

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Puns upon a time: History wordplay

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1427 we asked for pairs of puns about historic (or legendary) events in the "A, or B" form that was often used in the "next time" teaser on the old "Rocky and Bullwinkle" cartoon shows. Some of the dates are ballpark figures.

4th place:

1996: Birth of Dolly the sheep, the first cloned mammal: **Don't Need Ewe Anymore, or Mutton Two It** (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

3rd place:

1869: Transcontinental Railroad completed: **Cross-Training, or Laid to West** (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

2nd place and the monster that pops out of your shirt pocket:

1858: Invention of the ironing board: **Pressing News, or My Joy in Creases** (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

2008: Sen. John McCain announces his running mate: **Impalin' the Ticket, or Wasilladvised** (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)

Lasts from the past: Honorable mentions

The biblical Flood: **On Your Ark, Get Set, Go!** or **High-Intensity Interval Raining** (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria.)

God feeds the Israelites in the desert: **To the Manna Born, or Wander Bread** (Ann Martin, Brentwood)

500 B.C.: Hindus adopt vegetarianism: **We Can't Go on Meating Like This, or Don't Have a Cow, Man** (Mark Raffman, Reston)

A.D. 79: Mount Vesuvius erupts: **For the Lava God, Run!** or **A Pompeian in the Ash** (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

— **Flashes to Ashes, or Adjust to Dust** (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

1600: Founding of the East India Company, which would grow to dominate trade in much of Southern Asia: **Open the Bombay Doors, or India Inc.** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

1687: Newton's law of gravitation: **A Fruit-Fall Endeavor, or Apple-ied Science** (Mark Raffman)

1692: The Salem witch trials: **Spellbound, or Hex in the City** (Diana Oertel, San Francisco)

1752: Ben Franklin discovers electricity in lightning: **Go Fry a Kite, or Someone Left the Kook Out in the Rain** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

1783: End of the Revolutionary War: **The First Brexit, or Hicks Nix Brits in Stix** (Stu Segal, Charlotte)

1814: Restoration of the French monarchy: **Bonaparting Gift, or Bourbon Renewal** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

1824: Invention of Braille: **Give It Your Best Dot, or I Feel What You Did There** (Hannah Seidel)

1846: The Liberty Bell suffers a major crack: **Dud Ringer, or Toll Free** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

1846-47: The Donner party disaster: **Mother and Fodder, or Who Wants a Pappy Meal?** (Tom Witte)

1879: Edison's electric bulb: **A Step in the Light Direction, or Filamentary, My Dear** (Jesse Frankovich)

1901: Huge cache of fossils is discovered on the Rancho La Brea property: **What in Tar-Nation? or Check Your Pits!** (Mark Raffman)

1904-14: Building of the Panama Canal: **Can You Dig It?, or Isthmus Be the Place** (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

1912: Sinking of the Titanic: **Ay-yi-yi, Captain!** or **Ship out of Luck** (Jonathan Jensen)

— **Sink Along With Me, or I Only Have Ice for You** (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

1919: Conrad Hilton buys his first hotel: **Overnight Success, or Inn: The Beginning** (Duncan Stevens)

1922: King Tut's burial chamber discovered: **Mummy Dearest, or The Tomb Where It Happened** (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

1929: Wall Street crash: **Stock Bottom, or Apocalypse Dow** (Jesse Frankovich)



New contest for Week 1431: The On-Our-Way-Back Machine

Yes, we know we're not out of the woods yet. A maddening number of people (i.e., anything over zero) have taken our progress against the pandemic as a reason to toss their masks, sneeze on one another, etc.: It's like running from a wildfire in those very woods, reaching your car, and then setting up a tripod for a really nice photo of the flames before you leave.

Still, as millions of us each day are getting jabbed up (the Empress got her second shot this past week), offices are beginning to beckon us back, traffic slows to that feels-like-old-times crawl, we can't help but think toward a post-pandemic time — as several Style Invitational readers have suggested. **This week: Tell us how (in some funny way) things will be different as we emerge from the pandemic.** We'll have to repurpose all those masks, for example. No strict format; the E is just looking for the funny. **Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1431** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, April 19;** results appear May 9 in print, May 6 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a super-handly **hand-shaped cookie cutter,** suitable for making, duh, hand-shaped cookies whose fingers you may shape into the gesture of your choice. Donated by The Post's Karla Miller, who created the L for Loser cookie shown here.

