

SCRABBLE®  
TM

G

R

A

M

S

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A<sub>1</sub>A<sub>1</sub>I<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>G<sub>2</sub>R<sub>1</sub>R<sub>1</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>I<sub>1</sub>U<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>T<sub>1</sub>C<sub>3</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>E<sub>1</sub>E<sub>1</sub>H<sub>4</sub>T<sub>1</sub>R<sub>1</sub>B<sub>3</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>I<sub>1</sub>U<sub>1</sub>Z<sub>10</sub>J<sub>8</sub>C<sub>3</sub>Z<sub>10</sub>

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155  
BEST SCORE 285

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 scrags@gmail.com.

03-18

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley

OK, FIRST OF ALL, VAMPIRE SLUGS DON'T EXIST...

YEAH, BUT WE'VE GOTTA PROVE IT TO LUCY

WELL, IF I TRIED DOING THAT, IT WOULD ONLY SERVE TO VALIDATE VAMPIRE SLUGS MIGHT EXIST AND JUST KEEP THIS IRRATIONAL FEAR ALIVE

AH...OK, I SEE

UH... SEE WHAT?

THAT HE'S AFRAID TO LOOK UNDER THERE, TOO

NO! WELL... YES, BUT FOR SOMETHING REAL

BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall

A-CHOO! BLESS YOU!

MY GOODNESS, DEAR! YOU SNEEZED TEN TIMES IN A ROW! I KNOW... CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

MY OLD RECORD WAS EIGHT TIMES!

HI & LOIS by Chance Browne

...AND FINALLY, THE MOMMY AND DADDY ARE ALL COZY AND FAST ASLEEP...

UNTIL THE FAMILY DOG LEAPS BETWEEN THEM, PUSHING THEM OUT OF THE BED!

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne

MEN MAY WORK FROM SUN TO SUN, BUT WOMEN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!

AND YET YOU HAVE TIME FOR POETRY!

DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham

PREVIEW

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3-18

HOW ABOUT A NICE FAMILY VIDEO INSTEAD?!!

JUMBLE

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

DUMYD

KINYD

GELAPU

FARCEA

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: SHAKY SENSE CLAMOR ABRUPT  
Answer: She didn't want to iron her four-leaf clover because she didn't want to — PRESS HER LUCK

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Bill, I need you awake, please. Rise and shine.

1+2=  
2+2=  
3+2=  
4+2=  
5+2=

WHEN HE DOZED OFF IN THE MATH CLASS, THE TEACHER SAID —

“ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

MSG and lab rats and obesity, oh my

Dear Dr. Roach: I discovered that when researchers set out to induce insulin resistance and obesity in lab mice, they use monosodium glutamate (MSG)! I found that MSG is in just about everything! So, if MSG causes obesity and insulin resistance in mice, do you think it also might cause obesity and insulin resistance in humans? — D.B.

It is true that in laboratory rodents, high doses of MSG can cause resistance to insulin. Researchers had the same thought as you do: Since vast amounts of MSG are consumed, it could have a significant public health impact, were MSG to cause insulin resistance in humans.

The answer isn't definitively known, but a 2013 study in China showed that people who consumed more MSG were at lower risk for development of high blood sugar, which

DR. KEITH ROACH TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

is the opposite of the original hypothesis. Not all of the information obtained from laboratory animals is directly translatable to humans.

Dear Dr. Roach: I am not overweight, but I have a LOT of excess skin around my waist and under my chin. I am aware of facial "tightening," but I am afraid to get involved with that. I have been told that the excess skin around my waist is sagging skin. I presume this is caused by old age. Do you know of a procedure to remove excess skin from the waist? — W.S.

Yes. Twice I have sent my own patients to a plastic/reconstructive surgeon to get rid of excess skin around the waist, but in both cases it was after 100 or more pounds

of weight loss. I haven't seen this problem in someone who hasn't lost weight. I would be concerned about loss of skin elasticity, which can come from smoking or from not getting as much fruits and vegetables as is optimal.

The other concern I have is that losing muscle bulk, which is common as we get older, can cause looseness in the skin. A careful physical exam will help sort out why you have so much loose skin, and I would not recommend a surgical procedure until the reasons for it are clear.

Dear Dr. Roach: Does the shingles vaccine help to eliminate HSV-1? Also, is there a vaccine being developed to cure HSV-1 and HSV-2? — S.H.

Although the varicella-zoster virus, which causes both chickenpox and its recurrence as shingles, is a herpes virus,

neither the shingles vaccine nor the chickenpox vaccine is effective at preventing HSV-1 or HSV-2. Also, vaccines are more effective in preventing infection than they are at getting rid of existing or incipient infections, although there are exceptions.

There is intense work being done on a vaccine for the herpes simplex viruses, which in addition to oral and genital ulcers, cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain itself). HSV-1 also is a cause of corneal blindness. Thus, a vaccine would be an immense public health benefit.

