

SCRABBLE
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1st Letter Double
 A1 E1 I1 L1 R1 N1 W1

RACK 1

RACK 2
 A1 O1 U1 N1 G2 J2 R1

RACK 3
 A1 I1 L1 T1 P3 S1 N1

RACK 4
 E1 E1 O1 G2 N1 Z1 L1

Triple Word Score

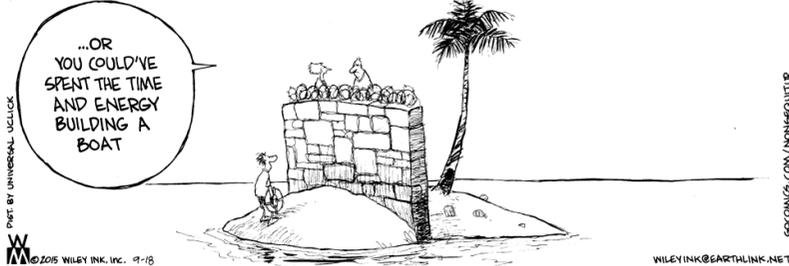
PAR SCORE 145-155
 BEST SCORE 235

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 scragsms@gmail.com.

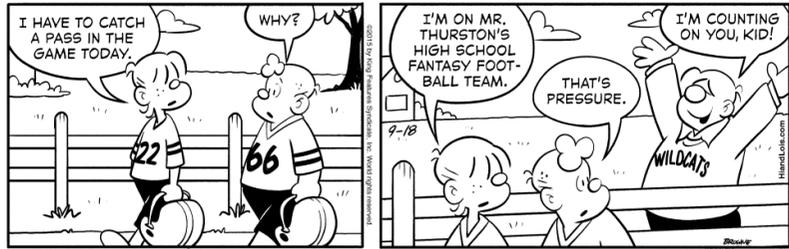
NON SEQUITUR by Wiley



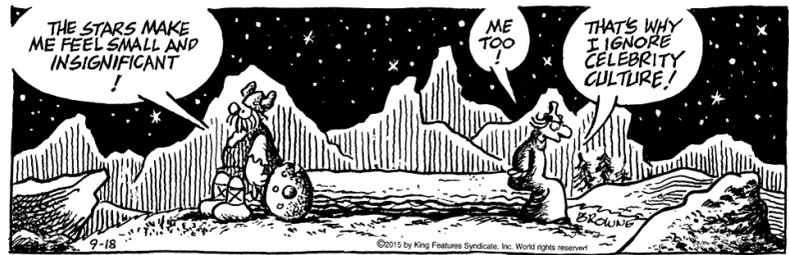
BLONDIE by Dean Young and John Marshall



HI & LOIS by Chance Browne



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Chris Browne



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



JUMBLE

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

SYNAP
 HNIYS
 TTREEW
 DOGAPA

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

A: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RIVER FINCH PURSUE REVERT
 Answer: One ghost didn't fit in with the rest because he was a — FREE SPIRIT

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



THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bill Keane



Statin class best to prevent heart attack

Dear Dr. Roach: I'm writing to request a second opinion regarding my cholesterol situation. After 20-plus years (I'm 66) on statins, I have become concerned about perceived muscle fatigue.

I went off Vytorin for two months and had a blood test. Before going off, my numbers were HDL 56, triglycerides 60 and LDL 111.

After being off the statin for two months my numbers were HDL 65, triglycerides 86 and LDL 205.

Because the triglycerides and HDL were still within the reference range but there was a large increase in the LDL, my doctor recommended that I have a coronary calcium screening done. This score came back a 3.

Given that number, my doctor felt I did not need to be on a statin. I might add that none of my other yearly blood and urine screening numbers are ever out of the normal range.

DR. KEITH ROACH TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

I have never smoked, and I exercise four or five times a week. I'm 6 feet tall and weigh 165 pounds.

However, I'm now wondering if I am making a mistake by being off the statin, given that the coronary calcium screening is not a standard test for cholesterol. — T.Z.

The most important point is that an LDL of 200 is too high, and it should be treated, normally with a statin. If you had side effects to simvastatin (the statin component of Vytorin), then try atorvastatin (Lipitor), rosuvastatin (Crestor) or even other statins if need be.

The evidence is still that the statin class is best to prevent heart attack and death. Rosuvastatin can be taken every other day, which might

reduce muscle aches.

The issue with your calcium score is trickier. I enlisted the help of a cardiologist, Dr. Erica Jones, at Cornell. She notes that a low calcium score predicts low risk of heart attack in the next 15 years in people who have not been taking statins.

She sometimes will get a calcium score on people when it's unclear whether a statin is necessary, and will hold off on prescribing statins in people with very low scores, those who are less likely to benefit. In your case, the calcium score of 3 is harder to interpret because of the long time you had been on statins. She agreed that someone in your situation should continue on a statin.

DR. ROACH WRITES: In a recent column, I suggested an MRI for a person with longstanding dizziness and a pacemaker. Several astute

readers pointed out that MRI scans are not normally done for people with pacemakers, and wanted to know if that had changed.

