

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Frosted fakes: Bogus trivia about winter

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1360**, as part of our ongoing crusade to bring you the finest in misinformation, we asked for “fictoids” about winter and related events.

4th place:

Snow in the Southern Hemisphere forms on the ground and “falls” upward, which explains why penguins are white on the bottom. (Andrew Wells-Dang, Arlington, a First Offender)

3rd place:

A snowball’s chance in hell has increased greatly during the Trump administration. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

2nd place and the ‘Got gas?’ boxer shorts:

The inn that turned away Mary and Joseph is now a Marriott Bonvoy property. (Frank Mann, Washington)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Phi Kappa Rho fraternity at the University of Northwestern Maine canceled this year’s “yellow-snow” name-writing contest because college students no longer know how to use cursive. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Icy culls:

Honorable mentions

The Inuit have only one word for snow but 50 words for “gullible anthropologist.” (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

Donald Trump’s attachment to coal dates back to the Christmas mornings of his childhood. (Bob Kruger, Rockville; Frank Mann)

Disney on Ice failed to turn a profit until executives decided to remove the display of the cryogenically frozen Walt. (Bill Spencer, Cockeysville, Md.)

If the temperature drops below 10 degrees, the Washington Monument retracts a few feet underground. (Bruce Reynolds, Grand Rapids, Mich., whose only other Invite ink was in Week 389, in 2001)

Due to climate change, mushers at the 2020 Iditarod must provide their own snow. (Stephen Dudzik)

Because vomit is slightly acidic, airlines collect used airsickness bags and use the lightly abrasive contents to de-ice aircraft in the winter. (Elden Camahan, Laurel)

More than 14,000 gingerbread men and sugar plum fairies lost their lives in the War on Christmas. (Frank Mann)

The record low for Washington, D.C., had been minus-5 degrees Fahrenheit, set Jan. 17, 1982. Now it is whatever happened at the White House today. (Rick Lempert, Arlington)

Technically, the coldest part of a witch is her pectoral muscle. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Covfefe was the name of Donald Trump’s childhood sled. (Bob Kruger)

No one actually knows the meaning of “capades.” (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

A Democratic-sponsored bill in the House would require the National Weather Service to replace the terms “El Niño” and “La Niña” with the gender-neutral “Niñx.” (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Hollywood liberals faked the 1980 “Miracle on Ice” hockey game in an effort to bolster Jimmy Carter’s flailing presidency, filming it in the same studio they used to shoot the moon landing 11 years earlier. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

By presidential order, the Manhattan site for the New Year’s Ball Drop has been renamed Fake News Square. (David Patch, Toledo)

The song “Frosty the Snowman,” with its references to “eyes made out of coal” signifying enlarged pupils and its depictions of manic behavior, subtly refers to a neighborhood drug dealer. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

In Jamaica, Jack Frost is known as Johnny Gentlebreeze. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

One of the most disastrous product rollouts in history was the release in the 1960s of a carbonated eggnog called Yolka-Cola. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Oscar Hammerstein always wore a baseball cap during winter storms, as he hated when

PET SITTING



DEC. 8 L.A. TIMES CROSSWORD BY PAUL COULTER; © 2019, TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

New for Week 1364: Clue us in

SCATS: Standardized exams for aspiring proctologists
ONEAL: Loser’s score in baseball’s All-Star Game (as in “I, A.L.”)

Once again, and bigger than ever (and aren’t we all), it’s our contest in which we present you with a filled-in crossword grid and you present us — the Empress loves presents — with up to 25 creative clues for the words and phrases within. For the first time, we’re using a Sunday-size puzzle, the Dec. 8 Los Angeles Times Crossword, which appeared three weeks ago on the same print page as the Invitational; because you have more than 100 choices, I’m hoping for less duplication of entries than I used to get for the daily puzzles we’ve used in the past. This puzzle by Paul Coulter, titled “Pet Sitting,” has a nifty ingenious theme: The word “cat” appears several times throughout the grid, “sitting” atop another word like “couch” or “lap.” But the original clues themselves were straightforward, with minimal wordplay, so you won’t have to worry about duplicating them with your oh-so-clever Invite entries.

So this week: Supply clever, funny clues for as many as 25 of the words and multi-word terms in this grid, as in the examples above. The clues don’t need to be as brief and crossword-authentic as real ones; we won’t even run clues for all the words in the grid. Go for funny.

How to format your entry so that the Empress can sort them without going even insaner:

Please write each entry on its own line, beginning with the grid word, in the form WORDFROMTHEGRID (without spaces even if you interpret it as multiple words): [your clue],” as in the examples above. You can explain it after the clue, as with ONEAL above.

