

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The hunker games: Home 'activities'

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1377** we asked for humorous ideas for games and projects that homebound families could do with stuff that was lying around the house. **Trump Briefing Bingo** seems to be right up there with numerous activities involving empty wine bottles and putting the pets on a Romba. One person suggested a game of **Pee Jumping**, to see how high an arc another person could jump over. That person was a man.

4th place

Fill a latex glove with warm water and shake hands with it to remember what human contact was like. (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

3rd place

Easter may be over, but it's not too late for a hunt that the whole family will be eager to participate in. Just change your home WiFi password, write it on a slip of paper (or the inside of a rubber glove) and hide it somewhere in your house! (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

2nd place and the cute little erasers in the shape of dim sum:

Socially Distant Twister on individual mats. (*Daniel Helming, Trenton, N.J.*)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Finally, you have time to deal with those dings and splashes on the dining room wall: Just get a few picture frames and hang them around the problem areas. When you can have visitors again, they'll admire your collection of contemporary art. (*John O'Byrne, Dublin*)

Home moaners:

Honorable mentions
Dump the contents of all your jigsaw puzzles into one box and create a single picture. If the pieces don't exactly fit, just push really hard, or tear them a little. So much less frustrating! (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney*)

No toilet paper? No problem!

With a few short steps, you can repurpose an ordinary garden hose into a high-powered bidet! (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

The game of Eternity: Four players sit six feet apart and watch a clock. (*Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf*)

How to conserve toilet paper: Before going to the bathroom, use duct tape to cover any areas that might become soiled. Afterward, simply rip off the tape and you'll have perfectly clean skin without wasting a single square! (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

Grow out your armpit hair and tie on two sets of wind chimes. Great for alerting people that you're approaching on the sidewalk. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

Exercise challenge: Cue up a workout video and compete to tally the most "workout units" — your choice of beer, pork rinds, Pop-Tarts, etc. — consumed on the couch before the video ends. (*Allen Haywood, Washington*)

Hey, guys with a particular fetish: Now is your chance to wear women's underwear on your head all the time, claiming it's a face mask. Wear a different pretty color each day! (*Tom Witte, Montgomery Village*)

Make paper airplanes out of your unused plane tickets. (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

Why buy those expensive Lincoln Logs? Instead, use your imagination to build all kinds of structures with used swabs from the covid-19 testing site in the FedEx Field parking lot. (*Jonathan Solomon, Rockville, a First Offender*)

Create the Perfect Office Environment: 1. Find a quiet room in your home. 2. Furnish it with your most comfortable chair, a small desk, a computer and a large video monitor. 3. Close the door and put on noise-canceling headphones. 4. Create an auto-reply saying you're out sick. 5. Relax in comfort as you binge-watch every episode of "The Office." (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

Fine-art project: Take all your plastic bags that used to be recycled but now are dumped in landfills. Stuff them into one of the bags, roll them into a tight cylinder, then stick it on your wall with duct tape. This is better than taping a banana to the wall: It doesn't



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1381: Let's be equinoxious with fictoids about spring

In Australia, children hunt eggs laid by the Easter Platypus.

In April 1862, Union Gen. George McClellan was unable to mount an assault on Richmond because of a huge tactical error: He attempted to move south from D.C. through Fairfax County on a Friday evening.

Contrary to widespread misinformation, a 13-year analysis of foreign material in raindrops that fell in April revealed a total absence of May flowers.

We continue this week with our series of four contests, suggested by Hall of Fame Loser Jeff Contompas, for total BS about the seasons. We started with "Lyn' in Winter"; this week, tell us some untrue trivia about springtime or things that happen or happened in the spring, as in the examples above. The first was by the Empress's handy-dandy Royal Consort, Mark Holt; the second is an inking entry by Nan Reiner from an earlier fictoid contest; the third is just your typical fake news out of The Washington Post.

Hey, wait! In Australia, Easter's in autumn! Well, it's spring *here*. Where it counts — Amurca.

Submit up to a total of 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1381 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, May 4; results will appear May 24 in print, May 21 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives some food that's a game! Or, more precisely, "food" that's a "game": It's **Bean Boozled** — fifth edition! — a box of Jelly Belly jelly beans in both regular and "weird & wild flavors." So you flick a spinner and get a bean that's either Peach or Barf; Coconut or Spoiled Milk; Toasted Marshmallow or (new!) Stink Bug. And oh so many more. Donated by Loser Mike Gips.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" 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 "The Hunker Games" was submitted independently by Kevin Dopart, Tom Witte and Beverley Sharp; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the 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 reviews each new contest and set of results. Check out the Convo at wapo.st/conv1381.



