

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Fauxcast for 2022: An Invite timeline

BY PAT MYERS

As we do each December, we asked the Losers to tell us about the news events of next year, and compiled the timeline below. Dozens of them reported that there were so many new variants, they had to go to other alphabets, or hurricane names. (Some of the events below totally contradict each other; logic is sooo old school.) See a fuller timeline in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1469.

4th place:

Feb. 6: At the Beijing Olympics, Xi Jinping becomes the first supreme leader to win gold in the men's downhill after the other competitors all showed up at the wrong mountain. (*Jeff Shirley, Richmond*)

3rd place:

Nov. 8: Millions of Americans drive across newly renovated roads and bridges to vote out the Democrats. (*Ryan Martinez, Takoma Park*)

2nd place and the 'I never fart' socks:

April 11: President Biden appoints Donald Trump as U.S. ambassador to Elba. (*Milo Sauer, Fairfax*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Jan. 6: Americans nationwide shatter the world record for collective breath-holding. **Jan. 7:** "The Great Exhale" sparks a nationwide frenzy for mouthwash. (*Dave Airozo, Silver Spring*)

More headlines: Honorable mentions

January: Astronomers announce the discovery of an Earth-size planet orbiting the star Proxima Centauri. Texas officials immediately designate it as the voting location for all of the state's minority neighborhoods. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

Elon Musk polls Twitter for name suggestions for his next baby. The winner is "XEA-12 McXEA-12face." (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

After shouting "Kill all Democrats" on the House floor, Rep. Paul Gosar is censured again in a straight party line vote. (*Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.*)

February: Amid rising disapproval for ignoring multiple scandals, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vows to start combing his hair. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

To dissociate itself from an enslaver, the D.C. NFL franchise is renamed the National Capital Football Team. (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*)

March: Dr. Fauci finally activates the microchips in the coronavirus vaccine. Donations to charity skyrocket, and millions of people volunteer at soup kitchens. (*David Young, Falmouth, Mass.*)

The Supreme Court simultaneously overturns *Roe v. Wade* and *Brown v. Board of Education* and reinstates the Dred Scott decision. Writing for the majority, Justice Kavanaugh opines, "Precedent, schmecedent." (*Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.*)

April: Throwing out the first pitch on Opening Day, President Biden whizzes a fastball down the middle. The Nats instantly sign him as a starter. (*Daniel Helming, Whitmarsh, Pa.*)

Democrats introduce a \$10 trillion inflation relief bill. (*Jesse Frankovich*)

May: During a test flight, a driverless flying car crashes into the stands at a Miami Marlins game, destroying an entire seating section. No one is hurt. (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

Russia sends 150,000 armed "ambassadors" to Ukraine for "peace negotiations." (*Mark Raffman, Reston*)

June: President Biden orders a chocolate cone at an ice cream parlor. Fox News denounces the "War on Vanilla." (*Hannah Seidel, Alexandria*)

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis bans shirt mandates. (*Leif Picoult, Rockville*)

July: On National Postal Worker Day, the USPS confirms that the "Forever" stamps refer to the amount of time expected to deliver a letter. (*Bruce Carlson, Alexandria*)

August: Because of raging inflation, Dollar Tree stores are renamed Five and Dime stores,



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1469: Post Mortems 2021, our obit poems

Baseball manager Tommy Lasorda (1927-2021)

Higgledy Piggledy Tommy Lasorda was Quite the field manager — Smart, and with pluck. Angry and colorful, Vocabularically: \$%&, %#!* and #!& and &!@#!

Like death and taxes, there's, well, death. And lives to be commemorated Style Invitational-style, as we do at the top of every year. **This week: Write a poem of no longer than eight lines (plus an optional title) about someone who died in 2021**, as in the double dactyl above by Lover of Baseball, Double Dactyls and Bad Language Gene Weingarten. Google "deaths 2021" and you'll find many lists of our, alas, always crowded field of candidates for a witty elegy. Remember that the Invite is a humor/light-verse contest, so your verse should provoke a smile rather than a blubber; but it shouldn't be ghoulish or gloating. Don't cause pain.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1469 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Jan. 10;** results appear Jan. 30 in print, Jan. 27 online.



Ask not for whom the chicken squawks.

