

EDITED Amanda Rafkin
BY Wendy L. Brandes & Sally Hoelscher

WRAP UP

- ACROSS
- 1 Angel hair, e.g.
6 Heed
10 Subject of many
Playbill headlines
14 Community spirit
15 Japan's national
sport
16 Pay to play
17 Societal standards
18 Talents
20 "Please stop
talking" letters
21 Rorschach splotch
23 One might say
"Welcome!"
24 Call after an
offsides infraction
in soccer
26 Agenda contents
28 Irritating
30 Wipe clean
33 "This One's for
the ____" (Martina
McBride song)
34 Howls at the moon
35 Help with a heist
39 Brazilian berry
40 Group of experts
41 Went by bike
42 Cornea's place
43 Disencumbers
44 Evade
45 Edinburgh's
residents
47 Kept afloat
48 Scenic view
51 Misgivings
53 Anger
54 Negative answer
57 Move like a
kangaroo
60 Gymnast who
was the first
Hmong-American
Olympian
62 Wear away
64 "Casablanca"
heroine
65 Paper quantity
66 Vintage-looking
photo filter
67 YA fiction's target
reader
68 Drink at a sushi bar
69 Device with remote
access?
- ANSWERS: Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.

12345678910111213

1415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869

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1/8

- DOWN
- 1 ____-up (contained)
2 Small matter?
3 Sci-fi device that
miniaturizes objects
4 Male turkey
5 Gives out, like
homework
6 Tennis star Naomi
7 Classic British dish
with an onomato-
poetic name
8 Name found in
"Muscle Milk"
9 "Might as well"
letters
10 Pet known for
loving cardboard
boxes
11 "JoJo's Bizarre
Adventure," for
example
12 Kettle's output
13 Exams
19 "Yes, indeed!"
22 Eggy holiday drink
25 Most greasy
27 Place to enjoy a
cuppa and some
scones
28 Tennis star Swiatek
29 Nasi kandar
grain
31 Deli loaves
32 Language with
fingerspelling
34 Fishing lure
36 Places to get
bumpers buffed
and scratches
sanded
37 Rim
38 ____ up
(prepared to
drive)
40 Expert
44 Most boring
46 Pixar movie
featuring a
sky-blue
Porsche
named Sally
47 "I'm a sheep"
48 Stop by
49 "Please
admire my
awesomeness!"
50 Touch, taste or
smell
52 Volunteer's words
55 Rabbits' prominent
features
56 Boxer's
annoyance?
58 Only animal
character in
"Garfield" comics
without a recurring
voice bubble
59 Bog contents
61 Actor McKellen
63 MLK's title
- Wednesday's Answer
- 1/7

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 buying and selling (7)
2 clever comment (4)
3 rough calculation (8)
4 Aspen activity (6)
5 New World namesake Vespucci (7)
6 like a warning tale (10)
7 word for a good babysitter (11)

SOLUTIONS

NSI TR NG GO ATE

ING TIO TIM PO QU

RES IP CAU ADI RI

ES BLE AME SKI NARY

Wednesday's Answers: 1. BRAND 2. MAGAZINE 3. SCOOTING 4. POLISHED 5. MASKED 6. WHEELS 7. CALGARY 1/8

Can't wait for your answers? Find all the puzzle answers at answers.usatoday.com

SCRABBLE G R A M S

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A1A1E1R1V4C3D2

RACK 1

E1E1O1P3L1D2V4

3rd Letter Triple
RACK 2

E1O1K5T1L1C3F4

Double Word Score
RACK 3

A1I1O1Y4B3N1F4

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
BEST SCORE 230

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.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

C3A1R1P3O1L1

RACK 1 = 62

G2O1S1S1I1P3

RACK 2 = 9

H4A1Y4W4I1R1E1

RACK 3 = 98

A1G2E1L1O1N1G2

RACK 4 = 59

PAR SCORE 140-150
TOTAL 228

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6X1-3-

2÷

2÷

5+36+

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KENKEN

1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 without repeating.

2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

2÷36X

1234

23-143

11+5+21

4321

3412

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Aloe	Cos	Jams	Skis
Apparel	Craft	Jeans	Soap
Arts	Dill	Junk	Space
Atlas	Doors	Leek	Spend
Axes	Eggs	Neighbourly	Tangerine
Basil	Ferns	Okra	Tasty
Beet	Figs	Onion	Teas
Blackcurrant	Find	Pear	Tomato
Books	Flute	Photographs	Tools
Carpet	Fruit	Pies	Tyres
Cash	Games	Plum	
Chips	Grow	Produce	
City	Hats	Sage	
Corn	Healthy	Shoes	

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
Trick or treat goodies

BRIDGE | FRANK STEWART

Good and bad habits

It's said that good habits come from resisting temptation. Unlucky Louie has the bad habit of playing too fast, and his results show it.

