DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Divined comedy: Our Year in Preview

BY PAT MYERS

For **Week 1260** we asked you to contribute to this timeline of We Hope Not (For the Most Part) Future Events. Unless the date is relevant to the "prediction," the Empress just put one in at random.

4th place

April 28: In the seventh round, the Minnesota Vikings draft an end zone choreographer out of Juilliard. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

3rd place

Feb. 2: Punxsutawney Phil predicts an early end to winter. The White House immediately accuses him of "promoting a fake global-warming agenda" and cancels Groundhog Day. (John Hutchins, Silver Spring)

2nd place and the applause gadget:

April 29: Following the administration's decision to shrink the Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent, Navajo elders rename it Trumps Hands Park. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Oct. 12: Columbus, Ohio, renames itself Genocidal European, Ohio. (Steve Honley, Washington)

Blech to the future: Honorable mentions

Jan. 29: Dethroning religion, opioids officially become the opiate of the masses. (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Jan. 30: Michael Wolff reveals that during the second Women's March in Washington, Trump asked, "Is it okay if I grab one of those hats?" (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

Feb. 5: Roy Moore announces plans to enter the seminary and eventually serve in the Boston archdiocese. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Feb. 12: Vice President Pence condemns the Olympic biathlon as deviant. (Bird Waring, Larchmont, N.Y.)

Feb. 13: Fat Tuesday is officially renamed Your Mama Tuesday. (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

Feb. 22: Hackers break into the president's Twitter account, posting dozens of sensible tweets before the White House regains control. (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis)

March 27: Jennifer Garner discovers that what's in her wallet is 25 percent less than what's in Samuel L. Jackson's wallet. (Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.)

April 1: President Trump tweets: "I am not a fool. In fact I am, like, the unfooliest person I know." (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

April 5: At the Nationals' home opener, the president tweets, "My first pitch was the BEST and MOST ACCURATE pitch ever thrown on a Major League mound." Nats pitchers spend the evening trying to prove him right. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

April 20: A blaze at a California pot farm is battled with help from 70,000 nearby volunteer firefighters. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

April 26: Kim Jong Un's latest Trump insults — "jaundiced lackwit," "scrofulous bile factory" and "golf-cheating fossil" — are revealed to have been ghostwritten by George Will, Joe Scarborough and Dana Milbank. (Mark Raffman, Reston)

May 5: For the first time, the Kentucky Derby is won by a self-driving horse. (Jesse Frankovich)

May 10: Trump nominates Roy Moore for the U.S. Supreme Court, effective "the minute the next one keels over." (Maggie Haring, Leesburg, a First Offender)

May 20: As a stream of Russian prostitutes comes forward, the #peetoo hashtag trends on Twitter. (Pete Morelewicz, Fredericksburg)

June 14: Trump installs kneelers in the Cabinet room to add visual pop to his monthly praise-athons. (Dan Helming, Maplewood, N.J.)

June 23: The position of U.S. poet laureate is filled by a young lass from Nantucket. (Larry McClemons, Annandale)

July 15: The White House proceeds with its plan to drill for oil in Donald Trump Jr.'s hair. (John Hutchins)

BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1264: A cry for Yelp: 'Review' any place

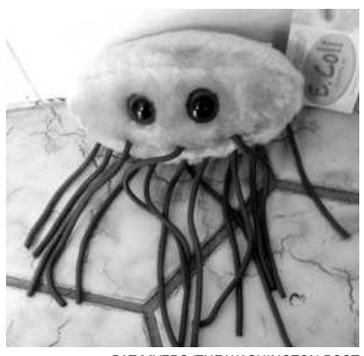
And if you visit H-Unit, consider that bus ride a mini tour!! I don't know what it is up and to the right as you pass the North Block, but the cement artwork is cool! . . . Way too much tall fencing and barbed wire for my tastes . . . — From an actual 3-of-5-star Yelp review from a visitor to San Quentin prison

This week's contest was suggested by Alex Blackwood, who helps out the Empress with the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook. Alex had just read a negative review of a local doughnut shop by someone who'd tried to order a salad. But she also noted that people post reviews — including ridiculous ones — on Yelp.com for lots more than restaurants. **This week: Write a humorous review, positive or negative, of anyplace (real or fictional) one might visit.** Still, don't write anything harmfully inaccurate about the place — like talking about the roaches at a specific restaurant.

Submit up to 25 entries at the website **wapo.st/enter-invite-1264** (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a cute, cuddly plush *E. coli,* donated by Loser Elizabeth Molyé, who, *despite being Norwegian*, walked right into the Losers' Post-Holiday Party this month carrying a deadly bacterium. **Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punmanship." Honorable mentions get one of our new 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. 5;** results published Feb. 25 (online Feb. 22). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline for this week's results is by Kevin Dopart; Jon Gearhart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev.

THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL The Empress's weekly online column discusses the new contest and results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv. This week: Dave Barry's five faves among this week's inking entries.


PAT MYERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Place second and you'll win this cute bacterium. (Do not ingest.)

July 20: Fox News reinstates Bill O'Reilly after discovering that all his accusers were women. (Jesse Etelson, Rockville)

July 24: Purple Line construction is delayed yet again when Montgomery and Prince George's counties can't agree on whether it should be closer to lavender or fuchsia. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna)

July 30: Following Mexico's surprise declaration that it will pay for a wall along the U.S. border, Canada announces that it will pay for one, too. (Frank Osen)

Aug. 1: Miss Piggy tweets: #MeToo. (Stephen Dudzik)

Aug. 2: Disney announces 53 more stand-alone films about Star Wars characters, culminating with "That Blue Elephant-Looking Thing That Plays the Keyboard in Jabba's Palace: A Star Wars Story." (Kurt Stahl, Frederick)

Aug 8: House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes reveals that Robert Mueller once said "hello" to Hillary Clinton. In person! (Jesse Etelson)

Aug. 13: Having run out of things to reveal, Kim Kardashian under-goes a procedure rendering her skin totally transparent so that her internal organs are on display for all to see. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Sept. 9: Congress enacts the National Thoughts and Prayers Act to combat gun violence. (Mark Raffman)

Sept. 19: The Cleveland Browns are mathematically eliminated from playoff contention. (Mark Calandra, Sudbury, Mass.)

Sept. 22: Roy Moore is named coach of the U.S. women's gymnastics team. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Oct. 14: Sarah Huckabee Sanders is alarmed but unhurt after spontaneous combustion of pants. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station)

Oct. 25: Paul Ryan releases his new book for senior citizens, "Just Die(t)," with 365 daily tips to help those on fixed incomes support our struggling billionaire class. "Tip 25: Instead of buying newspapers to stuff in your worn-out shoes, go to your local library and rip some pages from the Fake News Washington Post." (Wes Merchant, Frederick, a First Offender)

Nov. 6: Democrats sweep to congressional majority in 2018 midterms, promptly begin proceedings to shoot selves in foot. (Danielle Nowlin)

Nov. 7: Trump tweets, "I backed the Dems in the midterms all along." (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Nov. 7: Controversy erupts after, according to voting-machine results, every 2018 congressional race is won by Vladimir Putin. In response, Trump demands investigations of Hillary Clinton's email server. (Duncan Stevens)

Nov. 22: The Thanksgiving turkey pardons Donald Trump. (Mark Raffman)

Dec. 10: Roy Moore announces his candidacy for governor of Alabama, calling the state "pretty" and promising to "show it a good time." (Duncan Stevens)

Dec. 31: After reading only one selected page of The Washington Post, Trump tweets: "The Post admits all their writers are LOSERS, just as I had been saying. So sad!" (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

More honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1264.

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 29: our contest to pair sports team abbreviations. See wapo.st/invite1263.

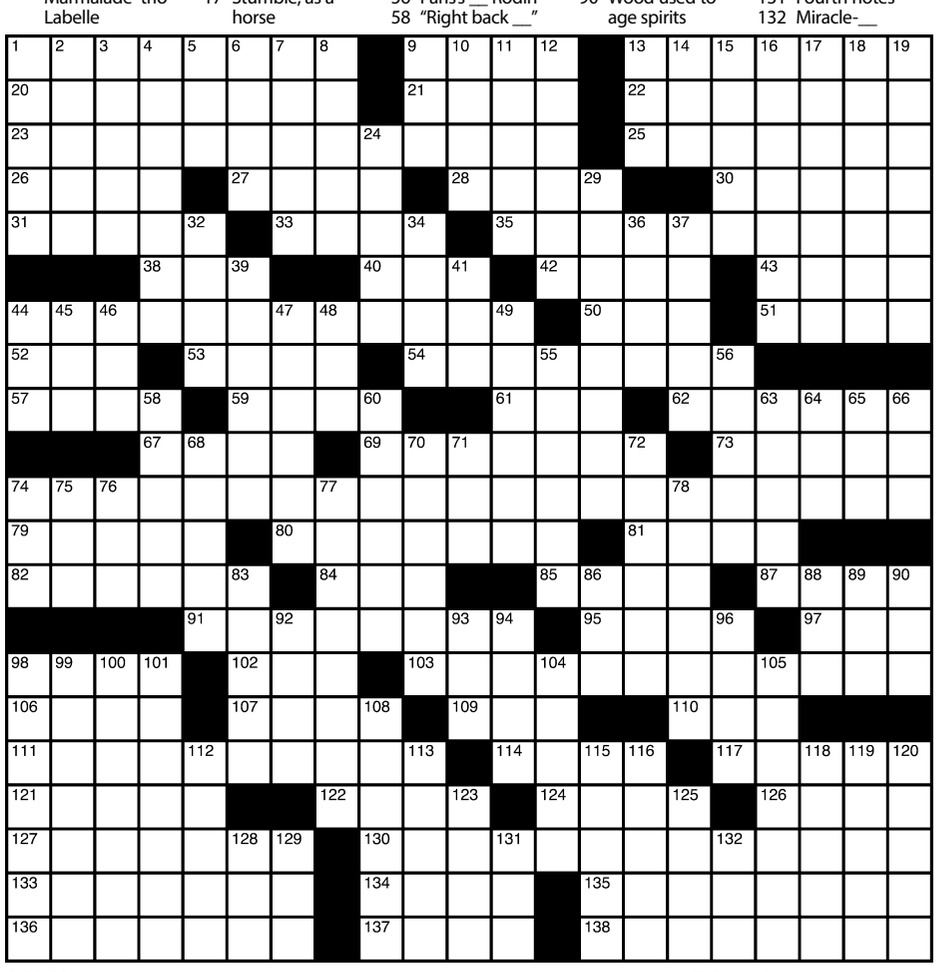
L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"ON THE ROAD" By MATT SKOCZEN

