

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Spring fauxwords: Seasonal fictoids

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1381** we asked for some fake trivia about spring or things that happen (or happened) in spring. Several Losers informed us that in various places on Earth, March comes in like a llama and goes out like a lemur; in like tuna, out like sushi; in like a lamb, out like a big wuss; in like a polar bear, out like a duck; and, in Australia, in like a kangaroo, out like an emu.

4th place:

Typically after the vernal equinox an extra two minutes of daylight are added to each day, but beginning March 2020, an extra 45 days were added to each month. (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station*)

3rd place:

Plants can repel breeze-borne pollen by swaying to the left, or accept it by swaying right. (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

2nd place and the assortment of yucky-flavored jelly beans:

Responding to a flattering comment by the Dutch prime minister last May, President Trump said: "He's a very smart guy. He knows where to plant his tulips." (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

When the White House Easter Egg Roll was canceled this year because of the pandemic, the president was left with crates full of wooden commemorative eggs with the slogan "Impeachment was a HOAX." (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*)

In fool bloom:

Honorable mentions

In Houston, the first sign of spring is usually stolen. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

After his "Happy Good Friday to all!" tweet on April 10, President Trump said he was being sarcastic, then claimed his account had been hacked by two Corinthians. (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

During pollen season in Poland, a jag of uncontrolled sneezing is known as a *zyrtec*. (*Jeff Shirley, Richmond*)

President George Washington cut down all the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. Disgraceful! But the lamestream media never mentions it! — historian D.J. Trump (*Steve Smith, Potomac*)

Thousands of drivers descend on San Juan Capistrano, Calif., every March for the annual Opening of the Carwashes. (*Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.*)

Shortly before his death, Igor Stravinsky planned a sequel to "The Rite of Spring" titled "The Rong of Summer." (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

If the entire pollen output from a willow tree were placed in a single pile, there is a 97 percent chance that that pile would end up in your personal sinuses. (*Todd DeLap, Fairfax*)

Sigmund Freud celebrated Mother's Day on Feb. 14. (*Mark Raffman*)

The current administration's weakened consumer protection laws now allow the label "spring water" to appear on water bottled at any season. (*David Young, Falmouth, Mass.*)

South of the equator, hope falls eternal. (*David Sarokin, Washington, a First Offender*)

The first Kentucky Derby, in May 1875, was held during a flu outbreak, prompting ladies to social-distance by wearing huge-brimmed hats. The tradition continues to this day. (*Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.*)

The annual congressional bribery season begins with the vernal equinox. (*Bruce Alter, Fairfax Station*)

Most tulips actually have four to six lips. (*Miriam Nadel, Vienna, Va.*)

The spring clean for the May Queen yielded six full barrels of trash, but not one bustle was discovered in her hedgerow. (*Mark Raffman*)

The 17-year Brood IX cicadas were expected to emerge around May 10 in Virginia, but the state's shelter-in-place guidelines have pushed it back until at least July



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1385: Don't you want to see new places?

CAPE GOD: Not only can tourists go whale-watching — they can also walk on the water.

OKRAHOMA: Where the slime comes sweeping down the plain . . .

IMMOBILE, ALA.: None of that New South stuff in this town.

It's almost impossible to believe, but in the past 1,384 Style Invitational contests — so many of which have asked readers to change some word or name slightly — neither the Empress nor her predecessor, the Czar, seems to have done this specific, ever-so-Invitey one, which was suggested by 60-time Loser Kenneth Gallant (official Loser anagram: Ankle-Length Ant). **This week: Change any place name slightly and describe the new place**, as in the examples above. The change doesn't have to be only one letter, but a reader should be able to know what the original place name was. So perhaps "Parts" might not work, but "Parts, France" would be clear enough. You can pretty much bet that someone else out there will have the same name change that you thought of, so it'll be the cleverest description that gets the ink.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1385 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, June 1; results will appear June 21 in print, June 18 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the very last of a set of adorable plush-toy renderings of disease microbes that was donated in — I swear — February 2004 by the very generous 90-time Loser Paul Kondis (Loser anagram: So Ink Up, Lad!), back when microbes could somehow be thought of as cute. This one is a *toy Shigella dysenteriae* bacterium, named "Stomach Ache" by its creators. Apropos of this contest, it's closely associated with diseases affecting travelers.

