

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Deletes we could do! Week 1331 ink.

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1331** the Empress asked you to find some article in any publication that week, then “accidentally” cut a small block of text from a sentence or headline and/or paste some text from elsewhere in the same article. In the entries below, the cuts are struck out or, if they’re a very few letters, set off in brackets so the deletion is clearer; the pastes are in italics.

4th place:

Trump to unveil plan to move immigration toward ‘me[r]it-based’ system. (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

3rd place:

Big[fo]t sightings have been described in areas across Alabama. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

2nd place and the basket crocheted from Post delivery bags:

Amazon’s founder, Jeff Bezos, owns The Washington Post every American between ages 18 and 64. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Our devices steal our attention. We need to take it back DING. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Hor[de]plorable mentions:

Paint it black and add spikes, president advises engineers of his border waf[er] White House (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Paint it black and add spikes, president advises engineers of his border waf[er] head (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

“I with my Republican colleagues always want to be supportive of the most conservative candidate who can actually win a race.” (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Celebrate every type of tart, tangy, salty mom this Mother’s Day with these 7 special recipes (Michelle Christophorou, Guildford, England)

Filings reveal justices’ bitter rift or death-penalty members (Duncan Stevens)

With fewer ‘hard [p]asses,’ will it be harder to cover White House? (Gary Crockett, Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

A guide to 20 inquiries Trump and his [a]llies are working to impede (Kevin Dopart)

Amazon Now Has Machines to Automatically Bo[ll]ix Up Orders (Jesse Frankovich)

As high court overturns 40-year-old ruling, some justices ask what’s next the Constitution (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Drug addiction is broadly defined as a disease that needs cleansing of the mind, body, and soul. (Jesse Frankovich)

Decorating on a budget, bit by bit? Here’s what these designers would do. Plug-in dimmers. (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

Disgraced former congressman Anthony Weiner’s Weiner’s scandalous saga started in 2011. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

House passes measure to block ACA waivers to states a faint glimmer of potential cooperation (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Farmers markets booming on Vancouver Island (Jesse Frankovich)

Fox unveils ‘insanely simple’ business model host for prime time slot (Dinah Rokach, Silver Spring)

He laughed when Martinez t[e]ased him for being a Yankees fan. (Gregory Koch, Falls Church)

House passes disaster relief bill despite Trump’s opposition to funding for Puerto-Rico American values (David Peckarsky)

Keanu Reeves’ Impressive Skill Set Takes Centre Stage in John Wick 3 (Jesse Frankovich)

National service can bring us together as a nation (Michelle Christoforou)

She brought her business background to the task:



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1335: Put it in bee-verse! Or . . .

A stratospheric butte formed by orthographic perfection eight times over: This year’s “octochamps” each picked up \$50,000 in the Scripps National Spelling Bee by clearing round after round flawlessly, as the words became progressively wha??? — until the bee declared them all winners after Round 20.

Every year the critics come out, complaining that the kids wasted sooo much time and effort and money to memorize words they’ll never use. Oh yeah? The whizzes can come right over here.

This week: Write a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer that includes at least one of the words used in Round 9 or later of this year’s bee, such as “murrain” (pronounced MUR-ren).

The complete set of spelling bee words is at wapo.st/spellingbee2019. But if you don’t want to wade through all those words, then use one of these 20:

- auslaut; badderlocks; bougainvillea; calathos; cernuous; chocalho; Cytherean; jacqueminot; mondegreen; murrain; odylic; omphalopsychite; palama; passepiep; pendeloque; rhathymia; taurokathasia; tettigoniid; therblig; urfirnis

OR: Write a joke in Q&A form that uses at least one of the words.

A list of pronunciations and meanings of the 20 words above appears in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1335; you can also find them by clicking on each word in the full list.

At least for the poems, you must use the word with its real meaning and pronunciation; you can’t pretend that it’s something else. You may use a slightly different form of the word, such as a plural, adding “-ing,” etc. You may add a title, and the word might appear only in the title.

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1335 (all lowercase). Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Bacon Odor Two-Pack**: a bar of bacon-scented soap plus a bacon-smell car air “freshener.” Both donated ages ago by Loser Pie Snelson.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “Too-Weak Notice” or “Certificate of (de)Merit.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, June 17;** results published July 7 in print, July 3 (Wednesday) online. See general contest rules and guidelines at 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 [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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.



