

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Toil and treble: Winning work songs

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1420**, prompted by the TikTok sea chantey craze, we asked for songs about a particular job, or to work by. See lots more, including videos, at wapo.st/invite1424.

4th place:

Corporate CEO

(To "Let It Snow")

Oh, our bottom line makes us pensive,
With employees so expensive.
They are costing us too much dough.
Let them go, let them go, let them go!

While employees are really assets,
We must look at all the facets;
For our costs to come way down low,
Let them go, let them go, let them go!

At the start, it may take a while
To get used to their downhearted mood.
But just let them go with a smile.
(Cut down the chance we'll be sued!)

There are some who may find it frightful
And to you, they might act spiteful.
Just keep your head way down low,
Let them go, let them go, let them go!
(Irene Plotzker, Wilmington, Del.)

3rd place:

Mortician (To "My Favorite Things")

You may have gone to the greatest physician,
But, in the end, you will need the mortician.
I live for funerals (yes, that's a pun)
Your life is ending, but mine has begun.

To the embalmer for long preservation,
Or you might think about speedy cremation.
Pick out a casket and pick out a hearse:
All of these cost, so just keep out your purse.

Family's crying,
When you're dying
You should plan ahead.
You don't want your loved ones to pay for my bills
For years just because you're dead.
(Louise Dodenhoff Hauser, Sarasota, Fla.)

2nd place and the screaming monkey slingshot:

Obstetrician

(To "The Erie Canal")
I've gotta track this baby's locale,
Two more hours in the birthin' canal.
This mom-to-be's one irate gal,
Two more hours in the birthin' canal,
I've known some infants in my day,
Pulled 'em out to earn my pay,
And every inch of the way I know,
From uterus to what's below . . .
Breathe! Push! Nurses gather round,
Breathe! Push! 'Cause I think I see a crown.
And you know when she's in labor,
Pitocin is your pal
If you've ever navigated the birthin' canal.
(Mark Raffman, Reston)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Cosmetic surgeon

(To "I Saw Her Standing There")
If you are past 39
And your form's in decline,
Well, there may be parts that I can help repair,
So how 'bout I tuck in your tummy,
Ooh! And lift your derriere?

Well, people are vain
But, hey, I can't complain
'Cause self-regard made me a millionaire
There's still time to look like Jane Fonda, ooh!
When you're on Medicare.
Well, it may be crass but you'll love your ass
And your face without a line!

Oh your skin may shine at night
And it may feel kinda tight,
And when you laugh, your mouth may feel real sore.
But you'll never look like your mother, ooh,
Once you come in through my door.
(Bob Kruger, Rockville)

Heigh-no, heigh-no: Honorable mentions GOP senator

(To "I've Been Working on the Railroad")
I've been working in the fail mode
All the livelong day
I won't vote for legislation
Joe Biden sends my way,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1424: We Bee back — a neologism contest

K+CEHINT > Inktini: A cocktail you don't want to sip when wearing white. "Black raspberry liqueur for the bridal toast? That's going to make one bad inktini."

K+CEHINT > Enchicken: To instill fear. "He didn't need a single tweet to enchicken 43 senators."

H+CDEIKL > Hick chili: Roadkill possum stew with notes of squirrel.

In April 2018, in a nod to her traitorous guilty-pleasure addiction to the then-weekly New York Times game Spelling Bee, the Empress ran a contest to make up words from some of the Bee's letter sets. Soon after, the Times turned the thing into a daily interactive game that's soooo addictive and sometimes maddening — especially if you keep finding words past the "Genius" level and go for the whole list, "Queen Bee" — well, the E will not comment on the number of times in a given day that she will stare at seven letters on her phone.

The way the NYT game works: Constructors Sam Ezersky (online) and Frank Longo (the Sunday magazine) present six letters of the alphabet circling, beehive-style, a seventh letter. And you list as many real words as you can that include that central letter plus any of the other six, used as often as you want in the word. Which brings us to this week: **From any of the 30 Spelling Bee letter sets listed below, coin a new term or phrase and describe it humorously, as in the examples above. You must use the first letter in the set (anywhere in the word) plus any or all of the others, as often as you like.** Please begin each entry with the letter set you're using.

