Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.

THIS IS (MR. TIGHTWAD)

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley

IT'S GETTING LATE,

JILL...CAN THE MOSQUITOES FLY

ME BACK HOME?

I'M NOT SURE

DAV.

.ROOM GO TO THE BATH. MOSQUITOES CAN BE DON'T SAY IT! REMARKABLY SQUEAMISH

WHILE THE

THE MICE GOLF!

SPEAKING OF

NATURE, I NEED TO

BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall

UOY T'MC CONTROL



NO, I JUST

DANCE WITH NATURE AND

TRIKT THAT

EVERYTHING

0-0-0-KAY

WILL WORK



CARE OF

OK, FYI ... FOR

"IF YOU THINK THE MUSHROOMS ARE BAD..

WAIT'LL YOU HEAR WHAT THEY'RE STUFFED WITH.

DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham

HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



Now arrange the circled letters suggested by the above cartoon

Answer Jumbles: RATIO SLANT GERBIL CREAKY On the sci-fi show, the Milky Way had a -

STARRING BOLF



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne







THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane



"It's a good thing I checked our trash can. Somebody accidentally put these things in there.

Growing goiter calls for thyroid biopsy

Dear Dr. Roach: In DR. KEITH ROACH February, my doctor had me get a neck ultrasound because she said one side of my neck felt larger.

LHYYS

PUTRE

WANDRO

TRUUFE

The results came back that the right lobe of my thyroid gland did measure larger. I had a blood test, which was OK. Another ultrasound was done last month.

The doctor's nurse called and said they had made me an appointment with an oncologist because the measurements had increased. The appointment isn't until the middle of next month.

Do you think it is safe to wait? Should I try to find another oncologist? I feel healthy. Are there any symptoms I should be aware of?

Enlargement in the thyroid any kind of enlargement of

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

roid cancer. Benign causes are much more likely.

Checking the thyroid function with blood tests helps to narrow down the possibili-

I am guessing that because they told you the blood test result was OK, it was a normal thyroid function test. This also goes along with your lack of symptoms.

Often, a physician will then order thyroid antibody tests, since autoimmune thyroid disease (specifically, Hashimoto's) is a common

Since your thyroid gland is increasing in size, a biopsy is a very reasonable next step. In my institution, this is usu gland ("goiter" is a term for ally performed by an endocrinologist, but it can be done by benign causes and from thyor any other trained profes-

simple procedure.

An oncologist normally is consulted after a pathologic diagnosis of cancer is made.

If your doctor is very worried about the change in the size of the thyroid, I would think a biopsy done sooner rather than weeks from now is likely to reassure both of

In the unlikely event that it is thyroid cancer, doing so will allow you to get treated

Dear Dr. Roach: Recently a member of our church was bitten by a rabid bat and, along with his wife, is now undergoing treatment. This is the second person I know in this area who has been bitten by a bat that was confirmed to

Our barn has a bat colony, so I explored getting a vaccithe thyroid) can come from an interventional radiologist nation as a precaution. I was

sional. The biopsy is a fairly tiple shots and cost more than \$2,000.

> Why is it so expensive for humans when our animals receive rabies vaccinations for about \$25? — G.I.

I spent a long time researching the answer to this, but I still can't provide a good one.

Vaccines are expensive to research and produce, but the wholesale cost of the same vaccine has dramatically increased in the past several

Outside the U.S., the wholesale cost is about \$15 per dose (three doses are required). Given that your barn has a bat colony and there is rabies in your area, I can understand why you would want the vaccine, but I can say only that I am shocked and dismayed at

In the U.S., some insurance companies will cover it, so I

Bridge by Frank Stewart

Interpreting a signal

"My partner ought to work at a balloon shop," a club player complained to me. "He's good at blowing things out of proportion.' "What happened?" I asked.

It seemed that West had led the king of hearts against South's two spades.

"My partner played the five," I was told. "I knew that was his lowest heart, so I shifted — to a trump. He took his high trumps, I got my ace of hearts and we also won a club trick, but South made two spades.

"My partner was all over me for not continuing hearts — he could have gotten a ruff — but after all, it was only one trick."

WRONG DEFENSE

West's defense was wrong. A lowcard signal can have varying In interpretations. some circumstances it may suggest or even demand a shift. In others, it may say, "I have no opinion; do as you like."

In this deal, where dummy is weak, no shift at the second trick is imperative. East's five of hearts is noncommittal. Since a heart continuation cannot cost, West should lead the ace at Trick Two.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 4 ♀ A K 9 4 2 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ J 9 5 2. Your partner

opens one diamond, you respond one

heart and he raises to two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: The key clue here is that partner's hand is probably short in clubs. He has diamonds and hearts and should have a few spades since the opponents have neglected to bid them. Bid four hearts. If partner has a suitable minimum hand such as A 5 3, Q 10 6 3, A K 4 3, 6 3, you will have a fine chance for an overtrick.

