

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

NEOLOGISMS: Scrabble 15-pointers

BY PAT MYERS

To celebrate Week 1500, the Empress asked the Losers to think up new words whose letters would add up to 15 points in Scrabble.

4th place: Subpeony: The official flower of the Justice Department — it's been in full bloom lately in Florida and Georgia. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

3rd place: Vegenerates: The debased, un-American sort who would order plant-based sausage at Cracker Barrel. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

2nd place and the dog butt coat hooks: QAnon: It IS 15 points — you counted it wrong. (Erika Reinfeld, Medford, Mass.)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement: Dadolescent: A husband who spends every damn night playing Nintendo with the kids. "Okay, hold on, they'll get to their homework in a bit..." (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

... Lose sum: Honorable mentions Demoncrats: Evil, Satan-worshipping opponents of true, Trump-worshipping Republicans. (Ward Foeller, Charlottesville)

Depleted: What Amber Heard's bank account got. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Fadj: A "pilgrimage" to the latest hot destination. "Just everyone at our sorority is making the fadj to Cabo for spring break." (Daniel Helming, Whitemarsh, Pa.)

Crashinals: D.C.'s baseball team ever since it won the pennant in 2019. (Frank Mann, Washington)

Geeze: To behave like your granddad. "Sheesh, 40 years old and he's already starting to geeze about the kids' music." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

Hollerpeño: The absolutely hottest pepper on the Scoville scale. (Lee Graham, Reston)

Ivanked: Asked to do something you're unqualified to do. "My boss totally ivanked me by making me represent the agency at the diplomatic symposium. What do I know, I'm in marketing." (Maria Avillo, Bethesda, a First Offender)

Prepenting: Expressing regret over what you're about to do anyway. "I know I'm going to get sick if I eat this whole Super Super Sundae. But you know, I can't exactly take it home..." (Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase)

Ukrainium: A radioactive quagmire that's located between Vladimir Putin's ears. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

Vladimort: He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Blamed — D.J.T. (Jesse Frankovich)

Beetbarf: Borscht. (Neil Kurland, Ellerside, Md.)

Boeberth: A measure of distance from a MAGA politician. "For your safety I'd recommend you stand at least 50 boeberths from Marjorie Taylor Greene." (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Buoytoy: An oligarch's yacht. (Beverly Sharp)

Cusstoady: Where's Michael Cohen these days? (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Fauxn: A handy fake handheld that you have to "answer" when you're stuck in a boring conversation. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

Gaysayer: Someone Ron DeSantis does not want to hear from. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Goehya: Russian-English for checkmate. (Sudhir Vasudeva, McLean)

Graycists: People of a certain age who miss the old days when "everyone knew their place." (Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)

Gundamental: Apparently, the only right the Supreme Court believes in protecting absolutely. (Dave Airozo)

Hurlhood: Your fraternity years. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Impursonate: "She says it's genuine, but I'm pretty sure it's an impersonation. For one thing, the tag says 'Louie Veton.'" (Michael Stein, Arlington)

Liability: The penalty for blatant defamation. "That \$45 million liability on Alex Jones couldn't have happened to a nicer guy." (Brian Krupp, Lewes, Del.)

Lowflutin: Using a jelly jar to drink champagne. (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Moptimist: Someone who's convinced that one day someone



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1504: All set — anagram all 100 Scrabble tiles

Kansas girl with a dog, aided by brave companions, journeyed up to Oz, in time recalling the exquisite value of red footwear. — Scrabblegram by David Cohen about, well, duh (blanks are D and O)

The Empress was alerted recently to the marvelous Twitter account Scrabblegrams by Dave, Dave being physician David Cohen of Atlanta, who's been posting an anagram of the entire Scrabble set every day — hundreds of them so far. Dave first encountered this daunting challenge in a 1997 contest in Games Magazine, in which he came up not only with a valid Scrabblegram, as the form had become known (not related to ScrabbleGrams, the Jumble-type word contest in daily papers including The Post), but an excellent limerick to boot — winning the whole contest:

A clown jumps above a trapeze. Arcs over one-eighty degrees. Out into mid-air, Quite unaware Of his exiting billfold and keys.

Then, just two years ago, Dave read an article about Scrabblegrams in Eric Chaikin's blog Beyond Wordplay, tracing the form back to Britain in the 1970s and declaring Dave's clown limerick the GOAT of the genre. And bam — Dave plunged in once again, "then got hooked for good."

And so if Dave can Scrabblegram every single day on Twitter, the Loser Community can surely come through for this week's contest: Write a Scrabblegram — an anagram of all 100 tiles in an English Scrabble set (your choice for the two blanks). Any punctuation is fine. Your writing can be a funny thought, a poem, a dialogue, what-evah.

