

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## What a croc! Winning animal fiktoids.

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1289 we sought to extend our crusade to misinform our readers to Kingdom Animalia with these Fiktoids of Fauna:



PEDRO PARRA VIA WIKIPEDIA

## Shar-Pei, deflated.

## 4th place

Despite their reputation, clams have a surprisingly high rate of depression. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

## 3rd place

The world's most expensive bacon comes from the guinea pig. (Susanne Pierce Dyer, Green Valley, Calif.)

## 2nd place and the animal appendage finger ornaments:

John Williams drew inspiration for the "Jaws" theme after hearing about a shark attack survivor who continued to play piano with his remaining two fingers. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

When fully inflated, an adult Shar-Pei can reach up to seven feet in circumference. (David Schwartz, Fairfax, a First Offender)

## Just No stories: Honorable mentions

Since the appointment of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the only animal in Montana that hasn't been removed from endangered-species protection is the jackalope. (Susanne Pierce Dyer)

Some synagogues offer bar mitzvahs for dogs when they turn 1.86. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

The armadillo is found in Washington, D.C., only at the zoo, while the peccadillo is constantly being discovered. (Lynne Larkin, Glenn Dale)

According to Hinduism, cats have only one life. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Most species of owls in Central and South America have a call that sounds like ¿Quién? (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

The painting "Dogs Playing Poker" was based on a secretly acquired photograph of dogs playing poker. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Alanis Morissette wrote the melody to "Ironic" while listening to the songs of female sperm whales. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

The male orange clownfish has a genetic predisposition to bone spurs. (Dottie Gray, Alexandria)

Even though Arnold Schwarzenegger can't pronounce "ferret," he keeps seven of them as pets. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Albino frogs can't jump. (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.)

Amazingly, Nostradamus correctly foretold that Bigfoot porn would be an issue in a Virginia congressional race. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

To address the current farm labor shortage, giraffes are being used to pick fruit off tall trees and load it gently into waiting trucks. (Susanne Pierce Dyer)

"Rainbow" trout got their name when biologists at fish hatcheries noticed them forming same-sex pair bonds. (Meghan Durham, Reston)

Cat hairballs can be inserted in the auditory canal to prevent earaches. This technique is often practiced by older men. (Kathleen Cross, Silver Spring)

Despite years of trying, fish simply cannot play baseball. All but 5,000 South Floridians have acknowledged that fact. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

The trumpeter swan has a small, flap-covered hole on its neck to drain saliva. (Jeff Shirley)



## New contest for Week 1293: Constitutional unconventional

Who knows — our current president may well have perused the U.S. Constitution top to bottom, all seven articles and 27 amendments, the preamble and the closing endorsement, sometime in his life. Okay, we know. C'mon. But don't you think the USA CEO might actually find some of it interesting if it were presented in a livelier format? Reader Tod Cramton suggested a series of marching cheers; let's broaden that idea: **This week:**

**Humorously translate or explain some part of the U.S. Constitution:** with a funny example or analogy; as a pithy proverb or slogan; in a short poem, a song parody, a graphic, you name it. Be sure to tell us what specific part of the Constitution you're translating. Your version may be, but doesn't necessarily have to be, aimed at the president's particular attention span or interests.

Submit entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1293](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1293) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place: Some brand-new **Undies for Two**, a white polyester bikini brief with four leg holes positioned so that two people wear it together, facing each other very closely, as if clamped together by one of those big tight rubber bands that go around broccoli in the produce section. "Getting in them is half the fun!" promises the box, so you still have the other 50 percent to make the best of your immobility. Donated by Loser and Style Invitational Devotee Kathleen Delano, who sanely declined to model them for the readers of The Washington Post.

**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, "We've Seen Better" or "Idiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 20;** results published Sept. 16 (online Sept. 13). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Chris Doyle; Chris also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [fb.me/invdev](http://fb.me/invdev). "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

**Cockroach milk**, touted as a "superfood," is so popular in Brooklyn that several coffee shops there now offer "cafe roachas," as well as "splatters" sprinkled with a smashed-roach garnish. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Rin-Tin-Tin's contract demanded that he have a bigger dressing room than his human co-stars, and it always be stocked with a bowl of M&M's containing only gray ones. (Russell Beland)

All wombats are female. The males are called mbats. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Except for the species *Mellivora melanura*, honey badgers do care. (Ed Sobansky, Bowie)

Recently released video has caught bald eagles wearing straw head coverings during mating season. (Lorna Jerome, Waldorf, a First Offender)

Cockroaches are so named because they taste like chicken. (Larry Gray)

