

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL



GRID BY EVAN BIRNHOLZ/DEVILCROSS.COM

New contest for Week 1262: Clue us in — a backward crossword

ANTIQUUE: Phone more than two years old
FAQ: Useful tips at CurseToAvoidFilters.com
ITSPAT: What the camel did when asked to pass through the eye of a needle

Once again, we present a filled-in crossword grid and ask you to supply clues for one or more of the answers. But it looks to be more of a challenge than usual: This time, Washington Post Sunday Puzzle Guy Evan Birnholz has supplied the Empress with a crossword from his own archives, at DevilCross.com, that's, well, devilish: For one thing, it has a lot of people's names. For another, some of Evan's own wordplay is inkworthy in itself: For instance, his clue for ERASES is "Draws a blank?" But let's give it a go: **This week: Supply one or more creative clues for the filled-in crossword grid above — as many as 25 clues in all.**

Please write each entry on its own line, as "WORDFROMTHEGRID (without spaces even if you interpret it as multiple words): [your clue]," as in the examples at the top of the column. This will let the Empress sort the entries without producing her famous Howls of Utter Judging Despair. You can see Evan's clues at wapo.st/invite-grid-1262 or in list form in this week's Style Conversational column at wapo.st/conv1262.

Submit your entries at the website wapo.st/enter-invite-1262 (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives *such* a Loserly prize: It's a how-to video for doing something that hardly anyone does anymore — in a medium that's also almost entirely obsolete. And so deepest thanks to Daphne Steinberg for donating a mint-condition copy of "Dance the Macarena" — on VHS tape.

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," or more likely their successors, now being created. First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Jan. 22;** results published Feb. 11 (online Feb. 8). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Beverley Sharp; Tom Witte 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. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

full deck? (Beverley Sharp)

A: "They got me a stool."
 Q: Secretary Mnuchin, what birthday gift did "the American people" leave on your doorstep? (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

Week 1247, dialogue from a reinterpreted movie title:
 "Twelve Angry Men": "And with that penalty for too many players on the field, the Redskins are once again forced to punt . . ." (Roy Ashley, Washington)

"The Dirty Dozen": "Ew, what happened to these bagels?" (Jonathan Caws-Elwitt, Northampton, Mass.)

Week 1248, (Un)True Confessions:
 You know that person at the coffee shop who orders a small (but in a large cup please so it can cool) peppermint half-cappuccino, half-latte with two espresso shots, almond milk, and coffee grinds only from countries that operate sustainable agriculture cooperatives? Well, that's me. (Sean Bender-Prouty, Arlington)

I like to fill an unused poop bag with Tootsie Rolls and eat them at the dog park. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Week 1250, poems featuring words used in a certain year for the first time:
 1989: I'm a HELICOPTER PARENT. When my kid goes to the potty I am there to supervise him As I CAFFEINATE with LATTE, And all day I send him emails (With his dad a :BCC)

Just to tell him he's my baby Though he just turned 23. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Week 1252, new medications:
 Yomamamine: Treats extreme ugliness, obesity, stupidity and easiness. (Jesse Frankovich)

Effineffin: Provides temporary relief of bad language among teens hanging out, meeting Grandma, etc. Proven as effective as adult-strength Bleepitol. (Frank Osen)

Week 1253, fictoids about clothing and fashion:
 The now-infamous clothier Frederic Jacque stole the design of the athletic supporter from German clothier Otto Schlongrabbe, to the relief of athletes worldwide. (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

What Al Gore actually invented was the hairnet. (Jesse Frankovich)

A Chicago haberdasher named his new fur hand-covers "Mittens" in honor of his beloved, very recently deceased cat. (Christy Tosatto, Brookeville, Md.)