Louie was declarer at four hearts, and West led the king of spades. With not a moment's thought, Louie took dummy's ace, drew trumps and led a diamond from dummy to his queen. East won the next diamond with the jack and returned a spade, and West took his ten and queen. The defense also got a club for down one.

Error

Louie can resist anything but temptation; he made a beginner's error at Trick One. Louie must let the king of spades win [a "Bath Coup"] so West can't safely continue spades.

If West shifts to a trump, Louie wins in dummy and leads a diamond to his queen. He leads a trump to dummy and returns a second diamond.

When East's jack wins, he leads a spade to force out the ace. But Louie ruffs a diamond, dropping East's ace, and returns a trump to dummy to pitch his last spade on the king. He loses a club but makes game.

Daily question

You hold: ♠ J 4 2 ♥ A K 10 9 4 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 10 4. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one heart and he raises to three hearts. What do you say?

Answer: Partner has about 17 points with four-card heart support. He didn't open 1NT, so his hand will be shapely. A grand slam is likely. Cue-bid four clubs. Then if partner cue-bids four diamonds, bid five hearts to ask him to go on with a "control" in the unbid spade suit. He may hold AQ3, Q852, AKJ94, 5.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A 5 3
♥ Q J 8 7
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ 7 3

SOUTH

♠ J 4 2
♥ A K 10 9 4
♦ Q 8
♣ A 10 4

West

1♥
4♥

East

3♥
All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ K

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BOGGLE BRAINBUSTERS

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

DREA
BIFT
HSCS
TAME

1-8-26

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FOUR ANIMALS
COMMONLY KEPT AS PETS in the grid of letters.

Answers to Wednesday's Boggle BrainBusters:
HARP CELLO VIOLIN GUITAR

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ASK CAROLYN | CAROLYN HAX

Boyfriend's relocation forces tough call on whether to stay or go with him

This column first appeared Jan. 8, 2022. Adapted from an online discussion.

Dear Carolyn: My significant other got a job offer that would allow him to telework full time, which means he no longer has to live in one of the most expensive cities in the United States. He has decided that he's going to move back to his hometown, where the cost of living is much lower and he will eventually be able to buy a nice home, whereas here that's just a fantasy.

He has asked me to think about moving with him. We've been together about 14 months. I have no idea how to begin making this decision. We have never lived together, and our plans for the future have been tentative at best.

If I move with him, then we will live together and probably end up getting married. He'll be my entire social network at first, until I meet new people, and I will have to make some career changes.

But if he goes without me, I'll regret it forever – and, for the record, I am also tired of living in an overpriced city, shell-ing out endless rent.

It feels like such an all-or-nothing decision. He doesn't have to wait for me; he is moving in a few weeks, then I can either join him or not. He doesn't want to break up, even if I stay, but I don't know if I have the strength for a long-distance relationship right now.

So how do I start breaking down the facets of this decision?

– All or Nothing

All or Nothing: You don't have to break down or decide anything.

It's a decision between A and B. B involves moving, making career changes and accelerating your commitment to someone for reasons unrelated to your relationship, and A involves doing absolutely nothing different from what you're doing now. So, easy: Try A. Stay where you are when he moves.

Then, see how you manage – and really try to manage, because that's the only way this will work. You want the most useful idea of what life will be like long term if you don't go with him, and that means investing in your day-to-day life without him.

I realize this is a weird time to make the best of any living situation, because options are still compromised, but the

point is to immerse yourself in what you have, as-is.

If you lose Option B by waiting a few months, then maybe that's an indication that B wasn't going to be the long-term answer, either.

But the time element matters here; neither of you can expect your hearts to hold on to each other indefinitely. Staying where you are after he moves is merely an acknowledgment that this was going to be an experiment either way – one he initiated with HIS decision to move, obviously – and you're just choosing the version of the experiment that doesn't involve starting over from scratch. It's OK to wait until you're sure that's what you want to do.

It's also OK, by the way, to go anyway. You know better than I whether the conditions are right for taking a chance.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at [facebook.com/carolyn.hax](https://www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax) or chat with her online at noon Eastern time each Friday at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com).

Kubok 16 By Davide Coppo Difficulty: EASY

41353624

27126

49815

381113

22141

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

1354

72128

161396

14101511

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.

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