SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1	O1	Y4	F4	L1	P3	F4	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	O1	U1	T1	N1	P3	S1		RACK 2
A1	E1	O1	L1	P3	R1	W4		RACK 3
A1	E1	Y4	L1	R1	L1	C3	3rd Letter Double	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 237

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.

09-23

NON SEQUITUR by Wiley

DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham

"HOW COME MR. WILSON HAS A WORKSHOP, WHEN HE'S NEVER WORKIN' IN IT?"

BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall

JUMBLE

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

GIRTE

RODBO

TANGEM

NAGHEC

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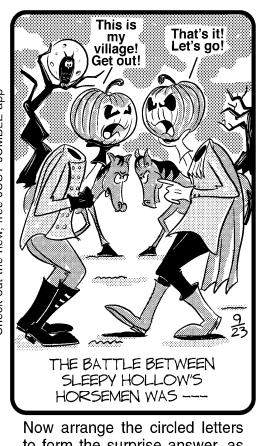
Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

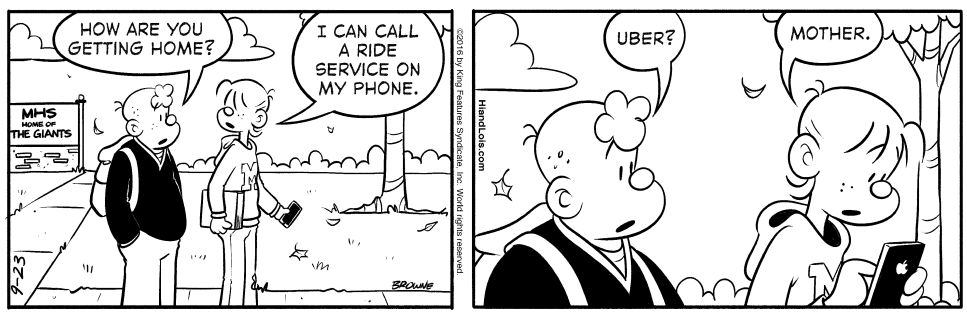


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

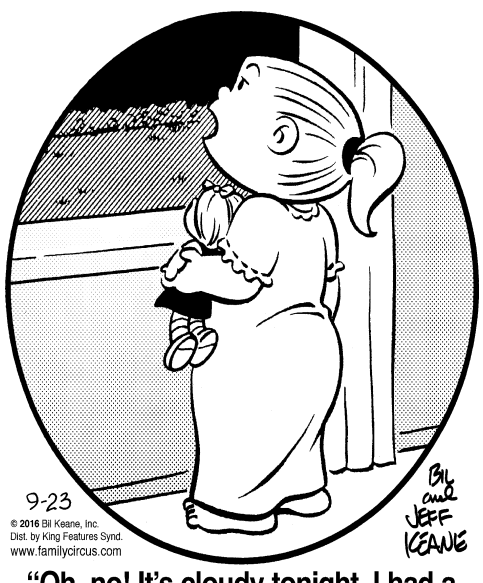
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEAVE FRAME METRIC INFECT
Answer: When asked if they had mattresses that weren't so soft, the salesman said — AFFIRMATIVE

HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane



"Oh, no! It's cloudy tonight. I had a wish that needs a star."

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne

Screening, treatment for prostate cancer

DR. KEITH ROACH
TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Dear Dr. Roach: My husband, who is paralyzed on the left side from a stroke suffered eight years ago, underwent a prostate biopsy five years ago. The biopsy released E. coli into his bloodstream, resulting in several days of hospitalization with sepsis, and several weeks of rehab in a nursing center, where he contracted MRSA. Now his doctor is recommending another prostate biopsy because of elevated prostate levels. I am reluctant to put him through this again. What are the pros and cons? — *F.O.*

Prostate cancer screening is a reasonable consideration for healthy men between the ages of 50 and 70, but the guidelines are controversial. Although there may be a small benefit in reduction of prostate cancer, there is also a small risk of harm. Your husband is an example of the harm that can come from getting a screening test.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has reviewed the data and recommends against prostate cancer screening, as the evidence suggests that more men are harmed by it than are helped.

In men with a higher risk of prostate cancer, there is more likely to be a benefit. For men who have other serious health conditions, the balance of benefit and harm tilts toward net harm. I don't know whether your husband was given the opportunity to reflect on the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening five years ago, but given the situation now, I would be very reluctant to recommend prostate screening.

