Report from Week 1052

our perennial Clue Us In contest, in which we published a filled-in crossword grid from an earlier Washington Post, and asked you to contribute novel clues for any of the words. Some funny ideas were submitted by too many Losers for individual credit, such as “ACID: A generic Spanish hero,” and “ACTUAL: An order to the cast from a frustrated director.” Some of the real set of clues, by puzzle constructor Bob Klahn, trumped the Losers’ entries, so Bob gets a magnet, too.

2 Winner of the Vietnamese elixir including both a preserved scorpion and a preserved snake:

GRAFT: How politicians get money to grow on trees (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

ROCKCANDY: Cliff bar (Jonathan Hardis, Gaithersburg)

ONE: Where to keep up with the Kardashians (two words) (Chris Doyle, The Villages, Fla.; Kevin Dopart, Washington)

POPSINGLES: New diet product from Orville Redenbacher (Andy Promisel, Fairfax)

MOUE: McKayla Maroney’s second claim to fame (Dan Ramish, Washington)

WADE: What you might do following DUI plumbing (Beverley Sharp)

TORUS: “The Heavenly Donut”; zodiac sign of Homer Simpson (Larry Gray, Union Bridge, Md.; Beverley Sharp)

CIAO: Eat and run (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.; Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

LAVA: Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

LARK: The fifth-worst place to sit at Parks in front of a bus (Chris Doyle; Jonathan Harding)

IRAN: Paul Ryan’s revised claim to fame (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

EGGS: Verkuilen, Brooklyn Park, Minn.)

ICE: Water frozen in a block (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

APRON: Lady Macbeth’s annoying dog (Leigh Ann Martin, Falls Church)

PLACE: Fancy toilet paper (hyphenated) (Steve McClemons)

GUESTTOWEL: Newspaper in Your Mom’s bathroom (Jeff Stanley, Richmond)

SMOG: It makes haze while the sun shines (John O’Byrne, Dublin)

BAGPIPES: Scotland’s drone program (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

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LESS TASTE, MORE FILL-IN: honorable mentions

MORAN: What an idiot calls another idiot (Jim Stiles, Rockville; Bill Verkuilen, Brookline Park, Minn.)

Eggs: They break up with chicks after getting laid (Alex Jeffrey, Columbia)

PLACED: Fancy toilet paper (hyphenated) (Steve McClemons, Arlington, who last got Invite ink in 2006)

SPORT: Lady Macbeth’s annoying dog (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

APRON: Answer to “Where’s Chris Berman? He’s supposed to be on air right now!” (Craig Dykstra, Centreville)

GUESTTOWEL: Newspaper in Your Mama’s bathroom (Jeff Shirley, Richmond)

SMOG: It makes haze while the sun shines (John O’Byrne, Dublin)

BAGPIPES: Susan Boyle’s singing voice (Rob Pharrill, Stratford, Conn.)

ROSA: Parks in front of a bus (Bob Klahn, Arlington, Del.)

IOWA: fascinating place, for two weeks every four years (Eiden Camahan, Laurel)

LAVA: Pompeii circumstance (Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

LAVA: Top-rated loo (hyphenated) (Ann Martin, Falls Church)

CROCI: Final score in Nile conflict: Caneoest 0 / _____ (Mark Richardson)

ROCKCANDY: Michaele Salahi’s new job description (David Ballard, Reston)

If you finish exactly third or fourth, you can tote away one of our new Glossy Bags.

PHILEAS FOG: Heavy mist that dramatically increases your travel time.

MICROSHAFT: The infinitesimal ray of sunlight that occasionally pierces the Seattle clouds.

We’ve weathered a polar vortex, a superstorm, a derecho — and have expanded our vocabulary with each crazy meteorological event. Loser Mike Gips suggests that we ought to enlarge the lexicon even more: This week: Coin a term relating to weather, climate, etc. — either literal or figurative — and define it, as in Mike’s examples above. Just do us this favor: Skip the joke about how the U.S. Capitol is a source of hot air; I think I receive a Congress/hot-air joke from someone or other in just about every contest I’ve judged — and I haven’t given any of them ink in the last 500-plus contests either.

Winner gets the Invkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a climate-themed prize, at least if you stretch the term absurdly: It’s a hefty glass snow globe (actually a glitter globe) on a gaudy gold base. Inside, being glittered on, is a leather-vested black-and-white cow doing a wheeleel on a motorcycle. A Harley-Dauryan, perhaps. Or a Cowasaki. Donated by Loser Cheryl Davis, who has donated many similarly elegant prizes over the years, such as Shells Playing Poker.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired “Whole Fools” Glossy Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet, either the Po’ Wit Laureate or Purrs of Steel. First-Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped “freshener” (FirStink or the FirStinkor). Donated by Loser Cheryl Davis, who has donated many similarly elegant prizes over the years, such as Shells Playing Poker.

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