- H+CDEIKL**
- K+CEHINT**
- A+CFILRY**
- A+BILTVY**
- O+AFHLTY**
- D+ALNRUY**
- H+ACDNOV**
- T+HILMNO**
- V+AEGLUY**
- U+ACNORT**
- B+EFILON**
- A+EGHLNO**
- M+ADGIPR**
- B+ACIKRT**
- A+BEGMTY**
- M+ACHNOR**
- C+AILMNR**
- L+BDFINO**
- F+ACELPT**
- E+ACLTYZ**
- L+BIMOTY**
- B+AMNRTU**
- L+DGNOUY**
- T+ABDMOR**
- T+IMPRUY**
- T+IKLNWY**
- R+AFHKOY**
- Y+ABELNZ**
- L+ACFINY**
- N+CEGKLO**

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1424 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, March 1;** results appear March 21 in print, March 18 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives the **Noise! Maker**, a yo-yo-size gadget promising "6 awful sounds!" including "nervous," "up tight" and "ripper." If these mini-bleats are supposed to sound like farts, they don't. Donated by Dave Prevar, who needs no electronic assistance, thank you very much.

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 "Toil and Treble" is by Tom Witte; Tom and Jeff Contompasis both submitted the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively 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.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1424.

New "You're Invited" episode! Mike Gips chats with the very funny Loser Danielle Nowlin, who talks about the Invite as a creative outlet for a stay-at-home mom with three young kids. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

Have to think about my future:
Compromise? What for?
Dems must fail, because I'm running in 2024.

2024, 2024, that's just four more years to go,
2024, 2024, four more years of "just say no."
(Rob Cohen, Potomac)

Jewish space laser welder
(To "White Christmas")
I'm aiming Jewish space lasers.
I make them bright and fast and hot.

I start work on Monday
And work through Sunday
(Though I don't work on Shabbat).
I'm aiming Jewish space lasers.
I launch them from a trampoline.
When you see these words on your screen,

They'll be coming from Ms. Taylor Greene.
(Barbara Sarshik, McLean)

New York City police officer
(To "YMCA")
Young man, lie face down on the ground
I said, young man, don't you make one more sound

You can stay there, with your hands on your head
Or we'll do the hard way instead
It's fun to work at the NYPD . . .
(Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

And Last: The Post Copy Editor's Chantey

(To "Sixteen Tons")
Some people say the news is made outta ink
But, without an editor, the copy might stink.
Make sure the spelling is right and that the prose ain't too lame
And most of all, don't forget to disclaim!