However, he apparently has already had the screening and is now recommended for biopsy. He still has a risk from the biopsy, but more importantly, if the biopsy shows cancer, it isn't clear that treatment will increase his length of life, and it is likely that his quality of life would worsen with treatment.

The bottom line: Getting the PSA test does not obligate him to get a biopsy, and a biopsy result showing cancer does not obligate him to be treated. Many prostate cancers are not aggressive, and waiting until any symptoms develop is a reasonable option for any man — and, in my opinion, probably the best option for a man with significant health issues like your husband.

Dear Dr. Roach: I have colon cancer in my family. I have lost 20 pounds in eight months, and I feel nauseated and bloated. I had a colonoscopy seven years ago, with no problems.

My husband says there is no way I could have cancer now, because my previous colonoscopy was OK, so I should wait three more years. What is your opinion? — *A.D.*

It is absolutely appropriate for you to get evaluated for your symptoms. I don't know whether they represent cancer, but weight loss of this degree is very concerning. I suspect your doctor will want to perform another colonoscopy. Unfortunately, colon cancer could go from undetectable to advanced in as little as seven years. More importantly, even though a colonoscopy is probably the best screening test we have for cancer, it isn't perfect.

It may be appropriate to have a screening colonoscopy every 10 years if the previous exam was completely normal, but you have symptoms, which means this isn't screening — it's an evaluation of your symptoms.

Bridge
by Frank Stewart

Test your impulsivity

This week I've focused on care at the first trick, when contracts are often lost. Cover the East-West cards. Against 3NT, West leads the deuce of spades. Suppose you play low from dummy; West might have led from Q-J-4-2. But East plays the jack, and you must win. If you duck the first trick, East might hurt you with a heart shift.

Say you next unblock your A-K-J of clubs and lead a diamond to the jack. East ducks. You can cash the queen of clubs and continue diamonds, but East ducks again, cutting you off from your fourth diamond. You win only eight tricks.

UNBLOCK

It won't help to start the diamonds at Trick Two. East will win the third diamond and lead a spade, forcing out dummy's entry to the queen of clubs.

Win the first spade with the ace, take the A-K-J of clubs and lead a diamond to the jack. If East ducks, cash the queen of clubs and set up the diamonds. The king of spades is an entry to your hand.

Did you play carefully at Trick One and make 3NT?

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 8 5 ♡ Q J 3 ♢ J 10 3 ♣ Q 7 6 4. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond 1NT, he bids two clubs and you raise to three clubs. Partner next bids three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: You can't be sure of partner's intentions, but he has a good hand, and yours is as strong as it can be, given your 1NT response. Bid three spades, suggesting a prime value in that suit. If you held a hand such as K J 9, 10 3 2, J 10 3, A 7 6 4, you would bid 3NT.

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 8 5
♡ Q J 3
♢ J 10 3
♣ Q 7 6 4

WEST
♠ Q 9 7 2
♡ A 9 6 4
♢ 8 7 2
♣ 8 3

EAST
♠ J 6 4
♡ K 8 7
♢ A 9 5
♣ 10 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 3
♡ 10 5 2
♢ K Q 6 4
♣ A K J

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 2

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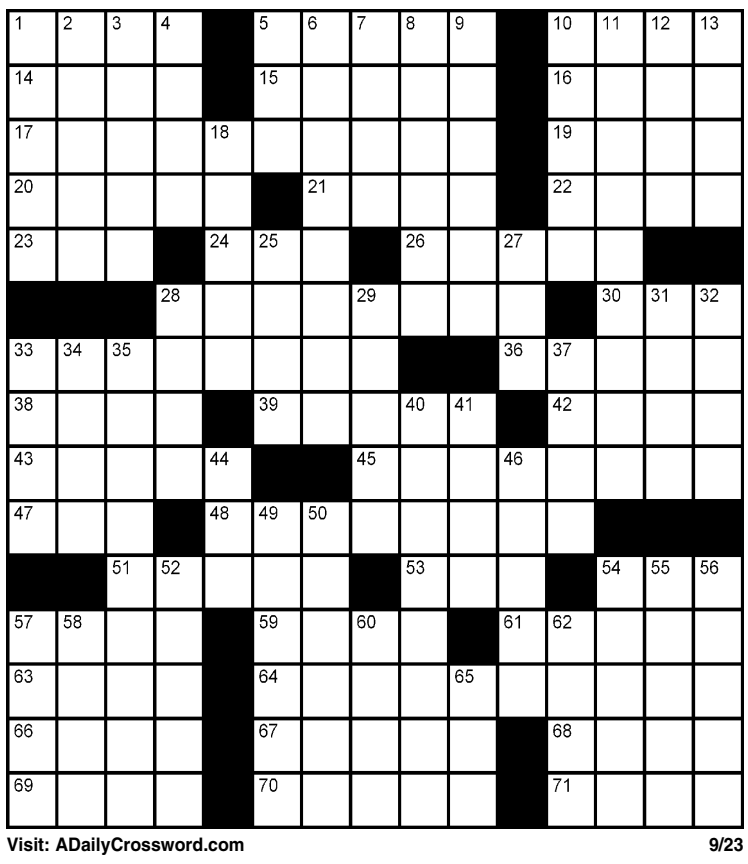
The Daily Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



