

DIVERSIONS

©THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

List tickles: Winning comparisons

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1442 was another installment of our compare/contrast contest, in which you explain how any two items on the random list we posted are alike or different. As usual, lots of the connections were real stretches, but some were so *right* that it seemed we must have planned for such an answer (but we didn't).

4th place:

The difference between **Simone Biles** and the **Texas power grid**: You can count on only one of them to light up an arena. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:

An **Olympic pole vaulter**: Man with a 17-foot pole.
An **evening with Mitch McConnell**: Man! Not with a 17-foot pole! (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

2nd place and the socks that look like a box of Nerds candy:

A **quarantine puppy** and the **world's largest pants**: Both come out of a dog giving birth. (Daniel Galef, Tallahassee)

And the winners of the Cloning Achievement:

12 gallons of hand sanitizer: Purell.
An **evening with Mitch McConnell**: Pure 'ell. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich; Jeff Rackow, Bethesda, who submitted virtually identical entries)

Linkings:

Honorable mentions
A **mask-making company** and an **evening with Mitch McConnell**: With one, you cover your nose and mouth; with the other, cover your eyes and ears. (Frank Mann, Washington)

A **mask-making company**: 3M.
Pineapple upside-down cake: MMM! (Jesse Frankovich)

The **world's largest pants** and the **singular "they"**: They're both really useful when nothing else quite fits. (Deb Stewart, Damascus, Md.)

An **evening with McConnell** would give Obama fits. The **world's largest pants** are what Your Mama fits. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

The **world's largest pants** and a **non-fungible token**: Both allow for wide swings of your most precious assets. (Allan Zackowitz, Brookeville, Md.)

The **world's smallest pants** and a **pre-algebra textbook**: My teenage daughter wouldn't be caught dead with a textbook in public. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

A **mask-making company** and a **quarantine puppy**: One cleaned up during the pandemic, and the other made you do it. (Mia Wyatt, Ellicott City, Md.)

Pineapple upside-down cake and **pandemic gray hair**: You can imagine Rudy Giuliani turning up publicly with the cake on his head, but definitely not the gray hair. (Mark Turco, McLean, Va.)

Simone Biles and an **evening with McConnell**: Simone Biles also flips when it's inconvenient. (Jesse Rifkin, Glastonbury, Conn.)

A **triple word score** and an **evening with McConnell**: Both are better if you have a J. (Deb Stewart)

12 gallons of hand sanitizer and **Jewish space lasers**: They make the perfect gift package for the modern-day mohel. (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

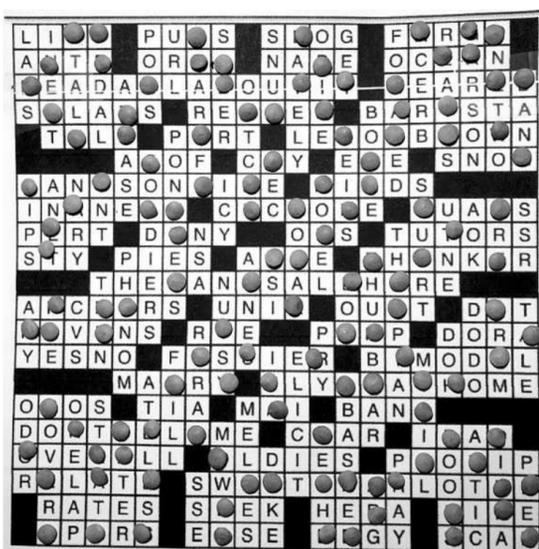
12 gallons of hand sanitizer: It's not easy being clean. **Jewish space lasers**: It's not easy being a clown. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

The **third seat on Jeff Bezos's space trip** and an **evening with Mitch McConnell**: One involves G-forces, and the other involves Q-forces. (Leif Picout, Rockville, Md.)

