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PAR SCORE 195-205
 BEST SCORE 249

FOUR RACK TOTAL
 TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE™ Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE™ Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



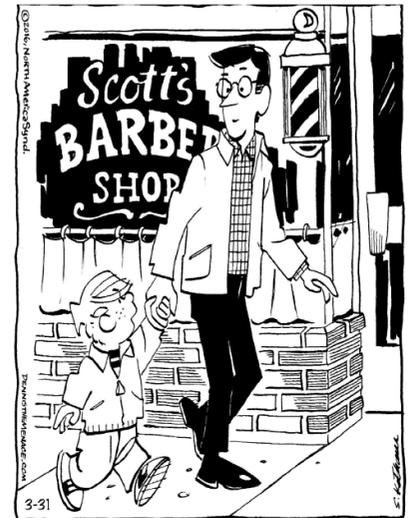
HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



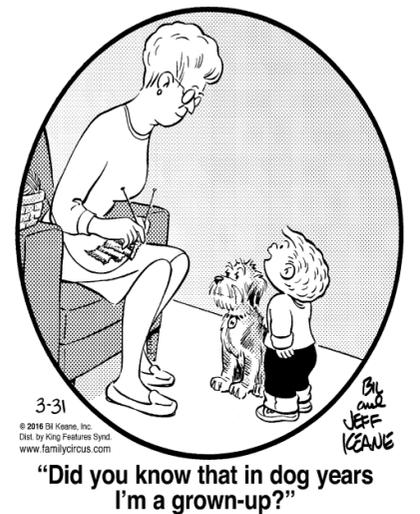
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bill Keane



JUMBLE
 Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REETX
 ANKET
 PROYES
 WERTOL

Ans: " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: POISE DOUGH PAYDAY POLICE
 Answer: He thought that having life insurance was a GOOD POLICY.

Opiate use is effective for some people

Dear Dr. Roach: I hope you will offer your opinion on my experience with opiate medication. My wife is now on a combination of morphine pills to address chronic shoulder pain resulting from a fall. The reason it became chronic is because of a misdiagnosis, followed by errant X-rays and three unnecessary surgeries. She has been in gripping pain all that time, and the pain remains acute and can increase with too much use of her arm. That's why I refer to it as "chronic."

While there is a growing fear of opiate treatment for pain, it probably has saved her life. This all began about 20 years ago, and she is now 60. Most mixes and matches of painkillers left her either with little pain and little function, or too much pain. The saving grace was the result of an off-chance conversation with doctor practicing at a learning hospital. He men-

DR. KEITH ROACH TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

tioned a new time-release morphine that is now available. That, along with an optional booster pill if needed, filled the need. Constipation has become something additional to deal with, although manageable. I write to you to offer hope to someone who is experiencing chronic pain, and to ask lawmakers to leave room in their discussions on opiates. People's lives can remain productive, or at least livable, with measured opiate medication. — A.R.

While it is true that there is an epidemic of abuse of prescribed pain medication, it is important to remember that there are some people for whom opiate pain medications are safe and effective. The current backlash against prescription pain medications

does raise the risk that some people's lives will be made more difficult by the administrative obstacles put in place to combat prescription drug abuse.

I am publishing your letter since I do agree with you that opiates need to remain an option if used wisely in appropriate patients.

Dear Dr. Roach: I understand that bile assists in the digestion and absorption of fats and is responsible for the elimination of certain waste products from our body. Could you please tell me what happens to a female who has had laparoscopic gallbladder surgery? I'm having a difficult time losing weight. — M.F.

Bile, which contains bile salts such as cholic acid, are secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder. They are essential in the digestion of fat, where they act chemically

to emulsify fat (emulsification allows fat to dissolve in water, similar to soap breaking up fat when cleaning). Ninety-five percent of bile acids are reabsorbed, normally, in the intestine, allowing them to be reused. The gallbladder releases bile in response to a fatty meal (which is why people with gallstones develop pain after a fatty meal).

Without bile, fat cannot be properly absorbed, leading to steatorrhea ("steato" for "fat," and "rhea" for "flow"), a fatty diarrhea, and often weight loss.

However, after gallbladder surgery — open or laparoscopic — in most cases the liver learns to release the bile appropriately in response to a meal within a few weeks of surgery. There are many reasons for inability to lose weight, but it shouldn't be related to your gallbladder surgery. Thyroid disease may be the most common cause.

Bridge
 by Frank Stewart

The bouncing ball

Cy the Cynic says that people who complain about the way the ball bounces are usually the ones who dropped it.

Against today's four hearts, West led the king of spades and shifted to the ten of clubs. South won and started the trumps, and East took the ace and returned a spade.

