DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Har weaves: Word-search neologisms

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1354** the Empress posted a randomly constructed word search grid (below) and asked the Loser Community to "discover" new terms by starting at any letter and snaking around the grid in any and all directions.

4th place:

G-14. CANARY LEG: What the fashion model ate as her Thanksgiving drumstick. *(Raymond Gallucci, Frederick)*

3rd place:

G-2: POLITE-SIZED: Large enough not to offend, small enough to stomach. "He helped himself to a polite-sized portion of the kale casserole: 'Wow, it's so . . . warm.' " *(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)*

2nd place and the book 'Where Underpants Come From':

B-2: SAUDI OIL? OK, AID! A different quid pro quo. *(Mike Creveling, La Plata)*

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

I-17: DoveSwanGiantRat: You knew someone would try to one-up the turducken. *(Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)*

E-10 their hearts out: Honorable mentions

B-3: ABEAROMA: That scent of old pennies. *(Joanne Free, Clifton)*

C-10: NEPOMAT: The person best qualified to represent a nation overseas, who just happens to be the president's relative. *(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)*

C-14: DYI: Did Yourself In, or the result of the DIY with the house wiring. *(Tango Fulham, Alexandria, a First Offender)*

C-18: ADLANDS: Godforsaken area of the Internet where you end up through an accidental click. *(Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)*

C-7: MAYONAID: Benefit concert starring Kenny G and Michael Bolton. *(Frank Osen)*

D-10 GUDWIG: Beethoven's better-coifed brother. *(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)*

D-14: GRECIAN AERATOR: A bathtub fart. "Excited by his Eureka moment, Archimedes displaced some more water when he set off a giant Grecian aerator." *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)*

E-15: REWIVE: To have an "I do"-over. *(Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)*

G-4: [IN/OUT VERB]: Something clearer than "expletive" to use in redacted documents. *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

H-15: INTERNAL OGLE: Meditation for narcissists. *(Gary Crockett)*

H-8 ALT-LEGIBLY: How the president tweets. *(David Stonner, Washington)*

I-3: MLKING: What the King estate does when demanding huge fees to air a clip of the "I Have a Dream" speech. *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)*

I-7: UNJOB: Fire. *(J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)*

I-8 BUTTBREAK: Intermission after a long first act. *(Lynne Larkin, Glenn Dale, Md.)*

J-15: MONOPLY: Very thin toilet paper. If that's what's available, do not pass or go. *(Eric Nelkin)*

J-17: POORK: Just beans. *(Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)*

M-2: ZEALOG: An obsessive fan's diary. "Dear Zealog: Trash day jackpot — recovered some of her nail clippings this morning!" *(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)*

N-10: BLOOPHOLE: The space between fielders where the baseball drops. *(Raymond Gallucci)*

O-12: NOOZE: Less than riveting journalism. "Skip the Ambien, hon, and read this eight-part series on magnesium mining." *(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)*

P-2: GROENR: A bad "Simpsons" joke. *(Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)*

J-13: LOSER LOUVRE: My box of Style Invitational crap prizes. *(Gary Crockett)*

G-19: DWEEBDOM: The realm of those who'd spend nearly two weeks poring over a grid of letters to find made-up words in an effort to have that fact published in a national newspaper. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

More honorable mentions in the online

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1358: What to your wondering eyes will appear?

"All I should care to see for Christmas? Just that they threw that spite-filled creature out of the White House — it would not be a moment too soon!"

"I just shook my head and spoke a little dash-dash-dash word when I saw how each pedler had all the toys and stockings out so soon before Christmas."

In February 2017 the Empress invited readers to write something using only words that appeared in the new president's inaugural address, and as always with our "word bank" contests, the Invite got a passel of astonishing entries. This time, at the suggestion of Ubiquitous Loser Jesse Frankovich, we'll use a piece of writing that's a bit more palatable to some of us: **Write a humorous passage — a "quote," an observation, a joke, a dialogue, a poem, anything — using only words that appear in "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (a.k.a. "The Night Before Christmas")**, the 1823 poem by Clement Clarke Moore, as in Jesse's examples above. Since the versions printed online differ slightly, please use the one at **wapo.st/TNBC** (also at poets.org). That will give you 545 words to work with, including the repeated ones. And if you don't want to look *anything* up, you should be able to find something in the partial poem below.

The details: You may use a word only as many times as it appears in the poem; for example, you may use "chimney" up to three times, but "would" only once. You must use the whole word as it appears ("toys" but not "toy"), except that when words are joined by hyphens, you may use each half individually. Also, you may change capitalization and punctuation however you like. You may attribute your "quote" to someone else, and add a title.

