

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Gridiculous! Creative crossword clues.

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1315**, our annual Clue Us In contest, we asked you to come up with clever clues for any of the words in the grid shown below. Some of the inking clues require thinking outside the box, as it were; for example, read **EARPLUGS** as “Earplugs,” **STAT** as S-tat.

4th place:

HEADHONCHO: Restroom attendant (Rob Cohen, Potomac; Kevin Dopart, Washington)

3rd place:

REAP: “As ye sue, so shall ye ___”: Motto of personal-injury lawyers (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

2nd place and the book of outrageous tattoos:

LASTLAUGH: What Louis C.K. has already heard. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

ANTHEM: How Daffy Duck describes George Clooney (Mark Calandra, Wenham, Mass.)

No-har fill-ins: Honorable mentions

ADE: what to make if life gives you lemons, poms, brigs, stock, or Gators (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

ANTHEM: What you have if insects cling to the bottom of your dress (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

ARCSIN: It was swept under the rug during Joan’s canonization. (David Ballard, Reston)

ARCTICCHAR: What’s gonna happen if they don’t rake that tundra. (Steve Baldwin, Bethesda)

AVOID: First step in a colonoscopy (B. Do it again) (Mark Calandra)

AVOID: The soft spot in Wilbur Ross’s heart (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

BASKS: Gets a tan in Bilbao (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

BOURDAIN: He took a one-way trip to Parts Unknown (Dinah Rokach, Silver Spring)

BUD: State flower of Colorado (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

DICEY: View out the front windshield of many a Ford Fairlane (Paul Burnham, Gainesville, Va.)

EARPLUGS: Melania’s must-have accessory (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

EARPLUGS: How Wyatt transports the bodies after a gunfight (Duncan Stevens)

ERRS: What the president puts on when he tweets (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

FEY: Spirit SNL is now lacking (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

GOBUST: When the stock market tanks, who ya gonna call? ___-ers. (J. Larry Schott, West Plains, Mo.)

GOBUST: “Basic Economics,” Chapter 11 (Theresa Rice, Bladensburg, a First Offender)

GOBUST: Plastic surgeon’s license plate (Dan Steinbrocker, Los Angeles)

GOBUST: When they won’t give you the money for a whole statue (Kevin Meade, White Plains, N.Y.)

HARE: Maybe he’d have won the race if he’d taken rabbit transit (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

HARE: Overconfident favorite starting with H who unexpectedly lost to reptile starting with T (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

ISH: Time when my spouse usually arrives (Jeff Hazle)

ISH: How Rudy Giuliani will walk back his statement “I never said his actions were treasonOUS...” (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

LAM: Not even lame. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

LASIK: Surgery every NFL ref needs. — Saints fan (Will Stutzman, Millersburg, Ohio)

MESAS: How Bigfoot introduced himself to Tarzan (Hildy Zampella)

NOSHES: A big bowl of bagels and knishes — and how you feel after eating them (Steve Fahey, Olney)

NOSHES: What’s in a man cave? (1 word and 2 words) (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

ONRAMP: A driving instructor’s place of prayer (Will Stutzman)

OSHA: acronym for Oh, Stop Having Accidents (Neal Starkman)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1319: The Tile Invitational VI

AEEGLLZ > ALL-ZEE: A successful naptime at day care.

AEEGLLZ > LAZE-LEG: What the potato puts on the couch.

AEEGLLZ > ZEAL-GEL: Lube.

Seven letters, six times for our neologism contest based on the syndicated ScrabbleGrams feature that appears daily in The Post: Below is a list of 45 sevenletter sets taken from the 2005 “Big Book of ScrabbleGrams.” Each of them contains at least one real seven-letter word, but that doesn’t matter here. **This week: Create a five-, six- or seven-letter word (or phrase) by scrambling the letters of any of the sets and define it, as in the examples above from one of this week’s sets.**

Just as in the crossword clue results that run today, many people will inevitably come up with highly similar entries; one way to make your definition more inksworthy than some other Loser’s is to include a funny example of how your word could be used in real life. (We’re not playing for Scrabble points; the letter values don’t matter.)

Important! How to format your entry: Begin each entry — as usual, up to 25 in all — with the letter set you’re unscrambling, as above, and spell it just as printed, so that it won’t take hours for the Empress just to sort the entries. Don’t number your entries, because then they won’t start with the seven letters, right?

Submit entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1319 (all lowercase).

ACILRTU	AEEGLLZ	AEOPSTZ	DEFILPU
ACIPRVY	AEELTTY	AGMNSTU	DEIKSVY
ACKLORW	AEEMRSU	AGNORSS	DEMORST
ADDESST	AEEOPRT	AHHIKSW	DGISSTU
ADDFINY	AEEGLOW	AHILSSV	DNNORUW
ADEEHST	AEGIMNN	DDEELMR	EEFHORT
ADEELMR	AEHMRST	DDEELOV	EEFMNOR
ADFHLNU	AEHPRTY	DDEHIRS	EEGRSTU
ADFLNSY	AELNVY	DDENOSS	EEIRSTZ
ADLMORU	AELMNRU	DDGHOOU	EEORSST
AEELRS	AENOUUV	DEEEKNW	EFQIMNT
			FILQUY

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a Mason jar of Auntie’s Black Pepper Everybody’s Shito (“More Shito Less Oil”), a deep red Ghanaian sauce including tomato paste, herring and the eponymous pepper. If you win this, you have to let the Empress have a taste. Donated by Marleen May.

