

DIVERSIONS

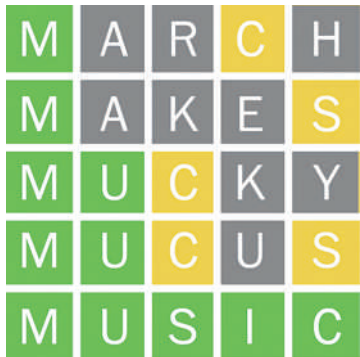
THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

FUNNY FIVES FAVES: Wordling along

BY PAT MYERS

Our Week 1479 contest — in which the Empress ripped off the Nerd Game of the Hour, asking for phrases that would work as New York Times Wordle grids, proved, well, a challenge.

4th place:



^ The springtime singer's lament. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

3rd place:



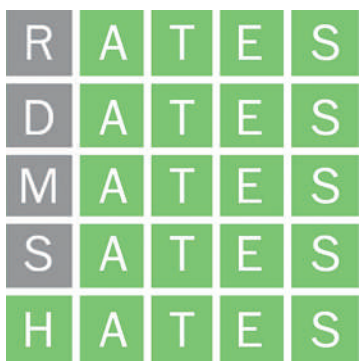
^ What a Florida teacher does now. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

2nd place and the Day of the Dead Pop-Tarts:



^ Why on earth would you keep announcing your X/6 Wordle score? (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:



^ A brief Tinder love story: Swipe right, spend the night, take flight. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

Fives below: Honorable mentions

BEERS, JEERS, WEARY, TEARY, A Commanders fan's usual quarter-by-quarter experience. (Steve Smith, Potomac)

BULLY, RAIDS, BOMBS, CINCH?, UHHHH ...

The remarkable turn of events in Ukraine. (Duncan Stevens)

BRIEF, BRADY, BREAK

When you realize that being driven into the ground by giant linemen beats being driven up the wall by your kids. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

FAULT, FAUCI, TRUST, SEUSS, Fox on docs. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

BANJO, KAZOO, DISCO, COMBO

The least frequently hired

Week 1483: Pun for the Roses — our famous foal-'breeding' contest

"Breed" Happy Jack with Make It Big and name the foal Ecstatic Jack Iron Works x Enough Already = Iron "StopsWorking" Clapton x Apprehend = Clapton Irons

Yes! After another iffy year in so many ways, we once again are on the traditional schedule for the running of the Kentucky Derby and, with it, our most popular contest of the year, usually generating some 4,000 entries for the Empress to ponder. This week: Use the list below of 100 of the 300-some horses nominated for the 2022 Triple Crown races to "breed" any two names and name the "foal" to humorously play on both parents' names, as in the examples above.

As in actual thoroughbred racing, a name may not exceed 18 characters including spaces, but those characters may include punctuation and numerals. You may run words together to save space, but the name should be easy to read. Please write entries in the A x B = C format of the second and third example above, and note the formatting instructions on this week's entry form and The Style Conversational.

They're easy, but the E and her longtime volunteer sorter, Loser Jonathan Hardis, need you to follow the directions so the entries can be sorted by horse name. Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1483 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, April 18; results appear on Derby weekend: May 8 in print, May 5 online.

- Absolute Ruler, American Icon, Apprehend, Barber Road, Bargaining Power, Be There, Beyond Best, Bletchley Park, Bloodline, Boise, Bureau, Bye Bye Bobby, Cant Be Doin That, Charge It, Clapton, Classic Causeway, Concept, Conclusive, Congressman, Courvoisier, Crown Pride, Cyberknife, Dean's List, Doppelganger, Early Voting, Echo Zulu, Efficiency, Electability, El Paso, Enough Already, Enthralment, Epicenter, Epoch, Ethereal Road, Flying Drummer, Forbidden Kingdom, Glider, Go in to the Show, Grantham, Gunfighter, Happy Jack, Hopper, Howling Time, Improper, In Due Time, Iron Works, Kerouac, Long Term, Major General, Make It Big, Messier, Miss Everything, Momentous, Money Supply, Morello, Mr White, Mugged, Nabokov, Octane, On Thin Ice, Overrule, Paper Mirror, Pappacap, Particular, Peaceful Waters, Presidential, Rattle N Roll, Rhetoric, Rich Strike, Rockefeller, Script, Secret Oath, Seventh Letter, Shake Em Loose, Simplification, Slim Man, Slow Down Andy, Smarten Up, Smile Happy, Strike Hard, Strobe, Summer Is Tomorrow, Surpassing, Take Action, Tawny Port, The Thunderer, Tiz the Bomb, Top Secret, Trademark, Un Ojo, Unraptured, Verbal, Volcanic, We the People, Wharton, White Abarrio, Win the Day, Witty, Zozos