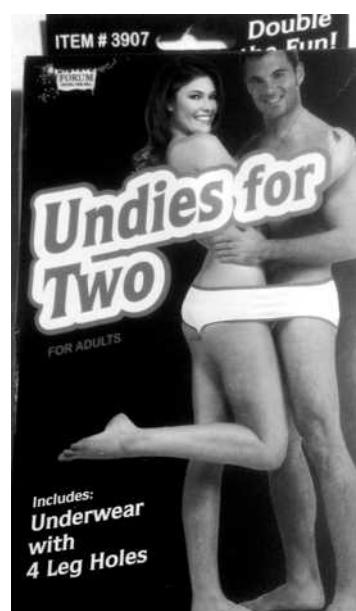
Scott was beaten to the South Pole by Amundsen because of his tragic decision to use sled penguins. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

In Mexico, the inside joke is to tell gringos that the "mole" sauce on their chicken is made from chocolate and not the real ingredient, blended Mexican mole lizards. (Lorraine McMillan, Alexandria)

The Puritans referred to marital relations as "playing possum," since they moved as little as possible. (Jeff Shirley)

Mr. Ed's voice was dubbed for the TV show because he spoke only German. (Malcolm Fleschner, Palo Alto, Calif.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 20: our contest for limericks featuring words beginning with gl- through go-** See [wapo.st/invite1292](http://wapo.st/invite1292).



If you win this second prize, please don't send us a photo.

It actually takes at least four butterfly wing-flaps in the Pacific Ocean to create a hurricane. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Lions prefer to sleep on the open savanna. They sleep very poorly in jungles or near villages, particularly when there is high-pitched singing nearby. (Duncan Stevens)

In Greek, "hippopotamus" means "water horse," while in Swahili it means "but ugly." (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

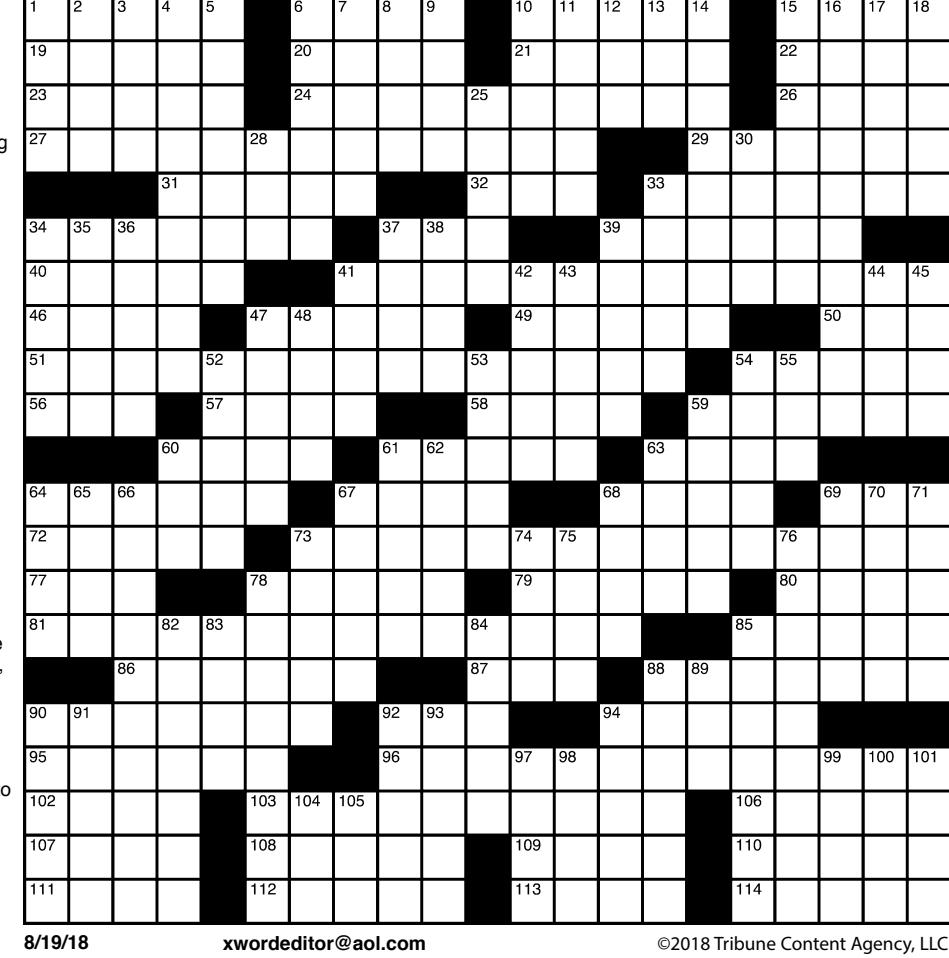
Paleontologists have found fossils of the ancestors of modern buffalo that bear vestigial wings. (Duncan Stevens)

While many people know that Sumatran kopi luwak coffee comes from beans eaten and excreted by the palm civet, fewer know that the Sumatran tree sloth poops decaf. (Brendan Beary)