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 "Spring Fauxwords" was submitted by both Jesse Frankovich and Jeff Shirley; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev and the Devs will anagram your name. "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at 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 this week's Convo at wapo.st/conv1385.



spring" is not "sprung" but "springed." (*Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.*)

You can keep your lawn healthy and green all spring with regular applications of Lysol. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

When played backward, the last four measures of the "Spring" concerto from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" say "Antonio is dead." (*David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.*)

April 1 is not really April Fools' Day. (*Bruce Alter*)

The Easter Bunny is actually just a guy in a rabbit suit — but that guy is Santa Claus. (*Jesse Frankovich*)

March 3, April 4 and May 5 are known as A-Day, B-Day, and C-Day. (*Kevin Dopart*)

A bird species called the corrgan flies south in spring. (*Dave Leveton, Gainesville, Va.*)

When T.S. Eliot was on the Harvard rowing team in 1908, the spring regatta was postponed till May 1 because the Charles River was being dredged. As Eliot mused in his journal, "April is the crewless month." (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*)

Each spring, Jeff Bezos molts his thick black lustrous hair and again becomes completely bald for the summer. (*Bill Dorner, Indianapolis*)

Still running — deadline Monday night, May 25: Our contest for stupid questions. See wapo.st/invite1384.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The plush toy dysentery bacterium, and the real deal. We're offering only the top one.

15. (*Sarah Walsh, Rockville*)

The song "When the Red, Red Robin (Comes Bob-Bob-Bobbin' Along)" was written in 1926 as a call to arms for communist workers worldwide. (*John McCooy, Rehoboth Beach, Del.*)

Though it's often gotten wrong, the past tense of the verb "to

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"TOP TO BOTTOM"
By PAM AMICK
KLAWITTER

ACROSS

1 Dodge a conviction
5 Kin kin
9 Amazon review rating units
14 Gathered dust
17 Morlock prey
18 Logical opening
19 Swift's brutish race
20 Backing
21 Easter precursor
22 What's expected
23 Kind of lead a closer often has to protect
24 Hop on the bandwagon
25 People's 2019 Sexiest Man Alive
27 Drop-down item
29 Grammy channel
30 Patient person?
31 Sense
33 Copter toppler
35 Tarnished
37 More than just asks
41 Dawn
43 "Now ___ heard it all!"
44 Austin ___; Tennessee university
45 Conquest for Caesar
47 Osso ___
48 Court break point
52 1971 New York prison riot site
54 Phil Collins' longtime band
56 First name in student loans
57 Big 12
58 Cowboy's rival
59 Buzz creator
61 Twilights, in verse
62 Vocalist
64 Long border range
66 Dives into, as a workload
69 Dundee denials
70 Speak with style
71 Makeshift weapon
72 Luray attraction
75 Burgundy and Weasley
76 Landed with a line
80 Novelist Waugh

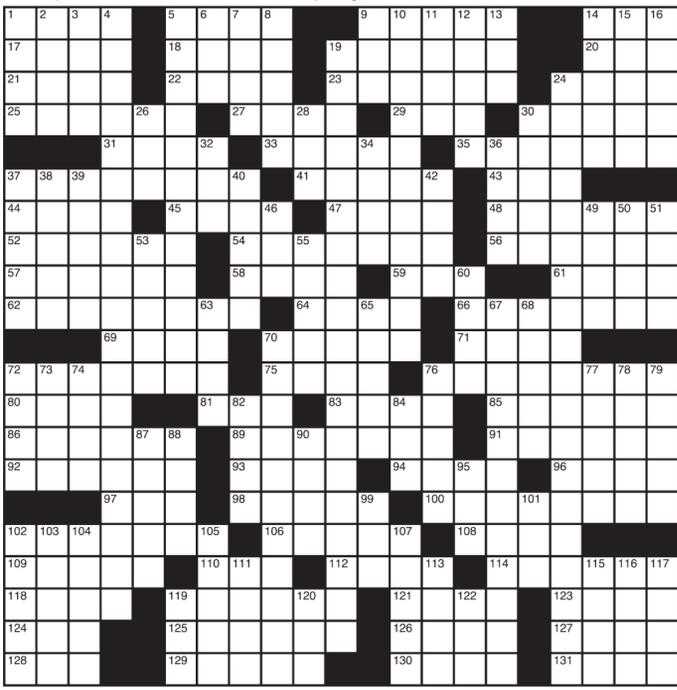
81 Ref. whose recent updates include "chillax" and "whatev"
83 Ward of "FBI"
85 Prefix with cortical
86 College URL ending
89 Madison in "Splash," e.g.
91 Acorn coats
92 Thumbs-ups
93 "... kissed thee killed thee":
Othello
94 Foreshadow
96 Cut down
97 "Told you so!"
98 Laundry cycle
100 Furthered the development of
102 Eager beaver's demand
106 Leading airplane features?
108 Farm gatherings
109 Red-carpet honoree
110 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"

112 Maker of BILLY bookcases
114 Outback offering
118 Small craft
119 Acknowledge the general
121 Folksy Guthrie
123 Gator tails?
124 "Great" primate
125 Post-Christmas event
126 "Forbidden" perfume
127 One of a seagoing trio
128 Beethoven's "___ Abbr."
129 Adieux" Sonata
Horses originally developed in a desert climate
130 Sly feed
131 He played Ricky in early TV