A **mask-making company** and **12 gallons of hand sanitizer**: Two things you should have bought in February 2020. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

The **third seat on Jeff Bezos's space trip** and an **evening with McConnell**: One offers 12 minutes of excitement. (Jeff Rackow)

A **non-fungible token** and an **evening with McConnell**: In short, you could call either of them "non-fun." (Gary Crockett)



L.A. TIMES CROSSWORD PUBLISHED IN THE POST JULY 11. © 2021, TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

New contest for Week 1446: Clue us in — and we spill the beans

The reverse crossword — we show you the answers, you write the clues — is a Style Invitational perennial; we've done the contest at least 17 times before. There are always lots of clever clues in the results, but frequently the same entry is submitted by a dozen different people. So this time the Empress hopes to broaden the variety of entries with the help of some lentils from her pantry.

Above is the answer grid for the Los Angeles Times puzzle that ran on this page July 11 — but I've covered more than half of the squares with the li'l legumes so that you can choose your own letters in almost all the words in the grid. **This week: Write novel clues for as many as 25 answers in the grid, across or down, first substituting your own letters for any covered ones.** Your answer may be a single word or a phrase, a real word or one you made up. (Treat unbeaned answers as those actual words.) **The letters DON'T have to cross;** just think of each answer on the grid as an individual word or phrase, just placed in an irritatingly unwieldy format instead of a nice tidy list.** Also, your clues don't have to be as brief as in real crosswords, but they shouldn't run more than a dozen words or so.

There's one hitch: To make the letters big enough to be read, the Empress left the numbers out of the squares, which means you can't tell me where your word appears on the grid. So: **YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES IN THIS FORMAT:**

- **First type the word as it appears**, with hyphens or dashes designating the covered squares;
- **then type YOUR word;**
- **then type your clue**, as in the examples below. **Do not break those elements into separate lines!**
— — AR — F —: **CLARIFY: What you do after you're caught in a blatant lie**
TH — — P — AN: **THE APIAN: Jeff Goldblum's new movie role as a giant bee**

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1446 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Aug. 2;** results appear Aug. 22 in print, Aug. 19 online.

Winner gets the Cloning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an **olive-drab canvas bag** that Loser Cheryl Davis got from a street vendor at the Great Wall of China. The lettering is Mao's own, of his motto "Serve the People," but who's that pictured in the Chinese army uniform? Why, it's . . . Barack Obama.

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 "Punderachiever." 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 "List Tickles" is by Mark Raffman; Kevin Dopart wrote 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:** In this week's column the Empress provides that tidy list of the words (complete with dashes) in the grid. See wapo.st/conw1446.

The "You're Invited" podcast: A new half-hour episode just dropped, featuring several Losers, live from the Invite picnic at the Empress's house. **See bit.ly/invite-podcast.**

A pineapple upside-down cake and an evening with Mitch McConnell would both be sweet repasts, except for the evening with Mitch McConnell. (Dan Helming, Whitmarsh, Pa.)

A pole vaulter and Simone Biles get about the same height off the ground, but you'll never see a pole vaulter stick the landing. (Steve Brevig, Springfield, Va.)

Both a doped horse and a quarantine puppy have a leg up. (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)

Mozart and the third seat on Jeff Bezos's space trip and 12 gallons of hand sanitizer: Hear high G, feel high G and smell hygiene. (Ben Aronin, Washington)

Pandemic gray hair: You maybe don't want to dye it. **Pineapple upside-down cake:** You definitely don't want to diet. (Craig Dykstra, Centerville, Va.)

