DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Switch witters: Transposing letters

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1485 we asked you to switch the positions of two letters within a word, phrase, name or title, then describe the result. My goodness, people had a variety of ideas of how to **TAP MYERS.**

4th place:

FEDEX FIELD > DEFEX FIELD: A stadium full of flaws that hosts a team full of flaws. *(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)*

3rd place:

CRITICAL RACE THEORY > CRITICAL CARE THEORY: A concept banned in Florida medical schools because it makes insurance companies feel bad. *(Kevin Dopart, Washington)*

2nd place and the rev-up Racing Nuns:

UMBILICAL CORD > UMBILICAL DORC: A 40-year-old who still lives with Mom. *(Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)*

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

TODAY > TOADY: It's always at the top of Kevin McCarthy's desk calendar. *(Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)*

FUN 'NUF: Honorable mentions

BEEFCAKE > FEEBCAKE: "Muscular guys do nothing for me. Gimme some of that feebcake from the engineering dorm!" *(Milo Sauer, Fairfax)*

AULD LANG SYNE > AULD LANG NYSE: What stockbrokers sing to usher in the New Year. *(Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)*

FAUCI > FAICU: A 17-syllable health warning:

Science helps us put
The win in Darwinian
Get vaccinated

(Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

INSTAGRAM > ISNTAGRAM: Offline media-sharing platform. "Aunt Betty's the queen of Isntagram: She loves to mail me photos she clipped from the paper." *(Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)*

PONCE DE LEON > PENCE DE LOON: Alas, he thought he'd found the Fountain of Truth in the Florida waters of Mar-a-Lago. *(Chris Doyle)*

A FAREWELL TO ARMS > A FAREWELL TO RAMS: The Story of Abraham and Isaac. *(Duncan Stevens)*

BACTERIA > CABTERIA: What an Uber Eats car smells like at the end of the shift. *(Scott Richards, Hollywood, Md.)*

BADASS > SADABS: A body that doesn't match the attitude. *(Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.)*

BOSTON > SOBTON: Home of the Red Sox during the "Curse of the Bambino" years. *(Jonathan Jensen, Batimore)*

COMPUTER > ROMPUTEC: Device that connects only to dating apps. "I get much better results with my new Romputec — no distracting news, emails or work assignments!" *(Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)*

DEMITASSE > MEDITASSE: A small cup of coffee just large enough to brood into. *(Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)*

DIMWIT > MIDWIT: Someone who's not *quite* as dumb as you thought. *(Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)*

DUMBO > BUM DO: A haircut that makes your ears look big. *(Jonathan Jensen)*

FRAT PARTY > FART PARTY: A frat party. *(Tom Witte)*

HIGH NOON > HIGH NO-NO: The FAA vows to crack down on the Mile High Club. *(John McCooey, Rehoboth Beach, Fla.)*

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL> A.L. CONFIDENTIAL: Pssst — the Orioles are *not* going to win the division this year. *(Roy Ashley, Washington)*

LEGO > GELO: These make it much safer to go barefoot in your kid's room. *(Barrett Swink, Gainesville, Va.)*

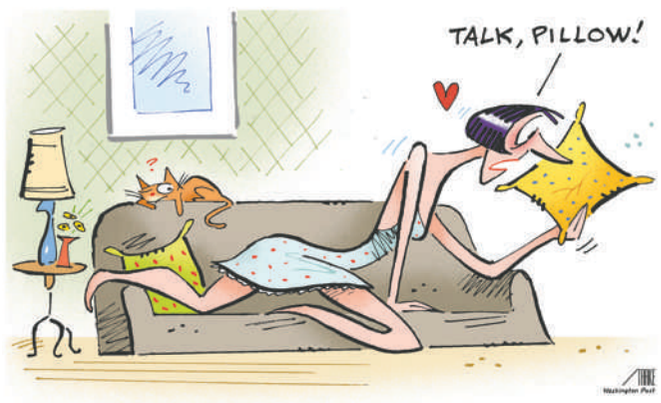
LIGHT SNACK > NIGHT SLACK: The downfall of many a diet. "I was doing really well, but then night slack hit and I ate 17 Oreos." *(Kate Sammons, Ashburn)*