And a holiday gift from Jesse: An alphabetical list of all 545 words, including repeats, appears in the Empress's Style Conversational column at **wapo.st/conv1358.**

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick ...

Submit up to 25 entries at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1358** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Nov. 25;** results will appear Dec. 15 in print, Dec. 12 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an **Invite-Style Sugar-Plum Two-Pack:** a little plastic Santa and plastic reindeer that each poop tiny jelly beans. Donated by Loser Dave Prevar.

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). See general contest rules and guidelines at *wapo.st/InvRules*. The headline for this week's results is by Jeff Contompasis; Duncan Stevens wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1	H	L	A	I	B	A	L	I	T	N	E	D	E	A	L	O	E	R	U	A
2	E	S	D	I	O	I	P	O	Q	E	S	G	Z	L	R	G	K	N	D	J
3	M	A	U	Z	U	D	K	U	M	L	K	I	N	M	Z	W	Y	D	G	M
4	I	I	B	O	J	A	I	D	W	Y	T	P	S	R	K	Q	Z	E	K	B
5	P	E	Y	Y	E	N	E	R	B	T	Z	B	T	A	J	N	X	N	M	B
6	A	O	M	Q	O	U	T	V	T	S	X	P	M	N	I	A	X	T	K	M
7	R	P	M	A	Y	V	Q	D	U	N	J	Y	J	W	M	R	J	W	W	L
8	A	O	Z	D	T	R	R	A	B	O	R	L	T	I	Y	Z	Y	M	R	R
9	S	P	U	Q	E	Z	A	R	L	O	N	L	N	T	X	G	D	T	M	A
10	I	E	N	G	R	N	T	N	T	R	K	E	Y	B	D	N	N	Q	I	R
11	T	Q	Y	B	U	W	I	A	Y	L	E	G	L	L	O	E	Y	E	Y	P
12	E	B	R	D	D	I	G	R	A	S	O	B	I	Z	N	O	O	D	Q	N
13	A	R	N	D	K	I	Y	N	E	L	O	P	B	I	O	P	H	P	P	Q
14	I	Y	D	G	T	R	C	A	O	T	O	M	L	Z	O	O	A	O	N	D
15	R	Y	N	S	R	E	W	I	N	M	U	E	E	T	V	I	E	L	O	L
16	A	Z	A	Q	O	J	S	V	O	L	H	A	A	E	K	N	K	C	Z	T
17	U	C	N	L	J	Y	L	E	D	P	Y	M	R	I	L	W	B	D	I	D
18	Q	P	A	D	H	N	A	W	E	D	O	B	D	T	B	E	Y	J	R	A
19	A	T	W	P	K	G	D	N	B	N	Q	O	P	R	N	Y	Y	B	D	Y
20	E	G	B	J	Z	Y	Q	P	O	V	V	R	K	Y	J	I	V	M	N	D

Invite at wapo.st/invite1358.

Still running — deadline also Monday night, Nov. 25: Our contest for song parodies about current events. See wapo.st/invite1357.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

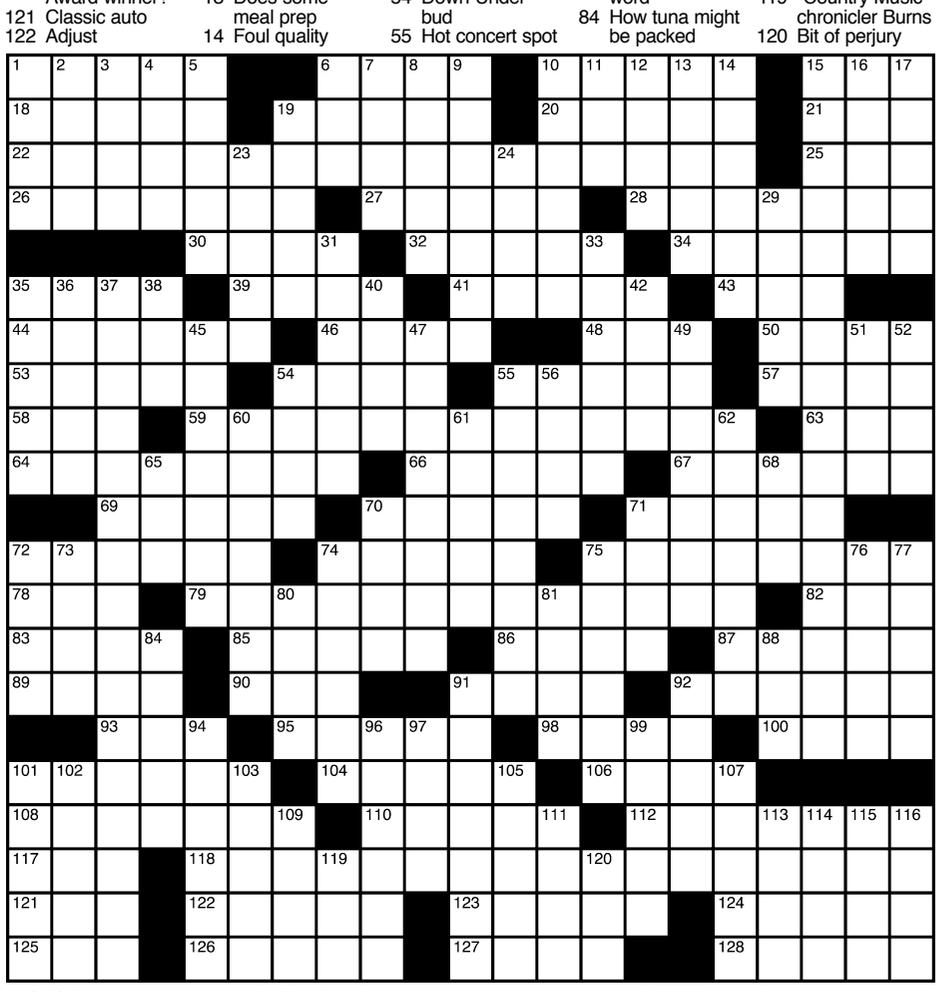
"DINED IN" By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER

ACROSS

1 Arctic "snowshoe" critters
6 Musical Mama
10 Meter users
15 Bit of beer, say
18 Cluster of stars?
19 Myanmar, at one time
20 Look forward to
21 Colorful card game
22 Note to self before appearing on "America's Got Talent"?
25 MGM rival
26 Tile setter, often
27 Firing offense?
28 Well-mannered
30 Bits of energy
32 Stable dwellers
34 Dresses down
35 "What do you __?"
39 Where to find Reubens and Cubans
41 They're in the air
43 Today, to Tomás
44 Coop up in a coop
46 Take a load off
48 Cry out loud
50 Soapmaking compounds
53 Put a damper on
54 Gospel travelers
55 Fire sign
57 Not just primary, as an heir
58 Uzi's brother in "The Royal Tenenbaums"
59 Ancient Greek warrior's pet monkey?
63 Take advantage of
64 Place to see X's and O's
66 Witch
67 Like the soles of walking boots
69 Put on a pedestal
70 Cinematic Sergio
71 Actor's nickname that sounds like a golf term
72 Posy pieces
74 '90s candidate who opposed NAFTA
75 Walter Reed hospital city
78 Night before the big day
79 Try to cure the effects of a skunk invasion on a semi?
82 Carol opener
83 Jeans name
85 Like some probes
86 "LOTR" menaces
87 Leaders
89 Jumbo tail?
90 Vicious with a bass
91 Pea opener in toons?
92 Fly over Africa
93 Express opp.
95 __ academy
98 Go a round or two
100 Many August births
101 Spa offering
104 Rope maker's supply
106 Tried to make up for lost time
108 Part of it is now a desert
110 Whale tracker
112 Short end of the stick
117 Cru output
118 Best Reader Award winner?
121 Classic auto
122 Adjust
123 Cybersales
124 Noted 2001 bankruptcy
125 Solid start?
126 Word in a Morton Salt motto
127 Thin change
128 1951 Reagan co-star

DOWN

1 Modern-day break-in
2 Snape portrayer Rickman
3 Ready in the field
4 90° from norte
5 Way through a fence
6 "Scene's over!"
7 51, for one
8 Insincere flattery
9 Pepperoni alternative
10 ... Fitzgerald, __, Milhous ...
11 Stunned state
12 Summoned to the door
13 Does some meal prep
14 Foul quality
15 "That's not a baby bump?"?
16 Signed
17 Backyard amenities
19 Canal craft
23 Mesa __ National Park
24 Toon adventurer
29 They get the job done
31 Scandalous stuff
33 With 52-Down, bagel flavoring
35 Competition carrot
36 Mes con 31 días
37 Liven up the science fair?
38 Dundee denial
40 "I hate the Moor" speaker
42 Victoria's Secret competitor
45 Hiker's handful
47 More honest
49 Promise to marry
51 End of an ultimatum
52 See 33-Down
54 Down Under bud
55 Hot concert spot
56 No surprise to a Disney World arrival
60 Delightful bites
61 Prosecutor's burden
62 Pieces of pie, often
65 Educator LeShan
68 Common game piece
70 "Why, then, __ soldier drink!": 40-Down
71 More than just asks
72 Hide in the forest?
73 Happily-after link
74 Critters with black eye patches
75 Guns that don't shoot
76 Playground comeback
77 Pack animals
80 Machu Picchu or Chichén Itzá
81 Spanish 101 word
84 How tuna might be packed
88 Skinny swimmer
91 Not straight up
92 Pleasant surprise
94 One of the 54-Across
96 Golfers' headgear
97 Beginning with
99 102-Down month
101 Pro Football Hall of Fame QB Brett
102 Fire sign
103 "The Pearl Fishers" priestess
105 "The Good Fight" actress
107 Social misfit
109 When the story starts on stage
111 Copy paper purchase
113 Early Bond foe
114 Pull down
115 Familiar gamut
116 Car-collecting comic
119 "Country Music" chronicler Burns
120 Bit of perjury



