

SCRABBLEGRAMS

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E1T1L1R1H4N1C3

RACK 1

A1E1I1D2D2R1H4

RACK 2

A1A1E1E1R1G2V4

RACK 3

E1O1T1L1C3L1C3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160

FOUR RACK TOTAL

BEST SCORE 221

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.

04-27

JUMBLE

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

BEIRB

CINEM

CCHITE

RUSPRE

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Your curves look as good as ever.

You're still twice as cool as number one.

Hi, Five! You're also looking good.

TWO, THREE, FIVE AND SEVEN WILL ALWAYS BE

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HENCE MOGUL ODDDEST PARDON
Answer: The male college cheerleaders' favorite meal consisted of — "RAH-MEN" NOODLES

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

The role of steroids in controlling gout

Dear Dr. Roach: Our 44-year-old son was diagnosed with gout 10 years ago. He was given different medications to help with the pain. Several of the meds were steroids. He seems to have this condition under control, somewhat. However, one year ago, he started to experience a different kind of pain in his hips. After a visit with an orthopedic surgeon, he was diagnosed with avascular necrosis, a lack of blood flow to his hips. Could the avascular necrosis be a result of the medication he took for the gout? The surgeon does not want to do hip replacement due to his young age, and is suggesting our son use ibuprofen to help with the pain in his hips. Is there something that might help our son overcome this situation? — *Anon.*

DR. KEITH ROACH
TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

including as kidney stones or in the soft tissue of skin and the ear. However, it's most common as a severe joint inflammation.

Steroids sometimes are used for acute gout, but rarely are they used long term because of their multiple risks, including avascular necrosis, the death of bone tissue caused by poor blood flow. Other causes for AVN include alcohol use, sickle cell disease and Gaucher disease. Unless your son has one of these other causes, it's likely that the steroids had a primary role in his development of AVN. This is a shame, since there usually is effective treatment for gout that is much less risky than steroids.

The goal of treatment for AVN is to relieve symptoms while avoiding surgery for as

long as is practical. Ibuprofen is likely to help, but only about 20 percent of people get good results with pain management, combined with activities as tolerated, including the use of crutches if necessary. Although there is some promising data on the use of treatments such as hyperbaric oxygen and alendronate (Fosamax) in AVN, the evidence is not yet strong enough for me to recommend either.

As far as surgical treatment goes, there are many types, ranging from fairly limited surgery to complete hip replacement. Only his orthopedic surgeon can make the determination of which is best for him, and the timing depends on his response to nonoperative therapy.

Dear Dr. Roach: I read your recent column regarding Fosamax. I'm 55, female and recently have been diagnosed with osteoporosis. My left hip

was at the -2.5 threshold for the diagnosis. My primary-care physician and gynecologist both are recommending Fosamax. With so much confusing information about this drug, I am questioning taking it. What is the alternative to taking Fosamax? Is there anything else I can do to increase my bone mass? Would you advise one of your family members to take Fosamax? — *K.J.*

If there are no other treatable causes, such as low vitamin D or high parathyroid hormone levels, then I think Fosamax or another bisphosphonate is a good choice. There are others, but Fosamax has been well-studied. The recent critical column I wrote was about atypical femur fractures in women taking Fosamax and other similar medications for longer than three to five years without any re-evaluation of whether it is still needed.

Bridge
by Frank Stewart

How's your memory?

One of my club's septuagenarians says that when you get old, three things occur: Your memory goes ... and he can't recall the other two.

At four hearts, South ruffed the third spade and drew trumps; West threw a club. South next led a diamond to dummy's queen, and East took the king and led another spade. South ruffed again, led a diamond to the ace and returned a club to his queen, but East still got the king. Down one.

opens one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: Unless you were absent when fear was doled out, pass. To overcall two diamonds with a broken five-card suit and a ton of losers courts disaster. Your chance of gain is nebulous: Game in diamonds is far away, and even buying the contract at a partscore is uncertain. Moreover, you can't be sure you want a diamond lead.