HONORABLE MENTION: KEVIN DOPART, WASHINGTON

Cut out chains of properly distanced paper dolls. Fold them back up for a "reopen" protest.

waste food — and of course, plastic lasts forever. (*Douglas Goralski, Takoma Park*)

Budminton: It's a mix of hot potato and catch: You toss a can of beer from one family member to another, and whoever's holding it when the music stops has to pop it open and get a faceful of suds. Fun for Mom, Pop and Junior, too! (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

Hold a home-school parent-teacher night where you explain what you're doing wrong with your children. (*Frank Osen*)

Home Sweet Home Scavenger Hunt: You search every inch of the house for any type of paper. The person who finds the most paper gets to sit in the bathroom reading Great-Grandpa's diary before repurposing the paper. (*Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.*)

Unsettlers of Catan: In this variation on the classic game, an emperor, his son-in-law and assorted sycophants distribute a harvest of misinformation. Meanwhile, the settlers spend each turn quaking in their huts. (*Lawrence McGuire*)

Build a toilet-paper-mâché Mount Flushmore of "all the best" presidents: Franklin Pierce, Andrew Johnson, James Buchanan



HM: ALEX STEELSMITH, KAILUA, HAWAII

Since it's just the family at dinner, but you want to dress up the table a little, some recent excess purchases can set the perfect mood.

and of course . . . (*Kevin Dopart*)

Can-die Land: Kids of all ages will enjoy navigating their way through the Gun-Hoarding Mountains and Forest of Questionable Door Handles to the only relative safety of Can-die Castle. (*Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg*)

More honorable mentions, including video, at wapo.st/invite1381.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 27: our contest to delete letters from a word to reveal a related word. See wapo.st/invite1380.

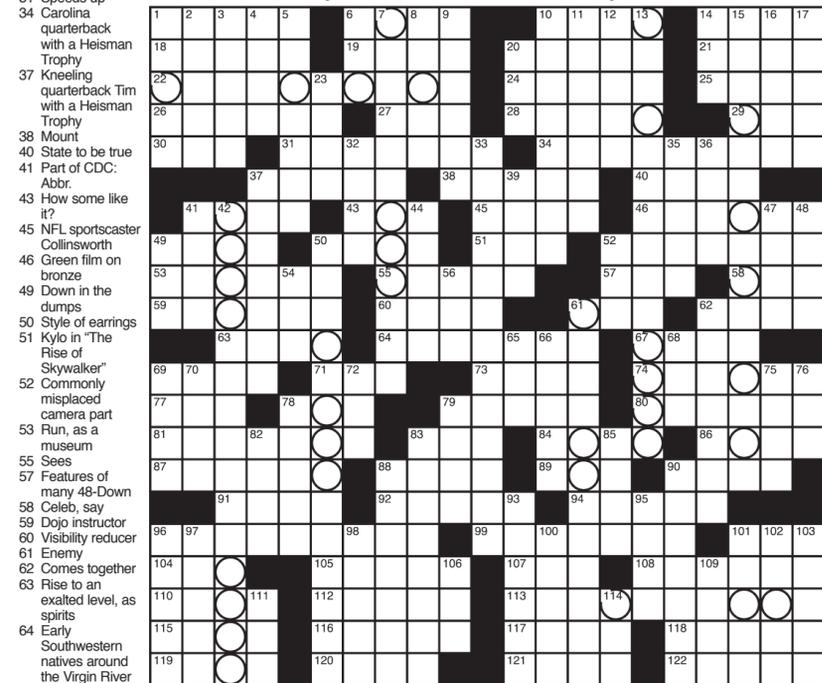
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"UNDERCOVER WORK" By HOANG-KIM VU and JESSICA ZETZMAN

