

## DIVERSIONS

## THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

## Wise guise: Winning Halloween ideas



JESSE FRANKOVICH

**SECOND PLACE:** Carve a pumpkin that shows everyone what a loser you are (at right, lit from inside). Carved by Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich., who is definitely going to perplex those trick-or-treaters.

## BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1351** the Empress asked for ideas for timely and creative Halloween costumes or party ideas. Judging from many of the entries, we'll predict that a lot of people will show up at your nerdier parties as a Republican congressional invertebrate: spineless, see, harharhar. **Meanwhile: So where's Bob?** Custom-carved Style Invitational pumpkins are certainly cool, but we're eagerly awaiting the return of Invite Cartoonist Since 1994 Bob Staake, who decided to idly loll around after emergency surgery last week to get a new aortic valve. Bob reports that "no coronary disease was found, meaning that readers of The Post and Invite are stuck with me for another 26 years." Bob aims to be back drawing misshapen animals next week.

## 4th place:

Wear a suit **with a whistle around your neck**, a paper bag over your head, and a bull's eye on your back. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

## 3rd place:

Build an **upright casket with a revolving stand** at the base. Invite guests to dress as their favorite Founding Fathers. While playing an audio loop of the president, have the guests step in and take a spin in their grave. (Bob Kruger, Rockville)

## 2nd place and the zipped bag that looks like a fat belly:

See Jesse Frankovich's pumpkin, above.

## And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Stick some **googly eyes on your rotating lawn sprinkler** and say it's Rudy Giuliani. (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria)

## Gave up the ghost: Honorable mentions

Answer the door wearing a blue suit, white shirt and red tie, and tell the trick-or-treaters that **you'll be happy to give them some candy if they'll get you dirt on Joe Biden**. (Hildy Zampella; Steve Smith, Potomac)

**A Superman costume:** Go naked, except for glasses. Not to worry, though: No one will recognize you later without the glasses. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Break into the morgue**, steal a cadaver, don its skin, and voilà — you're dressed up as Keith Richards! (Mark Raffman, Reston)

**Buy a Native American costume**, cut it into 1,024 pieces, and pin one of them on your blouse to go as Elizabeth Warren. (Jesse Frankovich)

At a **Republican Halloween party**, they might play "Pin the Fake Tale on the Donkey." (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**A GOP party:** Serve canned dog food in bowls without utensils. Ask the guests to lap it up, compliment it as both delicious and healthy, and praise you as the best cook in history. (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

Wear an orange wig, a red tie — and a bare belly where you've **drawn on six-pack abs** with a Sharpie. (Bob Kruger)

**Dress as a bell tower with lots of bats** suspended from the roof. Everyone will guess that you're Trump, but it's still more subtle than going as a giant rotting orange. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

**Dress up as George R.R. Martin.** Go trick-or-treating four years from now, or whenever. (Mark Raffman)

## New contest for Week 1355: The inside word

**F"lawless":** Describing the president's perfect phone call.

**An "tip"athy:** The feeling waiters have toward cheapskates.

**Con"trite":** Sorry for having sent the Empress a joke that has 7 million Google hits.

One more time, since it seems there's no end to the possibilities offered up by Any Word or Name in the English Language. **This week: 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 by Jesse Frankovich, who conveniently supplied the new ones above while reminding the Empress that we hadn't done an "air quotes" contest in a year and a half. You can't change the spelling of the original; I'm not going to ban tinkering with capitalization, punctuation and spacing, but I think they might weaken the joke.

Submit up to 25 entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1355](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1355) (no capitals in the Web address).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a coloring book titled "**How Librarians Swear**," which embeds inside various kaleidoscopic designs such imprecations as "You stupid doorknob," "What the fun" and "Oh shootdamn it." Donated by soap-mouthed Loser Drew Bennett. My guess is that actual librarians find this a load of @#&%ing @#&%&.

**Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Too-Weak Notice" or "Certificate of (de) Merit." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday, Nov. 4;** results published Nov. 24 in print, Nov. 21 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Wise Guise" was submitted by both Kevin Dornier and Bill Dornier; Chris Doyle and Jesse Frankovich both came up with the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://www.facebook.com/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 (see the links to earlier "air quotes" winners), check it out at [wapo.st/conv1355](http://wapo.st/conv1355).