Other runners-up win our “You Gotta Play to Lose” Loser Mug or our “Whole Fools” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “We’ve Seen Better” or “IDiot Card.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Feb. 25;** results published March 17 (online Thursday, March 14. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InoRules. The headline “Gridiculous” was submitted by both Kevin Dopart and Jesse Frankovich; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev. “Like” 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. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.



PLANE: The best way to travel coast to coast these days after train, clown car, unicycle and Plan D, canoe. (Ellen Ryan, Rockville)

PRO: The most accomplished crastinator (Beverly Sharp)

PRO: Prefix with -ctologist (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

RAITT: Hairy cousin in charge of the dorm (2 words) (Jeff Shirley, Richmond; Hildy Zampella)

RIBS: Elbow locator for Metro riders (Jeff Hazle)

RIBS: Eat a lot of these and you won’t see your own (Nancy Della Rovere, Silver Spring)

RIBS + TETONS: Things found in

racks (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

SENT: A sentence fragment (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

SHRED: How to turn wheat into inedible breakfast cereal (Frank Osen)

SIRI: According to the POTUS, the best thing ever to come out of Siria (Ivars Kuskevics)

STAT: Ink on Clark Kent’s chest (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

THEE: How a Brit’s judgement differs from an American’s judgement (John McCooley)

YES: Answer to “Are there any lousy groups in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?” (Jon Ketzner)

YES: What precede “Oldes” and “Shoppes” (Todd DeLap, Fairfax)

YES: The kind of man Trump considers an ideal adviser (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

And Last: YES: Will this entry get ink? (David Pecarsky, Tucson)

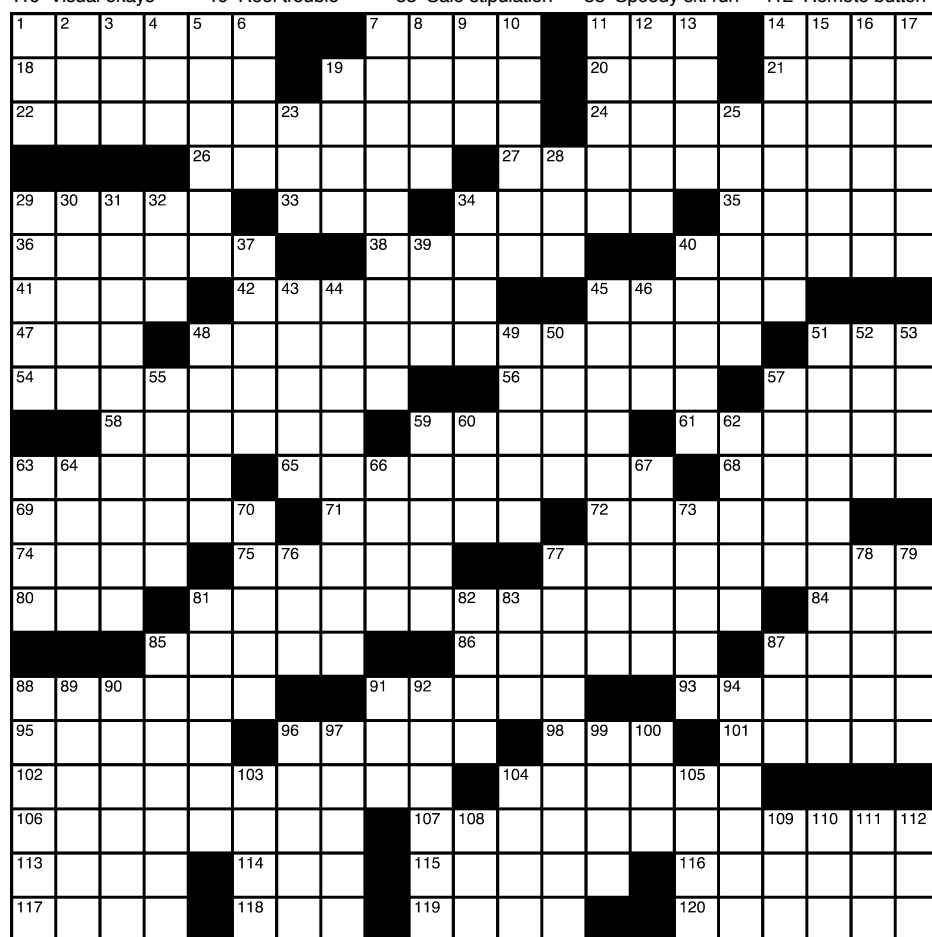
More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1319.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Feb. 18: our anagram contest. See wapo.st/invite1318.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLES LEWIS