Before the evolution of the various big-cat species, giant balls of string roamed the savannas. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"LOAF AFFAIR" By MIKE TORCH	72 Norwegian capital	102 El __	11 L.A.-based brewery	44 Place	76 Blues musician's "harp"
	73 Celebratory wish over Jewish bread?	103 Orchestra section	12 Tokyo, formerly	45 Disaster movie?	47 U.S. security
	77 " ____ yours": "My gift"	106 Jenna, to Jeb	13 O.T. book	48 Norwegian capital	78 Literally, Greek for "bad place"
	78 Gift recipient	107 Nerd	14 Religious observances	52 Option for a return	82 Lost Colony's island
	79 Big hits NASA approvals	108 Folding declaration	15 Fretful	53 Precarious	83 Big biceps, at the gym
	80 NASA	109 Cosmo rival	16 Bread that only appears for a short time?	54 Prefix with frost	84 Chef's supply
	81 Ibsen title	110 Europop's __ Base	17 Harmful aspects	55 Mandela's org.	85 London football club
	82 character's bread?	111 Besides	18 Try a new shade on the table?	56 Looney Tunes	88 Aromatic herb
	85 Stop in Québec?	112 Bottomless gulf	25 Salon coloring	57 Singing voice, informally	89 Part of MoMA
	86 Immerses in liquid	113 Passing out at the table?	28 Program file suffix	60 Looney Tunes stinker	90 Span
	87 Get it wrong	114 Golf Channel analyst Wadkins	30 Massuese's target	63 Soften in feeling	91 The senior Saarinen
	88 Insurance company founded for rural workers	115 Most eligible for service	33 "See yal"	64 Hop-jump link	92 Ear bone
	89 "One of Ours" Pulitzer-winning author	116 Sleep study subject	34 Architect Frank	65 Art Deco artist	93 Opposites of squeakers, in sports
	90 Kick out	117 Ineffective	35 Yellow-and-white daisy	66 Bread with a winelike aroma?	94 Davis with an Oscar, Emmy and two Tonys
	91 Musical composition about a broad-loving pack animal?	118 Put a price on freedom?	36 Soybean paste	67 Breathes hard	95 Employed
	92 Like some discount mdse.	119 King in "The Tempest"	37 "Do ____ you must"	68 Ocean feature	96 Luxor's river
	93 Left-hand page	120 "Fixer Upper" network	38 "Fine furs	69 Worship	97 Cook Paula
	94 King in "The Tempest"	121 Verdi creation	39 PC insert	70 15-Across co-worker	98 Dermatologists' concerns
	95 King in "The Tempest"	122 Refines	40 Nursery sch.	71 Dermatologists' concerns	100 B-school course
	96 "Sorry, I meant to give you a plain burger?"	123 Mentions specifically	41 Sharp	72 Pick up	101 Rebel against
	97 "Geo: cable channel	124 Verdi creation	42 Rude	73 "Good buddy"	102 Diplomatic bldg.
	98 Source of intolerance	125	43 Mentions specifically	74 "Pick up	103 Pop artist Lichtenstein



Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 19:** This year, you will become concerned with communication. You want others to clearly receive your thoughts. Your skills could be improved by taking a workshop. You understand the importance of attitude, too. If you are single, you could be swept off your feet by someone you meet. If you are attached, the two of you could fall madly back in love. Others who do not know you might think you are new lovers. Sagittarius always has a remedy to help you loosen up.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Reach out to a loved one at a distance. In general, it might be hard to connect with others. Leave a message if need be. Someone cares about you; note this person's behavior. Clear up a misunderstanding quickly.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Focus on your immediate family. Many are making changes around their homes. A key person wants to be part of the process. This individual might not have your taste, but they certainly express a sense of adventure, especially with colors.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You need to respond to others, as your popularity soars. A neighbor or a close relative will reach out to you. You provoke others to daydream about what they want. Mercury, your ruling planet, moves into a more favorable position.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You love bringing your family and friends together. Sometimes, you might be busy helping someone make their life work. Whatever you do, be gracious and willing to pitch in.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You could not be in better shape to enjoy your life and loved ones. Romance for those who are available soars to new heights. Attached Leos express their caring for their partners. Children feel your affection.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You can be lively, especially when dealing with a friend or loved one. The opportunity could arrive to introduce this person to new people whom you also enjoy. You see the bright side of relating right now, as you rarely do.

**TAURUS** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will be in the limelight, regardless of whether you want to be. Others seek you out for feedback or a friendly chat. Use care when indulging in the moment, as you easily could go overboard.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You are all smiles, and others notice how upbeat and magnetic you are. Understand that several people are likely to engage you in conversation to catch up. You carry your feelings in your expression, at least for now.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

A loved one feels tightly knit to you. You might not be totally at ease with this person's self-expression when demonstrating this caring. If you feel uncomfortable, you might consider opening up a conversation.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You leap into the forefront when out with friends or a loved one. If you are available, you might find that there is more to a friendship than you originally had thought. What you do with this information is up to you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) You could be more in tune with a quiet Sunday. Join a loved one for a picnic at a favorite spot. Do not forget to take that catnap, too. Some extra R and R will do wonders for your temperament and energy levels.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

