

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

The fibbin' is easy: Summer fictoids

BY PAT MYERS

In our ongoing campaign of Lies for All Seasons, we asked in Week 1399 for untrue trivia about summer, or things that happen/have happened in the summer.

4th place:

Ironically, in the Midwest, Popsicles are known as Softdrinksicles. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

3rd place:

Three days after the 2020 Republican National Convention, Amazon announced that Kimberly Guilfoyle would be the voice of its new Alexa for Seniors. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

2nd place and the 'energy stick' science toy:

A quadruple rainbow appeared in the sky over the Queens hospital where Donald Trump was born on June 14, 1946. — M. Pence, Washington (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Virtually all "cotton candy" in the United States is now made of polyester. (Jeff Rackow, Bethesda)

Dim summers: Honorable mentions

Each summer a typical American consumes a tablespoon of human blood by swallowing inhaled mosquitoes. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

San Francisco's 1967 Summer of Love exceeded all expectations, proving far more popular than the 1966 Summer of I Like You but Only as a Friend. (Frank Mann, Washington)

The planned Summer of Haight in San Francisco was a dud until the event got new promoters. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

"Zucchini" is Italian for "way too much." (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

1946 saw not only the naming of the bikini, inspired by the Pacific atoll, but the thong, inspired by the little-known Daffy Duck version of "Song of the South." (Noah Meyerson, Washington)

According to 1960 Census Bureau data for Surf City, Calif., there were 1.21 girls for every boy. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

After Labor Day, antifa stops hurling chilled summer soups like gazpacho and cucumber bisque, and switches to bags of hearty autumnal fare like split pea and butternut squash. (Frank Osen)

The 2021 list of Atlantic hurricane names includes "Sharpie." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Although everyone knows about Jimi Hendrix's iconic "Star-Spangled Banner" from Woodstock on Aug. 18, 1969, few remember his request that the audience join him afterward in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

BBQ stands for "badly burned quadruped." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

At the 1992 Town Picnic in Chernobyl, Ukraine, the three-legged race was won for the first time by a single person. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Lightning bugs never land in the same place twice. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Coronavirus cases in France dropped by 80 percent in August 2020 as the virus, following national custom, refused to do any work during that month. (Mark Raffman)

Donald Trump's sister alleges that when he turned 50 on June 14, 1996, he paid a man named Joe Shapiro to take his colonoscopy for him. (Larry Rifkin, Glastonbury, Conn.)

In Siberia, summer is known as perezhimovai, or "month between winter." (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

During summers in Victorian-era opera houses, admirers of some divas would vie to keep them cool offstage by waving peacock plumes above them as they reclined on the settee. This is the origin of the phrase "I am your biggest fan." (David Kleinbard, Mamaroneck, N.Y.)

The Inuit now have 38 ways to say, "Hot enough for ya?" (Frank Osen)

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1403: Who was that masked man?

This week on "Dancing With the Stars": It's the Socially Distant Tango!

Tonight on "Star Trek": Mr. Spock is barred from the bridge when he can't find a mask to go over his ears.

On this week's "West Wing," President Bartlet asks noted scientists for help on ending the pandemic, then actually believes them.

This week's contest was suggested by newbie Loser Bill Bouyer: Create a short listing for a current or past TV show that has a coronavirus story line, or one reflecting some other issue in the news right now, as in Bill's own examples above. The latter would probably be funnier in a classic series than a current one. A clever title for the new episode is an option, too. Don't give a long synopsis of the story, just a line or two as above.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1403 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Oct. 5; results will appear Oct. 25 in print, Oct. 22 online.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives another in our series of Ridiculous Bordering on Scary Face Masks.

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, "No 'Bility" or "Punder-achiever." 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 Fibbin' Is Easy" is by Chris Doyle; Chris also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday, and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

BRAND-NEW PODCAST! In Episode 4 of You're Invited, host Mike Gips interviews Duncan Stevens, the Loser who's been inking up the joint like no other. Hear it at bit.ly/invite-podcast. (Episodes will appear monthly after this one.)

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1403.