COURTESY JESSE FRANKOVICH

With **EIGHT** entries published this week, **Jesse Frankovich** — a sort of James Holzhauer of The Style Invitational — has sailed past the 500-ink mark, almost all of it in less than four years, thus rocketing himself into the Invite Hall of Fame. See an interview with Jesse in this week’s **Style Conversational** at wapo.st/conv1335.

research, resources, problem-solving, kicking and screaming. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

This ‘swimsuit season’ remember that values trump appearance (Jeff Contompassis)

Trump takes over Fourth of July celebration, changing its location and inserting himself

into the program portable toilets (Michelle Christophorou)

But two of the top House Republicans on Sunday criticized her use of the phrase “calming feeling,” falsely accusing her of using the phrase to describe her views about the Holocaust itself top House Republicans. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Calif. to ban a pesticide, citing effects on infants: “Utter failure.” (Duncan Stevens)

Buttigieg likens Trump’s tweets to ‘grotesque things’ (Ben Aronin, Washington)

[P]lant-based Whopper could make orders impossible for small restaurants (Frank Mann, Washington)

U.S. tourism to Cuba doubles after Trump’s ‘full and complete e[m]bar[go]’ threats (Jesse Frankovich)

We believe our country has a moral obligation to protect public health and our environment. (Jesse Frankovich)

We need gooder English teachers (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday night, June 10: Our contest to make a new phrase from two words in the Mueller report. See wapo.st/invite1334.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

“WATER MUSIC”
By **PAM AMICK KLAWITTER**

- ACROSS
- 1 Reading aid
- 5 Office party?
- 9 Resort amenity
- 12 Allergic reactions
- 18 DQ Blizzard
- 19 Bridal gown decoration
- 20 First one cast, usually
- 21 Speaks in a boring way
- 22 It happens without warning
- 25 Buzzard’s snack, perhaps
- 26 Avoid, as a puddle
- 27 Big piece
- 28 Truck propeller
- 29 Finish off, as a cake
- 30 Bridge, which connects Buffalo, N.Y., to Fort Erie, Ontario
- 31 Carnival destination
- 32 Old car starter
- 35 “Tarzan” critter
- 37 Took off again
- 39 Skeptical reply
- 43 Reason for an ankle monitor
- 46 Fishing target
- 48 Payroll service co.
- 49 Exam given intradermally, for short
- 50 “Chicago” actor
- 52 “Do ___ to eat a peach?": Eliot
- 53 Cut the crop
- 55 Salt on the Seine
- 56 Word with bed or board
- 58 Bellyached
- 60 “ABC World News Tonight” anchor David
- 61 Rate of speed
- 63 Fond du ___ Wisconsin
- 64 90-Across garb
- 65 Hollywood tease
- 67 Keyboard centerpiece, and a phonetic hint to six long puzzle answers
- 70 Loose, pants-wise
- 73 Blood donation unit
- 75 Before, before
- 76 “Piece of cake!”
- 78 Shapely school subj.?
- 80 Milk sources nowadays
- 83 One-in-a-million

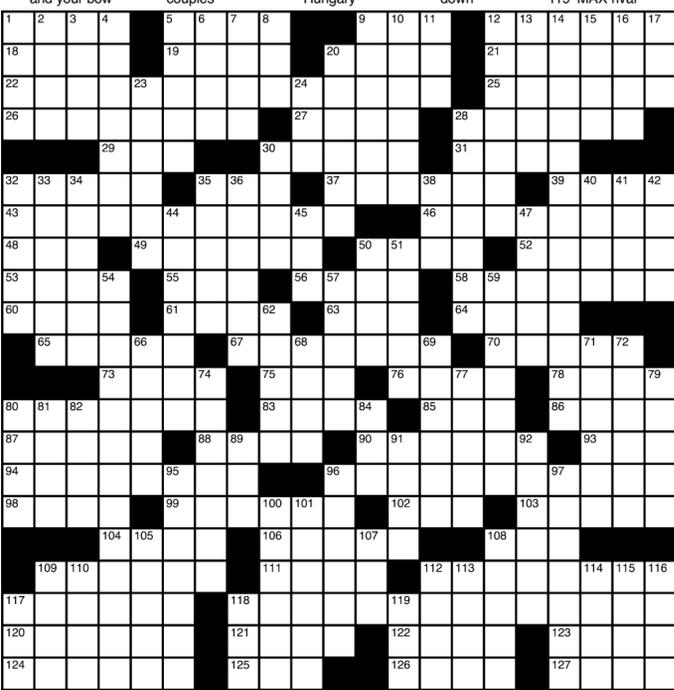
- 85 Young fellow
- 86 Quotable “Star Wars” character
- 87 “North Woods Law” critter
- 88 Head of the party?
- 90 See 64-Across
- 93 Short bylaw?
- 94 “Wheel” coup
- 96 It’s more than right
- 98 Western skyline sight
- 99 Skilled speaker
- 102 Craft beer letters
- 103 Witherspoon of “Wild”
- 104 Pup ___
- 106 Directly
- 108 Big name in luxury cars
- 109 Nightly news segment
- 111 First name in “70s tennis
- 112 Gets some air
- 117 ___ Love ___

- 118 Fringe benefit for some reps
- 120 “Othello” role
- 121 Korean exports
- 122 Online break-in
- 123 Actress
- 124 Campbell Island
- 125 Military VIP
- 126 Products of E.B. White
- 127 Part of GPS: Abbr.
- DOWN
- 1 Leader leader?
- 2 Stuck in ___
- 3 Trifling ___
- 4 Magical Mary
- 5 Garden of eating?
- 6 Spray holder
- 7 HP rival
- 8 Michele of “Glee”
- 9 Position for short
- 10 Member of the first Super Bowl-winning team
- 11 Boat for couples

