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G2 R1 A1 M1 S1
 E1 E1 E1 D2 T1 N1 R1
 I1 U1 H4 H4 C3 N1 T1
 A1 I1 O1 U1 N1 D2 B3
 I1 I1 O1 N1 L1 C2 S1

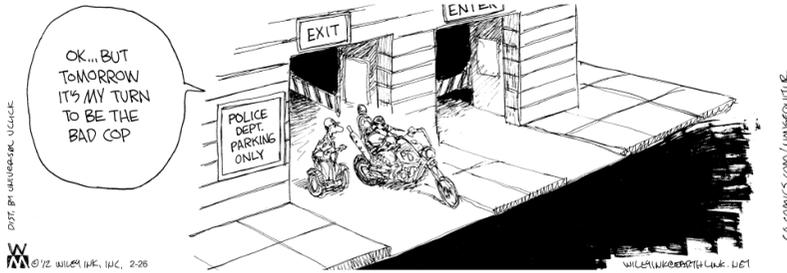
RACK 1
 RACK 2
 RACK 3
 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
 BEST SCORE 213
 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 scrgrams@gmail.com.

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 Bill Keane



JUMBLE

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

OH COP
 ME AZA
 PER LIP
 GUF REE

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)
 Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWN GECKO OUTWIT UNEVEN
 Answer: Digging a tunnel connecting NYC to New Jersey was a big — UNDERTAKING

Better cancer screening tests needed

Dear Dr. Roach: I don't know why everybody keeps debating the accuracy of the PSA test. At least it's a test that shows something. There's nothing like it for ovarian cancer. Why is that? — R.R.

DR. KEITH ROACH
 TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

in someone who has cancer (that's sensitivity), and especially they can be abnormal in someone who does not have cancer (specificity).

The PSA remains a hotly debated test for use in screening, but experts recommend against the CA-125 test as a screening test due to its poor specificity. Several newer tests exist, the best-studied of which is a combination of five different blood tests called the OVA1, which is more sensitive but less specific than the CA-125, and which has not been evaluated as a screening tool.

We need better screening tests for both prostate and ovarian cancer. But since ovarian cancer is deadlier than prostate cancer, finding a better blood test for early detection of ovarian cancer is even more desperately needed.

Dear Dr. Roach: I am a 75-year-old male. A recent endoscopy disclosed that I have Barrett's esophagus with no dysplasia. I was told to take omeprazole every day to control acid reflux. My concern is that I was not told of anything that I might do to prevent Barrett's esophagus from progressing to cancer. From what I read, it appears that omeprazole has not been found to halt this progression. Two studies report that aspirin might work, but these did not specify whether the aspirin was 81 mg or 325 mg. Please help me to understand what I can do here. — J.S.

Barrett's esophagus is a complication of long-term reflux of stomach acid into the esophagus, and it confers a 30-times-higher risk of developing cancer of the esophagus. However, the absolute risk of developing esophageal cancer is still small: The best estimate

is that someone with Barrett's esophagus without dysplasia (early signs of transformation to cancer) would have about a 5 percent chance in 20 years.

Aspirin does seem to reduce that risk by about 30 percent. To put that another way, your chance of NOT developing cancer in the next 20 years is about 95 percent, and it would be expected to be about 97 percent if you took aspirin. The study that showed this looked at all people who took aspirin (usually 81 mg daily or 325 mg every other day). Long-term aspirin has its own risks and shouldn't be taken without consultation with your doctor.

One recent study suggested that the combination of aspirin (or an NSAID) with a statin decreased the risk of esophageal cancer by nearly 80 percent. A large trial looking at the preventive effect of aspirin is underway in the U.K.

Bridge

by Frank Stewart

No admittance

Cy the Cynic says that if you make mistakes, you're average. If you can admit you're wrong when you are, you're way above average.

Today's West led the queen of spades against four hearts, and South took the ace, led a trump to dummy's king. East took the ace and led a trump.

South won and led another diamond, but West won and led a third trump, preventing declarer from ruffing his last diamond in dummy. When the clubs failed to break 3-3, South lost a diamond and a spade for down one.

