

SCRABBLE™ (G, R, A, M, S)

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O U U D B N N 3rd Letter Triple RACK 1

E E I S V T G Double Word Score RACK 2

A E D N L G T RACK 3

U Y V H C S R RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 211

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, 3rd 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 scragsm@gmail.com.

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bill Keane



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



JUMBLE

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

LANMY

DLEWL

TANTFE

DIRIBE

Print your answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: LIMIT HATCH CHEESY COUPON
Answer: The transmission mechanic came through — IN THE CLUTCH

Liver's pressure system is complicated

Dear Dr. Roach: My cousin has a significant degree of liver cirrhosis from a metastatic carcinoid. The carcinoid hasn't grown in a couple of years, but the cirrhosis continues to progress. This is from micro carcinoid tumors plugging up the flow of blood on the capillary level.

He has now developed ascites. He was recently started on furosemide and spironolactone, and has a paracentesis (6-8 liters' worth) about twice a month. He saw a radiologist about a Denver shunt versus a TIPS procedure. Apparently, the Denver shunt would improve the ascites in relatively short order, but it wouldn't affect the progression of the underlying liver failure. The TIPS procedure, on the other hand, has the potential to stop the liver failure in time by taking care of the portal hypertension. That said, it comes with significant risk. It could, within 90 days,

DR. KEITH ROACH TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

lead to irreversible terminal liver failure. His "MELD" score is 20. Can you help us make sense of this? — A.

A "TIPS" is a "transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt," which needs to be taken piece by piece. "Transjugular" means that the procedure on the liver is done through the jugular vein in the neck, not through open abdominal surgery — that's a major advantage. A shunt is an artificial connection between two anatomic structures, in this case the hepatic vein and the portal vein inside the liver.

The liver has two circulations. One is the usual systemic circulation, through the hepatic artery. This is high-pressure (it is near systemic blood pressure, ranging from

about 120 mmHg at peak to 80 mmHg minimum), and it supplies the oxygen that the liver needs. The liver also gets blood from the portal vein, which comes from the intestines. The liver removes toxins from this blood. The portal vein normally has a pressure of only 5-10 mmHg.

Blood from both of these vessels will end up in the hepatic vein, which goes back to the right side of the heart to be reoxygenated in the lungs.

Many liver diseases lead to high pressure in the portal system — portal hypertension. In your cousin's case, the cancer cells have blocked many of the small blood vessels inside the liver, raising portal vein pressure. This high pressure can make fluid "back up," and can cause ascites, a clear fluid inside the abdominal cavity. Paracentesis is just the removal of this ascites fluid via a needle. Six to eight liters at a time is an enormous

amount of fluid.

A TIPS is used to reduce pressure in the portal vein by allowing the blood to pass directly from the portal vein into the hepatic vein. This often lowers the portal pressure so much that ascites no longer develops. However, it does not affect the underlying problem.

Denver shunts are surgically placed direct connections from portal vein to hepatic vein. They do the same thing as a TIPS procedure. They are seldom performed anymore due to high complication rates, but one indication for having it done is persistent ascites in someone who is unable to have a TIPS. A TIPS normally is not done for someone with a MELD score (a measure of liver disease) above 18.

While a radiologist usually performs a TIPS, the decision of whether to use it should be made with the input of a gastroenterologist.

Bridge
by Frank Stewart
The light bulb is on

Unlucky Louie was replacing a blown light bulb and dropped the new one; it shattered to smithereens. "You know what breaking a light bulb means," Cy the Cynic told Louie: "seven years of bad ideas."

Cy's prediction seemed to be coming true when Louie was today's declarer in a penny game. Against 3NT, West led a heart, and Louie put up dummy's queen. He next led a club to his hand and returned the jack of diamonds for a finesse.

bids two hearts. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: The issue is whether to raise to three hearts or bid four hearts. Visualize some hands for partner. Even a minimum such as A K 6 5 4, Q J 9 5 3, A 5 2 will make 10 tricks almost certain. Take the pressure off and bid four hearts, especially if your side is vulnerable with more to gain.

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

THIRD HEART

Bad idea (as it turned out). East took the queen and hastily returned a heart. Louie's jack lost to the king, and a third heart forced out his ace. When he led another diamond, West took the ace — and two hearts for down one.

South has plenty of potential winners but doesn't want East to win an early trick and return a heart. At Trick Two, South should lead a low diamond from dummy. If East rises with the queen (!) to return a heart, more power to him. Most Easts will play low, and South sets up the diamonds safely and makes his game.

NORTH
♠ A 8 7 3
♥ Q 5
♦ K 9 3
♣ K 7 5 2

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

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

SOUTH
♠ K 6 4
♥ A J 6
♦ J 10 8 5 4
♣ A Q

South 1 NT Pass 2 ♦
West Pass 2 ♣
North 3 NT
East Pass All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ 4

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Comparable thing
- N.T. book
- Times long past
- Williams of tennis
- Genetic info carrier
- Slaughter in the Hall of Fame
- So long!
- Contents abbrev.
- Rehan and Huxtable
- Murray Schisgal play
- Becomes immersed
- Abnormal: pref.
- Favorite
- Ball attendee
- Tokyo ta-ta
- FDR group
- Brown shades
- Forsakes
- Smoky deposits
- Solitaire starter
- Coin-toss call
- Of throat guardians
- Thoreau's pond
- Pt. of speech
- Parting word
- Chicago airport
- Possess like a Scot
- "The Gold Bug" author
- Money under the table?
- Part of GTE
- Long and Peeples
- Frog head?

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		

Visit: ADailyCrossword.com

12/15

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

DOWN

- Syrian president
- Poor
- Spaces
- Poetic meadows
- Words before diet or roll
- Large medieval vessels
- Sharper screen image
- Benz back end?
- Hanna's partner in cartoons
- Streisand title role
- Jack Kerouac book
- Mike of "Dirty Jobs"
- Guessed figs.
- Crat or mat lead-in
- "Gilligan's Island" co-star
- Org.
- Org. of court players
- Disposition
- Have a nice trip!
- Secluded valley
- Berne's river
- City near Cheyenne
- Rich
- Shout of joy
- Wishful one
- Ancient Britons
- Funny Jack of Hollywood
- Double bends
- Stopper
- Dynamic intro?
- Boxing decisions, in brief
- Pesters
- Kyushu volcano
- v. Wade

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 211

RACK 4 = 14
RACK 3 = 69
RACK 2 = 72
RACK 1 = 96

NOVEMBER 2015

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

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

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

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

Difficulty Level ★