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Nov. 17: This year, you push past former restrictions. When breaking a self-imposed barrier, you keep building and building and then suddenly burst out, like a horse at the gate of a race. This pattern will become more prevalent this year. If single, you could meet quite a few people, but no one knocks your socks off. Do not worry. The right person is right around the corner. If attached, the two of you bond tightly together. Your partner demonstrates loyalty and wants to support you in your various endeavors. Leo loves relating to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might feel pressured to get through certain obligations. If anyone stands in your way, you are likely to brush them aside, literally and figuratively. The unexpected occurs when dealing with an older relative.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might feel pressured by someone at a distance or by in-laws. Gain some perspective. You cannot cover all ground, but you will do your best. You act in a most unusual or unexpected manner. Share your feelings with a family member.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You could be tired of dealing with financial matters and sometimes imploring another person to slow down with their spending. Schedule a late lunch with this person and have a long overdue conversation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Your emotions are close to the surface. You might suddenly be angry, yet your mood could change moments later. Fortunately, others respond easily to you. Let go and indulge yourself late afternoon. Make plans that make you feel great.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might not feel up to snuff in the morning and early afternoon. Relax. Later in the day, you feel energized and recharged as you interact with a person in your life who can be irritable yet is significant to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Friends surround you and want to share more time with you. You could have quite a few invitations to sort through. Do not put yourself in a situation where you need to spend more than you are comfortable with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You could be more assertive than you think. Others might back off from you, but this stance is temporary. Make plans to get together with a group of friends later in the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Reach out for someone at a distance. You begin the day making phone calls and touching base with different friends and family. You might change plans at the last minute.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
One-on-one relating takes you down a new path and allows greater give-and-take between the two of you. An unexpected communication or call could encourage you to plan a trip in the near future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
One-on-one relating becomes quite significant. You hear comments from a loved one that you never thought you'd hear. Late afternoon, schedule quality time with a very special person in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Defer to a pal as far as getting an errand or job completed. You might be surprised by what comes up. Late afternoon, a child or loved one cannot get enough time with you. Make time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your feelings are very intense and affectionate toward a loved one or child. You might find that a family member or other loved one is quite jealous of how you feel and the feelings you stir up.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

A	P	B	S		C	A	P	E		I	S	L	E	S		T	I	M	E	R
P	O	L	O		A	M	E	N		D	E	E	R	E		E	L	I	D	E
P	O	U	L	T	R	Y	I	N	M	O	T	I	O	N		A	L	D	E	R
S	H	E	A	V	E		G	U	Y		S	A	T	A	N		B	O	N	A
	P	A	C	S		U	N	I	O	N			I	T	O		E	R	I	C
A	O	N	E		G	T	O		B	O	U	N	C	E	D	C	H	I	C	K
N	O	G		M	A	N	I	A		T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E			
T	H	E	F	R	Y	E	R	S	T	A	L	E			H	A	R	L	E	M
I	S	L	A	M				P	A	T	S	D	R	Y		B	E	I	G	E
			R	O	O	F	L	I	N	E			A	U	K			P	G	A
A	L	A	R	M	C	L	U	C	K		M	I	C	R	O	B	R	O	O	D
Z	I	T			D	E	N			B	I	K	E	T	I	R	E			
U	M	I	A	K		A	D	S	P	A	C	E				A	L	T	E	R
L	E	T	R	I	P			P	E	C	K	A	N	D	C	H	O	O	S	E
			S	L	O	W	L	E	A	K		S	A	U	C	E		P	T	A
C	A	P	O	N	T	R	U	C	K	I	N		K	O	S		T	B	A	R
O	M	A	N		T	E	N			N	O	S	E	S		S	W	A	T	
D	E	C	I		S	A	C	C	O		O	E	D		W	H	I	N	E	S
E	L	M	S	T		T	H	E	B	A	N	T	A	M	M	E	N	A	C	E
R	I	A	T	A		H	E	L	I	O		O	P	E	D		G	N	A	W
S	E	N	S	E		E	D	S	E	L		N	E	W	S		E	A	R	N

11/10/19