DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New-word oders, or def poetry winners

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1460, we once again asked for poems using words (or usages) newly added to Merriam-Webster's dictionary at M-W.com.

4th place:

FTW means "for the win"
But to fans' never-ending chagrin
It's not hard to foresee
That our WFT
Will have gone FTL yet agin.
(Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

3rd place:

I've a typical **dad bod,** that's clear:
Chubby cheeks, flabby arms, pudgy rear.
On my head, hair I lack,
But there's lots on my back,
And the six-pack I carry is beer.
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2nd place and the cute plush coronavirus:

"Because" as a preposition:
If ever, oh ever, a Wiz there was
The Wizard of Oz is one because
Because, because, because,
because, because,
Because reasons.
(Steve Bremner, Philadelphia)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

The fourth trimester, the months after the birth:
We cuddled you close for the whole fourth trimester —
We cherished that bond, and the closeness was heaven.
And dear, we still love you; we don't mean to pester —
But . . . leave. It's trimester one hundred and seven.
(Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.)

No-ha Webster: Honorable mentions

TBH ("to be honest"):
My mama said: "Truth is the key.
So an honest man's what you must be!"
But I so love to lie — It's the way I get by.
TBH, TBH is not me. *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)*

Petaflops and **teraflops, huge units of computing speed:**
In Loudoun, massive edifices
sprang up overnight.
Now petaflops and teraflops are stored there.
And meanwhile, all their school board meetings end up in a fight.
With ordinary courtesies ignored there. *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

The speed of his servers in petaflops
Won't matter when Zuckerberg's Meta flops.
(Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Cellie (cellmate):
My cellie informed me the very first day
To steer clear in the yard of a convict called Jethro,
A Tennessee man who in high school, they say,
Was once voted most likely to wind up on death row.
(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

New for Week 1464: Picture this — a caption contest

We have it on excellent authority (i.e., the Empress's crossed fingers) that there is a perfect caption for each of the cartoons above — a hilarious quote, a deft description — that will seem as if Bob Staake had that very joke in mind when he drew it. It's just waiting for you to come up with it and send it to us. (Okay, maybe someone else will; we don't care who, TBH.) **This week: Write a caption, either descriptive or in dialogue, for any of the cartoons above,** up to a total of 25 entries.

In the spirit of this holiday season, let's keep the E semi-sane and **please format your entries like this:** Begin each entry with "Picture A:," "Picture B:," etc. (no, not with the quotation marks, silly), *then follow it on the same line with your caption.* This will let the E click on "Sort" with her trusty laptop and vwoom all the Picture A's are in one giant list. You can see the cartoons in color at *wapo.st/invite1464*, but captions that refer to the colors will run only in our online results. (Duh.)

Submit up to 25 entries at *wapo.st/enter-invite-1464* (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Dec. 6**; results appear Dec. 26 in print, Dec. 23 online. (Hmm, could there be a holiday-themed caption or two lying in wait?)

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives **a deck of playing cards featuring 54 fun facts about New Jersey,** including, on the 8 of spades, what the state's tallest building is. Win this deck to find out! Donated by Loser Mike Gips, native of New York.

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 new lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at *wapo.st/inviteFAQ*. The headline "New-Word Oders" is by Tom Witte, while Chris Doyle pitched in "Def Poetry." And William Kennard 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: The Empress made a holiday progress over the river and through the woods, so her supplementary online column will return next week.

The "You're Invited" podcast: A new game-show-themed episode with a half-dozen Losers plus video! **See bit.ly/invite-podcast.**

Dad bod:
Bring me a burger, with bacon and cheese
Fries on the side, and some onion rings, please. Forget that kale salad and freshly steamed cod —
I'm too busy sculpting my summer dad bod. *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

"Aquaman" hunk Jason Momoa body-shamed on Twitter for a photo showing a bit of belly fat:
Hubbida bubbida
Jason Momoa has
Shoulders like boulders and
Arms like a god.