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives, somewhat apropos to this week's contest, Poo-Dough, a Play-Doh-inspired mold and compound to make, well, yeah. "Looks like the real thing (smells much better)" and even comes with some fake corn kernels and peanut pieces to add authenticity to your product. Decorate your yard! Donated by Invite fan Dan Huff.

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 "Funny Fives Faves" is by Jesse Frankovich; Craig Dykstra 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; 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/conv1483.

musical ensemble. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

SIXTY, TIMES, ZILCH, Success rate of you-know-who's post-election lawsuits. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

SOLID, WASTE, AUDIT, CHIEF, How your resumé can describe the year you spent dumpster-diving. (Chris Doyle)

MARIE: BLADE, ADIEU, AHEAD!, The 1793 guillotine squad lets the queen know what's coming. (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

SHINY-PATED, ASSET-LADEN, PAPER, OWNER, (Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.) (Jesse Frankovich)

And Last: PRIZE: OLIVE, GREEN, LLAMA, VOMIT, What makes Losers try so hard for Invite ink. (Jon Gearhart)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1483.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 11: Make new words from any of 36 ScabbleGrams letter sets. See wapo.st/invite1482.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Word puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a grid with numbers 1-112 and a list of clues. The grid is partially filled with letters.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | April 10: You are goal-oriented. You have a plan, you make lists, and you want to achieve your objectives. Nevertheless, you are playful and forever youthful. This year will be quieter and slower-paced. It's the perfect year to focus on friendships and close relationships. Be willing to let others help you. Relax.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Steer clear of power struggles today, especially with parents, bosses, teachers and the police. They will do you no good. You will not win. Instead, relax and go with the flow. Don't get your belly in a rash.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might be doing a slow boil about something that rankles you, but you can't speak up. (This is the worst!) You are probably wise to refrain from making a scene, because things could get nasty today. Stay chill.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You might find yourself at odds with a friend or a member of a group today. This is a power struggle. You want your way; they want their way. But when the annals of history are written, will any of this make a difference?

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Power struggles with bosses, parents and the police are likely. Naturally, you have a choice. This doesn't have to happen. Give them a wide berth! Run the other direction for your own peace of mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Lighten up about differences in religion and belief systems, because this will lead to unpleasant power struggles. Although we all have more in common than not — we all want to be happy and we don't want to suffer — people do have different ideologies.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Quarrels about shared property, taxes and debt, as well as shared responsibilities, might erupt. Very likely, these are basically struggles about power and control. Be smart and don't get involved. Relax and enjoy your day instead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be patient with partners and close friends, because arguments might break out. Not a pretty picture. They will do you no good, because you like harmony in your surroundings. Even though you are a clever debater, you like to keep the peace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Avoid arguments at work, because anger only makes everyone miserable. Possibly, it might be an argument about a pet or something related to your health. Sometimes you feel you're right and that it matters. But what really matters is your own happiness. Stay chill.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Steer clear of arguments with your kids. Once there is anger in the family, all family members suffer. Is this worth it? Life is short. Meanwhile, family is important; in fact, family is gold. Respect the peace and harmony of your family.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a classic day for a family argument, possibly with a parent or someone else. It might arise from a general discussion, or it could relate to home repairs. More than most signs, you value family, tradition and security. Do what you can to keep the peace in your family. Harmony is invaluable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are bright and clever, and you might be tempted to get into an argument because someone says something that you know isn't true. Or perhaps you disagree. Whatever the case, is it worth it to destroy everyone's peaceful day?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Squabbles about money and possessions might ruin your day. Don't take the bait. Put your own happiness first. Relax.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

