

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Rack 'n' LOL: ScrabbleGrams winners

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1371 was the seventh ground of The Tile Invitational, in which we listed 45 "racks" from the ScrabbleGrams word game and asked readers to find a new word or phrase, of five to seven letters, from any of the racks.

4th place:

ABELMNU > UNBLAME: The Senate's new role. "We need to unblame the president for today's minor misstep," McConnell stated after Trump's order to bomb the Eiffel Tower. (Marilyn Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

3rd place:

AAEGMPR > PRE-MAGA: Back when you could still talk to your brother-in-law at Thanksgiving. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

2nd place and the 'Meh' cuff links:

AAFIPRT > AIRPAT: Gesture of condolence or friendship when touching isn't a good idea. "The campaign asked Joe Biden to please replace hugs with airpats." (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

AAEHRYS > HERSAY: What often gets less credence than himsay. "Nineteen women have accused me of harassment? That's just hersay." (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

Hitting rack bottom: Honorable mentions

AAEHRYS > SHAREY: Mediocre wine you bring to a party. "Honey, it's only the Thompsons. Let's just take a bottle of sharey." (Richard Franklin, Alexandria)

EIIMPRW > WE RIP: How Nancy Pelosi ends the sentence "When he goes low . . ." (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

ABELMNU > LAB MENU: "Rats! I forgot to bring my lunch. But hey, that gives me an idea . . ." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

AAEHRYS > EASY RAH: A fan who's loyal to a fault. "You still have Redskins season tickets? Man, you're such an easy rah." (Duncan Stevens)

AAACPLS > A SCALP: Media slang for catching a photo of a lily-white pate under a flapping, gel-cemented nest of dyed yellow wool over a flaming-orange forehead. (Lynne Larkin, Vero Beach, Fla.)

AAAJMPS > PAJASM: The "ohhh" moment that comes from getting out of your work clothes putting on your warmest PJs on a cold evening. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

AAAJMPS > SPAJAM: That gunk they charge \$150 to smear on your face. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

AABDNNO > NANABOD: The perfect comfy physique for snuggling with grandchildren. (Maggie Haring, Leesburg)

AABDNNO > NANODAB: How much Brylcreem would do ya. (Alan Zirkle, Fredericksburg, Va., a First Offender)

AABMNOT > NO BAM: "Emeril really doesn't like your food, man." (Lee Graham, Rockville)

AABMNOT > NOT BAMA: Unofficial tourism slogan of 49 states. (Duncan Stevens)

AAELPT > PAL ETC.: A friend with benefits. (Jonathan Jensen)

AAELPT > CAT-PLEA: "Get off my frickin' keyboard!" (Mark Raffman, Reston)

AAELPT > EAT/CLAP: Pejorative term for a dinner theater. (Jeff Contompassis, Ashburn)

AADELMR > LARD ME: "I'll have the refried beans." (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

AADENNT > TAN END: The line across the forehead where the bronzer stops. (Jesse Frankovich)

AADENNT > DE NANA: "They wouldn't give you a cookie? That's okay, Grandma will take care of it." (Duncan Stevens)

AADHLS > HI — SALAD: Extremely unlikely reply to "Hello, Mr. President. What can I get you for lunch?" (Jesse Frankovich)

AADILWY > AWAYLID: Beer-resistant cap. I always wear my Mets awaylid at Nationals Park. (John McCooley, Rehoboth Beach, Del.)

AADILWY > DIY LAW: Why bother with pesky Congress when you can make your own EZ executive order? (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington)

AAEGMPR > MAP RAGE: What families used to endure before lost



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1375: Mess With Our Heads

Headline in an ad, followed by Style Invitational bank head:

Call today to connect with a senior living advisor

Or book a seance to connect with a senior dead one

Washington Post sports headline, Invite bank head:

Wizards fall with limited resources

Eye-of-newt shortage causes sorcerers to weaken, stumble on beards

It's one of the Empress's favorite perennial contests, since she used to write headlines for a living: **Reinterpret an actual headline (or a major part of it) by adding a bank head, or subtitle, as in the examples above.** The headlines may be from any publication, print or online, dated March 12-23, 2020. Please give the source and date for the headline so the Empress can verify it; see details on the entry form.

Submit up to a total of 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1375 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, March 23; results will appear April 12 in print, April 9 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a very large dark T-shirt celebrating heart defibrillator operators, the ones who can make your berserk heart unberserk again with those emergency paddles. The legend: "If You Fib, I Will Paddle You." Donated with heartfelt generosity by Loser Edward Gordon.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery 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 "Rack 'n' LOL" was submitted by both Chris Doyle and Kevin Dopart; Kevin, William Kennard and Jesse Frankovich all sent in the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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/inkofaday](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/inkofaday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column reviews each new contest and set of results. Check it out at wapo.st/convo1375; this week, classics from earlier Mess With Our Heads contests.



