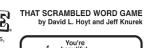
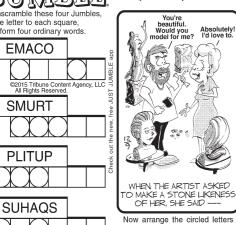
points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE Players Dictionary, 5th Edition

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.



to form the surprise answer, as



suggested by the above cartoon FOCAL RELIC **BISHOP** MAGNET The regulars at the insect pub were

### NON SEQUITUR by Wiley

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**BLONDIE** by Dean Young and John Marshall





...THESE ARE JUST LEFT OVERS.'

# "BUT I DID PICK UP ALL MY DIRTY CLOTHES,

**DENNIS THE MENACE** by Hank Ketcham





HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne





THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane

"Why didn't Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus out of his car seat?

# Test's value depends on individual risk

Dear Dr. Roach: In my local community, there is an offer for an X-ray test (\$99) to see if a past smoker is developing lung cancer. It's been since 1996 when we both quit. Our doctor says we don't qualify for the test because of how long it's been since we quit smoking. Is he trying to say that since we quit in 1996, we will never get lung cancer? What is your opinion? — B.

The test is called a low-dose CT scan. It can find lung cancers, but the real cost of the test isn't the \$99, it's the possibility of a false-positive test: something that looks like cancer but turns out, after biopsy, to be a benign tumor. The higher a risk someone has, the more likely that any abnormality the test finds is true result, which is why the test is recommended only for those cancer. A false-positive means ple with anxiety and depres-

DR. KEITH ROACH

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

got the screening test recommended by large groups, like the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, about 25 percent of all participants had a positive test, 95 percent of which were false-positives.

Your doctor can't say that vou won't ever get lung cancer. He seems to agree, as do I, with the current recommendations that a person needs to have smoked at least one pack a day for 30 years (or equivalent, such as 1 1/2 packs a day for 20 years) and either still be smoking or have quit within the past 15 years to benefit from screening. Doing the low-dose CT scan on people at lower risk makes the cancer and not a false positive much higher than the risk of finding a true case of lung at high risk. In the study that you would need a lung biop- sion. Most studies used doses

complications.

Dear Dr. Roach: I work a swing shift and do lots of overtime, in addition to being a busy father and husband. I am very stressed. My friend recommended the herb rhodiola to reduce my stress hormones and provide better mood and energy. However, I have high blood pressure (well-controlled on lisinopril), and the bottle says not to take it if you are at risk of or being treated for hypertension. Is this a good supplement for me? — S.F.

supplements. Rhodiola taken as an extract of the root Rhodiola rosea, have been shown in several studies to have benefits, especially in reducing fatigue in people to have some benefit in peo-

16

19

sy, and these can have major between 100 and 400 mg of the SHR-5 extract.

Like any medication, this has the potential for side effects. It can be dangerous to take in combination with an antidepressant, and with a long list of medicines that are metabolized by a common system (called the CYP3A4) your doctor can help you. As far as blood pressure goes, some blood pressure medicines (not lisinopril) are affected by this medicine, but it can make blood pressure go down in some people.

Finally, I was unable to find a rhodiola supplement online that was verified by an independent third party, so if you buy it, you are relying on the manufacturer's word that it next diamond. When I ruffed the actually is rhodiola.

In summary, there is bet- my. ter evidence for effectiveness with stress. It was also found and safety of this supplement than most. It might help you, but it still has a small risk of side effects.

A1 D2 D2 R1 E1 S1 S1 BACK 4=

**BEETLE BAILEY** by Mort Walker

Hy E | By O | | N | E | BYCK 5 = **64** 

OCRABBIC BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

I HOPE THE

GENERAL WON'T

MIND MY VISIT

LL

PAR SCORE 145-155

## Minnie miscounts

**Bridge** by Frank Stewart

"She got me again," Cy the Cynic fumed, "and this time her glasses

were no factor. Cy was talking about Minnie Bottoms, my club's senior member. She wears old spectacles that make her mix up kings and jacks, often to her opponents' dismay. Cy is her chief victim.

"What now?" I asked. "She miscounted trumps,

allegedly." In a pairs event, Minnie was

declarer at four spades. 'I led the king of hearts as West," Cy said. "Minnie took the ace, cashed the K-J of trumps and next led a diamond. I signaled with the nine, and my partner ducked and won the third diamond, Minnie said, 'Oh,

### DISCARDS

"I cashed the queen of hearts," Cy went on, "but Minnie won the rest, reaching dummy with a trump to pitch clubs on the good diamonds.