Week 1254, change a company name by one letter (or switch two letters):
 Breitbart News: Scooping the most purient political dirt. (David Patch, Toledo)

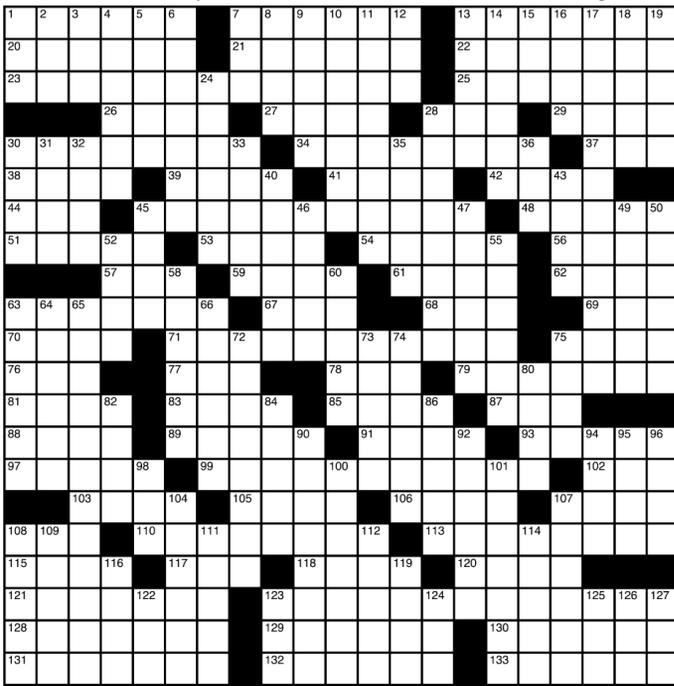
More honorable mentions, including song parodies and cartoon captions, in the online *Invite* at wapo.st/invite1262.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 15: our obit-poem contest. See wapo.st/invite1261.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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| <p>"PLUSH MATERIAL" By MATT MCKINLEY</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 "I'm waiting..."</p> <p>7 "Volunteers?"</p> <p>13 Bobbing refuse</p> <p>20 Word with man or dope</p> <p>21 Like typical laundromats</p> <p>22 Affluent San Diego community</p> <p>23 Tolerate shrubland?</p> <p>25 Crowd-drawing bars</p> <p>26 Ancient queen, familiarly</p> <p>27 Pot for paella</p> <p>28 Sicilian six</p> <p>29 Sports figure</p> <p>30 Sewer needs</p> <p>34 Hates</p> <p>37 MLB set a season record for them in 2017</p> <p>38 Times to call, in ads</p> <p>39 Markers</p> <p>41 Submerged threat</p> <p>42 Office supply quantity</p> <p>44 Term in wrestling or bowling</p> <p>45 3 rings?</p> <p>48 Doctor's orders</p> <p>51 Receiver of many letters</p> <p>53 Actress Kathryn</p> <p>54 Pocket breads</p> <p>56 BCS org.</p> <p>57 Franklin's 1936 opponent</p> <p>59 Spanish coin</p> <p>61 Local pic shower</p> <p>62 Distress signal?</p> <p>63 One who's learned</p> <p>67 Pres. after USG</p> <p>68 Langley org.</p> <p>69 Online exchange, briefly</p> <p>70 Troon turndowns</p> <p>71 Texas team's fair exhibit?</p> <p>75 Basie's "Clock Jump"</p> <p>76 Director DuVernay</p> <p>77 Actor Vigoda</p> <p>78 Bard's dusk</p> <p>79 Lumber mill workers</p> <p>81 BOLD target</p> <p>83 It can be hammered out</p> <p>85 Runway adornment</p> <p>87 "___ me ae spark o' Nature's fire": Burns</p> <p>88 London's ___ Modern</p> | <p>89 Some Deco works</p> <p>91 Sea, with "the"</p> <p>93 Maestro Georg</p> <p>97 Different</p> <p>99 Loyalty from a farm bird?</p> <p>102 Overtake in a race, in a way</p> <p>103 Grammy winner</p> <p>105 Schoolmarmish</p> <p>106 One given to forward looks</p> <p>107 Similar</p> <p>108 East Lansing sch.</p> <p>110 "How clever of you!"</p> <p>113 Office supplies, or, minus a letter, a supplier of them</p> <p>115 Nashville attraction</p> <p>117 Spanish 116-Down</p> <p>118 Howard's wife, to the FonZ</p> <p>120 Letters before a view</p> <p>121 Half of nothing new?</p> <p>123 Successful religious conversion?</p> <p>128 Peru neighbor</p> <p>129 "The Wind in the Willows" croaker</p> <p>130 Shamed</p> <p>131 Saw-toothed</p> <p>132 Blouse partners</p> <p>133 Already-seen fare</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 "___ some visitor, I muttered ...":</p> <p>2 ___ farm</p> <p>3 TV awareness-raiser</p> <p>4 Colors</p> <p>5 Confuse</p> <p>6 Teenage Russian emperor (1727-1730)</p> <p>7 Pitching staff leader</p> <p>8 Acronymic NYC neighborhood</p> <p>9 Give in</p> <p>10 Ready</p> | <p>11 "Shh!"</p> <p>12 N.T. book</p> <p>13 Paper under a wiper</p> <p>14 Man-made Georgia lake</p> <p>15 Screwdriver parts, for short</p> <p>16 Best</p> <p>17 Apparatus that breeds laziness?</p> <p>18 Union setting</p> <p>19 Spinnaker holders</p> <p>24 Writer ___ de Balzac</p> <p>28 Tortilla treat</p> <p>30 Livens (up)</p> <p>31 Nike competitor</p> <p>32 N.C. neighbor</p> <p>33 Bolivian capital</p> <p>35 Red Square honoree</p> <p>36 ___ roles</p> <p>40 Literally, "under city"</p> <p>43 Ponte Vecchio's river</p> <p>45 See the bet</p> <p>46 ___Croatian</p> <p>47 They're hard to break</p> <p>49 Whine</p> | <p>50 Decision makers have them</p> <p>52 New Mexico art hub</p> <p>55 Witch enemy of Popeye</p> <p>58 False front</p> <p>60 "Without a doubt"</p> <p>63 Acknowledge the brass</p> <p>64 Admonition</p> <p>65 Sound from a dying fire?</p> <p>66 Stack seen on-screen</p> <p>72 Approached</p> <p>73 Small and glittering, like eyes</p> <p>74 Beginnings</p> <p>75 Court cry</p> <p>78 Something made on a star?</p> <p>82 Jury member</p> <p>84 Country singer</p> <p>86 Glass-raised word</p> <p>90 Accident investigation clue</p> <p>92 ___ license</p> | <p>94 Sommer of "The Prize"</p> <p>95 Animal house</p> <p>96 Hosp. personnel</p> <p>98 Headed up</p> <p>100 Academic retirees</p> <p>101 Ore carrier</p> <p>104 Gung-ho type</p> <p>107 10-time Gold Glove winner</p> <p>108 Early receiver of tablets</p> <p>109 ___ bar</p> <p>111 Netman Agassi</p> <p>112 Fur tycoon</p> <p>114 Suffix with xeno-</p> <p>116 English 117-Across</p> <p>119 Series of 69-Across</p> <p>122 "Ghost" psychic</p> <p>126 Mae Brown</p> <p>123 Radio settings</p> <p>124 Reasons for some sportscast split screens</p> <p>125 Big Ten sch.</p> <p>126 Novelist</p> <p>127 Deighton</p> <p>127 Picks out of a mug book</p> |
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1/14/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 14: This year you become very serious-minded and accepting of new responsibilities. Remember, this attitude is only a phase. Life at times could feel heavy, but again, know that this period will end, given some time. If you are single, you could meet someone who you feel is right for you. If you are attached, the two of you might make some adjustments and could take on a major project. Make sure that you dot your i's and cross your t's. A fellow Capricorn is full of advice.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 What was acceptable yesterday might not be okay today. This feeling might be the direct result of your awareness of your responsibilities. Try not to blow a matter out of proportion, as it is likely that you could be frustrated or angry.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 Keep reaching out to a loved one at a distance. Your ability to turn a personal matter around emerges. You might not always like sudden change, yet you don't fight it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 You mix a sense of being carefree with an element of thoughtfulness. You might need this combo to deal with a loved one and their reservations about a matter that involves both of you. Decide to be more fiscally responsible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 You would like to defer a problem to someone else, and you are likely to do just that. This person loves to have control and enjoys calling the shots. Why not let others do what they enjoy, so that you can create some downtime for yourself?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Reach out to someone who often has strong opinions. You might like this person's suggestions when they explain an evolving situation. Look at this interaction as an opportunity to understand where others are coming from.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 You might not be ready for a friend's sense of mischief. You can't help but react. Just throw yourself into the moment, and you will wind up smiling. You will soon understand why this person relishes the simple happenings in life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Stay close to home. You need to be more present, and you could be feeling exhausted. Veg and watch your favorite TV show. Make time for a youngster who would appreciate your attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Deal with a financial matter early on, even if it's as simple as buying a lottery ticket. Once you join a friend, you will barely have any time to think, as you are likely to experience an action-packed few hours.

