

# Misc./ Puzzles

## • Upcoming exam

Con't from **Page 4**

The roiling political atmosphere on many campuses.

• This final point seeks to boil down quite a stew. It includes President Donald Trump's attacks on universities, the federal government's investigation into consideration of race during admission, settlements over antisemitic actions on campuses, arrests of pro-Palestinian students, restrictions on transgender students and the downsizing or elimination of multicultural supports on campus. Seen from many different political vantage points, college can look less inviting. In a public announcement and university email last week, campus leaders summed it up: "We are again navigating an uncertain fiscal environment because of external factors, such as disruptions to federal funding, changes in federal law, stagnant state funding, rising costs, changes in international enrollments, and a projected nationwide decline in college enrollment."

The email continues, saying that in fiscal year 2027, KU "must reduce annual spending at KU Lawrence and Edwards by \$32 million dollars."

Some observers claim that the chickens have come home to roost: Postsecondary education, they will say, has ignored the values of the American middle class and political center and right for too long. Defenders of universities say that many of these forces are beyond the control of a university president, let alone an adjunct professor.

Regardless, this academic year will be an inflection point. Ten years from now, educational historians will look back on the 2025-2026 academic year as the moment when universities rose to the chal-

lenge, the year they revitalized — or the year they caved.

On Tuesday, I will teach my first classes of the semester on campus, standing in front of more than 400 students in KU's Budig Hall. I considered teaching the class as I have done six semesters before: an overview of the course, an opportunity for student questions and some pictures of my dog.

This year demands something different.

So, we will talk about what it's like to express yourself on campus these days. About the number of students who feel scared to voice their convictions. About the current academic constipation that bores many students.

It's a lesson that I normally save until later in the semester, but I don't think it can wait. The start of school this year just feels too urgent to delay.

Most college students know the feeling of realizing too late in the semester that their grade has sunk too far to rescue. How can I earn an A? How can I manage a B-? Or, How can I pass?

Let's hope that we in higher education — researchers, administrators, instructors, staff and professors — haven't waited too long to pass this year's vital test. Because the final exam is coming.

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## • American home

Con't from **Page 4**

For the foreseeable future, this historic Kansas neighborhood will remain our home. Kim and I discussed moving to Missouri or some other state, debating the merits of a new location as we studied the map on the dining room wall. But she fears if I moved away from Kansas, I would lose my identity.

She may be right.

The choice of staying or going was not something to take for granted. Too many Americans don't have a choice of staying or going — and many of them don't have a house, apartment or other suitable place to live. Our first gratitude, besides loving and being loved, should always be for food and shelter.

Our home will never be a showplace, but it's lousy with history.

The house is an artefact of a time when this neighborhood, near the heart of Emporia, was rather higher on the social ladder. Inside there is stained glass and oak floors and other reminders of the apparently comfortable life, in the 1920s, of a Latin professor and his family. Bill Holtz taught at the local teacher's college and he walked the same sidewalks. On the corner, across a brick pavement in desperate need of repair, the name of our street is stamped into the concrete, along with a date: 1916.

The weather has been especially hard on the house during the past couple of years, including roof damage, an upstairs window that was blown in during a storm, and a favorite maple tree in the back yard that fell and landed on the roof of the garage. The yard floods in heavy rains and so will the basement if the sump pump fails. The kitchen pipes freeze in winter. Critters get into the attic. We went through an odd period when yellowjackets infiltrated the upstairs and tried their damndest to build a nest on the shaft of a ceiling fan. I received a nasty sting on my right hand during that episode, but luckily the hornets haven't been back.

Now is a time of rebuilding, even in the face of uncertainty.

We are, as a nation, in the most chaotic period of the last 50 years. Anybody who claims to know what will happen next is either

a prophet or a fool, and I'm afraid I've met damned few prophets in my life. We are at an extraordinary inflection point in history, a time filled with both peril and promise.

The peril is that Lincoln's government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" may indeed perish from the earth. The promise is that American democracy may yet achieve the dream of Martin Luther King Jr., who glimpsed a day when we all would be free at last.

The turbulence of the events we now live through are not adequately described in any news report, but can only be fully appreciated at the breakfast tables and front porches of homes in Kansas and across the country. The consequences of decisions that have made most Americans feel helpless are realized not in the gilded corridors of power but in the small places in which we live, the tables where we eat, the bedrooms and sometimes the sidewalks where we sleep. Many desperate conversations are being held at this moment over a range of what ifs. What if I can't find a job? What if we can't afford groceries? What will we do if federal agents, their faces masked, come to take away our friends and neighbors?

Or us.

There are federal troops on the streets of Washington, D.C., ostensibly for law enforcement, and a protestor was recently

arrested for assault on a federal immigration agent — for hurling a sandwich.