Here's how many of each letter you'll be working with: A-9, B-2, C-2, D-4, E-12, F-2, G-3, H-2, I-9, J-1, K-1, L-4, M-2, N-6, O-8, P-2, Q-1, R-6, S-4, T-6, U-4, V-2, W-2, X-1, Y-2, Z-1. Plus the two blanks of your choice.

There's a fabulous — and necessary — tool for writing and checking your Scrabblegram, one we've used in previous anagram contests: It's the Anagram Checker at



wordsmith.org/anagram (then click on Anagram Checker). See this week's online Invite at wapo.st/invite1504 for a string of the 100 characters you can copy into the tool to compare with your own anagram — and if it's valid, the letters will jump around in celebration.

Submit up to 25 entries (if you're some sort of freaky Dave-like anagramming wizard) at wapo.st/enter-invite-1504 (no capitals in the web address). Deadline is Monday, Sept. 12; results appear Oct. 2 in print, Sept. 29 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a charming Yoda-head pail with handle, suitable for trick-or-treating, as a little planter, or as an excellent handbag for your more whimsical cocktail parties. Donated by Daphne Steinberg.

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 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 "Neolog15ms" is by Kevin Dopart; Tom Witte wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Loser David Smith alerted the Empress to Scrabblegrams by Dave on Twitter. 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/conv1504.

besides me will clean up this \$\$ kitchen! (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Mt. Neverest: A goal that's highly unlikely to happen. "Now Uncle Ernie says he's going to learn fluent Navajo — there he goes, climbing Mt. Neverest again!" (Karen Lambert)

Neighborrr: The woman next door who answers your "good morning" with a withering stare. (Tom Witte)

Oughtful: With good intentions, anyway. "I really should stop rolling my eyes every time my idiot boss opens his mouth." Tom reflected oughtfully. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Oz-tent: A temporary "home" in the state where you plan to run for office. (Mark Raffman)

Plodometer: My Fitbit, usually. (Karen Lambert)

Starspangler: Singer with an unfortunate tendency to do vocal gymnastics during the free-and-

the-brave bit. (Steve Bremner, Philadelphia)

Unsnydered: Not yet ruined. "Even as the tow truck hauled away the mangled heap of his once-beloved Camaro, Chad was already plotting how he could get his dad to buy him a new, unsnydered one." — Every Commanders fan (Jerome Uher, Alexandria)

And Last: Empressario: The manager of a company of clowns. (Donald Norum, Charlottesville)

And Even Laster: Inksplain: In case you don't understand the humor of my entry, it's a wordplay combining the Latin root..." (Karen Lambert)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1504.

Still running — deadline also Monday, Sept. 12: Our contest for songs about food. See wapo.st/invite1503.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Scrabble puzzle grid with 15-point words listed on the sides and a crossword grid at the bottom.

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Sept. 4: You are talented, sensitive and charming. You appear confident to others, even bold. Your excellent organizational skills help you succeed at anything you do. This year is full of fresh, new beginnings. This means you need to stay light on your feet and be courageous. Be ready to move in new directions and explore new opportunities.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Sagittarius into Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's a glorious Sunday. Do something different. Seek adventure. Travel somewhere. Talk to people from other cultures. Go someplace you've never been before. (Romance?)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a great day for family discussions about finances and inheritances. You also might explore redecorating possibilities or buy something beautiful for your home or a family member. It's a fine time to entertain at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Enjoy schmoozing with everyone. You will have to cooperate with others because the Moon is opposite your sign, which means you must go more than halfway when dealing with someone. People are charming and friendly today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is a good day for financial matters, shopping and dealing with your personal possessions. You might boost your income or be pleased with your efforts. You might buy something special for a pet, or you might even buy a pet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a fabulous day to schmooze with others because fair Venus is in your sign dancing beautifully with the Moon. This will create pleasant feelings between you and everyone around you. Get out and have a good time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you. Basically, this is a mellow, easygoing day, and you value your privacy, which is why you will enjoy peace and quiet.

(Some are enjoying a secret love affair.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Good times with friends will be an uplifting experience. You might feel protective about a loved one. You will enjoy hanging out with creative, artistic people. Even though you will enjoy schmoozing, you will do so in a low-key way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You feel friendly. In fact, relations with a boss or someone in a position of authority might get cozy to the point that a flirtatious relationship begins. This might be a romance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Travel for pleasure will totally delight you today, which is why this is the perfect day to make an effort to get out and go somewhere. Do something different. Explore your world. If you can't travel far, then travel locally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Financial discussions will favor you. In fact, this is the kind of day where gifts, goodies and little bonuses might come your way. Meanwhile, it's also a passionate, affectionate day for those of you in a romantic relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Enjoy the company of others, because Venus is opposite your sign sitting in your House of Relationships, promoting warm feelings with everyone. Hail fellow, well met.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You will enjoy being surrounded by beautiful things, either at home or at work. You may feel lazy, which is why it will be tough to work hard. Instead, you want to relax and enjoy good food and good drink. Romance is blessed.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

Crossword puzzle grid with answers filled in.