ACROSS
1 Distinguished
9 One in on the deal?
13 1984 Martin/Tomlin film
20 Wetsuit substance
21 Feng __
22 Causes of tots' tears
23 One of three presidents who served in 1881
25 Dignitaries working abroad
26 Wife of Wang Lung in "The Good Earth"
27 Joke closing?
28 A fancy one may not include prices
30 Surprise from a lamp
31 1983 Streisand film
33 Scratches (out)
35 It's just outside the Oval Office
38 Caveman Alley
40 Mich. NBA team
42 Word on a fast food sign
43 "Billy Budd" captain
44 Kitchen gadget
50 Subj. for some newcomers
51 "__ to you, matey!"
52 Thumbs-up cry
53 Biblical name meaning "hairy"
54 Cone filler
57 Discipline with poses
59 Sagan's sci.
61 21st of 24
62 Fired up
67 It measures rpm
69 Pennsylvania railroad town
73 More achy
74 Private company paperwork
79 Some bar food
80 USA Today owner
81 Somme spouses: Abbr.
82 Move, as artwork
84 Thumbs-up cry
85 "Ozark" actor Morales
87 Cartagena cat
91 Stop one's horse, in England
95 Envelope-pushing
97 Half a dance
98 Passion-ate composer?
102 __ trip
103 Certain sci-fi superfan
106 Dos cubed
107 Pinup's asset
109 Sold-out letters
110 79-Across fish
111 "Awesome!"
114 Suffix from the Greek for "world"
117 Role for Dustin
121 King or queen
122 Taunting word usually repeated
124 Persian for "king"
126 Ostrich cousin
127 The Beatles' last studio album
130 Unexpectedly changing one's attitude ... and what's literally hidden in six long puzzle answers
133 50-50 shot
134 Hendryx who was part of the "Lady Marmalade" trio Labelle
135 Alienate
136 Allergy symptom
137 Big refs.
138 Aficionados

DOWN
1 Fancy
2 Author Zora __ Hurston
3 "__ is an island": Donne
4 Sandal feature
5 Abbr. in home sale ads
6 Staying power
7 Related on mom's side
8 Literature Nobelist Walcott
9 "__: Cyber": 2015 spin-off
10 "May I speak?"
11 King or queen
12 Quick denial
13 Pie equivalent, in a simile
14 Canterbury commode
15 Half a strait-laced pair?
16 Witness
17 Stumble, as a horse
18 "L'ecole des femmes" playwright
19 Reputed Dead Sea Scrolls transcribers
24 "Band of Gold" singer Payne
29 Theater work
32 Be outscored
34 Alien-seeking gp.
36 Highland tongue
37 Solzhenitsyn subject
39 Passover
41 Sam Spade type
44 Great Barrier Reef feature
45 Boo mate?
46 Heart doc's readout
47 Guzzler on the road
48 Hard thing to get out of
49 Share on Facebook, as a picture
55 Complete, in law
56 Paris's __ Rodin
58 "Right back __"
60 Curtin castmate
63 Asian menu assurance
64 Masters prog. entrance criterion
65 Female lobster
66 Uneaten bit
68 "There's __ of Hush": Herman's Hermits hit
70 They can make things clearer
71 Uno e due
72 Philip II's fleet
74 Bygone cartography initials
75 Third col., usually
76 __Kosh B'gosh
77 Female nonclericals
78 Asylum seeker
83 Shorthand pioneer
86 Stitch
88 One may be high or low
89 With 104-Down, what bosses rule
90 Wood used to age spirits
92 Preserves thickener
93 "__ a date!"
94 Buster?
96 1914 battle river
98 Soft drink manufacturer, e.g.
99 Get by effort
100 Exchanged texts, say
101 Emergency phone link
104 See 89-Down
105 Quietly show anger toward
108 Disagrees
112 Put on ice
113 Sierra Nevada resort
115 Backed (away)
116 Parson's place
118 __ of Glamis: Macbeth
119 Worsted variety
120 Resting places
123 Rear
125 Cable channel for remodelers
128 Queen's subject
129 French connections?
131 Fourth notes
132 Miracle-__