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 "Fauxcast" headline is by Chris Doyle; Beverly Sharp 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's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's, featuring classic Invite obit poems, at wapo.st/conv1469.

where a bottle of shampoo now costs \$5.10. (*Milo Sauer*)

Andrew and Chris Cuomo enter show business as tag team wrestlers. (*Greg Dobbins, Boynton Beach, Fla.*)

Environmentalists suspect that climate change may be accelerating when longtime denier Sen. James Inhofe, in what many view as a surprising concession, melts. (*Duncan Stevens*)

September: Florida Gov. DeSantis makes it illegal to ask children to look both ways before crossing the street. (*Larry Rifkin, Glastonbury, Conn.*)

More than a year after his official portrait was completed, the National Portrait Gallery still can't get Mike Pence to agree on the date for a hanging ceremony. (*Frank Osen*)

The Major League Baseball lockout ends just in time for the playoffs, in which every team is included except the Orioles, because come on. (*Mark Raffman*)

The Federal Trade Commission narrowly votes to approve Facebook's acquisition of its fifth Infinity Stone. (*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

October: The Houston Space Center aborts a launch after six seconds. Thousands of Texans sue in hopes of getting \$10,000. (*Gary Crockett*)

The nation is shocked when Rep. Matt Gaetz is discovered to be cheating on his wife with a woman of legal age. (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring*)

November: Texas Gov. Greg Abbott says he is "dumbfounded" about the huge increase in number of infants entering the state's welfare system over the past year. (*Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.*)

Britney Spears's father is given conservatorship over Rudy Giuliani. (*David Young*)

Nov. 9: Incoming House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy announces plans to impeach Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Hillary Clinton, George Soros, Hunter Biden, Jill Biden, Anthony Fauci and Big Bird. (*Duncan Stevens*)

Nov. 22: JFK Jr. returns from the dead to Dealey Plaza just to tell QAnon followers they are all idiots. (*Art Grinath, Takoma Park*)

December: Trump announces his candidacy for 2024 by shooting a man on Fifth Avenue. (*Sam Mertens*)

Pantone introduces the Color of the Year: a greenish brown-gray called Meh. (*Wendy Shang, Falls Church*)

Sen. Joe Manchin introduces a bill requiring Santa to deliver a bag of coal to every child, not just the naughty ones. (*Lee Graham, Rockville*)

