

SCRABBLE®
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A

A

E

L

L

R

T

RACK 1

E

I

I

U

H

B

S

L

2nd Letter Triple

E

O

O

T

N

C

G

RACK 3

E

Y

S

H

T

C

K

Double Word Score

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 218

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

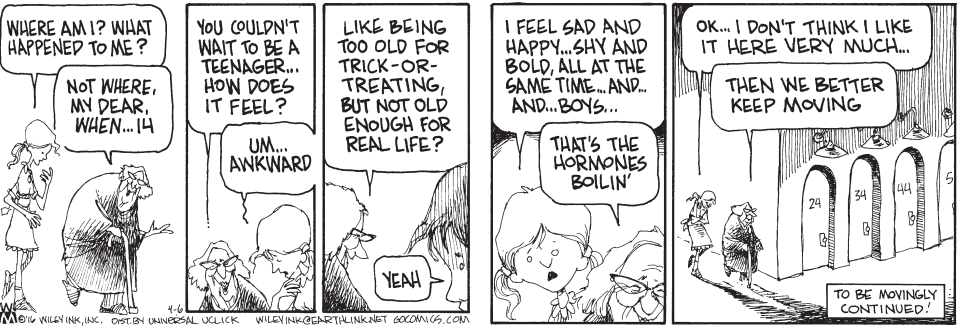
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary 5th Edition.

Answer below

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 scrags@gmail.com.

04-05

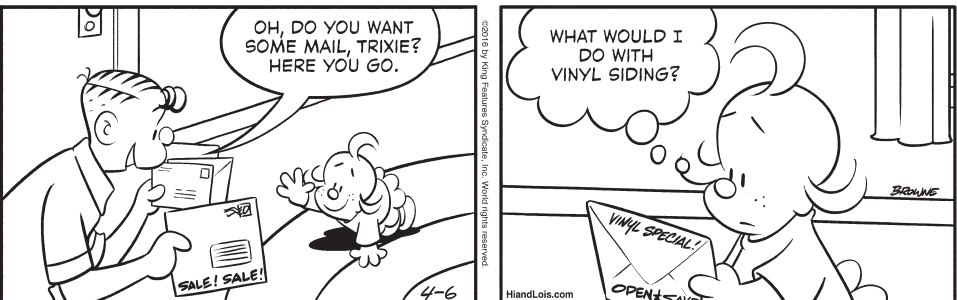
NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



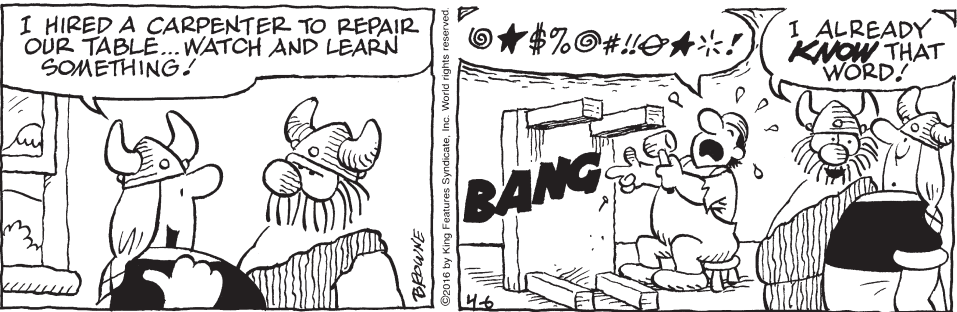
BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane



JUMBLE

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

ELPXE

FRITD

DEETIC

ZULMEZ

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUSE BROKE DAMAGE BEFORE
Answer: Al Capone's favorite restaurant was usually — MOBBED

Elevated blood levels need evaluation

Dear Dr. Roach: Recent blood tests have left me perplexed. My hemoglobin, hematocrit and MCV were slightly high. What might be the underlying cause of these elevations? What do hemoglobin, hematocrit and MCV refer to? Also, my hematocrit and MCV levels were high on the previous blood test, about a year ago. Now the hemoglobin seems headed in the same direction. I am worried about cancer. I have been healthy for most of my life, as a non-smoker, non-drug user. I do not live at high altitude. — R.Z.

Hemoglobin is the major protein in red blood cells, used to transport oxygen from the lungs to all the tissues and cells of the body that need it. Hematocrit is the proportion of blood comprised of red blood cells. The mean corpuscular volume, MCV, is a measure of the average size of a red blood cell.

DR. KEITH ROACH
TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

All of these are slightly above normal in you, which should raise the concern of polycythemia (rubra) vera (which literally means “too many red blood cells”). Polycythemia vera is a myeloproliferative disorder, a disease of the bone marrow, but not a cancer. However, there are several other possibilities, which may need evaluation.

Your levels have been high twice, a year apart, so I do think you should be evaluated for the cause. Low blood oxygen from smoking or from altitude can be ruled out from the information you gave me. However, other heart or lung diseases, sleep apnea and carbon monoxide poisoning can be quickly evaluated by a careful exam and by measuring blood oxygen and carbon monoxide levels. There are

tumors that can secrete a hormone called erythropoietin, which increases bone marrow production of red blood cells, so that should be checked.

Polycythemia vera usually has high white blood cell and platelet cell counts and a low MCV, so it is less likely in you. Given how well you feel, and how subtle the elevations are, I think it's possible that you have no disease at all. These levels may be normal for you. However, get evaluated.