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, "No 'Bility" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Puns Upon a Time" is by Chris Doyle; Chris and Jesse Frankovich both submitted 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; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column will return next Thursday at wapo.st/styleconv.

The "You're Invited" podcast: A dozen half-hour episodes, including dish from the Empress and the Czar, and tips from top Losers. **See bit.ly/invite-podcast.**



They'll give you a hand: Karla Miller's daughters Nyssa, 11, and Arya, 8, with cookies made from this week's prize.

1938: Superman debuts in Action Comics No. 1: **Kal-El-lujahl, or Cape Diem** (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

1947: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier: **OK Boomer, or Beware the Rides of Mach** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

1960: Kennedy wins out over a perspiring Nixon in the first televised presidential debate: **Ugly-Sweater Contest, or Schvitz and Misses** (Tom Witte)

1967: Pirates of the Caribbean attraction opens at Disneyland: **Bring Us Your Treasure!, or It's Arrr-Rated** (Mark Raffman)

1967: "Summer of Love" in San Francisco: **Shall We Gather by the Reefer, or Weed Shall Overcome** (Jonathan Jensen)

1974: Mikhail Baryshnikov defects from Russia: **Pointe of No Return, or Pliés to Meet You** (Kevin Dopart)

1978: Successful birth from in vitro fertilization: **Upward Motility, or We Couldn't Give at the Orifice** (Rick Haynes, Boynton Beach, Fla.)

2001: Space station returns to Earth: **Russian Back Home, or A Mir Drop in the Ocean** (Cheryl Denney White, Hartsdale, N.Y.)

2015: Same-sex marriage legalized: **The Rainbow Connection, or Ordering Grooms' Service** (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

2017: Obsequiousness on display at Trump's first full Cabinet meeting: **The Fawner Points of Life, or A Hind Is a Terrible Thing to Taste** (Kevin Dopart)

2021: The national anthem sung terribly at the CPAC convention: **Bomb Bursting, or Treble Without Applause** (Duncan Stevens)

And Last: 1993: The Style Invitational debuts: Empressive Czarcasm, or Decency Dies in Darkness (Kevin d'Eustachio, Beltsville)

And Even Later 2003: The Empress takes over The Style Invitational: **Catch a Falling Czar, or Another Lousy Magnate** (Bruce Carlson, Alexandria)

More history puns in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1431.

Still running — deadline Monday night, April 12: Our annual horse name "breeding" contest. See wapo.st/invite1430.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