MONSTER > NOMSTER: A creature that will eat you out of house and home. *(Joanne Free, Clifton)*

PELOSI > LEPOSI: A disease caused by staying in one position for too long. *(Craig Dykstra)*

PICTURE > PICTRUE: Selfie where you have giant nose pores, bedhead and that 10 pounds "the camera added." *(Karen Lambert, Chevy Chase)*

RUBBISH > BURBISH: The faintest possible praise for a housing development. *(Donald Norum, Charlottesville)*



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1489: Let's movie things around

Talk, Pillow! A lonely woman wishes her most intimate partner would just love her back. *(Kathye Hamilton, Week 1008, 2013)*

Wonderful? It's a Life: Grandpa Irving pooh-poohs being in the Greatest Generation. *(Ellen Ryan, Week 1008)*

Left? My Foot! The Democratic presidential candidates squabble over who's the most liberal. *(Brendan Beary, Week 524, 2003)*

This week's results are from a contest to transpose two letters; now — in a contest that we ran to great success in 2003 and again in 2013 — we pull another switcheroo: **Rearrange the words of a movie title to create a new movie, then describe it,** as in the inking entries above from those contests. You may change the punctuation as well. See this week's Style Conversational column at ***wapo.st/conv1489*** to see the earlier contests' results so you don't send us the same jokes.

Submit up to 25 entries at ***wapo.st/enter-invite-1489*** (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, May 30;** results appear June 19 in print, June 16 online.

The height of "Office" decor: This week's second prize.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives — in celebration of, for many of us, the Return to the Office: **a pair of Pez dispensers featuring Michael and Dwight of "The Office."** Plus six packs of Pez, the most disgusting candy on Earth after Peeps, candy corn and Circus Peanuts. Wait, I forgot Pop Rocks … Donated by Loser Kathleen Delano.

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 "Switch Witters" is by Tom Witte; Mark Raffman wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at ***wapo.st/conv1489.***

SALEM, MASS. > MALES, MASS.: More than 300 years after its witch trials, one town still can't persuade women to move back. *(Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)*

SIMPLIFICATION > MISPLIFICATION: A point completely lacking in nuance. "Telling a depressed person to "just cheer up" is a bit of a misplification, don't you think?" *(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)*

SURREAL > RUSREAL: "What we're doing in Ukraine isn't war; it's just a special military operation." *(Steve Honley, Washington)*

THE ODD COUPLE > THE DoD COUPLE: Recently retired Donald Rumsfeld moves in with Leon Panetta. *(Chuck Helwig, Centreville)*

WALL-E > WELL A: An inspiring movie about a plucky robot who makes the world safe to drill for oil again. Brought to you by ExxonMobil. *(Duncan Stevens)*

IDIOT > IDIOT: I switched the I's! Aren't I clever? *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

MY BIG AFT GREEK WEDDING: Kim Kardashian takes her nuptials to Athens. *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase)*

AWFFLE: A breakfast item made with spoiled batter. *(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)*

CARBALOUNGER: "Nothing better than kicking back in the Carbalounger with Netflix and chips." *(Jonathan Jensen)*

CHRIS CORK: Well, he should have put *something* in his mouth. — W. Smith, Hollywood *(Mark Raffman, Reston)*

CORKY MOUNTAIN HIGH: Enjoying the Colorado winery tour. *(Joy Sibley, Fairfax)*

DENIAL CRAIG: "I'm still Bond! James Bond!" *(Gary Crockett)*

LOLCATERAL DAMAGE: "Getting a video of Tenzig jumping onto my face was definitely worth the lolcateral damage." *(Donald Norum)*

LONE TSAR STATE: Gov. Greg Abbott's latest pipe dream. *(Chris Doyle)*

NAPDEMIC: Communicable narcolepsy. "The napdemic started as just a single yawn in a Chinese market." *(Kevin Dopart)*

NAPDEMONIUM: The havoc your little demons wreak while Mommy closes her eyes for five minutes. *(Jon Gearhart)*