Pandemic gray hair vs. the

Texas power grid: People want only want one of those to go dark again. (Jesse Frankovich)

Simone Biles: Awe. **A quarantine puppy:** Aww. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

The difference between **cardboard audience members** and an **evening with Mitch McConnell**: One will lie out flat; the other will be flat out lies. (Kevin Dopart)

Jewish space lasers vs. a vaccination card: One is the outrageous creation used to shame a minority that just wants to be left alone, and the other is space lasers run by Jews. — M. Taylor Greene (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

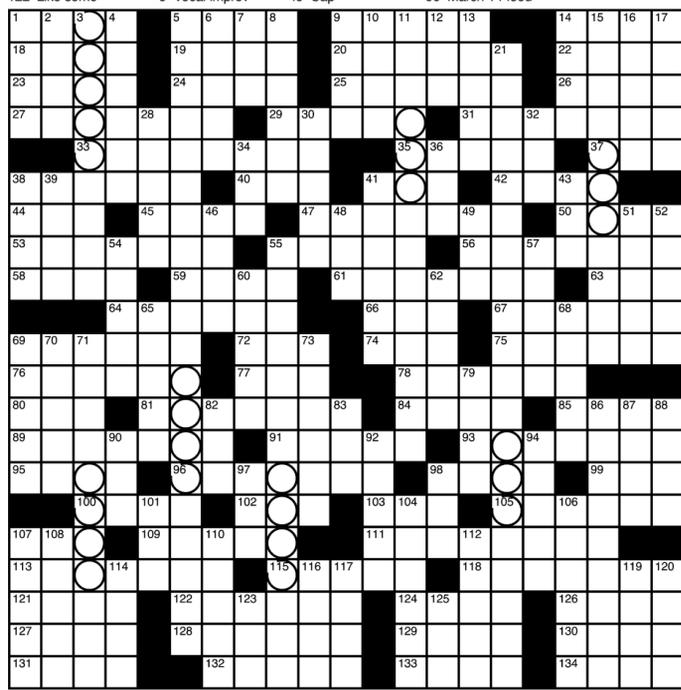
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1446.

Still running — deadline Monday night, July 26: Our contest for poems based on spelling bee words. See wapo.st/invite1445.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "CALL UP" By TONY CARUSO and C.C. BURNIKEL**
- ACROSS**
- Club alternatives
 - Word often after an "er" word
 - Adjusted to fit, as a ring
 - Future doc's hurdle
 - Mark
 - replacement
 - Upbeat greeting
 - One's due
 - Going rate
 - Sweet Sixteen org.
 - Jacob's brother
 - Unexpected attack
 - Pot builder
 - Distressed ones in some fairy tales
 - Sun, for one
 - Pale green glaze that originated in China
 - Adoption candidate, maybe
 - Antonio's love
 - Timeline divs
 - Seminole rivals, in college sports
 - Simpson trial judge
 - Signature Obama legis.
 - James played by Beyoncé in "Cadillac Records"
 - "Mr. Blue Sky" rock gp.
 - Inventor who had his ups and downs
 - Victory wreaths
 - Wall St. debuts
 - PGA leaders, say
 - Whacked at, as left field
 - Stuck
 - Slangy meeting
 - Bug with bounce
 - Requirements
 - EVW alternative
 - Summer temp, maybe
 - Sch. with the mascot Sparty
 - Sup at home
 - 1862 Tennessee battle site
 - Luanda is its cap.
 - Minor issue
 - Ric of The Cars
 - "Who wants cake?" eager reply
 - Polite title
 - Easy, in ads
 - "That's so cute!"
 - Slide organisms
 - Take suddenly
- revenue, as parking fines
Café additive
Stimulating nut
German gent
Blessing elicitor
Civil rights activist
Guinier
Baseball's Slaughter
Cookie that's customizable
Many new drivers
Type of prof.
"Absolutely!"
Fact-checker's find
Vodka nickname
Hatchet man
Brasi of "The Godfather"
Amusement park pickup areas
In order that one may
Cooper classic
fit
"Take on Me" band
Not at one's desk
Like some
- 10 Hogwarts librarian
Pince
Striped walkways
School URL ender
Summer songs?
Movie-rating org. on sticks
Stage figure
Personal teacher
"Enough, Jorger!"
cavity
Fact-checker's find
30 Vodka nickname
32 Rent
Lead-in to gender
36 Astronaut Jemison
38 Receivees
39 Sunburn-soothing balm
41 Halloween is in it
43 "Whether nobler . . ."
Hamlet
46 Wight, e.g.
48 20s dispenser
49 Cap
- 51 ___ Boogie: "The Nightmare Before Christmas" villain
92 Official proclamation
94 Blow
97 Road crew supply
98 Honshu honorific
101 Big shot, briefly
104 Dish from Valencia for "frying pan"
106 ___ Mortgage: Quicken brand
107 Oregon Trail state
68 ___ cavity
108 Crew member
110 Yom Kippur verb
112 Wheat ___
114 "Stoned" cracker brand
116 Level
117 Canned
119 Tech mogul
120 Lip
123 Org. with annual Jazz Master Awards
125 Small batteries