Visit: ADailyCrossword.com 9/23

ACROSS
1 Links vehicle
5 Fragment
10 Mild, yellow cheese
14 Nepal's continent
15 Gravy
16 Puccini song
17 East African feature
19 Climbing plant
20 Dwight's opponent
21 Mother of Apollo
22 Immature newts
23 Driver's gadget
24 Overhead RRs
26 Bomb blast, in headlines
28 Bird of bird's-nest soup
30 Spun snare
33 Excessively preoccupied one
36 Picked
38 Mies van der __
39 Cape Verde capital
42 Super-duper
43 Capital on the Nile
45 Hawaiian, e.g.
47 Bow-wow
48 Rocket launches
51 School paper?
53 D-Day transportation
54 Precursor of the CIA
57 John's widow
59 Inter ___ (among others)
61 Pampas lasso
63 Ended
64 Welcome present
66 Kyser and Lenz
67 Nine: pref.
68 Bigfoot's shoe size
69 If not
70 Basic monotheism
71 Comes to a conclusion

DOWN
1 Gemstone weight
2 Parenthetical comment
3 Ransack
4 Bye-bye!
5 Retirement letters
6 Needs
7 Hold sway over
8 Hypnotic stuff
9 Mescal
10 Overhangs
11 Flotsam
12 Questionable contraction?
13 West and Murray
18 Panoramas
25 Speech imperfection
27 Shortened shortener
28 Fortuneteller
29 Distinguishing feature
31 Toiler of long ago
32 Lager or pilsener
33 Shamu, for one
34 Male swine
35 Only double on a typewriter
37 Katzenjammer kid
40 Leaves alone
41 Landon and others
44 Bullring cheer
46 Broadcast talent org.
49 Visualized
50 Catlike
52 Mare or stallion
54 Like the old bucket of song
55 Peel's partner
56 Gratifies
57 Oxen holder
58 Elliptical
60 Former Spanish toehold in Africa
62 Comprehension comment
65 Comic-strip crash

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

9-22

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Scrabble Solution

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

P3	L1	A1	Y4	O1	F4	F4	RACK 1 =	104
O1	U1	T1	S1	P3	A1	N1	RACK 2 =	59
P3	R1	E1	L1	A1	W4		RACK 3 =	11
C3	L1	E1	A1	R1	L1	Y4	RACK 4 =	63

PAR SCORE 145-155 TOTAL 237

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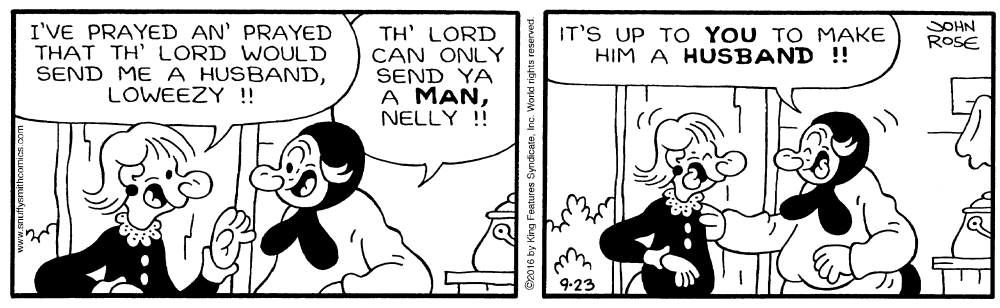
BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/23

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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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/22

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