Dads who are striving for Aquamanicity
Might want to settle for
Jason's dad bod!
(Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

My **doorbell camera** makes my privacy complete!
(Not so much for people walking down the street.) *(Kevin Dopart)*

Pregnancy has knocked me flat.
Baby's born; what's left is fat!
Fourth trimester's not so hot:
Wait is over; weight is not.
(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

An **"air fryer's"** really an oven; it
Will not fry a thing that you shove in it.
I've tried the same lie —
"This spud tastes like a fry!" —
But I can't trick my kids into lovin' it. *(Coleman Glenn)*

A rash from poison oak,
A sunburn raw and red,
Some gorp that made me choke,
A branch that whacked my head.
This camping trip was dire,
But here's what hurt the most:
Stood too close to the fire,
And had a **wiener roast.**
(Mark Raffman)

Give Donald Trump
An **elbow bump**
'Cause when he shakes
Your hand it takes
A while to end
For he can tend
To be too slow
To let things go. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

OG: (Original Gangster, or the true original):
In order to bring younger folks to the fold,
My church sings a rewritten key:
They scoff at our texts as outdated and old,
Replete with "thy," "art thou" and "thee."
But I'm grinding my teeth when we read "Jesus LOLed"
And refer to our Lord as "OG."
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

"Because" as a preposition:
I love levity
But this haiku has to end
Because brevity
(Frank Mann)

I mourn the tragic loss of "of"
In many an online yammer;
The shortened form I do not love.
Why not? Because, well, grammar.
(Duncan Stevens)

'Twas last night that I had a sublime dream
Where I conquered K2 with my climb team.
That is all, there's no pun.
Now this limerick's done.
The last line is just here because rhyme scheme. *(Gary Crockett)*

Still running — deadline Monday night, Nov. 29: Our contest for spoonerism jokes. See wapo.st/invite1463.

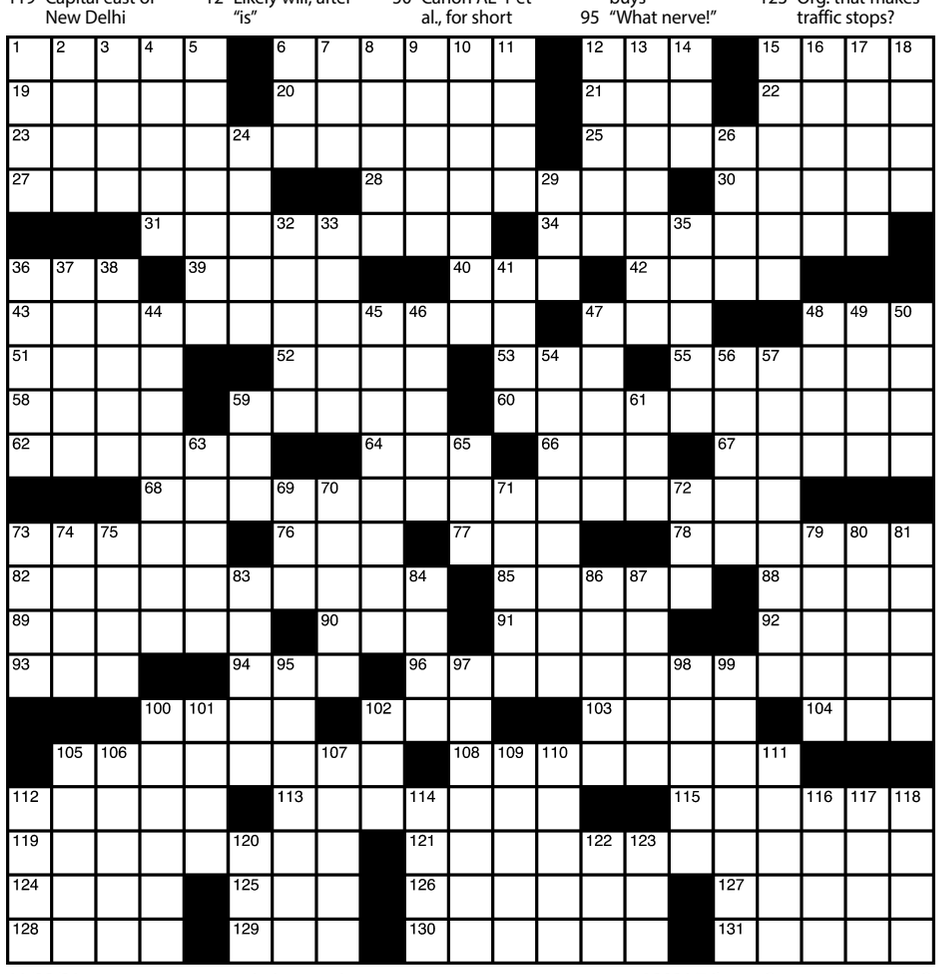
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"TWO FOR TWO"
By ED SESSA