NO PROFIT

North was upset that his fine hand hadn't produced a profit. "You booted it," North grumbled. But South wouldn't admit that he had misplayed.

South committed an average player's mistake and a below-average postmortem. South can see 10 winners if he leads a diamond from dummy at Trick Two. If the defense shifts to a trump, South wins and concedes a second diamond. He can win the next trump in his hand and ruff his last diamond in dummy.

double, and your partner bids one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: When you have 20 points and an opponent opened the bidding, your partner is probably broke. Still, since your kind of diamonds is worth as much as the ace, you can issue a strong try for game. Raise to three spades. With K 9 5 4, Q 4 3, 7 6 3 2, 9 2, partner should go on.

North dealer
 Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ A 6 3 2
 ♥ K J 2
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ A K Q 5

WEST
 ♠ Q J 10 8
 ♥ 7 5 4
 ♦ Q 10 8 2
 ♣ 9 4

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 4
 ♥ A Q 10 9 8
 ♦ 7 5 3
 ♣ 6 3 2

North 2 NT
 East Pass
 South 3♥
 West Pass

Opening lead — ♠ Q

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Beat it!
 - Starch like sago
 - Make sure of
 - Urban oasis
 - Traveler's stamp
 - Used a stopwatch
 - Too soon
 - Touch rudely
 - Sign on again
 - Instrument for measuring thickness
 - Heaven's gatekeeper
 - Burrows and Fortas
 - Women's patriotic grp.
 - Placid
 - NYC arena
 - Mormon leader
 - Airheaded
 - Furniture period
 - Remove knots
 - Entertainer Blades
 - Carpet texture
 - Word with pine or tape
 - Aug. follower
 - Fleetwood Mac hit
 - Turf ventilating device
 - Parts of saddles
 - Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star
 - Pigeon murmur
 - Shortly
 - Stage type
 - Relaxed condition
 - Scottish lake
 - Eye shade

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				

Visit: ADailyCrossword.com

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	R	S	E	R	A	C	I	N	T	L		
A	A	R	E	K	E	A	N	U	L	I	R	A		
G	R	E	E	D	Y	G	U	T	S	A	S	A	T	
O	R	A	L	E	L	I	A	M	S	I	C			
			I	O	U	S		C	O	M	E	T	H	
D	I	E	N	S	T	O	C	K	T	O	N			
A	D	D	T	I	A	R	A	H	A	H	A	S		
N	O	I	F	S	A	N	D	S	O	R	B	U	T	S
A	L	B	E	E	C	O	P	R	A	T	O	T		
			L	E	T	M	E	S	E	E	I	S	M	S
O	D	E	S	S	A		R	O	T	C				
B	E	N	E	M	M	A		A	I	M	E	E		
A	L	U	M	B	U	D	G	E	T	C	U	T	S	
M	O	T	O		O	N	E	N	D		L	I	N	T
A	N	S	A		S	I	N	U	S		E	R	A	S

- DOWN**
- Masseur's milieu
 - Expression of derision
 - Mineral deposit
 - Giraffes' kin
 - By open declaration
 - Coast of Morocco
 - Former superpower's letters
 - Knights' weaponry
 - Interceded
 - End of Ramadan
 - Ostrich-like bird
 - Rolodex info
 - Poem of tribute
 - One way to fish
 - Humble homes
 - Machine part
 - Truant's offense
 - Will maker
 - Speeder catcher
 - Idle of Monty Python
 - Of lockjaw
 - Catch, as in a trap
 - Actor Alejandro
 - Twin of Romulus
 - College of presidents?
 - Instrument with three strings
 - Multitalented Moreno
 - Loaded luggage again
 - Cold War letters
 - Faux —
 - Residence
 - Bar perches
 - Shot out beams
 - sequitur
 - Laugh loudly
 - Word of contempt
 - Time-line segment
 - Casablanca cap
 - Wallet single
 - Apply
 - Chef Yan's pan
 - Chilling
 - Word ignored by alphabetizers

Scrabble Solution

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BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

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

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