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

DOUBLETON

It seems South forgot the bidding and the early play. West had the K-Q of spades, so East needed both minor-suit kings for his opening bid. And once East showed three trumps, he had to have a singleton or doubleton king in a minor.

After South draws trumps, he plays a low diamond from both hands. East wins and forces with a spade, and South then leads a diamond to the ace. When the king falls, South pitches a club on the queen and takes the club finesse.

If East had K-x-x in diamonds, South could lead a club to the queen, knowing East had K-x.

NORTH

♠ 8 7 6
♥ K Q
♦ A Q 6 5 2
♣ J 8 3

WEST

♠ K Q 9
♥ 8 2
♦ 10 9 7 3
♣ 10 7 6 2

EAST

♠ A J 4 3 2
♥ 5 4 3
♦ K J
♣ K 9 4

SOUTH

♠ 10 5
♥ A J 10 9 7 6
♦ 8 4
♣ A Q 5

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 8 7 6 ♥ K Q
♦ A Q 6 5 2 ♣ J 8 3. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your right,

East 1 ♠
South 2 ♥
West 2 ♠
North 4 ♥

All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ K

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Start of a quote by Phil McGraw

7 Romaine

10 Ms. from Cadiz

14 Former Yankee catcher Howard

15 Rap-sheet letters

16 Piggies

17 Made a home

18 Hoity-toity

20 North American rail

21 Part 2 of quote

23 Smallest of change

25 Early movie studio letters

26 First of a series

29 Occurring in spells

35 Withstood stress

37 Rehan and Huxtable

38 Brit. quartermaster

39 Columnists' pg.

40 Part 3 of quote

42 Farm structure

43 Legal thing

44 Family group

45 Capital in the Rockies

47 Margarita ingredient

50 Comes together

51 Single gaming cube

52 ___ fixe

54 Part 4 of quote

59 Domesticated ox

63 Affected

64 Crocodile cousin

66 Kett of old comics

67 German pronoun

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

Visit: ADailyCrossword.com

4/27

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

N A R C Y E R G R E T M A I A

O K A Y T R O V E A I L S

W I T C H H A Z E L U T A H

I R E L A N D H I C

N A R I S A M I C O H A W

O S H A N E I S S E O R E

S H I L O H B L U N T S

L A T L A M E S A N E A T

I N C G L I T C H E S

N E H A E I O U S T O R M

B R I O S W I T C H B A C K

B A K U W H E L K L I C E

C H E R C O R E Y E R I E

4-26

DOWN

1 Hankerings

2 Muffin topper

3 CCCP, to us

4 Fastened together

5 ___ v. Wade

6 Not from either side

7 Day trader's option

8 Acceptable

9 Political satirist Mort

10 Very drunk

11 Posh Beverly Hills street

12 Mallard's cousin

13 Like an unswept hearth

19 Frosh residences

22 PMS

24 Water in the Seine

26 Scrub

27 Long strider

28 U.S. leaders

30 Former golfer Stewart

31 Big fuss

32 King Ibn ___

33 Dot on a map

34 Big name in beer

36 Carpet feature

41 Notes of scales

42 More inclined to stermutation

44 Ex-Yankee third baseman Boyer

46 Linguistics suffix

48 Feathers in zoology

49 Round fig.

53 Joltless joe

54 USA part

55 Pro ___ (in proportion)

56 Singing group

57 Dang!

58 Old English letters

60 Television award

61 "Charles in Charge" star

62 Two-toed sloth

65 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell

Conceptis Sudoku

9 3 6 7

2 5 9 3

4 3 7 8

3 9 5 1

4 5 2 3 9 7

6 6 4

1 1 9

7 8 2 6

1 6 8 3

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/27

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

1 8 7 6 5 3 4 9 2

5 2 3 7 9 4 8 1 6

6 4 9 8 1 2 5 7 3

3 7 8 4 6 1 9 2 5

9 1 5 3 2 8 7 6 4

2 6 4 9 7 5 3 8 1

8 5 6 2 3 7 1 4 9

4 9 1 5 8 6 2 3 7

7 3 2 1 4 9 6 5 8

Difficulty Level ★★

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