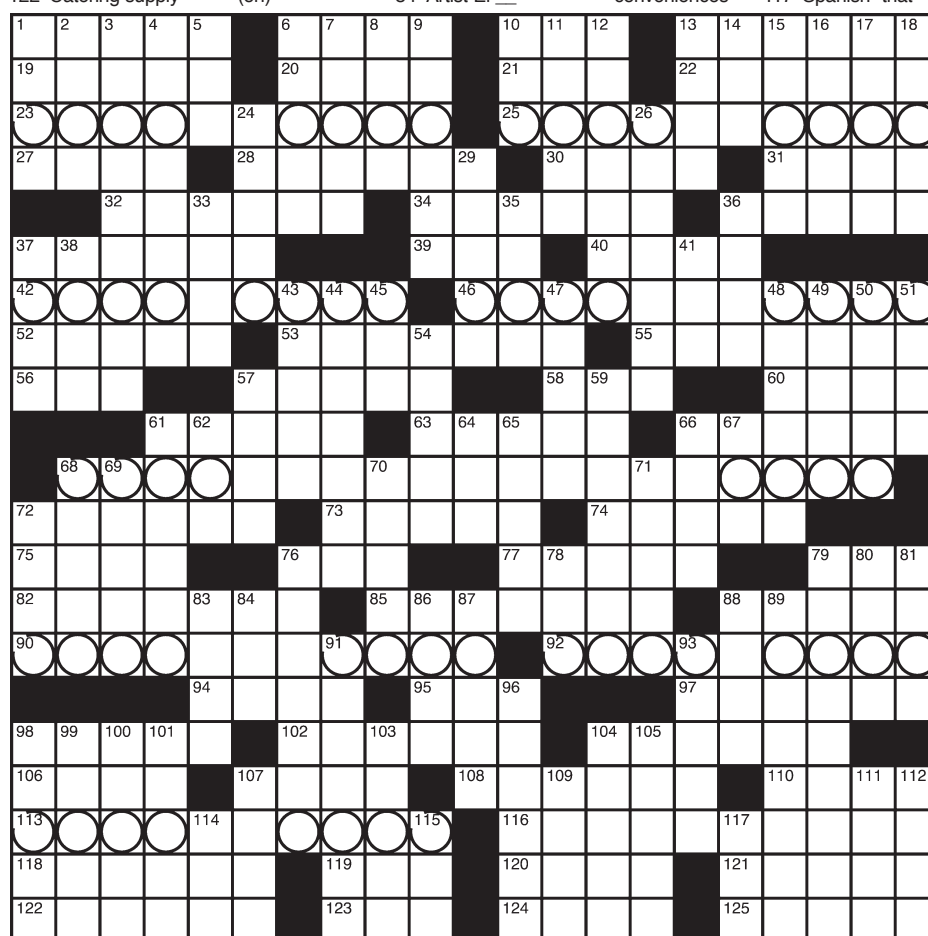
"FOUR OF A KIND" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS

- Light songs
- "East of Eden" director Kazan
- Commercials
- Surrounded by
- Ancient Greek theater
- Like marathons
- Japanese drama
- It's against the motion
- Law firm
- standout
- Stay afloat, in a way
- "Dream on!"
- Rabbit predators
- Clerical vestments
- Warm, in a game
- Acts
- disrespectfully toward
- Obtain by trickery
- Like Joel Goodson's business, in a 1983 film
- Respectful greeting
- Egg cells
- Fils to
- Near-perfect bridge feat
- South American shocker
- Affect
- Live for evil, say?
- Back
- Half a fly
- Daisylike bloom
- school
- Dialogue-stopping button?
- "All That Jazz" director
- Fire remnant
- Piano's soft pedal, for one Future educator's goal
- Wrap in a bandage
- Tennis star Osaka
- Brings (out)
- Bakery buy
- Hang (around), as with a friend
- City on the Po
- Likely
- Out with permission, maybe
- Put on a jury
- Actress Cornish of "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

DOWN

- "Copacabana" showgirl
- Bad day for Caesar
- Lay down the law
- Excessively
- NBC weekend fixture, briefly
- Carry away
- Corporate symbols
- Attending USC, e.g.
- Terrible time?
- Probably not a good sign at a picnic
- Tight headgear
- Trounce
- Words in some pop group names
- Do a yard job
- 14th-century Russian ruler
- Heaps affection (on)
- Swordfish
- Absorbent fabric
- Word containing three of itself
- Helped plan a job, maybe
- Penny
- attachment
- D-Day French city
- "The Lion King" lion
- "Criminal Minds" agent played by Matthew Gray Gubler
- Marines NCO
- Double agent
- Aldrich
- Coastal flier
- Delhi dairy drink
- Feeler
- Author Rita Brown
- Irish nationalist
- Robert
- Symbols in some pop group names
- Big East team
- Blow
- Perfume name
- Bad look
- Artist El
- "A Hard Road to Glory" author
- Asmara is its capital
- Make stout
- Perth protest
- Dues payer: Abbr.
- Big name in water filters
- "My Heart Will Go On" singer
- Appear
- Country music sound
- Country rocker Steve
- Ancient Greek medical researcher
- Luxury
- Ancient colonnade
- Author's assumed character
- Robert
- Left, as a sinking ship
- D-Day craft
- Nickname for Esther
- 24-hr. conveniences
- U.S. gov't broadcaster
- Ballpark figs.
- 1994 Peace co-Nobelist
- Way off
- Flower named for its color and shape
- In pieces
- Flip-flop
- Proverbial bone breakers
- Manners
- Olympics segment
- Maryland's Fort
- Court command
- Luxury
- Wheel alignment
- oil
- Page-bottom abbr.
- Sleek, for short
- PGA rival of Tiger
- Brainstorm
- D-Day craft
- Chevie's pal
- Drill welder: Abbr.
- Spanish "that"



