

# NEWS

COMMENTS, CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email sjump@kconline.com

## Ten Rules for Planting Trees This Spring

### PRESS RELEASE

MANHATTAN - If you're planning to plant a tree in your yard this spring, there are some steps you can take to make sure your new landscape has its best chance of success.

Kansas State University horticulture expert Matt McKernan shares the following 10 rules for planting trees:

#### Select The Right Tree For The Site.

To avoid serious problems, choose trees that are adapted to your location. Consider whether the tree produces nuisance fruit or if there are disease-resistant varieties available. For example, there are a number of crabapple varieties that are resistant to apple scab and rust diseases.

Also consider the mature size of a tree to be sure you have enough room. Your local extension office and garden center can make tree recommendations for your region.

Keep the tree well watered and in a shady location until planting.

When moving the tree, lift it by the root ball or pot and not by the trunk.

Before planting, remove all wires, labels, cords or anything else tied to the plant.

If left on, they may eventually girdle the branch to which they are attached.

#### Dig A Proper Hole.

Make the hole deep enough so the root flare (point where the trunk and roots meet) is visible when planted. Plant the tree on solid ground, not fill

dirt. In other words, don't dig the hole too deep and then add soil back to the hole before placing the tree.

"This is the most important of all the rules," McKernan said. "You only get one opportunity to plant a tree at the correct depth."

The width of the planting hole is very important. It should be three times the width of the root ball. Loosening the soil outside the hole so it is five times the diameter of the root ball will allow the tree to spread its roots faster.

Remove all containers from the root ball.

Cut away plastic and peat pots; roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much of the excess away as possible. If you can remove the wire basket without disturbing the root ball, do it. If roots have been circling around in the container, cut them and fluff them out so they do not continue growing in a circle inside the hole, becoming girdling roots later.

Backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed.

Amendments such as peat moss likely do more harm than good. Make sure the soil that goes back is loosened - no clods or clumps. Add water as you fill to ensure good root to soil contact and prevent air pockets. There is no need to fertilize at planting.

#### Minimize Pruning After Planting.

Foliage is necessary for manufacturing energy to support a healthy tree.

Heavy pruning reduces the number of leaves and consequently the amount of energy generated. Corrective pruning can be done at planting to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches or branches that are rubbing against each other.

#### Water The Tree Thoroughly.

Water once a week for the first season if there is insufficient rainfall.

#### Mulch Around The Tree.

Mulch should be 2-4 inches deep and cover an area 2 to 3 times the diameter of the root ball. Avoid mulching right up to the trunk of the tree. Leave a 3- to 6-inch gap between the mulch and the trunk to prevent damaging the tree. Mulching reduces competition from other plants, conserves moisture and moderates soil temperature.

#### Stake Only When Necessary.

Larger trees or those in windy locations may need to be staked the first year. Movement is necessary for the trunk and roots to develop properly. Staking should be designed to limit movement of the root ball rather than immobilize the trunk. Be sure to gradually loosen staking over time and remove all staking materials within one to two years.

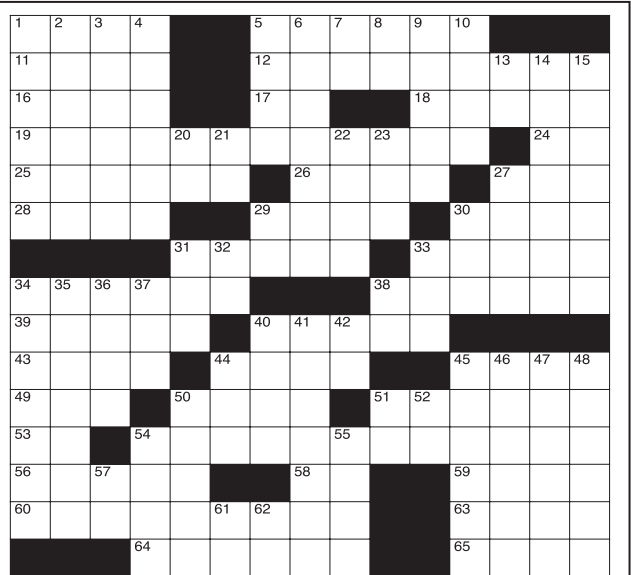
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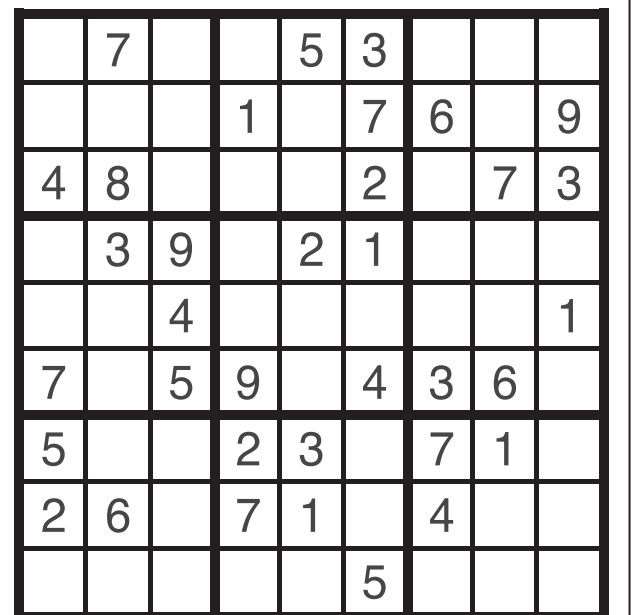