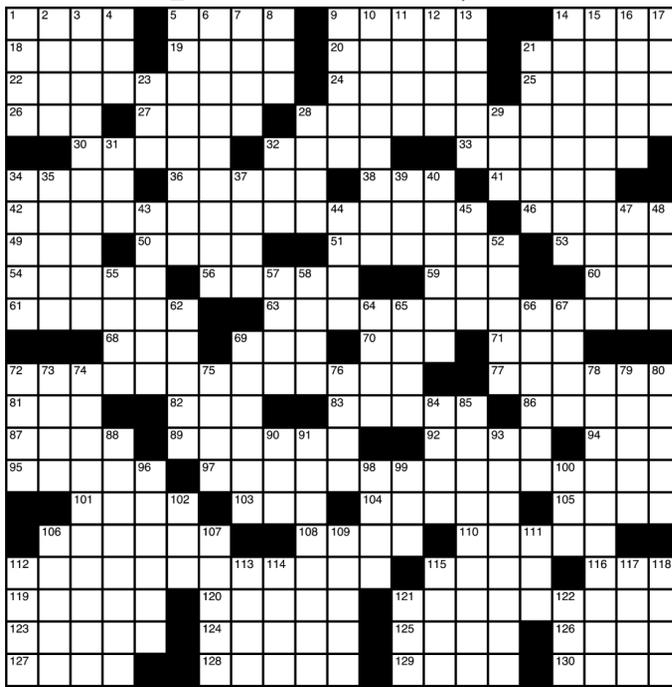
Dec. 25: At NASA's annual Deep State Hanukkah Party, Jewish scientists fire up one space laser, then use that one to fire up eight other space lasers. (*Marty Gold, Arlington*)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 3: A chance to enter any of 25 earlier contests. See wapo.st/invite1468.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>"DECISION MAKING" By C.C. BURNIKEL</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Safari find</p> <p>5 Debate side</p> <p>9 First-string squad</p> <p>14 Degrees for some execs</p> <p>18 Graceful horse</p> <p>19 Created</p> <p>20 James Gang associate Starr</p> <p>21 Summa cum ___</p> <p>22 Candle used in a lighthouse?</p> <p>24 Genesis tower locale</p> <p>25 Place out of the sun</p> <p>26 Capser-to-Carver dir.</p> <p>27 Word in a beauty brand since 1952</p> <p>28 Snake that can walk on water?</p> <p>30 Snake secretion</p> <p>32 On one's ___: having recovered</p> <p>33 Brightly plumed songbird</p> <p>34 Tax prep pros</p> <p>36 More current</p> <p>38 "Such a cute cat!"</p> <p>41 Russo of "Thor"</p> <p>42 Imitations of disapproving sounds?</p> <p>46 Disobedient</p> <p>49 Goree who played Cassius Clay in "One Night in Miami..."</p> <p>50 Actor Morales</p> <p>51 Baconator chain</p> <p>53 Truth alternative</p> <p>54 Expressive chat image</p> <p>56 Even now</p> <p>59 Treasury Dept. variable</p> <p>60 Small container</p> <p>61 Big name in bread</p> <p>63 Workout trainers?</p> <p>68 Tot's belly</p> <p>69 Rochelle Walensky's org.</p> <p>70 "This ___ to stop"</p> <p>71 Mt. Hood's state</p> <p>72 Reward for a fan at a smokehouse drawing?</p> <p>77 iRobot vacuum</p> <p>81 Sci-fi author Palmer</p> <p>82 Liquid meas.</p> <p>83 Loud laughs</p> <p>86 Garden-variety</p> <p>87 Lauderdale neighbor</p> <p>89 Pump number</p> <p>92 Short statement or question</p> <p>94 "Billions" aier, briefly</p> | <p>95 Snow day coasters</p> <p>97 Traveling jokester?</p> <p>101 Barcelona bar bite</p> <p>103 Goofy drawing?</p> <p>104 "Level Up" singer</p> <p>105 Vaper's stick, for short</p> <p>106 Colombian capital</p> <p>108 Throw out</p> <p>110 Fr. misses</p> <p>112 Problem that plagues the grid?</p> <p>115 Pitcher Sparky, first American League reliever to win the Cy Young Award</p> <p>116 Jeter's jersey number</p> <p>119 "___ we all?"</p> <p>120 Yearly record</p> <p>121 Perform a pregame NFL ritual ... or, in four parts, phrase that hints at seven long</p> <p>ACROSS answers</p> | <p>123 Soft minerals</p> <p>124 "Stranger Things" genre</p> <p>125 Foil alternative</p> <p>126 Craving</p> <p>127 Craftsy etailer</p> <p>128 Dry runs</p> <p>129 Orderly</p> <p>130 Julia's "Ocean's Eleven" role</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Bits of wisdom</p> <p>2 Golden years funds</p> <p>3 Risky way to save</p> <p>4 Recede</p> <p>5 Rock-clinging mollusks</p> <p>6 Lebanon's capital</p> <p>7 Horse victim?</p> <p>8 Travel stop</p> <p>9 Cornish of "Jack Ryan"</p> <p>10 Convenient envelope-opening strip</p> <p>11 Island off Tuscany</p> <p>12 Smart guy?</p> <p>13 ___ Yello</p> | <p>14 Like "Lost" characters</p> <p>15 Unwinding luxury</p> <p>16 Love to pieces</p> <p>17 Blood drive fluids</p> <p>21 More frilly</p> <p>23 Many, many years</p> <p>28 Bygone Ford div.</p> <p>29 Make an oopsie</p> <p>31 Medium gift</p> <p>32 "Wine Country" actress</p> <p>34 Obnoxious sort</p> <p>35 Mallorcan seaport</p> <p>37 Legat order</p> <p>39 Come out on top</p> <p>40 Thick-heeled shoes</p> <p>43 Lebanon's capital</p> <p>44 Head-turning birds</p> <p>45 Match sound to video</p> <p>47 Great Lake near Detroit</p> <p>48 Microscope part</p> <p>52 Wildlife trail</p> <p>55 Jump in a tutu</p> <p>57 Online source for film buffs</p> | <p>58 2021 Pixar film set in Italy</p> <p>62 Panama pal</p> <p>64 Half a toy train?</p> <p>65 Pop singer Del Rey</p> <p>66 Stir up</p> <p>67 Corp. honchos</p> <p>69 TD Garden NBAer</p> <p>72 Research places</p> <p>73 Childhood hero, perhaps</p> <p>74 Small drying aids</p> <p>75 Jet speed measure</p> <p>76 Staff for sailing record sales</p> <p>78 Shop with record sales</p> <p>79 Its supreme body is the Universal House of Justice</p> <p>80 Word after string or sing</p> <p>84 Costa ___</p> <p>85 Nolde watercolor with a turbulent title</p> <p>88 "Mad Men" business</p> <p>90 Candle count, maybe</p> | <p>91 Where teams annually make ice picks?</p> <p>93 "Ready when you are!"</p> <p>96 Pool and pickleball</p> <p>98 Pinnacle</p> <p>99 Shril bark</p> <p>100 "Mudbound" director Rees</p> <p>102 Common tweet symbols</p> <p>106 Fictional Kazakh journalist</p> <p>107 "...and ___ of thousands!"</p> <p>109 Jamaican citrus fruits</p> <p>111 Grazing area</p> <p>112 Bánh mì condiment</p> <p>113 At the moment when</p> <p>114 Aussie colleges</p> <p>115 A bit less than a canter</p> <p>117 Drag show toppers</p> <p>118 People</p> <p>121 Decathlon number</p> <p>122 Edit, in a way</p> |
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1/2/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Jan. 2: You are a hard-working, dedicated person. You are also warm and generous to others. You are particularly caring and giving to loved ones. Good news: This is a powerful year for you. Expect recognition and possibly a promotion or an award, because your efforts will be noticed and acknowledged by others, especially people in power.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The new moon is exact in Capricorn at 1:33 p.m.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is the best day all year to think about your life direction. Are you headed where you want to go? And think about your relationship with authority figures.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today's new moon is perfect for thinking about what travel you might take this year. What further education will improve your job or enhance your world?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The new moon occurring at the beginning of the year is the perfect time for you to think about how to get out of debt and organize your finances.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today's new moon is the perfect opportunity to think about how you can improve your closest relationships. After all, there's always room for improvement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Use today's new moon to think about how to get better organized. Not only can you get better organized in your day-to-day world, you can get better organized in your approach to how to improve your health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) As this year begins, consider the balance you have in your life between work and play. (We are more work-oriented than people in Europe, but less work-oriented than people in Japan.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today's new moon makes today a great day to think about how you can improve your home so you like