HONORABLE MENTION FOR LEE GRAHAM, ROCKVILLE, WHO DRESSED UP NOSFERATU

"We brainstormed all night and we think this costume is the best way to soften your public image, Mr. Giuliani."

**Go as a group of crickets** that occasionally chirp, and tell people you're the home crowd at FedEx Field. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

**Go as the Nats bullpen** and constantly relieve myself. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

**If you're a white politician** put on blackface, and you can be toast. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**Put on a thin, revealing outfit** with large holes that reveal way more than you intended, and go as a White House Phone Transcript. (Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.)

**Repurpose an old snake costume** by putting an "AOC" nametag on, and be a "Green Nude Eel." (Stephen Litterst; Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Come as Lindsey Graham:** Dress up as a cute little lap dog with a shiny brown nose. (Seth Tucker,

Washington)

**Get a nice tan**, put on a "Life Is Good" T-shirt, grab a margarita, and be Gen. John F. Kelly. (Steve Smith)

**A scary party activity:** bobbing for hot dogs in a tepid water bath from an authentic D.C. hot dog cart. (Jeff Hazle)

**A Reverse-Halloween party:** Invite children to dress as corporate executives and sell candy to the adults. (Neal Starkman)

**With eight of your friends**, dress up as "Sexy Supreme Court." (Mark Raffman)

This year I am buying only **congressional Republican pumpkins** — guts already removed. (Rivka Liss-Levinson, Washington)

**Use the back half of a two-person horse costume** and be Trump, because he stands on his own. (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

**Wear a Fonzie mask and bunny ears wrapped in tinfoil**, place a cardboard box with the front cut out over your head, and be Joe Biden's television set. (Steve Smith)

**Wear a shirt with a giant "M" on it and carry a peach and a sprig of mint.** Clearly, you're . . . Captain Obvious. (Hildy Zampella) [Indeed, to judge from the number of entries suggesting this very idea, you'll be seeing peach costumes by the bushel this year.]

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 28: Our contest to discover new words in a word-search grid. See wapo.st/invite1354.**

## L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**"WHAT ABOUT BOB?"** By ROBIN STEARS

**ACROSS**

1 Narratives of deeds  
5 Dental alloys  
13 Hamlet relative  
20 Bubbly name  
21 Attacked aggressively  
22 It's usually taken in twos  
23 Flop  
25 He plays Armstrong in "First Man"  
26 Cub : bear ::  
27 Not quite cuatro  
28 Relative of tsk  
29 Silent letters?  
30 Article in Die Zeit  
31 English class assignment  
34 Colorful Bobby Vinton album (and hit song)  
38 Certain flower cultivator  
40 Town \_\_\_\_  
42 Eur. land on the Atlantic  
43 Gravelx herb  
44 Perform at the Improv, say  
45 Blows  
49 1936 Edward G. Robinson gangster film  
55 Troon turndowns  
56 It borders three oceans  
57 Carpet layer's concern  
58 Entirely fill  
59 Fine-tunes  
60 Baseball's "Stan the Man"  
63 Gillian's role on "The X-Files"  
65 Justification  
67 Finesse  
68 Sun metaphor  
73 Like sashimi  
75 Currency replaced by the euro  
77 Two-master  
78 Search for provisions  
80 Waiter's handouts  
81 Medication container  
85 Usher  
87 Sign sometimes upsetting  
88 Clobber  
89 Make extreme efforts  
93 Shoot for, with "to"  
95 Use a password, say  
96 1985 movie with three possible endings