What prize could set your heart flutter more than a defibrillator T-shirt?

dads had GPS to yell at. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

AAFFIRS > SAFFIAR: "I got this ring for just 500 bucks — look at the box and see what kind of jewel it is!" (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

AAFFIRS > FAIR AF: What millennial would-be judges claim to be at their confirmation hearings. (Duncan Stevens)

AALMORY > YO ALARM: A clock that wakes you with a call like "Hey, you with the face! Get up." (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

ABBDMMOR > BARDOM: What many a high school freshman endures while studying "Romeo and Juliet." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

ELORTTY > LET ROT: Short for "laissez-faire." (Steve Honley, Washington)

ABDNOSX > ABNOX: Flaunting a perfect midsection. "That guy who wears the crop top in the gym to

show off his six-pack — so abnox!" (Alex Steelsmith, Kailua, Hawaii, a First Offender)

ABEGMOR > ME GO BAR: Cookie Monster's first words when daily filming ends. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

ABELMNU > NUMBLE: To try to speak before the Novocain wears off. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

ABILRRY > LIARY: A journal of one's supposed activities. "Dear Liary: Today I won yet another Lose Cannon. I'm running out of shelf space!" (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

ACDERSU > SAD ECRU: E cru. (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

EGINOSU > GENIOUS: A very stable, very smart person who is the BEST speller and don't let the fake news tell you otherwise. (Mark Raffman)

GILRTUY > RU GILTY: Opening question in trials of the future, when the overburdened justice system tries all misdemeanors with plea bargains by text: RU GILTY? WHT YR SENTENCE 4 YES 1 MONTH PROBATN K GILTY (Lynda Hoover, Shepherdstown, W.Va.)

FLMMOUX > MF MXL: Obscenity uttered by a frustrated ancient Roman trying to fill out his federal income tax form. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Still running — deadline Monday, March 16: Our contest for a mini-"rap battle" between two figures in history. See wapo.st/invite1374.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"NO RHYME, NO REASON" By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER

ACROSS

1 Just one of the fam
4 Quayle successor
8 Part of PBR
13 Brazilian dances
19 1881 face-off spot
21 "... only God can make ___": Kilmer
22 How some bills are paid
23 Costuming choice for a "Cats" performance?
25 Move to protect a king
102 All over
103 Lasagna layer
105 More than half
106 H.S. dropout's goal
107 Small shot
109 Piece of TNT?
110 First lady Hoover

DOWN

1 What's underfoot?
2 DIY furniture brand
3 Robbie Coltrane, e.g.
4 Curling stone
5 Hockey great
6 Salad slice
7 Some annexes
8 Kung ___ chicken
9 Rose oil
10 1971 Peace Prize awardee
11 Golfer Garcia

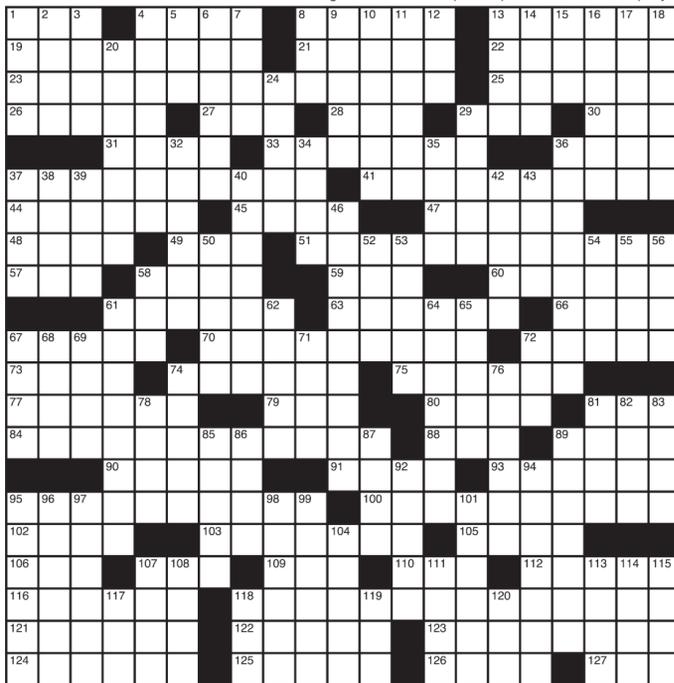
79 Bit of animation
80 "We're gonna be late!"
81 Utter
84 Expert on current energy options?
88 Classic ending?
89 "Mi ___ es tu ___"
90 Wide receiver
91 Don who played in five Super Bowls
91 Shanghai money
93 Part of a Norwegian-sounding ice cream name
95 Dud of a car that Stephen King might write about?
100 Chophouse bandit?
102 All over
103 Lasagna layer
105 More than half
106 H.S. dropout's goal
107 Small shot
109 Piece of TNT?
110 First lady Hoover