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| “GETTING AHEAD”
By ED SESSA | 84 Company VIP
85 From attendees
86 Out of class
87 Open a bit
88 Muted to the max
91 Bill’s attorney general
93 Remove by melting, say
95 Pungent green
96 Indelicate
98 Friend of TV’s Sheldon
101 “___ World”
102 “Sesame Street” segment
103 Zapping direction
104 Seasonal song words after “gay apparel”
106 Superhero-themed kids’ wear
107 “Nine-to-five”
113 Future viewer
114 See 103-Down
115 Main blood vessel
116 Manly
117 Nine-digit IDs
118 “Pest!”
119 Visual okays | 120 Tinier than tiny | DOWN
1 Easy comparative
2 Paving material
3 Strawberry fields benefactor
4 Rural turndown
5 Like some “La Cage Aux Folles” dancers
6 Rick’s, in film
7 Followed a Hippocratic dictum
8 Corrosive stuff
9 Novelist
10 “No more for me”
11 Docudramas ailer
12 35-Across output
13 Choice
14 Observation point
15 Not yet posted
16 “Tristram Shandy” author
17 Salad preparer
19 Reel trouble | 23 Actress
Thurman
25 Navigation aids
28 “Frasier” bros., e.g.
29 Transvaal settlers
30 Like lives in hives
31 “Overextended for
34 Cleaning tools
37 “___ say more?”
39 Chicago airport code
40 Beach divers
43 Clean with S.O.S.
44 Provides home care services?
45 “There’s no use”
46 New start?
48 Played again on TV
49 Hankering
50 Windy City newspaper, for short
51 “Where one might idle away the time?”
52 Fudal worker
53 Sale stipulation | 55 Tools with tines
57 CIO partner, familiarly
59 Bud’s promise
60 Suffix often meaning “to make”
62 Acrobat maker
63 Facts and figures
64 Modest admission
66 Jennifer of “Zero Dark Thirty”
67 Deck crew boss
70 Thus far
73 Medicare component
76 QVC sister station
77 Draws attention (from)
78 “Terra!”
79 Injuries, as a matador
81 Motion detector, e.g.
82 Cheerful group?
83 Debater of Stephen in 1858
85 Marketing hires
87 Tide competitor
88 Speedy ski run | 89 Dunne and Ryan of cinema
90 Flooding
91 Sporty wheels, briefly
92 Art movement typified by Sloan’s “McSorley’s Bar”
94 Michael Jackson hit ... or what you can do to the start of each answer to a starred clue
96 After-school job
97 Not without danger
99 ___-Seltzer
100 Hinged mouth part
103 114-Across builder
104 Shallow crossing
105 Kilauea flow
108 Canterbury canon
109 Vel follower
110 “Tell ___”
111 Yalie
112 Remote button |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|



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Answers to last week’s puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Feb. 17: This year, you become more sensitive and caring with friends and loved ones. If single, you express the same traits; however, if someone pulls in too close, you could split. You still like your space. If you’re attached, seeing both sides of an argument gives you a choice: either go along with or challenge your sweetie’s thinking. Leo adds spice to life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You respond intuitively to a child or loved one. The response you get can only surprise you. Recognize that something is going on beneath the surface. Meanwhile, allow your childlike side to emerge.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might be determined to have your way about a real estate or home-related issue. However, others might be feisty and not as flexible as you’d like. Postpone this attempt.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Make calls early in the day. Catching up on friends’ and loved ones’ news could be fun and somewhat enticing. You might want to change your plans. If you don’t go along with already-set plans, a friend might be upset.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Your need to feel equal to others often can push you out the door and into shopping. Be wise; even if you see an irresistible item, honor your budget. Listen to someone’s anger, but don’t allow this person to trigger you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
As the day progresses, you seem to blossom. You will need to deal with unanticipated news from someone at a distance. Don’t hesitate to ask questions to get a better sense of what’s going on. A parent or older friend could become demanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Be sensitive to what’s going on behind the scenes. You might not want to open up a conversation, but you will be responsive to another person’s attempt. Until you learn more, keep some of your opinions to yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Even in an uncomfortable moment or discussion, friendship prevails. Don’t push too hard to get your way. If you do, you’ll receive some hard feedback. Stay centered. Accept an invitation to get together with friends later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Others come forward with their opinions. A respected authority figure might draw a strong reaction from one of your loved ones. Look for a place of agreement. As a result, you will find the day more peaceful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Reach out for a loved one or a friend at a distance. You might love to hear some good news. Allow impulsiveness to play a role in your decisions. You have a lot of energy to expend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A partner or close loved one has a lot to share. This person would appreciate having some personal alone time with you. Be smart; make time. You need to invest more of yourself in this relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Go along with another person’s desires. You might not always agree with this person or bend to their desires. However, you need to indulge them more often. Caring builds.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You want to handle some routine matters that surround your life. Although you might get an angry response, let a loved one know what you’re doing. Make time for this person later in the day.

Answers to last week’s puzzle.



2/10/19