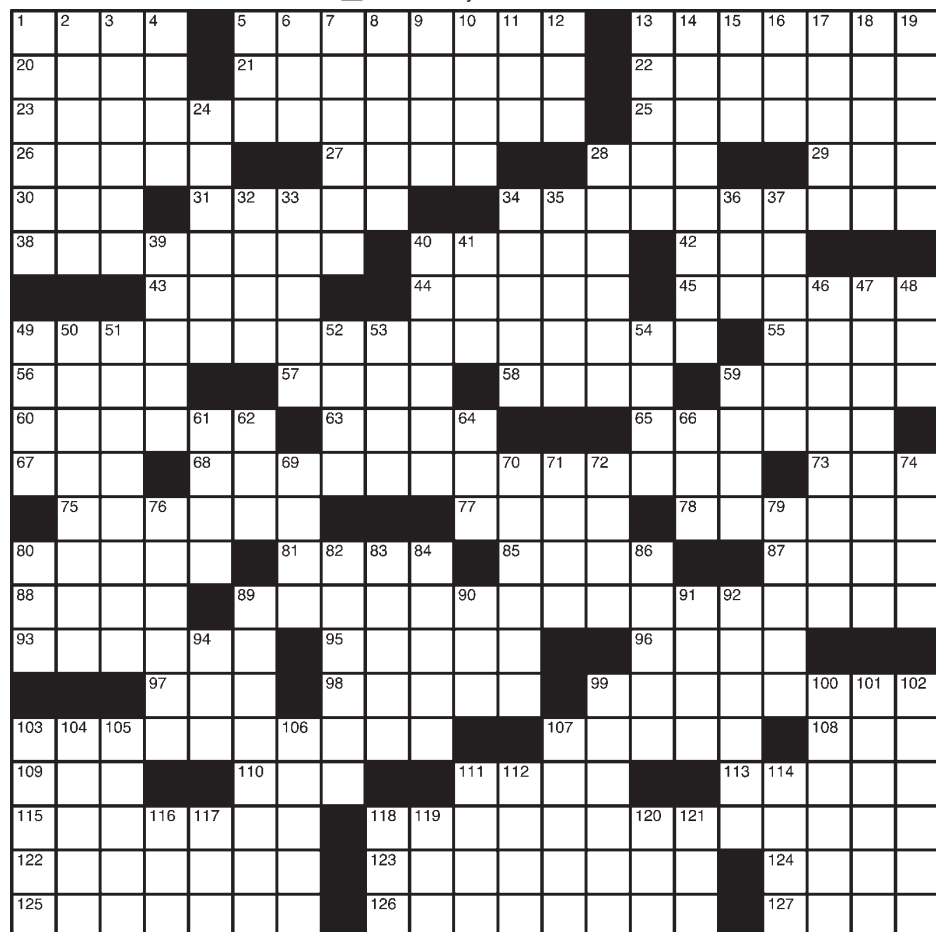
97 Asian holiday  
98 Something in the air  
99 Lemonade-and-lager drinks  
103 1998 Stephen King "haunted love story"  
107 Mike \_\_, "Glee" character  
108 "United Shades of America" channel  
109 "Xanadu" gp.  
110 Pub pal  
111 "Lucky Guy" playwright  
113 "Band of Gold" singer Payne  
115 Help  
118 "You're in my space, pal!"  
122 Like many a covered bridge  
124 Saltimbocca meat  
125 Time frames  
126 Property tax payer, e.g.  
127 Links numbers

**DOWN**

1 "Epitaph for a Spy" author Eric  
2 "Gangsta's Paradise" rapper  
3 AFC South team  
4 Elementary particle  
5 DCJ division  
6 Miss Piggy tagline  
7 Trig function  
8 Suspicious word  
9 Taunt  
10 Muchos meses  
11 "Newhart" production co.  
12 Audible sign of distress  
13 Hard to pin down  
14 U-235 and C-14  
15 Records in a collection  
16 Rapper \_\_ Nas  
17 Sans-serif typeface  
18 Infomercial cutlery brand  
19 Author Madeleine L\_\_

24 Spenser's "The Queens"  
28 Flound-bodied flatfish  
32 Bank deposit  
33 Huevos rancheros condiment  
34 Collector's items?  
35 Girl in Byron's "Don Juan"  
36 Postal creed  
37 Former Alabama-based grocery chain  
39 He lost to like twice  
40 Pool room  
41 Nutritional amt.  
46 Broad view  
47 Many a "Stranger Things" character  
48 Old draft org.  
49 Ole Miss rival  
50 Ones taking things the wrong way  
51 "I'm only going to say this once"

52 Great Seal word  
53 Raise  
54 Giga- x 1,000  
59 Angels baseball cap feature  
61 Five-spots  
62 Inebriated  
64 Whatever or whichever  
66 Polar worker  
69 Yielded  
70 Ore that's a source of silver  
71 Piece in a still-life  
72 Tell all  
74 Make (one's way)  
76 Suddenly, in music  
79 Crossed the lake, in a way  
80 "Jerry's Kids" telethon org.  
82 Not near the coast  
83 Cherish  
84 Apple's apple and Target's target  
86 Russian cottage  
89 Wager without looking at one's cards  
90 Energetic spirit  
91 Close-knit group  
92 Panda's skill, in a 2008 film  
94 Foul caller  
99 Vertical mine accesses  
100 Summer cooler  
101 Win the love of  
102 Corgi complaints  
103 Name probably derived from scat singing  
104 Coeur d'  
105 Hopeless case way)  
106 "them" author  
107 Snappish  
111 Barracks  
112 "The Grapes of Wrath" figure  
114 Invitation letters  
116 Peyton's quarterback brother  
117 Schwarz  
118 Actress Arthur  
119 Reno and others: Abbr.  
120 Shakespearean cry of disgust  
121 Pre-A.D.