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Narrow piece of wood
5. African desert
11. Waxy covering on birds' beaks
12. Sour
16. Infrequent
17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
18. Policemen wear one
19. Out of the question
24. Used to chop
25. Symptoms
26. Not moving
27. Folk singer DiFranco
28. Comedian Armissen
29. Quantitative fact
30. Incline from vertical
31. Scottish musician
33. Rooney and Kate are two
34. Positioned
38. A very short time
39. Tropical American shrubs
40. Yemen capital
43. Spanish municipality
44. Medical professionals
45. Fibrous material
49. Confined condition (abbr.)
50. Without covering
51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
53. Hockey position
54. Taste property
56. Fertile spots in a desert
58. They precede C
59. "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
60. Try a criminal case
63. Liberal rights organization
64. Spoke
65. Insect repellent

### CLUES DOWN

1. Unshaven facial hair
2. More thin
3. Show up
4. Seethed
5. Ancient Greek city
6. Poisonous plant
7. Hello
8. College sports official
9. Monetary unit of Russia
10. Wings
13. Take too much of a substance
14. A citizen of Uganda
15. Most appealing
20. Atomic #18
21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
22. Jewish calendar month
23. Popular sandwich
27. Swiss river
29. Incorrect letters
30. Popular entree
31. Foot (Latin)
32. A driver's license is one form
33. Extinct flightless bird
34. Appetizer
35. After battles
36. It neutralizes alkalis
37. Beverage container
38. Partner to "Pa"
40. Gray American rail
41. Salt of acetic acid
42. Canadian province
44. Dish made with lentils
45. Narrative poem of popular origin
46. For each one
47. Come to terms
48. Test
50. More dishonorable
51. Unit of loudness
52. The Ocean State
54. Monetary unit in Mexico
55. Lying down
57. Thus
61. Where LA is located
62. Western State



P N W N H R W W U G N I T X E T C C S J  
 F W Y F K U T X T Y T E N P H H F F R O  
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## ATTORNEY

• From Page 1

to watch them," Ritcha said. "In the end, it just feels like the right time."

Ritcha also serves as the county counselor for Kingman County. He currently represents five different cities in some capacity, but Ritcha said he will be in the process of either winding those down or modifying his representation, along with being selective with private clientele.

"The bottom line, my positions in Harper and Kingman County must and will take priority," he said. "I've always had a lot of obligations; it is a fact of life for attorneys serving in rural areas. I am looking forward to primarily

focusing on just a few."

There is no statutory requirement for residency within the county for one to serve as a county attorney. Ritcha noted there are multiple instances of people serving as county attorneys for more than one county. He said that is primarily because of a lack of attorneys in rural areas.

Ritcha noted that, from the time he has started practicing law, Harper County has been "my second professional home."

"I spend a significant amount of time working in the county and for people from Harper County," Ritcha said. "I've developed great relationships there. I feel enthusiastically duty-bound to provide quality representation and stability in the Harper County Attorney's Office."

## COMMITTEE

• From Page 1

Debra Foster told planning and zoning committee member Debra Blanchett she didn't feel as though Blanchett was working towards the best interest of county residents.

"Fosters is very urban," the chairwoman said. "Some of the comments Debra (Foster) was making toward Deborah Blanchett were inappropriate."

McCurley said Foster told Blanchett she thought she was looking out for her own best interests.

"That is not the point of a consultant," the chairwoman said. "A consultant is to help guide the process."

McCurley told everyone at Monday's meeting that if the "majority of the committee members" are wanting to restrict these types of energy projects from coming to Harper County, Fosters and Associates needs to represent that viewpoint not their own.

Pennycuff said he realizes the process has been going on for more than a year now, but he also said those that are participating in these

discussions don't know about that.

"What happened prior to us starting this process three months ago or a little bit before from that survey from the fair, prior to that they didn't realize it had been going on for that long," he said.

District 3 Commissioner Darrin Struble said there are landowners that are waiting to make decisions based on what comes out of this process. He said his biggest concern was that he wanted Harper County to have some protections when it comes to the June 1 deadline.

McCurley said Foster and Associates, of Wichita, need to be asked at the next meeting if they are going to draft resolutions for other areas of concerns and not just address solar farms.

"I'm starting to get a little frustrated myself," Struble said.

District 1 Commissioners Brian Waldschmidt said there needs to be meetings on a more frequent basis until these concerns are ironed out.

Pennycuff also reminded commissioners that Foster and Associates was only

commissioned for a certain number of meetings.

The county's appraiser said the consultant provided a "preliminary resolution" for solar farms at the March 24 meeting, which he said caused some heartburn for some on the steering committee members. He said he thought some of those frustrations stemmed from a number of the steering committee members wanting to recommend not allowing solar farms into the county after being more supportive of the idea originally.

Pennycuff said the process has been difficult from the consultant's standpoint due to "wishy-washy" views that have been expressed. He said last Tuesday's meeting was to look at some tweaks to the resolution.

He told commissioners there will be a final resolution on April 21 for the planning and zoning committee to sign off on. At that point, a public hearing will be held to allow county residents an opportunity to give feedback on the decision that was made. After the public hearing, the resolution will then go to the commissioners.

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