Note: This is an American-style crossword, not the British type in which the clue is a sentence containing an anagram of the word.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1364 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Jan. 6; results will appear Jan. 26 in print, Jan. 23 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **genuine taxidermed jackalope**, complete with really stupid antlers (um, facing each other isn’t going to do the trick) and flocked bunny “fur” that feels like AstroTurf. It’s also a piggy bank. Donated by aspiring Loser Harrison Schott. **Other runners-up** win one of our new “For Best Results, Pour Into Top End” Loser Mugs 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 “Frosted Fakes” is by Chris Doyle; Kathy Al-Assal 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, published late Thursday afternoon, reviews each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/conv1364.

ornament was created by a Bavarian glass blower in 1573; minutes later, the first broken Christmas ornament was created by his cat. (Jesse Frankovich)

Tire chains were invented in the Renaissance when Queen Elizabeth I’s carriage got stuck in the snow on the way to her winter residence, and the knight escorting her took off his suit of mail and wrapped it around the wheels. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

To the chagrin of the rabbinical community, restaurant sales of mu shu pork actually increase on Christmas Day. (Bob Kruger)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1364.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Dec. 29: Your chance to enter any of our contests from the past six months. See wapo.st/invite1363.



Rudolph-related? This week’s second-prize jackalope.

snowflakes stayed on his nose and eyelashes. (Steve Smith)

Reindeer emit helium, not methane. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

The first Christmas tree

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

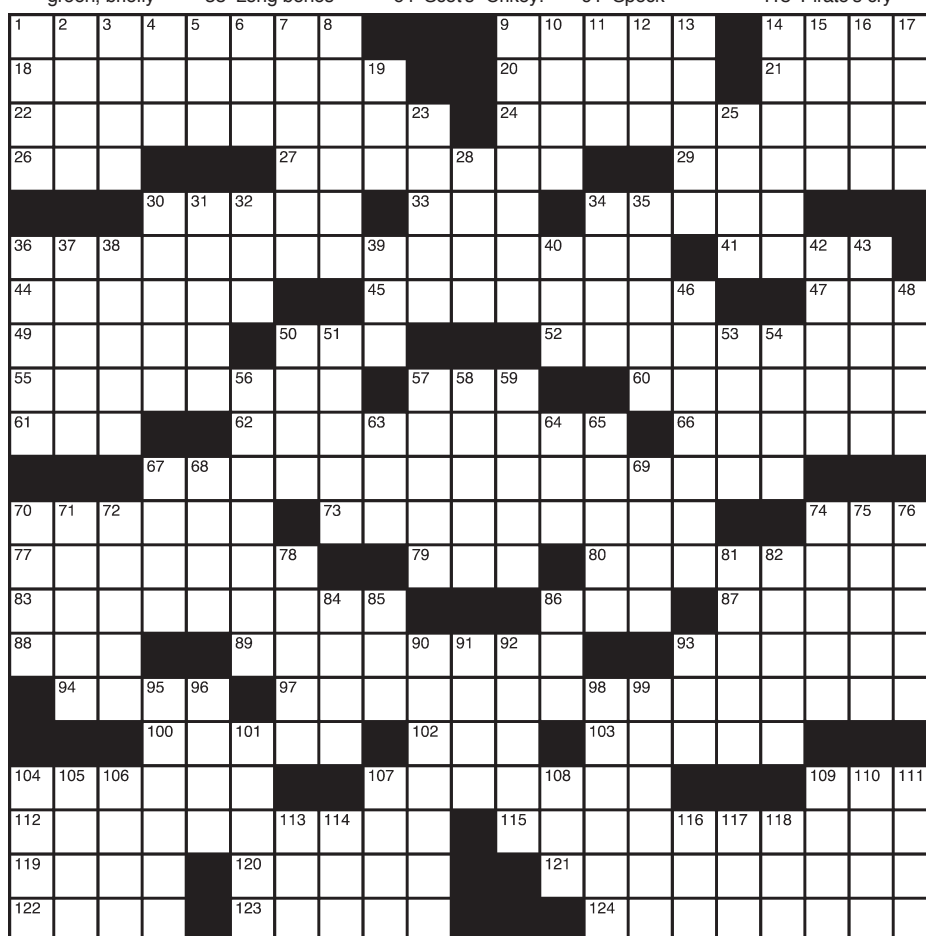
“ELECTRONIC GAMES” By GARY LARSON

ACROSS

1 Immense
9 Spurred (on)
14 Starts of many names
18 Procedure enforced locally
20 Magician’s cry
21 Certain something
22 Unlikely getaway car alternative?
24 Time left in an online auction?
26 Utmost degree
27 River-to-sea connection
29 Policy that includes higher menu prices