PORTNOY'S COMPLIANT: A lust-ridden bachelor is finally persuaded by changing times and a restraining order to keep to himself. *(Alex Steelsmith, Kailua, Hawaii; John McCooey)*

REBEL WITHOUT A SAUCE: Defying his parents, Jimmy refuses to eat anything but plain pasta and dipless Doritos. *(Gary Crockett)*

SIDNEY WORLD: Theme park based on total fantasy, featuring a stinky little rat named Rudy. *(Frank Mann)*

TENFLIX: A severely downsized movie streaming service. *(Chris Doyle)*

WEATHER THE STROM: To wait out the retirement of an ancient politician. "The rising star coveted the Senate seat but knew he'd have to weather the strom till the incumbent keeled over." *(Leif Picoult, Rockville)*

WETS SIDE STORY: Two dogs from rival New York City families and the fire hydrant that brings them together. *(Duncan Stevens)*

WETS SIDE STORY: Long-forgotten tales of the men and women who fought to repeal Prohibition. *(Dave Airozo, Silver Spring)*

WHAT HATH DOG WROUGHT?: "That settles it, Scooby, you definitely need more fiber in your diet." *(Lee Graham, Rockville)*

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at ***wapo.st/invite1489.***

Still running — deadline Monday, May 23: Our contest for funny ways to use the surplus products listed on the RepurposedMaterials website. See ***wapo.st/invite1488.***

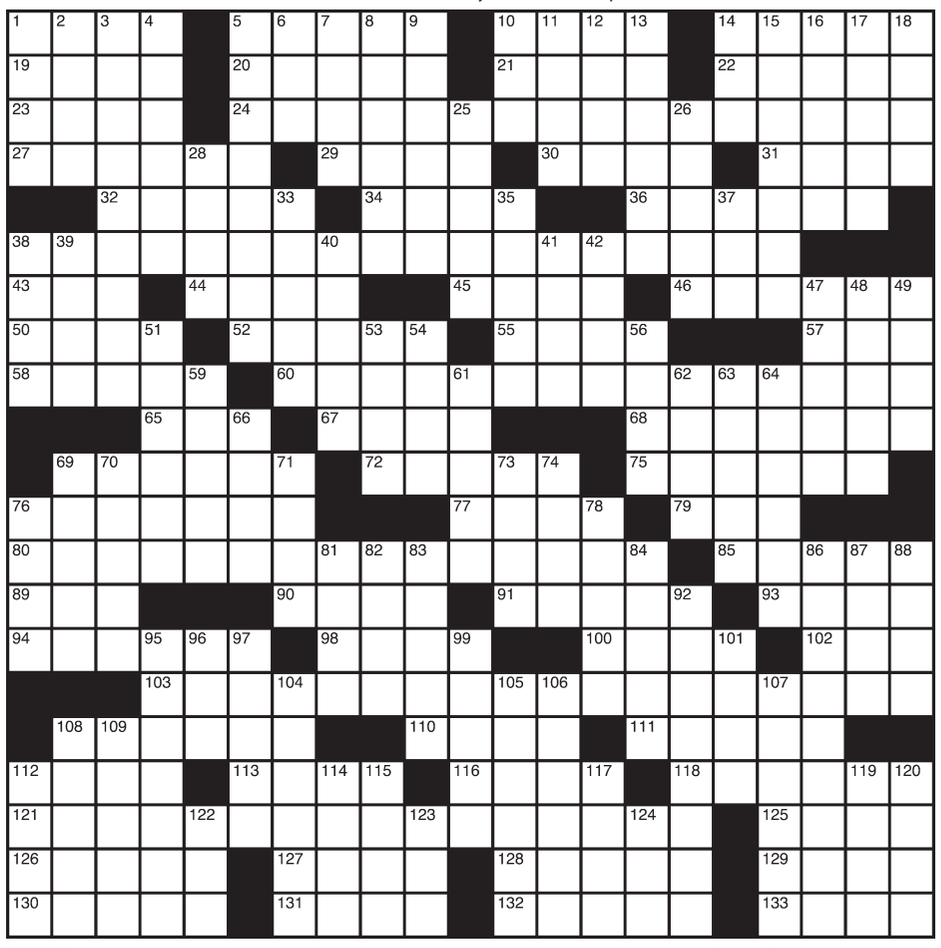
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"WELCOME TO THE BIG LEAGUES" BY TAYLOR JOHNSON

