

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

QuipTiks: State slogans with a twist

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1507 the Empress presented an offbeat challenge, straight from the offbeat mind of Bob Staake: One part was totally typical: Write a funny slogan about a U.S. state.

Now the offbeat part: The first letters of your slogan's words would be the first letters of the states along a route you'd trace from your chosen state. So, for example, Jon Ketzner's "Alabama: God, Football and Guns" traces Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Georgia. (You could add small words like "and"; those words are lowercase below.) For two-word states you could use either the first word or both.

We'll spell out the first few routes; after that, if you can't figure out some snaky path of adjacent states, see this week's Style Conversational — or just look at a U.S. map.

4th place:

CALIFORNIA: Our Weather Is Wonderful, Not Counting Our Mudslides, Avalanches, Temblors, Aftershocks, Fires, Gales, Smog, Negative Vortexes, Monsoons and Drought [Ore., Wash., Idaho, Wyo., Neb., Colo., Okla., Mo., Ark., Tenn., Ala., Fla., Ga., S.C., N.C., Va., Md., Del.] (Jon Carter, Fredericksburg, a First Offender)

3rd place:

NORTH DAKOTA: Making Icicles With Snot [Mont., Idaho, Wyo., S.D.] (Leif Picoult, Rockville)

2nd place and the genuine Whoopee Cushion:

COLORADO: Kiss Our Aspens [Kan., Okla., Ark.] (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

ALABAMA: More Advanced Than Mississippi! [Miss. Ala., Tenn., Miss.] (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Alabama)

LOST: Honorable mentions

ARIZONA: Nutty Conspiracies, Unbearable Warmth and a Canyon! (Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase)

ARKANSAS: Two Letters More Than Kansas! (Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.)

CALIFORNIA: No, All Californians Are Not Completely Wacko, Crazy Kooks! (Only Most Of Them.) (Karen Lambert)

CALIFORNIA: Necesitamos Agua! (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

CALIFORNIA: Attention New Tourists: Our Citizens Understand With Movie Stars It's Not Wise Calling Out Their Names And Clapping Unless Cameras Are Nearby and They Are On a Crimson Walkway Smiling and Waving [29 states from Arizona to Wyoming] (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

COLORADO: We Inhale (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

FLORIDA: God's Senior Center (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

FLORIDA: Fanatic Governor, Alligators, Terrible Mosquitoes, Irma, Ian, Oh, Please, Now, Y'all Visit! (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

GEORGIA: Find Any Missing Trump Votes? Nope! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

IDAHO: No Californians Need Arrive (Karen Lambert)

IOWA: We Matter Solely When Caucuses Occur (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

KANSAS: Our Tornadoes Are Legendary! Away To Oz, Toto! (Mark Raffman)

MAINE: No Hotels! Mosquitoes! C-c-cold! Nobody's



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1511: The inside word — our 'air quotes' contest

satis"fact"ion: When Google proves you are right and your spouse is wrong. (David Kleinbard)

bir"DCA"ge: What National Airport feels (and smells) like when your flight has been delayed for seven hours. (Duncan Stevens)

h"USB"and: Consider yourself lucky if you get it right on the first try. (Hildy Zampella)

It's the contest that keeps on giving, even though we do it over and over in exactly the same way. So by request, for (by the Empress's count) the seventh time since 2000: Highlight part of a word, name or short phrase in "air quotes" to give the word a new meaning or description, as in the examples above from our 2019 contest ("h'USB'and" was the winner). You can't change the spelling of the original but may tinker with capitalization, punctuation and spacing. So you don't send us what we've already published — we do not want to see "Trump" — check the links to our previous air quotes in this week's Style Conversational at wapo.st/conv1511.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1511 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday night, Oct. 31 (boo!); results appear Nov. 20 in print, Nov. 17 online.



Is there any bigger waste of time than writing 25 Style Invitational entries?

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle of "100 Pooping Puppies," a painted landscape full of possibly 100 breeds of (adult) dogs dooing their thing on a lawn. Actually, fortunately, only getting ready to doo their thing. Donated by Loser Marcy Alvo.

Other runners-up win 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, "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 "QuipTiks" is by Kevin Dopart; Beverly Sharp and Jeff Contompasis both submitted the honorable-mentions sub-head. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; follow 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/conv1511.

Young! = Must Visit! (Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich.)

MICHIGAN: We Make Our Politicians Maintain Valid Kidnapping Insurance (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

MISSISSIPPI: The Most "Last" Titles (Rob Cohen)

MISSOURI: Our Most Acclaimed Landmark Makes Americans Think Of McDonald's (Brian Cohen, Winston-Salem, N.C.)

NORTH DAKOTA: Snow Definitely Will Melt In May (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

OHIO: It's Kinda Mayo And That's Okay-o (Lee Graham, Reston)

OREGON: Come And Unwind In a Microbrewery With Sasquatch (Jon Carter)

TEXAS: Objects Appear Larger Than Normal (Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.)