- 12 Client
- 13 Fishing basket
- 14 Frontier transport
- 15 Generous words
- 16 Trompe l’___
- 17 Identify theft target, briefly
- 20 Little created by E.B. White
- 23 Zoom
- 24 With 112-Down, classic Faulkner story
- 28 Examine in detail
- 30 Preppy trio?
- 32 Bracelet ornament
- 33 Arrived on wheels
- 34 Childcare aide
- 35 Russian workers’ cooperative
- 36 Opening bout, maybe
- 38 Ward for us
- 40 Swedish wheels
- 41 Nagy of Hungary

- 42 Put coins into
- 44 Sneak off and hide
- 45 Bering, e.g.: Abbr.
- 47 Calf catcher
- 50 World Cup cry
- 51 Event host
- 54 Item on the best man’s checklist
- 57 More mature
- 59 Actress/activist married to Ossie Davis
- 62 Waterside sights
- 66 See 126-Across
- 68 “Curses!” cousin
- 69 Bring to the majors, in baseball
- 71 Presidential name in three centuries
- 72 Alpine songs
- 74 Wearable ads, initially
- 77 Spicy dip
- 79 Kid-lit “Maniac”
- 80 Car radio letters
- 81 It’s handed down

- 82 Chili’s competitor
- 84 Flow counterpart
- 89 Off-tangent link
- 91 Arguing
- 92 Airport surface
- 95 Floatplane feature
- 96 Wild revelries
- 97 Units of force
- 100 “Call the Midwife” nurse
- 101 Crankcase reservoir
- 105 Bert’s pal
- 107 Barnyard mama
- 108 Stella Artois alternative
- 109 Minor fight
- 110 Italian tower town
- 112 See 24-Down
- 113 Human ___
- 114 Toon nephew
- 115 USPS stack
- 116 Editorial “let it stand”
- 117 They run often in summer, initially
- 118 ER graph
- 119 MAX rival



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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | June 9: This year, you expand your circle of friends. After the fall, you experience unprecedented possibilities. You seem to be more authentic in dealing with those around you. If single, you might feel conflicted as to how close you want someone in your life. Make changes gradually to avoid harming the existing bond. Honor your needs, as it will benefit your relationship in any case. If attached, the two of you sometimes get very fussy or difficult with each other at home. One or both of you have a very critical side to your personality. Accept that characteristic. Virgo tends to be fussy and judgmental.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You have a tendency to tell it like it is. You could sense another person’s confusion in dealing with you and you with them. Do not get uptight. Confirm times and places should you meet up with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Your creativity comes forward in dealing with a child, a new love interest or a dear friend. You might not even realize how seductive you might be. Others’ actions reflect your appeal at the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You might feel anchored at home. An unexpected responsibility tumbles on you. You will handle it. Confusion surrounds your choices. Stay secure in what you need to do. Invite a friend over to visit.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Reach out to a loved one you care about but do not see often. Make plans to get together. Use your impulsiveness of the moment to reconnect. Have no expectations. You could enjoy yourself far more than you originally imagined.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might need to balance your checkbook before you make plans or meet someone. You may want to change where you meet or what your plans are to maintain your budget. Feel free to do just that. Otherwise, you might be uptight when visiting. Confirm your meeting place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Do not underestimate your appeal. The timing might be right to make a special request. Someone might be confused by what you ask for. It might not make sense to them. Try to explain your request in a meaningful manner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Stop and slow down. You could feel as if you need to get away from all that is happening. A personal situation or another matter might be making you more tired than you think. A break from your normal scene and people will help you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
One-on-one relating cannot do anything but put a smile on your face. If there is some confusion, know that it is unintentional. Confirm where and what time you are meeting others.

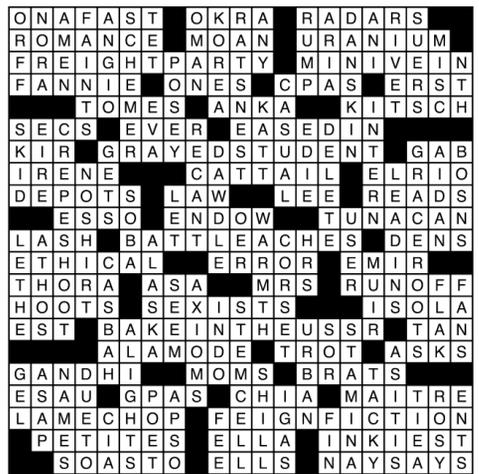
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your take-charge attitude goes far and allows you to take some time off at a later point. A parent or elder appreciates your time and attention more than you realize. Loosen up with the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
If considering a trip in the near future, do not hesitate to explore different ideas before committing. Sometimes, putting yourself in a different environment proves most healthy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your friendship means more to a loved one than you realize. The combination is powerful and very important. You could be in a stage of renegotiating your relationship. Honor the friendship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Defer to a loved one. Let this person be in charge for a while. They will feel valued and important. This type of interaction might be more important than you think. Try indulging this person more often.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



6/2/19