South dealer E-W vulnerable

> **NORTH** $\triangle 063$ ♥ 763 ♦ K 10.3

🗚 Q 8 6 3 WEST ♥ AK942

♦ 072

SOUTH ♠ J 10 9 8 2 ♥ Q J 10 8 ♣ A 10

EAST

♦ J8654

♣ K 7 4

South West North East Pass All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ K

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Holy smokes!
- 6 Boastful talk 9 Stocking stuffer 14 Metal bar
- 15 Impudent backtalk
- Out in the open
- Any one of twelve
- Brew house 20
- Source for tapioca 21
- Musical key 22
- 26 Knight or Kennedy 27 Involuntary spasm
- Shown once again 28
- PGA member 29 30 Mutation
- 32 Russian river Capital of Libva 33
- Contact information 35
- 40 Get ready
- 41 Fabricated
- Fresh 42 Time worth noting 45
- 46 Pretend to Teacher of Samuel 47
- 48 , the Beloved Country
- 49 Merited 50 Nickelodeon comedy series
- Jan. honoree 54 One in charge
- 60 Perfect Organ of balance 61
- Wanderer
- 62 63

65 Fall guys

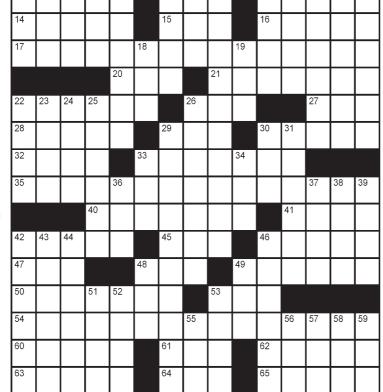
- Made over 64 Healthy retreat
- **DOWN** 1 End of Ramadan

2 Wildebeest

		_	-												
			Ye	ste	rda	y's	Pι	IZZ	e S	Solv	/ed				
Ε	D	N	Α		Т	Α	G	U	Р		D	0	N	Ε	
Ν	Е	Α	Р		Α	С	Е	Т	0		Α	F	Α	R	
0	F	F	Т	Н	Ε	Н	0	0	Κ		П	F	N	П	
L	Α	Т		U	L	Ε		Р	Ι	Ε	R	S	0	N	
S	Т	Α	F	F			Т	Τ	Ε	D	Υ	Ε			
			0	F	F	G	U	Α	R	D		Α	D	0	
С	R	0	S	S	L	Ε	Т			Υ	Α	S	Ι	R	
0	Α	F	S		Α	L	Е	Р	Н		М	0	Α	В	
Ι	N	F	Ε	R			L	Ε	Α	٧	Π	N	G	S	
F	Т	С		0	F	F	Α	N	D	0	N				
		Н	0	Т	Α	Τ	R			G	0	Т	Т	0	
S	Е	Α	L	Α	N	Т		Α	S	U		R	Α	F	
L	Α	N	I		0	F	F	Т	Н	Е	С	U	F	F	
$\overline{}$		$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$		N.			8.4	$\overline{}$					_	l

SLASH

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Visit: ADailyCrossword.com

8 Formula sci-fi 9 Puts in a new

DYAD

10 Rara follower Cancel out 11 12 Minutiae

lawn

13 Raid 18 Junkyard dog 19 Youth

3 Before now

4 Military HQ

5 Climb aboard

Purpose

Silver-tongued

22 Champagne description Pere's partner in

Paris Shrinking Asian inland sea Mint drinks 26 Consisting of three

parts **Holdings** 30 Respiratory malady U.S. artist/sculptor

told that it would require mul-

think it is worth asking your physician and finding out.

Scrabble Solution

	InU erti ni ordaeH Yo	game board, and the districtive letter the designs are trademarks. Canada © 2016 Hasbro Minghts reserved. Destrictly for Denical S								
243	JATOT ROS grytoniteib ent lo	PAR SCORE 160-1770 Haston and it's logo, SCRABBLE, the associated logo, the design-								
99	EACK 4 =	HWWIN								
73	EACK 3 =	B Z K C H I C								
12	KACK 2 =	C3 O4 M3 M3 I1 T1								
76	EACK 1 =	B Ri Ui Si Hi Ui Pi								
NOIT	SCKABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION									

OTTO LIKES

COOKIE

7/12

33 Chute-__-chute

Washington

Conrad of "Diff'rent

Surfer's inhalations

Dining or sleeper,

Ship's cargo space 53 British pianist Hess

Thurman of "Les

bill

Jimmy

Strokes"

Tear to pieces

43 Make an indirect

reference Obstructed by

sediment

46 Pretending

e.g.

Sprite 51 Bangkok guy

Sink spigot

Miserables'

company

H. Ross Perot

Stoolie

48

55

56 Gunk

59

38 Advantage

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker AND COOKIE REALLY LIKES OTTO







Conceptis Sudoku

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

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

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