TEXAS: Liberty and Autonomy! (Only Applies To Men) (Marty Gold, Arlington)

TEXAS: Where Cowboys, Oil, Armadillos, Longhorns And, Oh, Maybe Two Million Armed Grannies Are Found (Chris Doyle, also found in Texas)

UTAH: We Come Knocking (Leif Picoult)

WEST VIRGINIA: What, Me Vaccinate? (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

WYOMING: We Shun Democrats (and a Noted Congresswoman Who Isn't) (Neil Kurland, Elkridge, Md.)

D.C.: a Memorable Place Where Philadelphians Watch the Phillies Win (Steve Smith)

D.C.: Man Who Owns Washington Post Needs Proclamation Of It In Multitude Of Articles (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

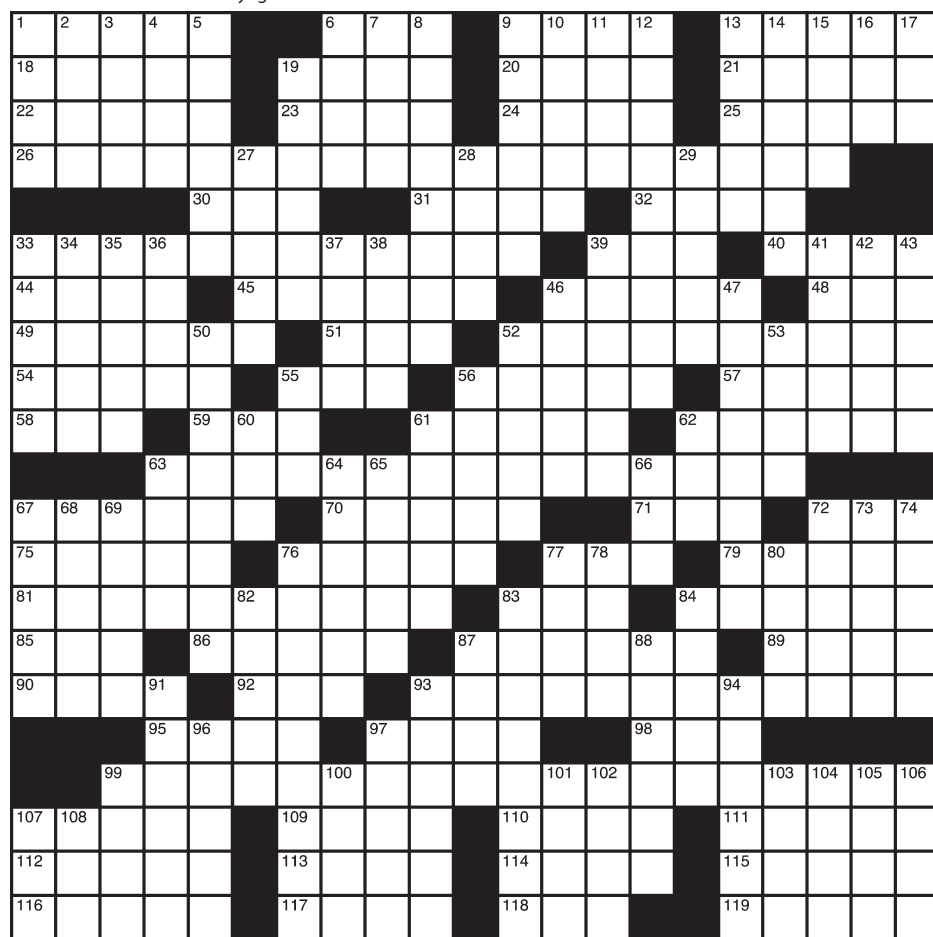
ARKANSAS: We Don't Know What Contiguous Means [Wash., Del., Ky., Wyo., Conn., Minn.] (Jon Gearhart)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 24: Our contest to write a poem using just one of vowels A, E, I, O and U. See wapo.st/invite1510.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- 1 NEEDED A CHANGE BY PAM AMICK KLAWITTER
2: ___ and Fabulous
3 Humboldt River city
4 "That's correct"
5 Watermelon leftovers
6 Mates
7 Betting tactic
8 Kin of -trix
9 Fr. holy women
10 Dad ___
11 Evidence that leads to identity thieves?
12 Animation collectibles
13 Xperia Tablet maker
14 Forest female
15 How one kisses a famous rock at Blarney Castle?
16 "Cancel the launch!"
17 Suffix with buck
18 NFL analyst
19 Tony
20 Light fabric
21 Free-for-all
22 Dash dial
23 Miss
24 Congeniality
25: ___ and Fabulous
26 Stop
27 Humboldt River city
28 "That's correct"
29 Watermelon leftovers
30 Sign of healing
31 Dragon's digs
32 Farming prefix
33 Vegetable in red flannel hash
34 Aleppo native
35 Fill-in worker
36 At any time
37 Parking lot siren
38 Threw under the bus
39 Change into something new
40 Analogous
41 Jimmy of the Daily Planet
42 Actress Naomi
43 "Invisible Man" writer Ellison
44 Mosaic flooring
45 Maltese spot
46 Coast Guard fleet
47 Monopoly card
48 UCLA or USC
49 Mideast drink made from fermented milk
50 Polo Grounds legend Mel
51 Dotes on
52 Garden product syllable
53 ___ Corners
54 Norton of "Fight Club"
55 Goes off
56 Sis's playmate
57 Escape artist's props
58 Whole ___ bread
59 Moon stage
60 Concert venue
61 "Lemon Tree" singer Lopez
62 Drive-up lodging
63 Brutus
64 Buckley's home
65 Screw cap alternative
66 Hindu festival of colors
67 "Back to you," on a walkie-talkie
68 Aesop work
69 "I Try" Grammy winner
70 Astonished cry
71 French door piece
72 "Here comes the next act"
73 Recap numbers
74 Syllables from Santa
75 Cars at a charging station
76 Cosmetician
77 Launder
78 Inventory
79 French Quarter city, informally
80 Not written down
81 Wander around
82 "Silent All These Years" singer
83 Tori
84 Flag
85 "Drinks are ___"
86 Call for
87 Fades to black
88 "Preacher" network
89 Quilting party