7/25/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | July 25: You are a sensitive, spiritual person with humanitarian values. You are also playful, fun-loving, warm and friendly. There is often an air of mystery about you. This is a powerful, wonderful year for you. Expect kudos, promotions and acknowledgments. You might get richer. You will certainly experience material gain, because this is a year of achievement and recognition.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 7 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. Eastern time today. After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Power struggles with a family member might take place today. These generally accomplish nothing. Relax. You feel sympathetic. You will party hard and work hard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Although you might be obsessed about an idea today, resist your urge to persuade others to "see the light." Home repairs and focus on family are important. Competitive sports are in the picture.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Money issues or a possession is important today, which is why you will stand your ground. A busy, fast-paced, upbeat week is ahead. Cope with increased chaos and activity at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You want to get to the bottom of something. More likely, you will end up in an intellectual conflict. Your ideals and appreciation of beauty are aroused. Focus on earnings and ways to boost your wealth. You'll be convincing about moneymaking ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today hidden information might come to light, perhaps even a secret. You feel generous to someone in need. It's a powerful week for you. You will feel strong and vigorous. You will work hard to earn money and spend it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might meet someone pushy today. They might want to indoctrinate you or others into their way of thinking, or perhaps they want you to join an organization. You will have a warm conversation with someone close to you. Get physical exercise to blow off any pent-up steam.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today a boss, parent or someone in a position of authority might throw their weight around and try to beat their drum so that everyone follows their path. Or perhaps they have a grievance to air. You have concern for a co-worker or a pet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Resist the urge to proselytize and persuade others to agree with your beliefs about politics, religion or racial issues, because this is what you are tempted to do. There's no point in browbeating others to agree with you. Enjoy romance and socializing.

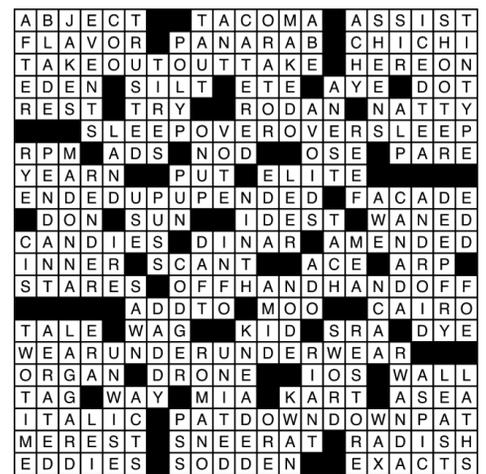
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Squabbles about shared property or how to divide an inheritance or a certain amount of money might arise today. Disputes about borrowing something also might arise. Family discussions are warm and understanding. Travel if possible, or get further learning. Your ambition is aroused.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A conversation with a partner or close friend will be intense today. You might feel verbally attacked. Possibly, you are the person being aggressive about your views. Work to protect your own best interests, especially financially.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You want to make the world a better place. Today you might be so excited about introducing reforms, especially to your workplace, that you are overbearing. (There are none so deaf as those who are wearing headphones.) Don't be extravagant. Avoid financial disputes. Listen to your partner or close friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Power struggles with kids might take place today. Remember who's the adult and who's the child. Power struggles between romantic partners are also likely. Work to get better organized. Avoid disputes with partners.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



7/18/21