ACROSS
1 Balls and some apples
6 "Bicycle Thieves" director Vittorio
12 Cleopatra's killer
15 Hindu epic hero
19 Wanting words
20 Spots for spectacles
21 Lobbying gp.
22 Airline whose name means "to the skies"
23 *Band aide
25 Stuck playing a familiar role
27 Pacific current
28 Top drawers?
30 Incomplete body of art
31 Budgetary figures
34 *Period after a crash, perhaps
36 Wood cutter
39 Do another hitch
40 Time VIPs
42 Burglar's take
43 *Figure in many Monty Python routines
47 __ mentality
48 Ones using mixers, for short
51 Former Sony brand
52 Afghanistan neighbor
53 Saucer, briefly
55 "Hey, that's great!"
58 Animal shelter
59 "Family Circus" creator Bil
60 *Figurative place for deferred options
62 "Give me a break!"
64 MLB's "Splendid Splinter" Williams
66 Phi follower
67 Staggers
68 *Airbags in cars, e.g.
73 "Bless you" evoker
76 "That feels good"
77 Rum __ Tugger: "Cats" role
78 Making a big deal out of
82 *Hoops buzzer-beater, for one
85 Files in shop class
88 Emulate a frigatebird
89 "Godzilla" franchise co-creator Tomoyuki __
90 LAX posting
91 Job safety org.
92 Eclectic magazine
93 Cephalopod's discharge
94 "__L": "Bye for now"
96 *Mall rarity on Black Friday
100 Pained expression
102 Bank account ID
103 Very wide shoe
104 Pink Floyd's Barrett
105 *Nightly barracks routine
108 Biometric security procedure
112 Mtge. issuer
113 Like some eaves in winter
115 Pharaoh depicted on the Sphinx
119 Capital east of New Delhi
121 Wimbledon category, and a hint to the answers to starred clues
124 Gillette blade
125 Cool, like a cat
126 Crib outfit
127 Gaming rookies
128 Back in the day
129 Holiday song syllables
130 Lipton rival
131 Forum garments

DOWN
1 Barb
2 Base runner?
3 Oz traveler
4 Welcome at the door
5 Fight souvenirs
6 Hammarskjöld of the U.N.
7 Historical period
8 "Sonic" consoles
9 Like krypton and xenon
10 Don't get
11 Piedmont bubbly
12 Likely will, after "is"
13 "Oh yeah?"
14 Angel dust, briefly
15 Snap back
16 Cause to sweat
17 Vertical billiards shot
18 __ sax
24 Well-known
26 Julius' cry to Marcus
29 '60s activist gp.
32 Nobelist of 1903 and 1911
33 "William Tell," e.g.
35 Big cheese
36 Rogaine target
37 No-frills font
38 "Holy Toledo!"
41 Beat handily
44 Florida coastal city or its county
45 Red-and-white topper
46 Scornful look
47 Latte variant
48 Ready to eat
49 "An Innocent Man" songwriter
50 Canon AE-1 et al., for short
54 Cover for some superheroes
56 "We don't have much time!"
57 Stealthily nears, with "on"
59 Mauna __
61 Modeler's buy
63 Seller's supply
65 Rachel Carson subject
69 Quick snooze
70 Family name in Chicago politics
71 Hubbub
72 Sounds of hesitation
73 Musical opening
74 Family group
75 Tarzan type
79 Little bits
80 Rival of Tonya
81 Devotion to Mammon, biblically
83 Come out of one's shell
84 Toy dog's barks
86 Draws back
87 Philatelist's buys
95 "What nerve!"
97 Dye-making compound
98 Insurance lizard
99 Old TV series with a scuba-diving hero
100 Guy who's often out
101 Pac-12's Bruins
102 Go downhill fast
105 Saddam's party
106 Between, in Brest
107 Some bra features
109 Curly-coated cats
110 That is, to Cicero
111 Jar Jar Binks' planet
112 Card game for three
114 "Let's do it!"
116 Aggressively promote
117 Singer McEntire
118 Latin "to be"
120 Devils org.
122 Lose power, as a battery
123 Org. that makes traffic stops?