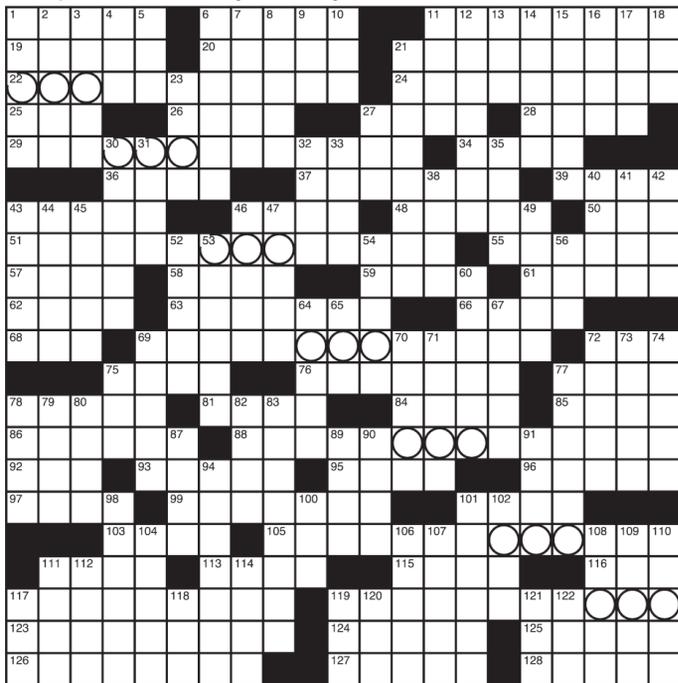
I edit sixteen thousand inches of text,
Need a rubber stamp for what I got to do next:
Every three or four lines, or maybe five at the most:
"Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post."
(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 22: Our contest for anagrams of headlines. See wapo.st/invite1423.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "SEEING PROGRESS"**
By PAM AMICK KLAWITTER
- ACROSS**
- 1 Playground game with hoops
- 6 Bloppy sci-fi villain
- 11 Biker's protective wear
- 19 In the know
- 20 Fitness motto starter
- 21 Removes faded flowers from
- 22 Fit
- 24 Brand with a Jumpman logo
- 25 Regret
- 26 School near Windsor
- 27 Stiles of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"
- 28 "Friends" friend
- 29 Arrives like a brainstorm
- 34 A, to Beethoven
- 36 Fair
- 37 Formal talk
- 39 Deer sir
- 43 Droid from Naboo, familiarly
- 46 Volume unit
- 48 Go inside
- 50 Long, long tail?
- 51 Start of a hopeful chant
- 55 Tower engineer
- 57 Simone's state
- 58 Dagger of yore
- 59 Mosque official
- 61 Bound to be
- 62 "I, Claudius" role
- 63 Collapsed
- 66 Like some fried food
- 68 Letters on a bathroom tube
- 69 Absolutely zero
- 72 Dealer-busting org.
- 75 Meter starter
- 76 Compared with
- 77 Places where quiet is often demanded
- 78 Cut of the loot
- 81 River past Logroño
- 84 It's raised at a circus
- 85 Obligation
- 86 Many surfers
- 88 Ignore mistakes, say
- 92 Letters on a GI's letters
- 93 Absorb, as a spill
- 95 Twitter rampage
- 96 Hale-Bopp, for one
- 97 Alphabetically first V8 ingredient
- 99 Yawning cause
- 101 Place to make a rial deal
- 103 Some tributes
- 105 Disney theme park
- 111 Part of many a plot
- 113 Bristol bye-bye
- 115 Bit of politeness from a hat-tipper
- 116 That guy, to Guy
- 117 Subject of many a watch
- 119 Family film feature
- 123 Enthusiastic to a fault
- 124 Elicit a chuckle
- 125 A detective may act on one
- 126 Spoofs
- 127 Minibike kin
- 128 ___ music
- DOWN**
- 1 Clues for DNA analysis
- 2 Accept the blame
- 3 Wild party
- 4 "No seats" sign
- 5 Job listing abbr.
- 6 "Precisely like this"
- 7 "Take ___ at it"
- 8 Bingo cousin
- 9 Marcel Marceau clown persona
- 10 Snacked
- 11 Princess with cinnamon-bun locks
- 12 Not kidding
- 13 Asleep in Eng. class?
- 14 Cause of sticker shock at the florist?
- 15 They may be unsung
- 16 "CSI" actor George
- 17 Old food label figs.
- 18 I-9 ID
- 21 Thoughts of the beach while in class, e.g.
- 23 MIT offerings
- 27 Boxing div.
- 30 Suspects
- 31 Jordanian queen dowager
- 32 José's hand
- 33 A light bulb may symbolize one
- 35 "It's clear now"
- 38 Multi-lingual Irish singer
- 40 First golfing U.S. president
- 41 Pulitzer-winning author James
- 42 ___ standard
- 43 Bowl, say
- 44 Was highly regarded
- 45 Formal wear item
- 46 '1983 Indy 500 champ Tom
- 47 Fancy moldings
- 49 Throw very hard
- 52 Berkshire racecourse
- 53 Deadlocked
- 54 Alleged creation of Buffalo's Anchor Bar
- 56 Wray of "King Kong"
- 60 Herd mentality output?
- 64 Golfer's gouge
- 65 Pasta restaurant closing?
- 67 RPI and NIH
- 69 Cards, for short
- 70 Tiberius' tongue
- 71 Blessed ___
- 72 Casual Friday fabric
- 73 Musical workout, at times
- 74 Singer's perfect pitch, say
- 75 "... chips-down" link
- 77 "Ciao"
- 78 Swedish auto
- 79 Bit of optimism
- 80 Lotion additive
- 82 Fuzzy memory
- 83 One taking a class over
- 87 Juice with a lizard logo
- 89 Picard's counselor
- 90 Jon of "Mad Men"
- 91 Checkout action
- 94 Stamps
- 98 Figure with a cap?
- 100 ___ kit: Ancestry.com item
- 101 Signed off on name
- 102 Speechless player
- 104 Like morning fields
- 106 Stimulate
- 107 Memory miscue
- 108 Pass-rushing group, briefly
- 109 Prevention amount
- 110 Strength
- 111 Inventing middle
- 112 Card holder, maybe
- 114 Pub mugfuls
- 117 Jazzy genre
- 118 Yokohama yes
- 119 Omelet filler
- 120 70-DW trio opener
- 121 Bright students' org.
- 122 "How obvious"