it better and it functions better. Likewise, how can you improve your relations with your family?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Human beings are gregarious creatures. We need to be seen and to see others. We also need to talk to each other. This stimulation is necessary. Today's new moon is the perfect opportunity to think about your style of communicating with others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The new moon today is a great chance to think about your money scene. What are your earnings? What are your expenditures? Meanwhile, are you taking care of what you own? Or do your possessions own you?

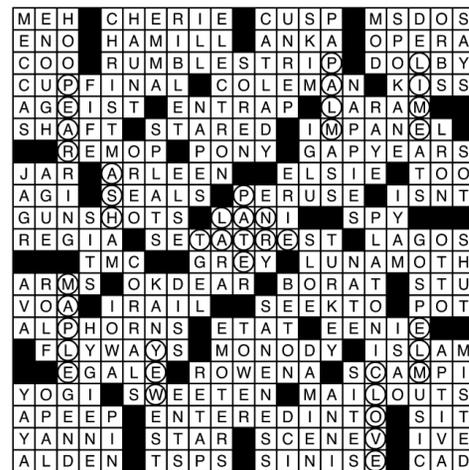
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today the new moon is in your sign.

The next new moon in your sign will be Dec. 23. These are two of the best days of the year to take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself what you can do to improve the image you offer to your world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is the perfect day for some quiet time if you can find a way to give yourself this treat. Meditation, yoga, a walk or time spent alone will give you a chance to ground yourself and sort out some priorities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) The new moon today is a perfect time to think about the friends you have. Do you hang out with quality people? Do your friends have your back? Friendships are important. Studies indicate good friendships can actually improve your health.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



12/26/21