112 Garlicky spread
116 "Aladdin" backdrop
118 Lazy son, vis-à-vis his lazy dad?
121 They bite
122 Sleep disorder
123 Fib
124 Prominent Syrian family
125 Bette's "Divine" nickname
126 Editor's backpedaling
127 Self starter?

12 Talks acronym
13 Unleashes (on)
14 Med school subj.
15 Mic welders boat
16 Flat-bottomed boat
17 Comparable in distance
18 "Blimey!" cousin
20 Run or work
24 English homework
29 Rocker Bob
32 Blackjack holding
34 "Up and ___!"
35 Zap in the kitchen
36 Indoor buzzer?
37 Sporty muscle cars
38 Milk Dud rival
39 "CSI" actor
40 Egg-hunt holidays
42 Sells aggressively
43 Birth
46 Deluge result, perhaps
50 The best one is airtight

52 Ending for hip
53 Bilbao bulls
54 Con game, say
55 Roof edge
56 Genetic strands
58 Trace
61 "Brava!"
62 Cookbook author DiSpirito
64 Protective shot
65 Dutch wheels
67 Diner menu staples
68 MIT Chapel designer
69 Caesar's France
71 Writer of really old stories?
72 Valiant's son
74 German wine region
76 Abstract expressionist
78 Chihuahua choo-choo
81 Stuffing stuff
82 Well offshore
83 Reb's rival
85 Transmitting tubers
86 Sphere opener

87 With 58-Across, area with severely declining industry
89 Bar in Baja
92 Dickens title starter
94 Verbal attack
95 First European to sail to India
96 Juarez winter months
97 Gold and silver
98 Well-armed swimmers?
99 Shutout feature
101 Good luck charm
104 Fork "fingers"
107 Frequent flier
108 Singer Lance, or the part he sang with "NSYNC"
111 Leftover scraps
113 Check out creepily
114 Island chains
115 Ticks off
117 Barnyard bleat
118 Thanksgiving tuber
119 Whale group
120 World Cup cry



3/15/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | March 15: You present yourself as a very sensitive, deep person, yet this year you will cop a devil-may-care attitude. Others might be surprised by this combo. Enjoy it. This carefree attitude is not forever. If single, you could get into dating and enjoy choosing several different types of people. Make sure you are 100 percent sure of yourself should you decide to commit. If attached, you express a more serious side. Often you can get melodramatic over issues. Stop. Talk through these bumps in the road with a loved one. Pisces loves your more dramatic side.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Make morning calls to family and friends. If this pattern is not a ritual, it could become one. You will enjoy being more up to date with loved ones. Make plans to go to the movies or relax to good music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You have the capacity and the knowledge to break patterns that no longer work. You see an investment that you had not considered up until now. Discuss the possibilities with a partner or trusted adviser.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Defer to others even though you have great ideas. Your personality is so strong that those around you often feel as if there is no space for them to share. Give them that space. You could be delighted by what you hear.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Decide to complete a project that has been on the back burner for way too long. Move it through and force yourself to complete this matter. You will be a lot more jovial and have reason for celebration.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Once you give in to fun, you have difficulty becoming serious again. Ask yourself: Why should you? You might recharge your batteries and how you feel by letting go. A loved one is only too delighted to join in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Defer to a family member. This person might need some quiet time with you. Spending time together strengthens your bond, no matter what that bond might be. You both can only gain from being open and expressive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Do not walk away from an

opportunity to clear the air with someone close or important to you in your life. The schism that might be forming could be easier to ignore. Don't. Work it through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You tend to want to go overboard, especially if you want to deal with an important matter involving finances and a purchase. You have quietly weighed the pros and cons. A child or new friend inspires you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) There is no stopping you now. You have decided to take on certain risks despite a possible negative outcome. Make sure you are fully aware of the costs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Decide to take the day off and do what you want. You are always responsible and often come through for others. Now give yourself the gift of a day off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Others value your friendship and let you know how much your companionship is appreciated. Be receptive to others and accept their compliments. You deserve them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You could be easily overwhelmed by all that you need to accomplish. You might want to get together with an older relative or friend. Take time out for the important people in your life.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/8/20