ACROSS
1 Features of many beds
6 Curly coil
10 Evite request
14 Like half a towel set
18 Cliff dwelling
19 Place at the pier
20 World's smallest island nation
21 Lamb pen name
22 "Rejects, in a way
24 "... but maybe I'm wrong"
25 Took off
26 Rest, in Rioja
27 Nutmeg State Ivy Leaguer
28 Social media movement since 2017
29 Movie SFX
30 Fashion monogram
31 Speeds up
34 Carolina quarterback with a Heisman Trophy
37 Kneeling quarterback Tim with a Heisman Trophy
38 Mount
40 State to be true
41 Part of CDC: Abbr.
43 How some like it?
45 NFL sportscaster Collinsworth
46 Green film on bronze
49 Down in the dumps
50 Style of earrings
51 Kylo in "The Rise of Skywalker"
52 Commonly misplaced camera part
53 Run, as a museum
55 Sees
57 Features of many 48-Down
58 Celeb, say
59 Dojo instructor
60 Visibility reducer
61 Enemy
62 Comes together
63 Rise to an exalted level, as spirits
64 Early Southwestern natives around the Virgin River

DOWN
1 Fresh
2 Namia creator C.S.
3 Disney mermaid
4 Check additions
5 Boils
6 Syst. with hand signals
7 "Landslide" group
8 Search through hastily
9 Selecting
10 Numismatist's prize
11 Basking goals
12 Big engine sound
13 "Revere" Take down
14 Take down
15 "Nissan Leaf, e.g.
16 Jewelry-inspired pop nickname
17 Lustrous fabric
20 Happy eating word
23 Swedish auto
32 NYC or London area
33 President's protector ... and a hint to the circled letters
35 Captain America portrayer Chris
36 Waters
37 Quisling's crime
39 "... bien!"
41 Idea



4/26/20

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 26: You are independent and have the stamina for the long haul. You cultivate incredible success this year. Others might offer advice and funding that will help you financially. If single, a sudden attraction can shine the light of love on you if you have been lonely. If attached, preserve the status quo. Wait and watch before making any giant leaps. You are in a good relationship. Aries is too impatient.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You accomplish something of a miracle online today. A communication or creative project you have been working on suddenly goes viral and reaches a lot of people. You feel challenged by a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You are beginning a longtime phase during which family and home expenses will have to be considered. A financial adjustment is in the works. Your own business judgment is better than the advice offered by others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Today favors creative work, time spent with children and declaring your love. Partnership, promises and propriety are highlighted. Looking something up, you are drawn to study law and ethics on some level. It is a day full of happy distraction.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
A relative might need assistance. Give as much as you are able. Your energy will be low. Be tolerant of another's idiosyncrasies. Reconsider decisions recently made. In terms of future work plans, treasure the bird in hand over the one in the bush.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Friends offer valuable new ideas during the course of casual conversation. Consider becoming more active within a certain social group or organization. Prestige is located there. This is the beginning of more growth and opportunity for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Pursue a goal that nurtures your creative and spiritual needs while weighing financial considerations. Today is perfect for releasing old patterns. You make plans to journey onward and upward on many levels.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Ships are safe in harbor, but that is not what ships were built for. Focus on exploring what love really means to you. Underscored is a genuine zest for life. You are ready for adventure, with the added blessing of great physical vitality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Enjoy chance meetings with those from your past. A reunion with a longtime friend is likely. You reconsider the pursuit of a dream once abandoned. Be diplomatic when discussing controversial subjects.

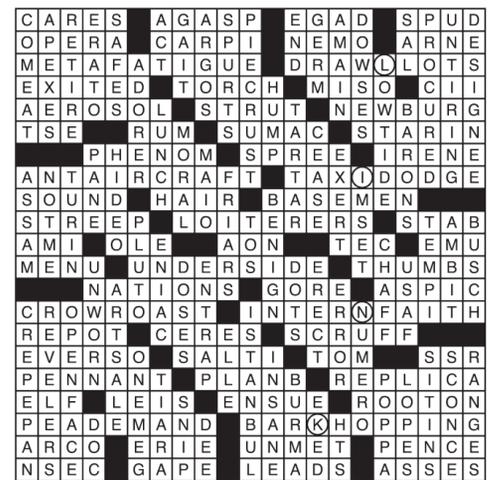
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Romantic prospects appear; you are at your most charming and charismatic. Closest ties will demand effort and energy. Offer those you care most about your emotional support. Relationships have been subject to sudden change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
Developing more rapport with either a domestic or wild creature can heal you. Transportation needs are being considered and information exchange is very important. Be alert and stay well-informed and all will be well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Matters of the heart are most promising today. Soul mates are technically those whom we have encountered in previous incarnations. A transformative connection with a soul mate might occur. Your entire concept of partnerships and commitments is changing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Home and family life are highlighted today. Patiently work out differences and make needed repairs. Shop for the best prices. A relative is feeling very adventurous and might surprise you by taking a gamble.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/19/20