11/28/21 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Nov. 28: You are ambitious, confident and generous. Basically, you're an adventurous optimist. You are charismatic and popular with others. Many of you have a powerful love for animals. This is a strong year for you, because it's a time of recognition and acknowledgment for you. You might get a raise, a promotion, kudos or awards. People will admire and respect you.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 7 p.m. The moon is in Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You will initiate conversations with people who are different from you. You will enjoy exploring ideas with people from different backgrounds. You want to know more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
This is a good day to examine your relationship to the wealth of others. This includes debt that you share as well as shared property and jointly held assets. How do you come off in these relationships?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
This is an interesting day. You have many conversations with others. In part, this will happen because you will attract talkative people to you. Call this a yakety-yak day. "Take out the papers and the trash . . . "

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Today the Sun is lined up with Mercury, which gives you a clear mind and a strong focus. That makes this the perfect day to do routine paperwork. Knuckle down and get this stuff out of the way, because you'll make great progress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today you're full of wonderful, creative ideas. Enjoy any involvement in the arts or creative projects. You especially will be effective talking to younger people. In fact, your conversations with others might inadvertently educate you in some way. You will learn more about something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Family discussions, especially with a parent or an older relative, will be lively. This is an excellent day to sit down with someone and decide how to tackle home repairs or make improvements either at home or within the family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Let's face it, today you're talking a lot. You've got something to say and you intend to say it. You're an observant sign, and you often see relationships between events and situations that others miss.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Write down your moneymaking ideas today, because you're on fire. The Sun and Mercury are causing your mind to be full of ideas about finances, earnings, cash flow and anything to do with your possessions.

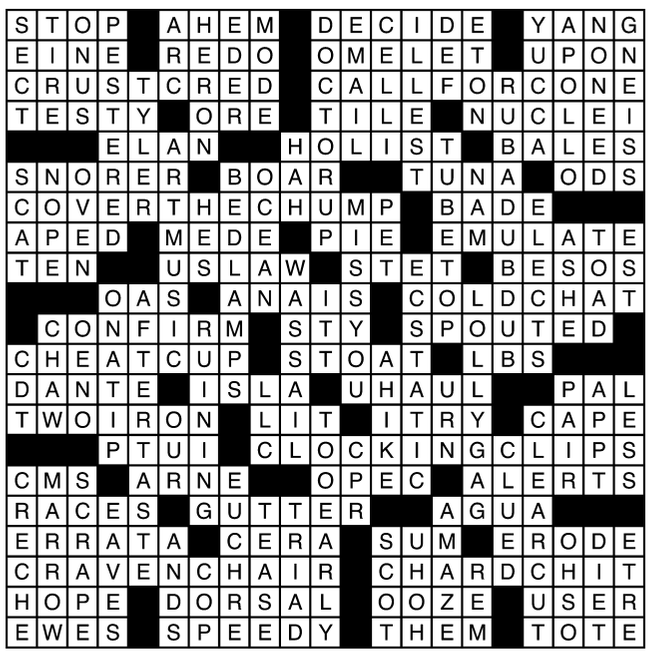
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You couldn't pick a better day to start new things or initiate new projects. Furthermore, you are motivated to reach out to others by mail or in person and do whatever is necessary to get things rolling.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
This is a great day to do research of any kind, because your mind is focused and very clear. Furthermore, you are interested in behind-the-scenes information or anything that is hidden and hard to access.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
This is the perfect day to sit down with someone and bounce your ideas off them regarding your plans, because their feedback will help you. Even if you're talking to yourself in your own head, think about your plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Lively discussions will take place today between you and bosses, parents, teachers or VIPs. They have something to say, and so do you. Fortunately, you will express yourself with such clarity and focus that they will sit up and listen. Nevertheless, be smart and listen as well.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



11/21/21