It is, as I type, another Wednesday night.

It's quiet now, but when my painter friend and his helpers come tomorrow there will be scraping and wire brushing and more painting. The cracked and peeling paint of our house on Constitution Street will slowly give way to a fresh coat of "morning blossom."

With resolve and paint, there are now a couple fewer questions on Constitution Street. We will stay. The trim will be "nice tan." This will remain our home — as America is our home — and the talk of relocating to another state or even Canada is over. There will be columns written on Wednesday nights and tweaked on Thursday mornings. Cats will be fed and yellowjackets battled.


The gilding of the White House may continue, but no amount of gold leaf will hide the stain of authoritarianism. Our home's honest yellow and brown paint is an investment in ourselves, a hope for our community, and a dream for America.

*Max McCoy is an award-winning author and journalist. Through its opinion section, the Kansas Reflector works to amplify the voices of people who are affected by public policies or excluded from public debate.*

## • Queen Neelah

Con't from **Page 1**

Ellie Perry- Woods Lumber  
Kathryn West- Acrisure- Drew Johnson  
Katelyn Spencer- Magnolia Scents by Design  
Lenae Ivie- Daylight Donuts of Independence and Hoggy Style BBQ  
Lorraine Rose- Mark and Kym Kays Express Employment Professionals  
Madelin Beshear- Diamond R Cattle  
Madison Morrow- Independence Football Club  
Madyson Reister- BaiLeigh Reister- L2 Realty, Inc.  
Michelle Carranco- VSE Aviation  
Mossie O'Brien- S.E.K. Ready Mix  
Naomi Lewman- Quality Toyota  
Izabella Etter- Uncle Jack's Bar & Grill  
Wryly Goodwin- Studio K and Kvell Salon  
Zoe Hallet- The Hair Gallery: Cindy Brown and Mr. Reid's Workshop and Music Store  
Queen Talent night is slated for Monday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. Prices for tickets are \$10 and \$12 purchased at Headquarters and \$13 and \$15, if purchased online. Queen Coronation night will be Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. Prices for tickets are \$12 and \$14 at Headquarters and \$15 and \$17 online.



### UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Previous Puzzle Solution

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

### Universal Crossword

Edited by Amie Walker August 20, 2025

**ACROSS**

1 Instrument played between the legs

6 Greeting in Waikiki

11 Exam for college srs.

14 To no \_\_\_\_ (unsuccesfully)

15 Breaches of "spoiler etiquette," e.g.

16 Genre for Nicki Minaj

17 Totally awesome leg joints?

19 "And so on" letters

20 Airline whose logo contains Hebrew letters

21 Microbrewery brew

22 "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" refrain

24 Modern-to-router cable jumble?

28 "Arrivederci!"

30 Desert watering hole

31 "Fresh outta answers for ya"

32 Self-grooming animals

34 Hyphenlike mark

37 Approximating suffix

38 Collection of gold bars?

41 Soccer pro Messi, casually

42 Inbox clogger

44 "Stay Playful" cookie

45 "The Beverly Hillbillies" star Buddy

47 Idaho Potato Drop's capital city

49 Get lost in a book, say

50 Sweater-making nemesis?

55 Traditional stories

56 Attorney's field

57 Magnum \_\_\_\_

61 Apple pie \_\_\_\_ mode

62 Talent for bowling?

66 Carter who played with Miles Davis

67 Entertain

68 In a chilly manner

69 "Rich & Shameless" channel

70 Had a fancy meal

71 Occasion for self-care

**DOWN**

1 Usually frosted dessert

2 Malicious

3 In \_\_\_\_ land (daydreaming)

4 Phillip's twin on "Rugrats"

5 Chant timed with a soccer pass

6 Commonly sprained body part

7 Solitary person

8 Favorite number for a 7-Down?

9 Dirt-turning tool

10 Pluses

11 Tomatillo-based topping

12 Proportion

13 Futuristic Disney park

18 Animal that's a real gnaw-it-all?

23 "Just joking!"

25 Every \_\_\_\_ and cranny

26 "You've got it backward"

27 Apt rhyme for "breeze"

28 Brink

29 Occupant

31 Rip on

32 Apple pie maker's device

33 Woodcutter's tool

35 Chickpea, e.g.

36 Sweetie

39 ENT part

40 Semester

43 Insect similar to a butterfly

46 "Cowboy Carter" artist

48 "How tragic"

50 Longtime Target competitor

51 Stocking fabric

52 Beethoven's "Fur \_\_\_\_"

53 In the buff

54 Lamb's mom

58 Financially compensated

59 Bruins' sch.

60 Vodka brand with a blue bottle

63 "OMG, no more details!"

64 Operate

65 BTS member \_\_\_\_ Tae-hyung

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

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

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### Bell's Knell by Jake Halperin

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				