10/23/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 23: You are a high-energy person who is charming, witty and courageous. You are drawn to situations that are exciting and stimulating. This is a fun-loving, sociable year for you. Your zest for life is strong, and you're ready to have a good time. You might rekindle old friendships.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's a pleasant day. The Moon is opposite your sign, which means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Simply listen, cooperate and be accommodating. You might attract money to you. You also will attract affection.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Relations with others are friendly with fair Venus opposite your sign now. Something will happen to make you appreciate your closest friendships. This is an excellent time to enjoy the company of others, including members of the public.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a playful day. Enjoy social outings or cozy get-togethers with romantic partners, friends and children. A work-related flirtation or romance might be exciting. You have lots of energy, because fiery Mars is still in your sign.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Accept invitations to party and socialize with others, because this is a fun-loving day. Enjoy sports events, social diversions, the theater, a fun brunch, dinner with friends and playful activities with children. Artists will find that their creative vibes are juicy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will enjoy socializing at home and entertaining family and friends. You might enjoy redecorating or tweaking your digs. Conversations with others will be warm and friendly. Some will enjoy a short trip.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your relations with others will be warm and friendly, because you're charming. You feel happy with your surroundings, and you appreciate your scene. This is a good day to tell

someone you care about them. (People love to hear this.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The moon is in your sign, which heightens your emotions but improves your good luck. Why not test this and ask the universe for a favor? You might attract money to you. If shopping, you will want to buy beautiful things for yourself and your loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is an excellent day (and week ahead) to shop for wardrobe items for yourself. You will particularly enjoy quiet time by yourself. Pamper yourself in privacy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be patient with partners and close friends while fiery Mars is opposite your sign. (It's unusual to experience this influence for the rest of the year.) Nevertheless, it's an opportunity to practice patience.

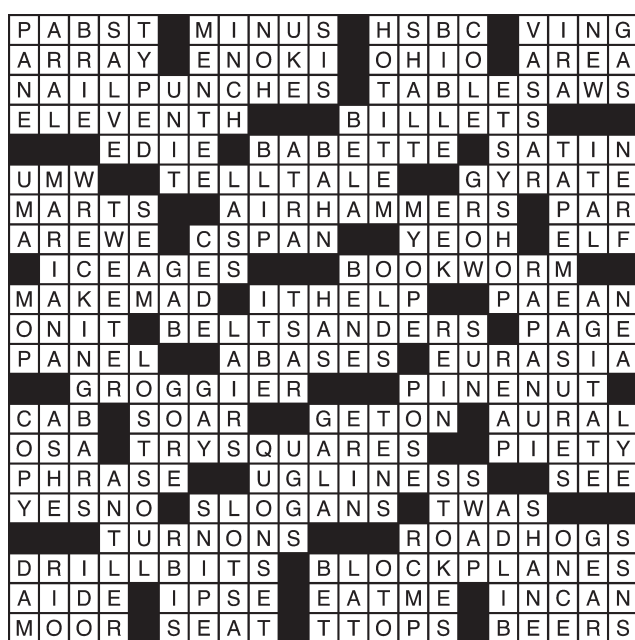
A heart-to-heart conversation with a female acquaintance will be important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) People notice you. You'll enjoy hanging out with creative, artistic people. Give yourself this reward, because you have been working so hard for so long.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Conversations with others will be smooth and friendly, because you make a great impression on everyone. In fact, you make such a great impression, you might strike up a romance with a boss. Travel today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Travel for pleasure will delight you, because you want a change of scenery. You also might satisfy this urge by doing something different and learning something new. Shake things up a little.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/16/22

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