1/28/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 28: This year you will have the opportunity to express a hidden talent or gift. You could be overwhelmed by everything that could be occurring around you. If you are single, know that your status could change at the drop of a hat. Do not settle; instead, wait until you know that you have found "The One." If you are attached, the two of you often opt to hide away from others. Make plans to make a much-discussed trip together. Cancer seems to irritate you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Your instincts let you know what is going on and where someone else is coming from. You might be more withdrawn than usual. Others are likely to react differently to this facet of your personality. You might be amused by a child's antics.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
A friend might push you in a certain direction because this person sees multiple possibilities for you. This friendship is inspirational at times, but at other times, this person's energy could be overwhelming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Others might be less likely to say no to you in the morning. Your positive attitude carries into the remainder of the day, though you might experience an unexpected happening. Do not misread someone else's actions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Cocoon at home with your newspaper in the morning. By the afternoon, you won't be able to resist a key companion's invitation. You might be overwhelmed by what is happening with a loved one at a distance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
A friend could present an exciting invitation. Examine what is going on with a child. The information you receive will highlight someone's caring attitude. You can't say no to this person, so don't even try.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You have a tendency to be overly attentive when you decide to pursue a certain project. Whatever you are handling in the morning could come with some fussiness. By the afternoon, you will need to relax if you are going to benefit from the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Take off in the morning, as you might want to enjoy a day trip. Exploring a favorite area recharges your energy and gives you an opportunity to take time off from the daily grind.

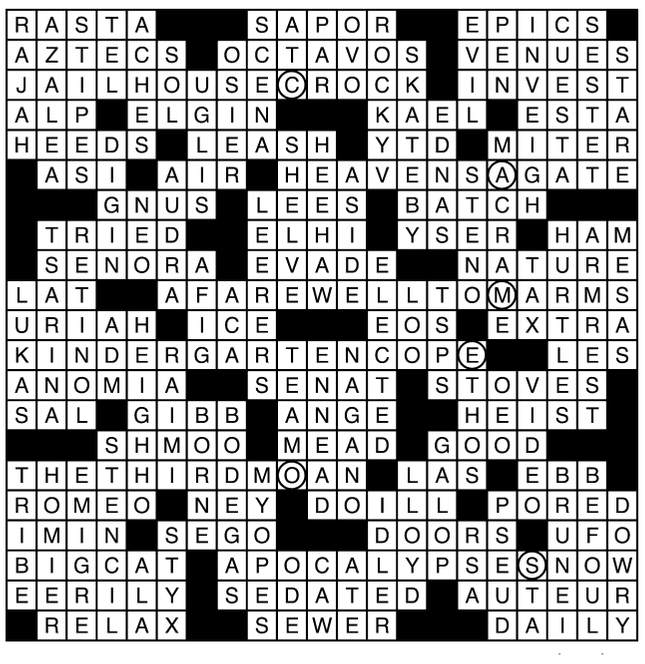
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Your ability to handle a key person on an individual level emerges once more. This person depends on your more active personality. Reach out to a loved one at a distance as well, as this person will be visiting you soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You are naturally assertive and straightforward. Today, you will be sought after by someone who wants your company. Can you be accepting of this person's adventurous spirit? If so, the two of you will have fun this afternoon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your ability to get past a hassle frees up your day to join a loved one. You really do not need to do anything more than being available for some spontaneous fun. Whether you're at the movies or at brunch, you enjoy the company of your close friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You could be up for a change of plans. By midafternoon, you might settle in to watch a favorite sport or a good movie. Communication could be somewhat confusing, especially when it comes to discussing your potential and actual expenses.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Your sixth sense emerges in the afternoon. You know you are right, but someone else might feel the need to challenge you. Do not allow this person to interfere with your plans for a fun and spontaneous happening with a child or loved one.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE