SCRABBLE BRAND G2 R1 A1 M3 S1

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A1	O1	T1	T1	N1	H4	W4	Double Word Score	RACK 1
E1	I1	I1	M3	V4	T1	C3		RACK 2
I1	O1	D2	F4	S1	X8	L1	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 3
A1	E1	E1	U1	S1	B3	C3		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
BEST SCORE 234

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

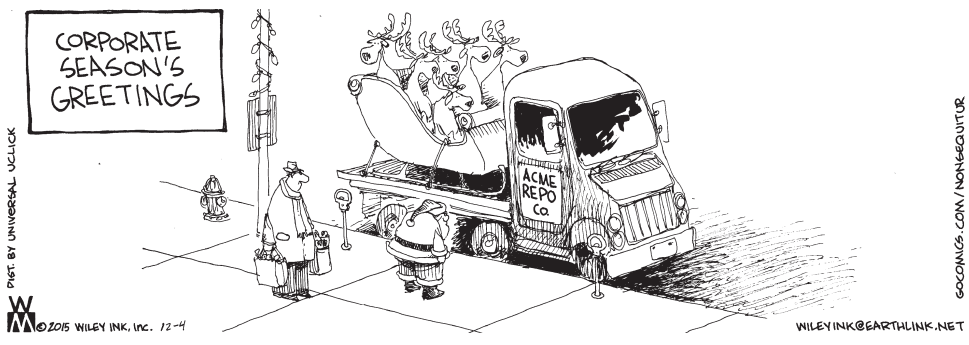
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.

Answer below

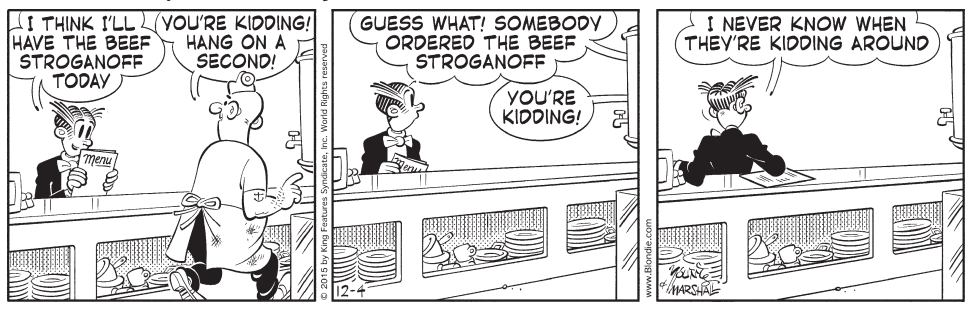
For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.

12-04

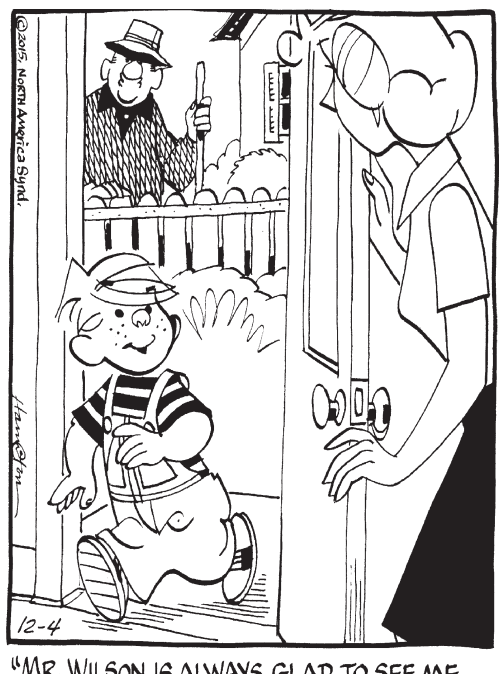
NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



"MR. WILSON IS ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE ME... WHEN I'M LEAVING."

JUMBLE

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

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

KEHIR

DUMYD

CETINE

RAPORU

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

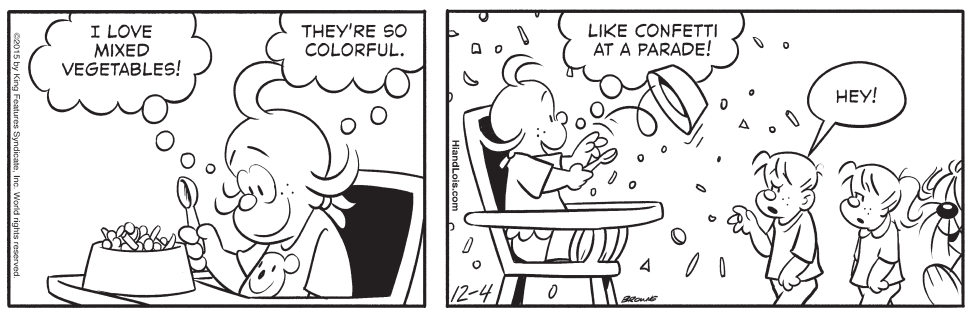
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○○-○○○○○-○○" ○○

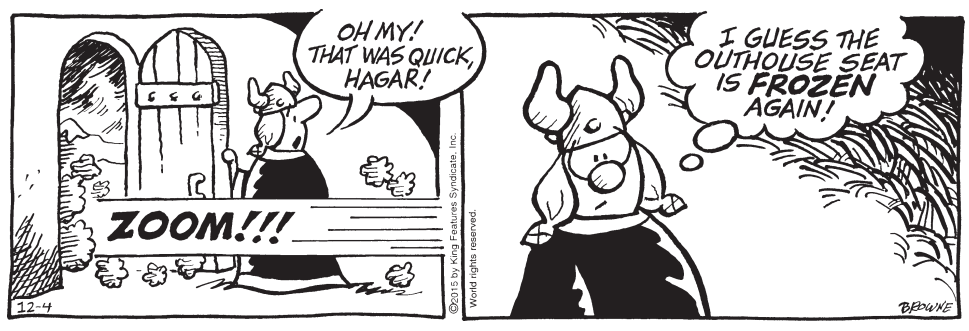
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEDGE INPUT WORTHY THORNY
Answer: The electrician wasn't sure he'd finish in time. It would come — DOWN TO THE WIRE

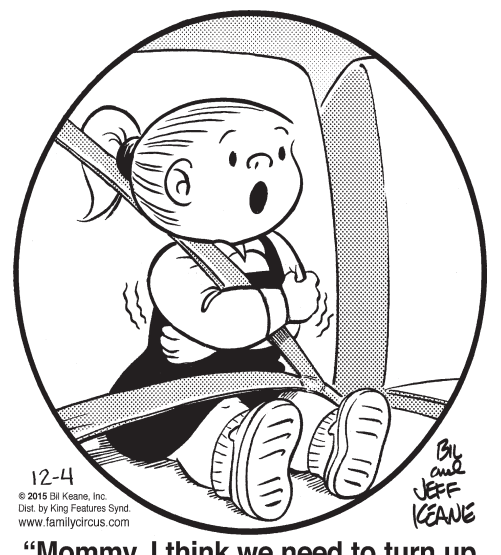
HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane



"Mommy, I think we need to turn up the heat conditioner in the car this morning."

Seven years on antibiotics is too long

DR. KEITH ROACH
TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Dear Dr. Roach: In 2008, out of nowhere, I had a severe chill and a temperature of 103 F, while feeling very ill. I was admitted to the hospital, where I was found to have E. coli in the blood. Antibiotics cleared it up, and I was sent home.

About a week later, the same thing happened. After several weeks of this, they tried to find out what was causing it. They removed my gallbladder and a piece of my bowel, but never found the source of the infection. I was sent home on antibiotics, and have been on them ever since. Have you ever heard of this? — *R.S.*

I have seen people with recurrent bacterial infections of the blood, but seven years of antibiotic treatment without finding a source is beyond the scope of my experience.

There must be a source somewhere, and the places I have seen were foreign materials in the body (especially vascular grafts or plastic catheters) and abscesses, which are walled-off pockets of infection.

E. coli is a bacteria that normally lives in the bowel, so I would be concerned about a bowel abscess, such as a diverticular abscess, coming from a small outpunching in the wall of the colon.

I am sure your doctors looked for the source carefully, but I don't understand keeping you on antibiotics all this time.

On the one hand, I see the "if it isn't broken, don't fix it" mentality, but long-term antibiotics can cause harm. I suggest you see an infectious disease specialist, who may take you off the antibiotics and do a sophisticated test, like an indium scan, to find areas in the body where white blood cells are congregated in large numbers.