I admit that I didn't think through the interaction of pacemakers and MRI scanners when writing the answer, but I'm glad to have a chance to review it now. There have been cases where a person with a permanent pacemaker required an MRI scan, and case series have shown generally minor adverse effects in people with pacemakers after an MRI.

However, the presence of a pacemaker still makes an MRI very risky, and it should not be performed unless the MRI scan is absolutely necessary. Several device makers recently have made MRI-compatible pacemakers, and one of these has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. I appreciate the careful reading and alertness of my readers.

Bridge
 by Frank Stewart

Heavy-minded play

"We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads." — Vlade Divac, former NBA player.

I can't vouch for that, but I know that a good declarer accumulates information during the play. If he has a guess at the end, he usually gets it right.

In today's deal, West leads the king, ace and a third trump against four spades. South wins and leads a diamond to dummy's king, and East takes the ace and returns a diamond. South could run the trumps next, but say he takes the A-Q of hearts and leads a third heart. East follows low, and South must guess.

Should he put up the king or finesse with the ten?

INFERENCE

The percentage play is the king, but an inference is also available. Say West had a doubleton heart and A-K-6 of trumps. An attractive defense would be to lead a heart, win the first trump, lead the last heart, win the second trump and hope to put East in for a heart ruff.

Since nothing like that happened, South should play the king of hearts.

passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: You have 10 high-card points: too many, in theory, for a single raise. Nevertheless, two of your points are unsupported jacks, and your distribution is as flat as a pancake. Raise to two hearts. If two passes follow, and your right-hand opponent balances with a double, you can redouble to show your maximum strength.

South dealer
 N-S vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ J42
 ♥ Q53
 ♦ K5
 ♣ 106542

WEST
 ♠ AK6
 ♥ J64
 ♦ J962
 ♣ J87

EAST
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 987
 ♦ A10843
 ♣ K993

SOUTH
 ♠ Q109873
 ♥ AK102
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ A

South 1♠
 West Pass
 North 2♠
 East Pass

Opening lead — ♠ K

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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Second of a series
 - "Heidi" author
 - Writer Buchanan
 - Clarified fat
 - Diffident
 - Distance runner Jim
 - Brought into play
 - Italian friends
 - Suffix for adherents
 - Top-notch accommodations
 - Botanist's interest
 - WWII zone
 - Expressions of confusion
 - Neighbor of Isr.
 - Soprano Felicity
 - Monkey suits
 - Remove with care
 - Sloping position
 - Top-notch dining
 - St. intersectors
 - Infamous mama's boy
 - Old-time actress Ada
 - Lip
 - Slot-filler
 - Rap Dr.
 - Low-spirited
 - Wear away
 - Top-notch accommodations
 - Insect's feeler
 - Make a mistake
 - Short theatrical sketch
 - Eisenhower and others

- Visit: ADailyCrossword.com
- 65 Broadway orphan
 66 New money
 67 Sign over
- 68 Palm fruits
 69 Gush
- 31 Contemptible cads
 33 University of Utah team
 34 Lancheater or Maxwell

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

TAROT ADO SPIRO
 AGONY COO OARED
 NONE BUT THE BRAVE
 ASSESSED
 PEDDLE PROPEL
 EVERT BRAND ENEMY
 GIVE ELANDS TOE
 DOWN BUT NOT OUT
 MET OBRIEN BLIP
 INERT SOS AEIOU
 ATEASE BRYANT
 TOMOGRAM
 LAST BUT NOT LEAST
 OCASTA TAB ERROR
 SEWED OWE TATTY

- DOWN**
- Misleading devices
 - With no sweat
 - Howard of "The Key"
 - Venomous viper
 - ERA, e.g.
 - High-grade cotton
 - Norse giant
 - Nouveau
 - No genius
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Reading disorder
 - Almond housing
 - Ques. response
 - Leaves for lunch?
 - Moppet
 - Mach-2 breakers
 - Jewel's partner in retail
 - Prefix with marketing or vision
 - 35 Old VOA parent
 - Recipe meas.
 - Political division
 - Cook too long
 - Did some shoe repairs
 - Ponderer
 - Advisors to the pres.
 - Adopted
 - Respect
 - Grant
 - Sportscaster Rashad
 - Riga's river
 - Kentucky Derby prize
 - Nave's neighbor
 - Ain't correct?
 - Falco of "The Sopranos"
 - Misfortunes
 - Abbreviated photo

Scrabble Solution

PAR SCORE 145-155
 BEST SCORE 235

RACK 1: E, G, N, I, S, W, L, T, O, U, V, X, Y, Z

RACK 2: A, B, C, D, F, H, J, K, M, P, Q, R, S, V, X, Y, Z

RACK 3: G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, X, Y, Z

RACK 4: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, X, Y, Z

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



SNUFFY SMITH by Fred Lasswell



Conceptis Sudoku

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

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★