Dear Dr. Roach: I am on a proton pump inhibitor, which was prescribed by my doctor several months ago after complaining of symptoms relating to GERD. While the medication has improved most of the symptoms, once in a while I still experience a slight burning sensation in my lower chest. Are PPIs designed to relieve the symptoms of GERD, or is it common to still have occasional chest discom-

fort? (I have had tests to rule out heart-related problems, which I am aware can cause the same sort of symptoms.) Also, if the problem is caused by the lower sphincter valve in the esophagus not functioning correctly, how does a PPI remedy that? — Anon.

Proton pump inhibitors do not stop gastroesophageal reflux, which literally means “the backward passage of stomach contents into the esophagus.” By reducing the ability of the stomach to make acid, the damage to the esophagus can be minimized and symptoms improved.

Metoclopramide does reduce the actual reflux of material, but has such dangerous side effects that it is seldom used long term. PPIs have their own risk of long-term side effects, so I recommend trying to slowly taper off the medication after six weeks or so.

Bridge

by Frank Stewart

Louie has options

“I’m trying to teach my kids the value of money,” Unlucky Louie told me, “so we played Monopoly last night.”

“Did they learn anything?”

“I dunno,” Louie said. “This was a new edition of Monopoly. It comes with a government bailout option.”

When Louie was declarer at today’s 3NT, West led a spade. Louie won the second spade, led a diamond to dummy and returned the nine of clubs to finesse. West won and led a heart.

Louie had options: He had nine tricks if the heart finesse won or if diamonds broke 3-3. But Louie couldn’t try both options. He played the queen of hearts — the percentage play — and went down three when East produced the king.

bids 2NT. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner’s 2NT is a conventional inquiry, but how you reply depends on your methods. Many pairs agree that opener shows a “feature”: a side ace or king. If such is your agreement, bid three hearts. If partner next bids three spades, bid four spades. You have a sound weak two-bid, and his sequence presumably shows game interest.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 3 2
♥ A Q
♦ A Q 5 2
♣ J 9 3 2

WEST
♠ 9
♥ J 7 6 4 3
♦ 10 8 7
♣ K 8 7 6

EAST
♠ K Q J 10 6 4
♥ K 8 2
♦ J 9 6
♣ 4

SOUTH
♠ A 7 5
♥ 10 9 5
♦ K 4 3
♣ A Q 10 5

South
1 ♣
Pass
3 NT

West
Pass
Pass
All Pass

North
1 ♦
3 ♠
Pass

East
2 ♣
Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 9

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Range
6 Kid
9 Curiouser and curiouser
14 Flynn of Hollywood
15 Tanguay of vaudeville
16 Purplish shade
17 Start of a quote by Tatjana Patitz
19 Directory
20 Car color combo
21 Stays idle
23 Squirmey catch
24 Hospital workers
26 Was beholden to
30 Accurate
32 Part 2 of quote
34 Long-tongued mammal
36 First name in honesty
37 Spout from the dais
40 Doubleday of baseball
42 Gadgeteer Popeil
43 Navigable
49 Part 3 of quote
51 Rocket launchers
55 Understands
56 Wards off
58 Stan of comics
59 Pueblo people
61 Cushioned footstool
63 Writer Loos
66 End of coffee
68 Low-boost quote?
69 Segment of history
70 “The Da ___ Code”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

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71 Wide-mouth pitchers
72 Salon offering
73 Cut off

DOWN

1 Sonnet part
2 Braggart
3 Imitation gold coat
4 Verse maker
5 John of pop music
6 Get back into single file
7 ___ had it up to here!
8 Actress Angela
9 Overlook
10 “Cheers” star
11 Fizzler
12 First couple member
13 “Oedipus ___”
18 Eskimo
22 Capri, for one
25 ___ of Galilee
27 Break from a habit
28 River of Hamburg
29 Salon specialist
31 Down a frank
33 Exam type
35 “Empty ___”

Spherical bodies
38 Bounder
39 Pot starter
41 Cross or Crenshaw
44 Quickly, if you please!
45 Asks
46 Fish story
47 Cirque du Soleil performer
48 Davis of “Dark Victory”
50 Beatty/Hoffman movie
52 Nut that gets silvered
53 Medium meeting
54 Post-Trojan War epic
57 Barrel piece
60 Lummoxes
62 “Havana” star
63 Fruity beverage
64 Fresh from the factory
65 Bar cubes
67 Load lode

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 140-150
TOTAL 88

RACK 4 = 88
RACK 3 = 9
RACK 2 = 99
RACK 1 = 57

BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K Q J 10 6 4 ♥ K 8 2
♦ J 9 6 ♣ 4. You open two spades (a weak two-bid), and your partner

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell

Conceptis Sudoku

7 2 1 4 9 3

8 3 6 2

1 2 6

9 8 4

6 4 9 3

5 7 2

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/06

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

6 5 8 3 9 2 4 7 1

1 7 9 5 6 4 2 3 8

2 3 4 1 8 7 9 5 6

8 2 6 4 3 1 5 9 7

9 1 7 6 2 5 8 4 3

5 4 3 9 7 8 1 6 2

7 9 1 2 4 6 3 8 5

3 8 2 7 5 9 6 1 4

4 6 5 8 1 3 7 2 9

Difficulty Level ★★

4/05

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