Dear Dr. Roach: My mother lives in Florida and has had problems with fatigue and low energy. I have asked her doctor to please give her vitamin B-12 injections, even though her B-12, thyroid, vitamin D, and complete blood count are all in the normal range. Her doctor does not believe in B-12 injections. Do you have an opinion? — *L.I.*

Trying to find a cause of fatigue and low energy is very difficult, sometimes impossible. Her doctor looked for many of the most common causes.

There literally are hundreds of others, but rather than ordering many low-yield blood tests, I think she may need a fresh look, including a whole new history and a complete physical examination. There have been many times in my own practice when I am unable to figure things out and just decide to take a fresh look from the beginning.

As far as B-12 injections go, I agree with her doctor. If she doesn't have a B-12 deficiency, then a B-12 shot is unnecessary.

It may cause a benefit due to the placebo response, but as shown in another column this week, even a B-12 shot can, rarely, cause some side effects.

In my experience, the most common cause of fatigue in someone in whom a careful history, physical exam and appropriate laboratory studies have failed to reveal a cause is depression.

Depression, especially in the elderly, sometimes shows up as fatigue and fairly mild other symptoms. There are effective treatments, both with and without medication.

Bridge
by Frank Stewart

Experience required

Experience is required to make anything — except mistakes. At 3NT, South would have needed either fine card sense or the experience of having seen a similar situation. (Try to find a winning play yourself.)

South won the first spade with the ace and led the queen of hearts, winning, and a heart to dummy's ten. East took the jack and returned a spade.

South won in dummy and knew he couldn't set up and cash another heart trick. He tried the A-K and a third club, hoping for a 3-3 break, but East took two clubs and the ace of hearts, and South also lost a diamond. Down one.

TRICK TWO

South should lead a low heart to dummy's ten at Trick Two. If East ducks, dummy leads another heart, and South is sure of two hearts, three spades, two clubs and two diamonds.

If instead East takes the jack of hearts to return a spade, South wins with the queen and overtakes his queen of hearts with the king to set up three heart tricks: 10 in all. The king of spades is a dummy entry.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q 8 ♡ Q 5 ◊ A K 6 2 ♣ A K 7 3. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your right, opens three hearts. You double, and your partner bids three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: This problem is agonizing. Though you have 22 high-card points, your queen of hearts may be worthless, and you have a bundle of losers. Your partner may have nothing, and bad breaks are possible. Being a chicken, I would pass. I would not criticize a bid of four spades.

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♡ K 10 9 8 3
◊ 8 4
♣ 9 5 4

WEST
♠ J 9 6 5 2
♡ 7 2
◊ Q 10 9 5
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ 10 4
♡ A J 6 4
◊ J 7 3
♣ Q J 10 8

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8
♡ Q 5
◊ A K 6 2
♣ A K 7 3

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 5

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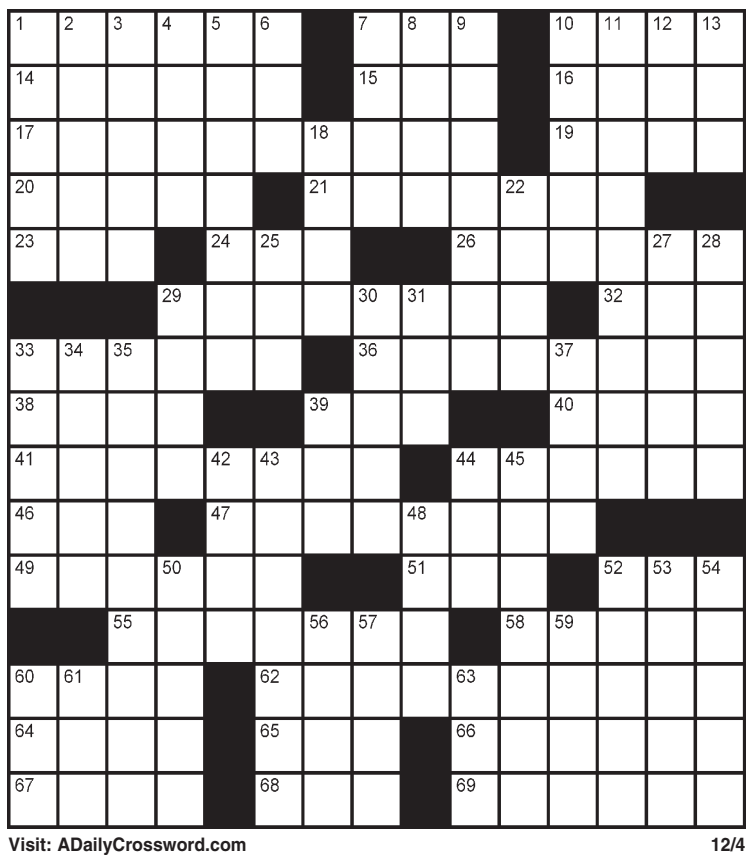
The Daily Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