ACROSS
1 Timely blessing
5 Rounds before the finals, for short
10 Farm yield
14 Kudos at a poetry slam
19 Batgirl garment
20 Glazer of "Broad City"
21 Chicago MLS team
22 __ noir
23 Meditate (on)
24 Shout to an FBI agent investigating the wrong fellow?
27 Cherry-topped dish
29 Travel pillow spot
30 Meh
31 "Now, where __ we?"
32 Taco topping
34 Long who plays Steve on "PEN15"
36 Helps
38 "The polygraph is rigged!," e.g.?
43 NAACP co-founder __ B. Wells
44 Informal meeting?
45 Piggy bank opening
46 Sound like autumn leaves
50 "We should!"
52 "What's your __?"
55 Smidgen
57 "Broken Arrow" director John
58 Fertile desert spot
60 "RuPaul's Drag Race" prize money?
65 __ Gatos, California
67 London stroller
68 Planet __: gym chain
69 Intro to typing?
72 "Get __ of this!"
75 Suit bottoms
76 At an angle
77 Sheet of ice
79 Maker of Calling All Goddesses! nail polish
80 Like philosophers who can't find their way home?
85 Fern-to-be
89 Spot-on
90 BBQ side
91 Trauma specialist, for short
93 Fed. power dept.
94 Past
98 Airbnb alternatives
100 Scent
102 Former quarterback Manning
103 Hype that just goes on and on and on?
108 Word with high or tech
110 __ bargain
111 Penélope Cruz's birthplace
112 Dull pain
113 Fingers-crossed thought
116 Ice cream brand
118 Database systems giant
121 Put off fulfilling a campaign promise?
125 Churn up
126 Chilling
127 33-Down animal who loses because of a nap
128 "Four Quartets" poet
129 Clock toggle
130 Use foul language
131 Ensnare
132 Flavors, in a way
133 Large bodies of water

DOWN
1 Quietly keeps in the loop
2 Waimea Bay island
3 Available options when booking a flight
4 Pop up a lot?
5 Evade
6 "Xanadu" gp.
7 Leslie of "This Is 40"
8 Whole
9 Lyric poet of Lesbos
10 Corp. money exec
11 Messy barbecue fare
12 Cookie used as a froyo topping
13 Took care of a boxer?
14 Mud bath venue
15 Birdbrains
16 __ hair pasta
17 Decants
18 Eye ailment
25 Brings up
26 Emulate a drone
28 Sudsy mugfuls
33 Storyteller whose tales usually feature talking animals
35 Illuminated from below
37 Tempe sch.
38 Stitch's human companion
39 Brainchild
40 Cricket sound
41 Place for solar panels
42 Cleveland Browns great __ Graham
47 Twitter message
48 Fine-grained soil
49 Many ages
51 Like some partners
53 "Julie & Julia" writer/director Ephron
54 Cookware brand
56 Kennel racket
59 Kinda
61 "Later!"
62 "Chilombo" Grammy nominee Jhené __
63 Cotton swabs
64 Not ready to eat
66 Not hidden
69 Ski resort feature
70 Yummy
71 Chances
73 Body cream additive
74 Gloomy
76 Big chunk
78 Forest moon that's home to the Ewoks
81 Ballet move
82 Sound off
83 Admit (to)
84 Extinct Mauritian birds
86 Like a family with a stay-at-home dad
87 Move for one's co., say
88 "The Night Circus" novelist Morgenstern
92 Handles food waste ecologically
95 Sister of Laertes
96 Opposite of paleo-
97 Flood with chocolate syrup, say
99 "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" cat
101 T. rex's "I'm going to eat you!"
104 Predicament
105 Rocky projections
106 Bribe for airtime
107 Glittery accessories
108 Carpentry fastener
109 Job jar assignment
112 Copies
114 Take the lead?
115 Youngest daughter of Cronus
117 Breeze (through)
119 "Future Nostalgia" singer Dua __
120 Stately trees
122 Atop, poetically
123 Gym unit
124 Movie filming site



5/22/22

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | May 22: You are an easygoing person who is an excellent, creative communicator. You are free-spirited and curious, and you hate to be bored. This year you will focus on personal responsibilities, especially to a family member or your family in general. You also will enjoy doing something to personalize where you live.