2/21/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 21: Emotionally deep, complex and honest, you have an intimate relationship with the world. Following an extremely difficult childhood, you forged a successful path, and this year, you triumph even more. Reaching out to others helps. If single, you really need to get out more, which is impossible due to covid-19. You don't commit this year. If attached, you're on a perpetual high in your romance. Virgo is devoted to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
It's very important to return all phone calls and emails promptly. Take today to catch up with this and with neighborhood friends and siblings. Let yourself meet — properly socially distanced — a new person who may become a good friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Today gives you added energy to direct into financial matters. Your enthusiasm and effort bring you profits. A long-lost friend contacts you out of the blue. This is the time when almost anything can happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Your warmth and confidence lead to a new opportunity coming up. Push yourself forward; believe in yourself. Future travel, a career offer, a new love, a new interest and heightened awareness are all highly likely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You will enjoy peace and privacy. Discretion comes, and you will not reveal secret information to prying eyes. You will feel concern for those who have had a difficult time and can get involved in charity work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You have new insights into friendships and see how the people you're attached to are growing and changing. You get in touch with personal goals and wishes, deciding on which priorities are really important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Accept constructive criticism gracefully today. You can turn a tense situation into a chance to shine and strengthen your position if you study it carefully. Everyone notices you. A time for tremendous growth and promise commences.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today you will be exposed to those who have a different philosophy of

life. An open mind and tolerant attitude carry you a long way. A gathering is a time to listen carefully when in conversation with loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
If there are addictive tendencies, keep them under control. Sweet, rich deserts and other extravagances beckon. Analyze drives, appetites and desires. Understand the moods and feelings of others as you could be a bit intense just now.

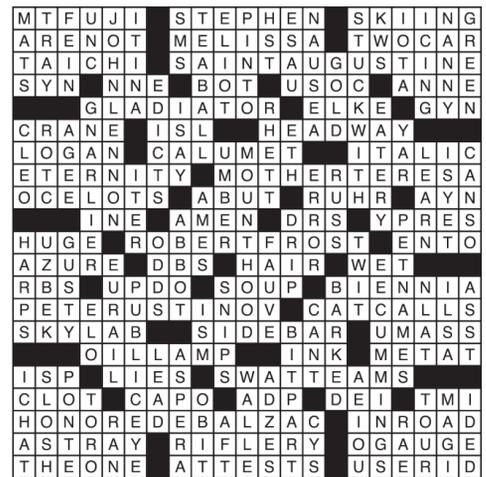
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You have to choose between friends. A compromise is possible. Others are very responsive to any love and kindness you show. Be liberal with everyone. Let them be themselves, and they will support you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A co-worker is suddenly a better friend — a friend you would see on the weekend. You move around clearing out clutter and getting rid of debris. Your health improves because the daily environment becomes more nurturing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have a change of heart about old interests and attachments. Dreams and intuition provide insights to help you make choices. Your vivid imagination is an asset if you direct creativity constructively.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You want to break from routine patterns at home and also have a more modern residence. There may be new family or extended family members coming in, and others voice the need to move on and live their own lives.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



2/14/21