Visit: ADailyCrossword.com 12/4

ACROSS
1 Skillfully deceptive
7 D.C. big shot
10 Grass bristles
14 Thelma's partner
15 Yokohama OK
16 Get something done
17 "Santa Baby" chanteuse
19 Long periods
20 Stomachs of ruminants
21 Rising
23 Sound of a leak
24 Group of wds.
26 Balbo and Calvino
29 Noggin weapon
32 Fifth of MV
33 Hair dressing
36 Removed gently
38 Seed covering
39 Shoot the breeze
40 Mythical Hun
41 Removes bonds
44 "__ Fink"
46 "__ Abner"
47 Small engine sound
49 Egyptian god of death
51 Way in, in brief
52 Entrepreneurs' org.
55 Brownish canine color
58 Archlike structure
60 Genoa farewell
62 Capital of Mauritania
64 Memo abbr.
65 Saul's uncle
66 "In the __"
67 Neural network
68 Tokyo, once
69 Shoot employee

DOWN
1 Singer Laine and others
2 Wanders about
3 Distinctive atmospheres
4 Is just the right size
5 Having a crossbar
6 Vote of support
7 Ark or bark
8 Swallows
9 Silly saps
10 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
11 Old-time drama critic
12 Diarist Anais
13 Rel. figures
18 Resident of northern Iraq
22 End of cigar?
25 Possess like a Scot
27 Eye: pref.
28 Non-violent protest
29 Head light?
30 Beauty's mate
31 Motor City labor grp.
33 Sao __, Brazil
34 Avifauna
35 Unit of power
37 Move quickly
39 High-velocity fluid stream
42 Early Ron Howard role
43 Philosopher Langer
44 Bread roll
45 Diplomat
48 Elizabeth of "Lone Star"
50 French wine region
52 Randolph or Zachary
53 City in Montana
54 Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"
56 Hammered on a slant
57 German currency
59 Mother of Hera
60 Ford or Dodge
61 Follower's suffix
63 CIA adversary

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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

12-3

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Scrabble Solution

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

W4	H4	A1	T1	N1	O1	T1	RACK 1 =	76
V4	I1	C3	T1	I1	M3		RACK 2 =	13
S1	I1	X8	F4	O1	L1	D2	RACK 3 =	84
B3	E1	C3	A1	U1	S1	E1	RACK 4 =	61
							TOTAL	234

PAR SCORE 160-170

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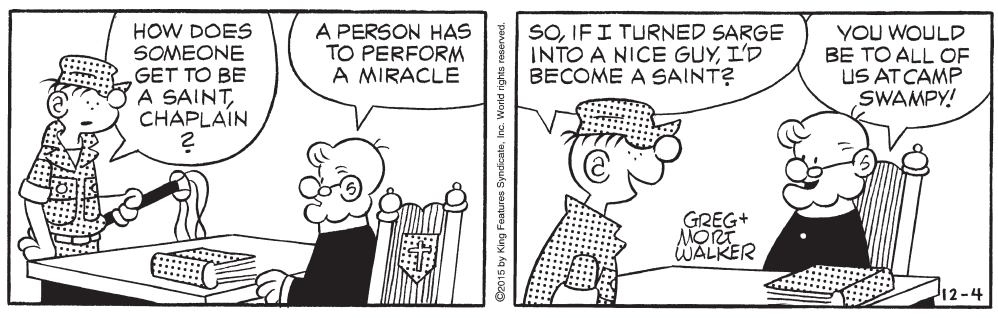
BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell

Conceptis Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

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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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

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