It's very difficult to make any vaccine, but one that protects against a disease without strong natural immunity is particularly problematic, and it won't be for several years, at least before one becomes available, from what I have read.

Bridge by Frank Stewart

Taking out insurance

Unlucky Louie is shopping for new health insurance.

"What I have now is awful," Louie told me. "The deductibles and co-pays keep rising. If laughter were the best medicine, my insurance would cover only giggles and snickers."

I don't like the state of the health-insurance "industry" either, but making some contracts requires insurance against a bad break. At today's 3NT, South took the ace of clubs, cashed the ace of diamonds and led a diamond to ... dummy's jack.

player at your right opens three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your opponent's preempt has cut away your bidding room. You can't investigate for a contract and must take a stab. Bid 3NT. If partner has nothing, you won't make it, but unless you assume he has a few values (even though he is a passed hand), you will often miss a good game if you don't act.

South dealer  
Both sides vulnerable

EIGHT TRICKS

The finesse won, but South could get only three diamond tricks. He tried the A-K and a third spade, but when West threw a heart, South won only eight tricks.

A safety play is an insurance policy. You pay a premium — you lose the chance for the maximum number of tricks in a suit — but you make sure of what tricks you need. On the second diamond, South must play dummy's nine. As the cards lie, he makes an overtrick. But if East could win, South would have the four diamond tricks he needs for 3NT.

NORTH  
♠ 7 6 5 2  
♥ J 7 4  
♦ K J 9 5 3  
♣ 4

WEST  
♠ J 8  
♥ Q 8 3  
♦ Q 10 8 7  
♣ Q J 10 8

EAST  
♠ Q 10 9 3  
♥ K 10 6 2  
♦ 6  
♣ 9 7 5 3

SOUTH  
♠ A K 4  
♥ A 9 5  
♦ A 4 2  
♣ A K 6 2

South 2 NT  
West Pass  
North 3 NT  
East Pass

Opening lead — ♣ Q  
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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Top berth
- 6 Brought to life
- 10 Part of Q & A
- 14 Serious
- 15 Fencing piece
- 16 Push for
- 17 Western property development
- 20 Haughtiness
- 21 Dedicated poems
- 22 Guided explosive
- 26 Slowly disappears
- 30 Challenging
- 31 Act like a busybody
- 33 Evaluate comparatively
- 34 Christmastides
- 36 Loco
- 38 Jimmy
- 39 Males from an historical region of Spain
- 43 Antonio or Angelo of Texas
- 44 Harnessed group
- 45 What it takes two to do
- 47 Who's sorry now?
- 49 Burning coal
- 52 Piece of fishing equipment
- 53 Actor Davis
- 55 Courteous formality
- 57 Bar in a tub
- 59 Continuous pain
- 60 Cleopatra et al.
- 67 Operator
- 68 Capri or Wight
- 69 Ms. Streep
- 70 Snigger's prey

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 72

Visit: ADailyCrossword.com

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DOWN

- 1 Sound of distaste
- 2 Golf instructor
- 3 Tillis or Shriver
- 4 "Our Miss Brooks" star
- 5 Take a makeup exam
- 6 Robert Guillaume sitcom
- 7 Choose (to)
- 8 Son of Solomon
- 9 Have not
- 10 Starlike object
- 11 Big pot
- 12 Deviled delight
- 13 Observe
- 18 Poetic planets
- 19 Gridiron zebra
- 22 Wallflowerish
- 23 1950s Kenyan rebels
- 24 Francis and Dahl
- 25 Gardner/Gable film
- 27 Ornamental shrubs
- 28 Infuriates
- 29 Firmament
- 32 Masters players' org.
- 35 Rummy
- 37 Aesop's industrious insect
- 40 Payment for services
- 41 Streetlight support
- 42 Lurched and swerved
- 43 Theater sign's letters
- 46 Spanish cheer
- 48 Stair parts
- 50 Tickled pink
- 51 Opulent
- 54 Many, many moons
- 56 School paper?
- 58 Without warranty
- 60 Can. province
- 61 Manipulate
- 62 Slippery swimmer
- 63 Resp. disease
- 64 Tax collectors' letters
- 65 Strong alkali
- 66 Right angle

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

3-17

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 145-155  
TOTAL 285

RACK 4 = 152  
RACK 3 = 62  
RACK 2 = 13  
RACK 1 = 58

BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

I'M LOSING A LOT OF WEIGHT WITH MY NEW DIET

WHAT'S YOUR NEW DIET?

I ONLY EAT WHEN BEETLE WORKS!

3-18

SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell

ARE YOU AN' SNUFFY STILL ON TH' OUTS ?

I DON'T KNOW 'BOUT PAW, BUT I CHEERED UP A BUNCH !!

RIGHT AFTER I SHRUNK ALL HIS UNDERWEAR !!

3-18

Conceptis Sudoku

8 5 7

1 3 2 8 5

7 9 6

8 7

5 6 1

5 2 1 9 6

6 3 5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/18

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

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