Minnie goes down if she draws all Scrabble Solution the trumps early. She won't get dummy's good diamonds and will lose two clubs.

"She's not fooling me," Cy growled. "She's an expert disguised as a little old lady.'

### **DAILY QUESTION**

♦ J 7 2 ♣ A 6 3. Your partner opens

TUST BE SURE

TO THANK HIM

FOR HIS TIME

one heart, you respond one spade and he bids two clubs. What do you say? **ANSWER:** Your best contract is

unknown: You may belong at 3NT or at seven of something. Partner may hold 4, K Q 10 7 5 3, A K, K Q 10 2 or 5 4, K J 6 5 2, A Q, K 9 5 2. Bid two diamonds. Modern players often use a bid of the "fourth suit" as a meaningless, mark-time action to encourage partner to make a further descriptive bid.

South dealer Both sides vulnerable

> **NORTH ♠** K Q 2 ♦ K Q 10 8 6

WEST **EAST ♠**643 V K Q 10 6 3 V 8754 ♦ A 5 4 ♣Q75 ♣ K 10 8 2

> **SOUTH A** J 10 9 7 ♡ A 9 ♦ J72 ♣ A 6 3

South West North East Pass **Pass** 2 NT Pass 3 🏚 Pass All Pass

Opening lead - V K

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### The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

15

18

46

### **ACROSS**

- 1 Inside info
- AC/DC power 5 9 First letters 14 Ski lift
- 15 Rachel's sister Cartoonist Wilson 16
- Start of a quote by 17 Oscar Wilde
- 20 Very in Versailles
- 21
- Martini's partner in wine
- 22 Parrot
- 25
- Bad actor 26 Leader for a while?
- 29 Gets wind (of) Little pits
- Address for
- Tussaud
- 33 Arias, often
- 34 Amatory 35 Self: pref.
- Part 2 of quote 36 I doubt it! 39
- One of the Borgias 41 42 Noxious cloud
- 45 Mineral in the raw Three-spots 46 Eyeball-bending
- pictures 48 Envelop 50

47

Those guys in Paris 51 City near

SEE

A R S

0 | T | T | O |

N|I|F|T|Y|

C|H|E|R

T E N N

S|H|E|K|E|L

- Rawalpindi 52 Disreputable
- Evening in Venezia End of quote Davis of "Thelma & Louise'

OFFTHEWALL

A | L | T | I

G|R|I|S|H|A|M| = E|D|I|F

 $R \mid E \mid S \mid I \mid S \mid T$ 

SONDE

|F|R|E|A|K|I|S|H|

ADAR

PECULIAR

TREES

ESPY

OUTLAND

Visit: ADailyCrossword.com 62 Elbe tributary

|L|||L|||E

M|R|E|D| T|A|R|T|S

56

23

- 63 Pairs

- 64 Of days long gone

E A R N E R

A C R O

| | | C | O | N | O

| I | S | H

I S A O

- **DOWN** Yesterday's Puzzle Solved
  - T H U M B
    - I C E T 3 Big galoot M|C|X|C
      - Africa 5 Animated Fudd

65 Adages

- End hunger
- Has a birthday
- Normandie 11 Former Chinese leader
  - creature
- 18 Angry states 1992 U.S. Open winner

- 66 Put in order Lukewarm 25 Cheers Tex. campus
- 1 Bakker's TV
- letters 2 Kimono sash
- 4 Capital of South
- Floral necklaces 8 Graphic symbols
- 12 Women's patriotic 13 Tolkien tree

23 Corp. head

Hanoi holiday

TCU or MIT, e.g.

Retired professors

30 New converts

New G.I.

Blacktops

Rowers

39 In what manner

Timetable abbr.

43 Bruins' great Bobby

Verizon, formerly

"Common Sense"

crying out loud!

31

34

37

38

40

47

59

12/9

35

38

**SNUFFY SMITH** by Fred Lasswell









### Conceptis Sudoku

12/09

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

Difficulty Level ★★

SADIE V E E S A T T S 22 Expressions of © 2015 Crosswords WRW confusion All rights reserved

essayist Lascivious looks 53 Fed 54 Hasenpfeffer or slumgullion Time past 56 Theol. belief 57 Turkish honcho \_\_ Jima 58

60 Boston hrs.

Difficulty Level ★★★