
- 75 What a script may be written on
- 76 Grouse family bird
- 77 Bellinger of R&B
- 78 Publisher Adolph
- 80 With 57-Across, storied hot porridge eater
- 81 Pale
- 82 School gp.
- 83 Free ___ carte blanche
- 85 The Irons of soccer's Premier League
- 88 Remove with force
- 89 African American folk magic
- 90 Like Candy Crush purchases
- 91 Taiwanese PC brand
- 92 Lines at the door?
- 93 Jazz devotee
- 97 Blood lines
- 99 Regarding
- 100 Head
- 101 Long-necked pampas bird
- 102 River of Hades
- 105 First character in this clue
- 106 Bit of body art
- 107 Shot surrounding the answers to starred clues



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Nov. 26: This year, you will want to open up to many new ideas; you even might act on one or two of them. If you are single, you will meet potential suitors without a problem. Be careful, as you are likely to run into someone who might not be the person they seem to be. If you are attached, others seem excited just to be around the two of you. Your home life soars in significance. Pisces is moody and unpredictable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You finally feel as if you can pull away from the holiday hoopla and go into retreat mode. No one will be surprised that you need a nap to make up for lost time over the past few days.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Zero in on a friendship or a long-term desire. You have a way of not relaxing until every detail is cleared up. You will want to make sure your friends feel content with their visits and your family was pleased with their Thanksgiving celebration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You understand a lot more than you realize about an older person and their needs. This person is also aware of a psychic connection between the two of you. You seem to be able to tune in to others and be responsive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your intuition seems to be right on. Trust your sixth sense, and make a difference to someone who needs more empathy and less judgment. Decide to go off to a movie with this person. Sometimes, relaxing while being entertained works the best.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Make it your pleasure to let someone else take over. You might opt for a nap or some quiet time with a loved one. Relaxing, reading the Sunday paper and just acting as if you are a couch potato will suit you just fine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Be more open to possibilities that surround you and a loved one. If you question what is happening with your significant other, it might be because this person sometimes seems distant and off in la-la land. Worry less, and just focus on yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your focus seems to be on the more technical side of life right now. Don't be surprised by someone else's reaction. You might not be pleased with what others have to say in response to you. Do not push so hard to get your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You are intuitive, and particularly so around a new friend or a romantic relationship. You seem to know what is going to happen ahead of time. Remain sensitive and caring with a special person, and do what he or she desires.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You open up to new ideas and a different approach, especially when dealing with a family member. You tend to go to extremes, whether you're out at brunch or simply with a loved one at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You could be a lot more expressive than you have been in a while. Make calls to your family and friends, and find out how others enjoyed their Thanksgiving. You will hear some gossip mixed in.

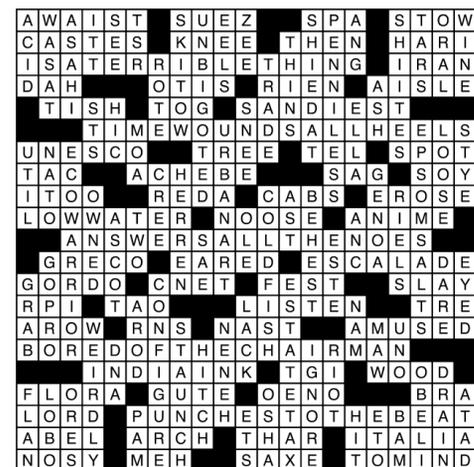
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Touch base with a family member whom you don't often see but who needs to hear from you. Unexpected events push you in a new direction. Maintain your sense of humor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Follow your sixth sense, and tune in to your ability to detach. How others see a situation could be a lot different from how you see it. In any case, trust your judgment. Be careful with your spending. The unexpected could hit your finances pretty hard.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



11/19/17