DOWN

1 Word spoken during pouring
2 Throng
3 Bad pun response
4 Ad about being green, briefly
5 Zip
6 Wrath
7 “Cat Scratch Fever” musician
8 Shiny print
9 Boston suburb
10 Elapse
11 Supermodel Carangi
12 Nevada copper town
13 “The light ___”
14 Synagogue singer
15 Quattro maker
16 Support, with “up”
17 Words of wisdom
19 Down
23 16th-century English architectural style
25 Whit
28 Top of the line
30 Takes out Dunham
31 A and O, but not E, I or U
32 Relieve (of)
34 Soccer game highlight
35 Long bones
36 Campaign sign word
37 Idiosyncrasy
38 FAA overseer
39 Stanley of the NHL?
40 MLB scoreboard letters
42 Mexican waters quartet
43 Sew with temporary stitches
46 Sign on the back
48 Nonbinary gender pronoun
50 Perfect, as a collectible coin
51 Web site
53 Il ___: Mussolini
54 Some appliances
56 Place to soothe the sole?
57 Home and Dunham
58 “College Football Live” channel
59 Item on a rack
63 Sob syllable
64 Scoot’s “Crikey!”
65 Features of some ‘Vettes
67 2000 title role for Julia
68 Happen upon
69 Results of Googling
70 Cuckoo clock quartet
71 Bank construction
72 Ain’t like it oughta be?
74 “Vive ___”
75 “I did not think to shed ___”; “Henry VIII”
76 Freighters’ destinations
78 Like some floors
81 “Portrayer” of Duck Dodgers
82 Southwestern lizards
84 Screen or bomb
85 Phinitis-treating MD
86 South American greeting
90 Owner of Grey Goose and Dewar’s
91 Speck
92 Leave alone
93 Time in a personal ad
95 Anaheim’s county
96 Result that’s expected
98 Spread apart, as police during a search
99 Hospital stat?
101 Surrounded by
104 Slick
105 Without serious thought
106 Penn name
107 Root often pickled
108 Tech giant based in Armonk, N.Y.
109 Star followers
110 Neutrogena shampoo brand
111 Jumble
113 Excessively
114 V.J. Day president
116 Beaujolais, par exemple
117 From the past, as a story
118 Pirate’s cry



12/29/19

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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 29: This year, you open up to many possibilities. Be realistic about what works and fits your long-term goals. You will tend to be somewhat cautious. If single, you want a friendship at the base of any relationship. You might go through a lot of people until you find someone capable of being a friend and lover. If attached, the two of you often work together on major projects. You enjoy each other’s company. Make a point of going out more together. Aquarius is a strong personality that will tell you what they think.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You might want to center yourself. You see many possibilities. No matter what you choose to do, you might be slightly disappointed. An older relative might want you to join them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Be willing to throw yourself into whatever is going on. You will take the lead wherever you are as you seem more mellow than you have for a while. Do not back off from a discussion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Reach out for a loved one who makes a difference in your life. Listen to the news with some compassion even if you do not agree with the conclusion. You can make a change in the outcome.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Take the day off to spend with an immediate loved one. You take some time discussing an issue that often causes a hassle. Let it go. One-on-one relating allows closeness. Be careful with spending money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You might be surprised at the various propositions you receive. You could decide to go along with the one that allows you to visit with the most people. A partner wants special time with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You can get through a project you have been putting off. You might want to clear out all the holiday decor. Make plans that mean a lot to you for the new year.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Emphasize friendship and the good feelings you have for a younger person. You like guiding this person. You like their values and

above all how this person sees you in life. A loved one also needs time. Be smart. Make time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You might feel tense about a family member. Instead of getting worried, make a call and get together with this person. Keep the conversation light and easy. Let the other party talk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Reach out and make calls. Do not be surprised at what is happening. You might want to bring friends together to catch up on your holidays. How this happens could be a lot different from how you imagined.

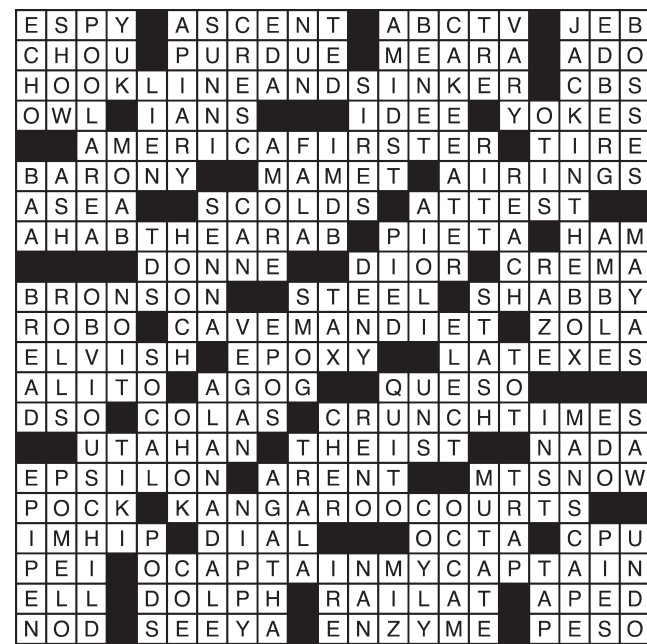
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You have a way of helping others

see situations in a more realistic manner. Be willing to spell out the facts to a younger person who is not as adept at this skill. That person might not appreciate your help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You are full of energy and zip. You want to get together with a loved one, but also might want to touch base with several other people. You could feel scattered by everything you have to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You might want to get together with a friend quietly. You have a lot to share and want to catch up on news. Play it low-key with a loved one. That person could be out of sorts.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



12/29/19