Moon Alert: Avoid decisions and shopping from 3 a.m. to noon. After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Move forward with plans, possibly plans that are taking place behind the scenes. Whatever the case, do your research and rely on your ability to turn the abstract into the concrete because you can move mountains today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
This is a wonderful day to work with others, because today's energy will bring you greater benefit if you work with others as opposed to working only for your own benefit. (It's kind of a "share your wealth" principle.) Combined energy is the way to go.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You are determined and ambitious. However, Mars at the top of your chart is dancing with big daddy Pluto, which totally empowers your ambition. Ideally, work with others to attain your goals or the goals of everyone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
You will be powerful in legal matters or when defending your beliefs. However, the best way to use today's energy is to combine your efforts with those of others to explore new ideas, travel or learn something new.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You will have no trouble defending your best interests if you are disputing your fair share of something. You also will be a formidable force to deal with in disputes with the government or about financial matters or shared property.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You might feel tension with someone. Figure out how to combine your efforts with those of someone else, especially someone close to you, and make the result a win-win situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You can get a tremendous amount of work done because you have inexhaustible energy. Nevertheless, it's important to know that you will benefit more and get more done if you work in conjunction with others. Especially if this relates to your job.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Your creative energies are exploding, which is why it's appropriate to demand to be yourself and express to others exactly who you are. You might do this in a playful way, or you might be passionate about expressing your talents. You'll be a powerhouse in sports.

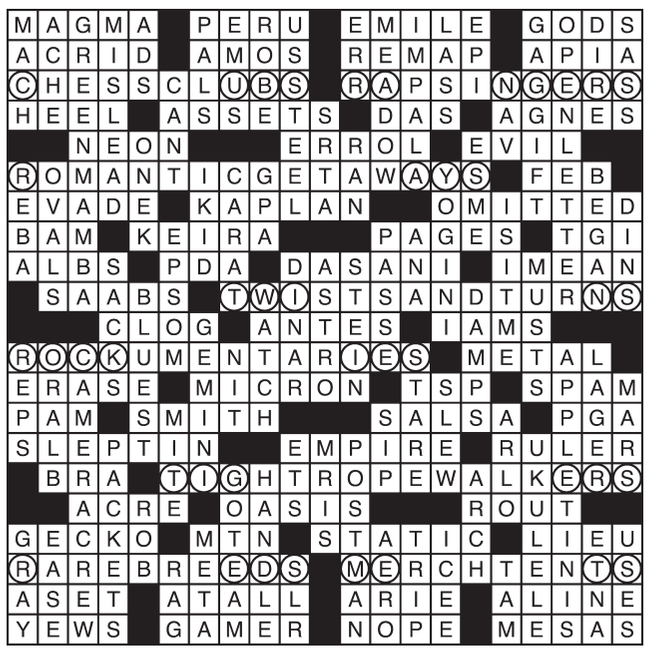
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today you can tackle big projects involving renovations, repairs or shoving furniture around. You will achieve the best results if you can work in conjunction with others so that everyone achieves what they want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your ability to persuade others is stellar. If you work in communications via sales, marketing, acting, teaching or writing, you will make your point. However, don't try to coerce others into believing as you do. Instead, focus on your own mental work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have the energy to find a new application for something you already own. This could be an item of furniture or an item of clothing. The point is that you are energetic and resourceful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Mars in your sign is dancing with big daddy Pluto, which makes you work zealously for any goal you aim for. Work to improve your environment, appearance or body in some way. You'll get results.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



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