10/27/19

xwordeditor@aol.com

©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

## HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Oct. 27:** This year, your creativity seems endless and able to short-circuit any problems. Others see you as almost magical. You simply open up to unusual thinking and solutions. If single, you might enjoy an intense relationship. Be careful not to be too "me-oriented" if you want this bond to work. If attached, the two of you often share special moments. You need to remember that a relationship is 50/50. Your sweetie needs attention and caring as well. A fellow Scorpio proves to be a match. Be smart and work with this person rather than against them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Others continue to seek you out. What becomes clear is that you need to make time for a special person in your life, unless you like seeing them upset. A new beginning becomes possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Finish up a project, perhaps putting up a Halloween decoration or two. You will relax and enjoy yourself. When you have had enough, you decide you want to visit with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You might want to let loose and get into the Halloween spirit. Some of you might be busy with costumes or making sure you have enough candy. Make time for a loved one you dearly care for.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Be more in touch with your needs before interacting with a loved one. In some way, you need to relax and become childlike or fun-loving. Allow greater give-and-take between you and others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Make an effort to clear out a hassle before it becomes too heavy. Make it okay to disagree, but do not minimize the other party. Respect and honor your differences. After all, you come from different backgrounds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Sit still on spending and do not allow yourself to get out of control. You might find it hard to indulge in some other way. Mid-afternoon, open up to a conversation. You might be able to resolve a problem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You could be on autopilot but making the right choices. Spend time with those you love. A family member will be forlorn if you do not

make some quality time for them. Be smart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Take the morning off — just for you. You might enjoy reading the Sunday paper, snoozing and staying in. Make it okay to say no to brunch with friends. Be open to getting together with a special person later in the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You could be eager to invite a friend over for the day, but you might decide that going out for a meal and movie works better for you. You could surprise yourself as you become so calm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Make time for an older relative or friend and enjoy brunch or some

other mutually enjoyed activity. Come afternoon, you find yourself in the middle of a celebration with several friends.

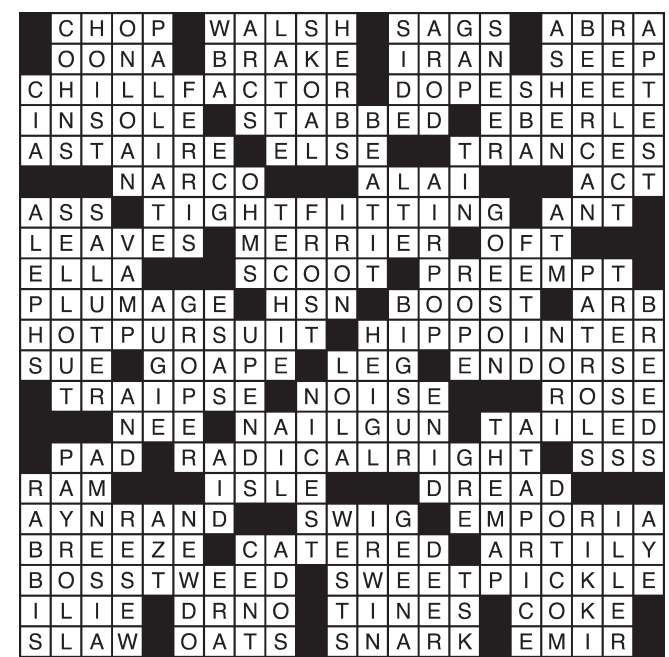
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Make important calls in the morning. You might want to touch base with several people who you often do not spend time with but deeply care about. Later in the day, it becomes clear that others want you to join them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

One-on-one relating draws a loved one much closer. Once more, you are reminded of the power of spending quality time together. Make time to go visit a relative or friend who might not live near you.

## Answers to last week's puzzle.



10/20/19