8 One that usually leaves the park
9 Salvador
10 Downplay
11 Simple choice
12 Haul out of bed briefly
13 Phishing target, briefly
14 Wear with pride
15 Crop up
16 Fit as a fiddle
19 Downstream
24 Downward
26 New start?
28 Cardinals, e.g.: Abbr.
30 Skin care brand
32 Field
34 Heavy burden
36 What some put on to feel better about themselves
37 Bridge call
38 Anti-harassment movement
39 Anti-apartheid author Alan
40 Cube makeup
42 Prepare for a selfie
46 Syr. neighbor

49 TVA output
50 Descend
51 House mtg.
53 "Dog Whisperer" Milan
55 Surgery opening?
60 Simplify
63 Canadian gas
65 Very confused
67 Downcast
68 127-Across feature
70 Downdraft
72 Suffragist
Elizabeth ___
Stanton
73 Skin soother
74 November honoree
76 Home detector by irrigation projects
77 Block
78 Blown away
79 Interminably
82 Part of FEMA: Abbr.
84 Rights movement shorthand
87 Maker of Zero-Turn mowers

88 Functions
90 City that aptly rhymes with "casino"
95 Word on a bill
99 What a mouse may evoke
101 ___ Fridays
102 Podium handout
103 Bolt to tie the knot
104 Sends packing
105 One working on pitches
107 There aren't quite enough of them in musical chairs
111 Hari of espionage
113 Sea devastated by projects
115 Actress Falco
116 Urges
117 Morales of "Jericho"
119 Span, title computer shorthand
120 ___-80: old computer
122 Bit of Wall St. news



5/24/20

xwordeditor@aol.com

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | May 24: Expressive and opinionated you will want to take a bit of a rest or retreat this year. In this state you will find your best ideas ever. Your finances improve when your judgment lessens. If single, you get into dating and enjoy choosing several different types of people. If attached, you express a more serious side and still need to recover from a past hurt. Pisces loves your more dramatic side.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Your schedule is full. Do not let yourself become scattered. Concentration is the key to success. It is very important that you return all calls and emails promptly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You treasure your possessions. Security is important. Others are attracted to you and will be very kind. Purchase new clothes and add art or music to your home. Money stretches further, and your standard of living is better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You are weary of the details of daily routine and long for expansion. Keep a cheerful outlook and be aware of how associates are affecting you. These energies, accenting social responsibility and consideration toward others set the tone today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You feel idealistic. Time spent alone with animals or in a place of serene natural beauty is healing. You have a new perspective on an old heartache and feel ready to move forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
There are changing relationships in your social circle. Wait until the alliances are more settled before voicing your allegiance. Today brings a new insight into those close to you. A partner makes important choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today your environment feels more friendly. Use creative ideas and add a touch of beauty to future professional duties. Do not indulge in gossip. Loyalties are changing, and family politics are especially volatile.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Stimulating conversation expands

your ideas and helps you plan the route to achieve certain goals and objectives. Your high standards and aspirations impress others and make it easy to enlist support for your projects.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You receive news about extra money on the way, perhaps through an insurance settlement or investment income. A karmic connection with a past life relationship occurs. Others surprise you with a matter-of-fact attitude about reincarnation.

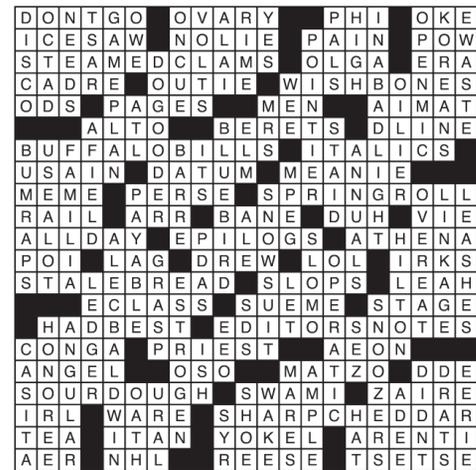
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You seek different partnerships and may feel that a relationship has run its course. Your versatility allows you to adapt beautifully. Others comment that they did not know you as well as they thought.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
Adapt and develop an accepting attitude. You will have a special rapport with pets as well as wild creatures. The loving care you extend to them will be richly rewarded.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today your courage and initiative impress those who have considered you a cerebral, intellectual type. You are genuinely realistic now. It will be easier to persist with a physical fitness program. You should plan some vacation time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
A relative who has been cranky is about to have a change of heart. Be patient and let time heal a family conflict. Others can vacillate. Your residence may need some repairs or maintenance.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



5/17/20