South ruffed, hoping to win the rest if East held the king of diamonds. But when South led another trump, West discarded. When South finished drawing trumps (not best), he had none left, and when he went to dummy to let the nine of diamonds ride, West won and took the ace of spades. Down one.

LOSING FINESSE

"That's the way the ball bounces," South shrugged: "a 4-1 trump break and a losing finesse in the same deal."

South dropped the ball. When East returns a spade at Trick Four, South should pitch a diamond. West takes the ace and leads, say, another club. South wins with the ace and draws trumps. He gets to dummy with the queen of clubs to discard two more diamonds on the Q-10 of spades and claims the rest.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K 7 5 3 ♥ 6
 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8 2. Your partner

NORTH
 ♠ Q 10 6 4
 ♥ Q 7 5
 ♦ J 9 8
 ♣ Q 5 3

WEST
 ♠ A K 7 5 3
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K 4 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 2

EAST
 ♠ 9 8 2
 ♥ A 8 3 2
 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ 7 6 4

SOUTH
 ♠ J
 ♥ K J 10 9 4
 ♦ A Q 10 5
 ♣ A K J

South 1♥
 West 1♠
 North 2♥
 East Pass

Opening lead — ♠ K

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Moines of Iowa?
 - Cable channel
 - Talking truckers
 - NCAA grouping
 - Speedily
 - Golf coach Hank
 - Night brightener
 - Stallone movie
 - Perforation
 - Golf bag item
 - Actress Lanchester
 - Medicine that induces vomiting
 - Heliophobic fear
 - Clan members
 - Summer mo.
 - Mars and Jupiter
 - Winter driving hazard
 - Like a noisy crowd
 - Being: L.
 - Dawn or dusk illumination
 - Disappear, as symptoms
 - Japanese immigrant
 - Greek letter
 - Untreated wound danger
 - Caribou cousin
 - Multi-computer syst.
 - Exposure to public notice
 - Affectedly modest
 - Speed unit
 - Recording industry grp.
 - Title for M. Clouseau

- Visit: ADailyCrossword.com
- DOWN**
- Group with a common ancestry
 - Exxon alternative
 - White Sea bay
 - Slippery catch
 - Catcher Buster
 - King or Foss
 - Sardonic
 - Revolt
 - Mt. measurements
 - Mao ___-Tung
 - Children's card game
 - Molinaro and Michaels
 - Capable of being cured
 - Castrated male horses
 - Pleasure trek
 - Inc. in Bath
 - Word from a pro?
 - Flummoxes
 - Went down
 - More stern
 - With little skill
 - ___ put (well phrased)
 - Sound of disgust
 - Steak entree
 - Double DI
 - Champagne choice
 - Recipe abbr.
 - Greek letter
 - Unruly group
 - Deposit

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

W	T	S		H	U	M	O	R	I	S		L	E	M	
H	E	E		A	T	A	L	O	S	S		A	G	O	
I	N	G		R	E	T	E	S	T	S		M	R	I	
S	T	U	R	M	T	I	E	R				U	B	E	R
T	H	E		A	F	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	A	T	E
				P	U	R		S	A	C	H	S			
M	M	E		L	E	E	S		K	I	T	T	Y		
S	A	D	I	E	D	I	T	H		P	E	R	M		
S	U	M	M	A		S	W	I	T		S	U	A		
				C	A	R	I	B	E	R	S				
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	O	F	
I	N	A	S		B	O	R	K		D	Y	E	R	S	
R	A	H		R	O	M	A	I	N	E		L	I	T	
C	I	O		B	R	E	N	N	A	N		L	E	O	
E	R	N		I	N	S	I	G	H	T		A	L	P	

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 195-205
 BEST SCORE 249

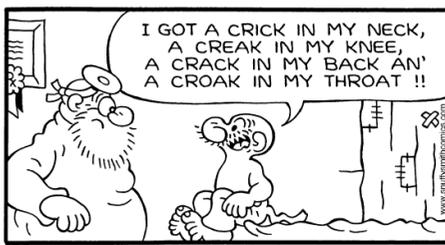
RAK 1 = 96
 RACK 2 = 61
 RACK 3 = 63
 RACK 4 = 59

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BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

			5	6				
	2							1
		3	1	9	2			
3	4	8	7	5	1			
1	5	3	2	6	7			
	6	9	3	8				
7								5
		4	1					

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

7	4	3	2	5	1	6	8	9
9	6	5	4	7	8	2	3	1
2	1	8	6	3	9	7	5	4
5	3	1	7	2	6	4	9	8
8	9	7	1	4	3	5	6	2
4	2	6	9	8	5	1	7	3
6	8	2	3	1	7	9	4	5
1	5	9	8	6	4	3	2	7
3	7	4	5	9	2	8	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★