The Empress, who wears her tiara even while working from home, models this week's second prize.

changed his original plans for a D-Day invasion in the South of France, fearing that his soldiers would be distracted by topless beachgoers. (Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park)

Marco Polo was deathly afraid of the water. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

From June 1 through Sept. 15, the EPA mandates that Amish citizens modify their buggy horse feed to "summer blend," containing 1.5 percent less hay. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

In most coastal states, if your sand castle lasts on a beach more than four days, you begin to acquire legally binding rights to the land underneath the castle. (David Kleinbard)

On July 4, 1982, the All England Club changed the name of Wimbledon's "Gentlemen's Championship" to "Men's Championship" when John McEnroe played Jimmy Connors in the final. (Mark Raffman)

It is illegal in 16 states to burn a calendar that marks Flag Day. (Duncan Stevens)

In water polo, players consume large quantities of beans just before a match to improve buoyancy. (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Though the hypothesis was first posited in the late 1950s, it was not until August 2020 that scientists established definitively that there ain't no cure for the summertime blues. (Lee Graham, Rockville)

Most praying mantises found in the United States are Presbyterian. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

On Aug. 6, 1965, even though he realized he could never do as much for disenfranchised people of color as the Trump family would, President Johnson still signed the Voting Rights Act into law. (Kevin Dopart)

At the urging of the White House, thermometer manufacturers have announced plans to make outdoor models that top out at 89 degrees. (Frank Osen)

Sharks will attack only if you've eaten in the last hour. (Noah Meyerson)

Store-bought tomatoes taste like Styrofoam because they are injected with it to keep their shape. (Terri Berg Smith, Rockville)

The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, because who wants to sit outside in the winter to watch fireworks? (Edmund Conti, Raleigh)

The dog days of August are called that because everyone knows that's when the DEMOCRAT party kills dogs and feeds the meat to their child sex slaves! — John Barron, Washington (Roy Ashley, Washington)

Still running — deadline Tuesday night, Sept. 29: Our contest for new words whose letters add to 14 points in Scrabble. See wapo.st/invite1402.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"PET FLICKS" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS

- 1 Like some stressed text
- 7 Perfect pass
- 13 Imp
- 19 Rattler commonly used in pairs
- 20 University staying power?
- 21 Mild, in Milan
- 22 Film with a feline baseball ace?
- 24 Not on TV yet
- 25 Roy Rogers' birth name
- 26 Ninja Turtles' ally April
- 27 One end of the Chicago L's Blue Line
- 29 Shattering grenade, to a GI
- 30 Shunned the paper clip
- 32 Biopic about Frank from "Men in Black"?
- 34 Scraps
- 38 Cookout glowers
- 40 Artist's asset
- 41 Clicked ballot
- 42 ___ Martin: Bond's car
- 44 AOL alternative
- 45 Flier to Oslo
- 48 Comedy about a lost mutt?
- 53 Sports channel that shows college games
- 55 High-five, e.g.
- 56 "Insecure" star Rae
- 57 Not supporting
- 59 Mets' slugger
- 60 Catalog
- 62 Greek vacation isle
- 65 Essential
- 67 Film about a composing pooch?
- 71 Not al fresco
- 74 Year, to Yves
- 75 Sampled
- 78 Deli order
- 79 Org. monitoring possible alien signals
- 81 Gillian's Emmy-winning role on "The X-Files"
- 83 Settled
- 85 Small egg
- 87 Drama about organized disobedience at obedience school?
- 92 Frying pan spray
- 93 Mix masters, briefly?

DOWN

- 1 Little devils
- 2 Detective, at times
- 3 Affectedly creative
- 4 Shoestring
- 5 "___ bin ein Berliner": JFK
- 6 Holly Golightly's creator
- 7 ___ throat
- 8 Danger
- 9 Changes one's tone of voice
- 10 Québec street
- 11 With a bow, to Anne-Sophie Mutter
- 12 Beyond harmful
- 13 Goes back on one's word
- 14 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls" actor
- 15 Put the kibosh on
- 16 Wispy clouds
- 17 Shaking like ___
- 18 Pigeon's perch
- 21 Trusted adviser
- 23 Some, in San Salvador
- 28 Courses for coll. credit
- 30 Load
- 31 Assure the failure of
- 33 Since, in a seasonal song
- 34 "Bill & ___ Excellent Adventure"
- 35 Throat dangler
- 36 Beverage aisle options
- 37 It helps you get up
- 39 "___ objections?"
- 42 Horace's "___ Poetica"
- 43 Last word of the most recent version of "America the Beautiful"
- 44 "The A-Team" actor
- 45 Didn't dillydally
- 46 One chip, maybe
- 47 Sought damages
- 49 Personnel staff
- 50 O.T. book after Neh.
- 51 Brit's informal eatery
- 52 One, on a one
- 54 Fan at the game
- 58 Clothes line
- 61 "Lookee here!" channel
- 62 "Anderson Cooper 360" channel
- 63 Poetic tribute
- 64 Landmark '70s case anonym
- 66 Autobahn hazard
- 68 Censor's target
- 69 Together, in Toulon
- 70 Eclectic magazine
- 71 Chain with links
- 72 St. Petersburg's river
- 73 Originate, with "up"
- 76 A-listers
- 77 Eats well
- 80 Theoretical visitors
- 81 Cacophony
- 82 Landers of letters
- 84 Banks of "America's Got Talent"
- 86 Ancient Dead Sea kingdom
- 88 Something to chew
- 89 Yours, to Yvette
- 90 Kramer, to Jerry
- 91 Sun Devils' rival
- 94 Angry
- 95 54-Downs
- 97 Catches sight of
- 98 Down
- 99 Ear malady
- 100 Captured
- 101 Take shelter, with "down"
- 102 Fort Knox unit
- 103 Rhone tributary
- 104 Pelvic bones
- 105 Bounders
- 107 Author Zora ___ Hurston
- 108 Went astray
- 111 "Horror!"
- 113 Greeting from Kermit
- 114 Star features
- 115 Put an edge on
- 116 Benchmarks: Abbr.
- 118 ___ kwon do
- 120 Spanish "that"
- 121 Cpl., e.g.

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9/27/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Sept. 27: Hard-driving, successful and very cool, you simply need to reach out to those who can help you succeed. Have faith in your natural abilities. Great happiness is available to you this year — if you can accept it. If single, you have no shortage of admirers. You simply need to choose. If attached, your relationship reassures. Your partner worships you. You can relax. Virgo understands you the best.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll be welcomed by new acquaintances. Membership in a group or organization enhances your life. Today puts you in touch with old comrades. Good or bad, they haven't changed. You still love them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Making contact with helpful and powerful individuals, displaying your talents and abilities, and striving to climb a bit higher on the ladder of success will absorb you. This is all possible remotely today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might get bored on a lazy Sunday. Discuss comparative literature or various belief systems, and polish up on your foreign language skills. You're rewarded with insight concerning the direction of your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be patient. There are hurdles to overcome. Trust your instincts. You've got this, Crabby. Today favors lyrical and poetic communication. Use words creatively. This is a terrific time to design something of your own making.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Those closest to you are preparing for some significant lifestyle changes. Be supportive. Allow loved ones to explore. Whatever shifts are due will be for the better. A new love could replace a longtime attachment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) These are times to make needed changes. Be aware of how healthy your working conditions are. Seek to release work stress from the week. A message in a dream or an omen that arrives by synchronicity can initiate healing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today promises elements of

secrecy surrounding the tender passions. You might yearn to be closer to someone who is unavailable or have to work through regrets about a lost love. Offering help to others can bring you deep emotional satisfaction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) An old family secret could come to light. This creates a very celestial influence. A cycle begins when romantic relationships have new promise for growth. Expect an animal spirit to bring a message for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) A bond with a neighbor or sibling strengthens. Your happy thoughts act as a magnet to attract support from others. Remember that when it is gentle and mellow, sunlight is antiseptic. Since ancient times, it has been credited with enhancing wellness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Live within your means today. Be patient if you long for items that are costly. Keep working, and these treasures will bring more pleasure when you can comfortably afford them. You enjoy the rest of the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today lends a mystical note to the chain of events in your life. Love prospects are promising again. Expect to have more variety, introducing fun and frivolity. Accept an invitation or two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll cherish your privacy. Revel in solitude and begin a dream journal. Answers brought by dreams and self-reflection are preferable to the guidance offered by others. Today brings a new sense of identity.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

R	U	L	E	R	P	E	E	P	S	A	S	I	S	B	A	R	N					
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9/20/20