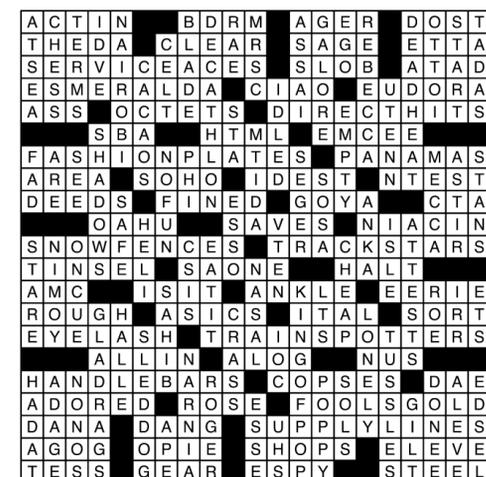
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Be willing to admit when you are wrong about an issue. Others also have strong opinions. Reaching an agreement takes time, mutual respect and understanding. You could casually negotiate this issue and come to a meeting point.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 You might not be sure what the best thing to do is. When encountering an unexpected jolt that affects your personal life, you might wonder if the actions you took were the right ones. Accept responsibility for what comes down the path.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 Reach out to someone you care a lot about. You might feel the need to withdraw and distance yourself. Do, by all means, as you will need all of your energy in the near future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 You see what others can't even imagine. Part of the reason this is possible is that you are not involved. You'll look at all the actions, reactions and subsequent actions from an observer's perspective. Make fewer judgments.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



1/7/18

Double-yore fun: 2017 redo, Part 2

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1258**, the second half of our Kook's Tour of last year's contests, the Empress invited you to enter (or reenter) Weeks 1230 through 1254, which ran June through November; some entries focus on more recent events.

4th place

Week 1251, things to be thankful for:

I'm thankful for my favorite things to eat, puppies, and Oxford commas. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

3rd place

Week 1242, then/now jokes:

Then: Nazis marching in the streets. *Now:* . . . Well, technically, they're neo-Nazis. (Thor Rudebeck, Chicago)

2nd place and the nose-basketball game:

Week 1235, song parodies about science:

To the tune of "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid":

New houses built on the ocean Are truly a sad mistake. You dream about water views, bud?

Best find yourself some nice lake. Antarctica's calving icebergs;

Warm water fills up more space. The coastline you see today will

Soon be in a different place. Under the sea, under the sea,

Thermal expansion won't let your mansion stay water-free.

We've got no precious little tyke To keep his finger in the dike.

Miami Beachers may become creatures Under the sea.

(Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Week 1254, change a company name by one letter:

Philip Morris: The tobacco company adopts a name that better reflects its business. (William Kennard, Arlington)

So last year: Honorable mentions

Week 1230, creation dialogues:

The chicken: "And at the exact instant, I shall create its egg, thereby vexing humans for eternity!" (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Week 1239, combine two or more movie titles:

"Doctor Zhivago, This Is Spinal Tap": A poorly trained Russian immigrant physician must rely on his nurse's expertise to avert medical disaster. (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church)

Week 1240, limericks with a gh- or gi- word:

Said the daughter, "Let's not have a tiff:

Use a hard 'g' like 'giving' or 'glyph.'

For this kind of a file,

There is only one style —

No, said Mom: "Choosy mothers choose '.gif.'" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1242, then/now jokes:

Then: Coal jobs, *Now:* LOL! Jobs?! (Kevin Dopot, Washington)

Then: Going to a dictionary to find out what "online" means.

Now: Going online to find out what "dictionary" means. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Then: The Reagan years — More Ron! More Ron!

Now: The Trump years — (homophone redacted) (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

Then: You look forward to your senior prom.

Now: You look forward to your senior discount. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Week 1245, stupid complaints to the editor:

On the front page, you wrote "Tomorrow shower." Please be advised that I shower every day and don't need personal hygiene tips from you! (Mark Raffman)

Week 1246, pair a sentence from a Post article with a question it might answer:

A: "We're dealing with it." Q: "President Trump, what are you and your team doing with that not-