4/11/21

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | April 11: Boisterous, direct and focused, put your mind to something, and there is no stopping you. This year, you could change jobs or take on diversified responsibilities at your present one. Either way, you won't sink into boredom or monotony. Your finances are glowing, but keep an eye on your balance sheet. If single, romance brings surprising love interests. If attached, make time for just the two of you. Cancer is devoted.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your high energy and active mind are in demand. You may be asked to take part in a team project that will keep you busy. Leave impatience behind, and you can cooperate and compromise more than usual.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Give yourself permission to sleep in. Someone might surprise you with breakfast in bed. If not, prepare it yourself. Lazy days have their own value. Don't miss the sunshine, even if the day starts later than usual.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Make a lasting impression on people you meet in an online group. Speak from your heart, and they will be mesmerized by what you say. They may not agree with your viewpoint, but they will consider it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Organize an event where you get more exposure. Recruit others to join your committee. Open a dialogue with a friend with whom you were at odds. Open your heart and mind, and you will reach an amicable solution.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Research a trip that was put on hold. Mix and match dates, prices and locations. Persuade your travel partner to go along with your ideas. Give in on another issue. You will reach a compromise soon enough.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Type A friends make everything competitive. Keep negative emotions in check. Take the high road and let anger or jealousy roll off your back. Sharing a delicious meal changes the mood in the blink of an eye.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Settle a long-standing dispute.

Mediating skills will not go unnoticed. Nothing is better than spending time with someone you love. Take a long walk or drive in the country. Catch up on deep conversations you missed all week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The desire for perfection can make you moody or withdrawn. Don't be so hard on yourself. You may be faced with a task that requires extra hours. Create a method of working that benefits you first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is for pampering. Begin the day with a bubble bath, scented candles and yoga. Switch gears and participate in activities that get your blood circulating. Positive feedback about a completed report or project will make your day.

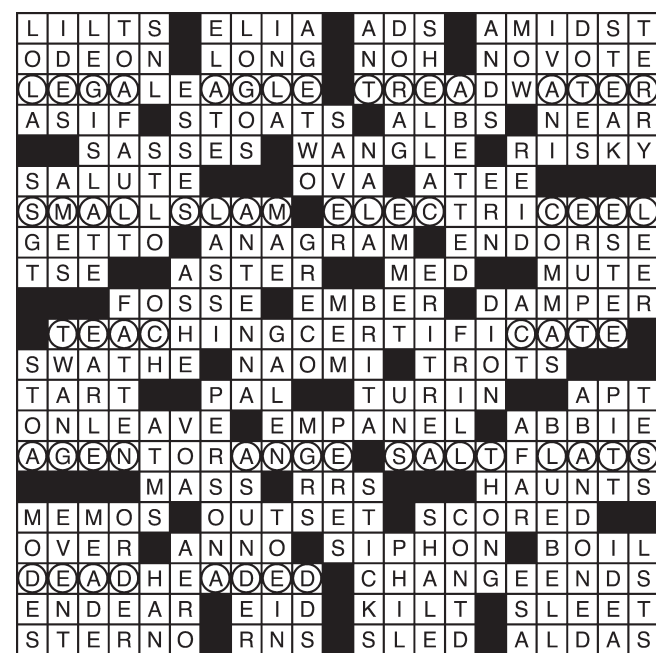
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Team building with family members will change the dynamic. Rather than pulling each other apart, you can come to a new understanding and acceptance. Create anticipation around a milestone event that occurs later in the year.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Clear your mind of the busy week ahead and take a day trip with people you love. Pull everyone away from their devices, pack a picnic lunch and get everyone out the door. Positive memories will be awakened.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Ponder an opportunity offered to you. You might have to negotiate terms. Demand the most for yourself, and whatever you want will come your way. Finding cash that you forgot you had will make your day.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



4/11/21