

# OPINION

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



## Going Postal

By Bernie Sheahan

In the last couple of years, I've mailed probably 200 or so postcards. Not from anywhere in particular. Most of the time, I'm sitting at my kitchen table or the coffee shop, writing postcards I got from the thrift store, or eBay, or the middle of a pile at my mom's house—from trips to Portugal or Kansas or Laguna Beach, postcards my mom didn't send because she forgot to. (Like mother, like daughter.)

Mom's cards are all pretty and scenic, the kind you'd send to folks who didn't have 500 TV channels and the world on their phone in 1972. Now you can see pictures of Portugal or Kansas or Laguna Beach with the flick of a thumb or by asking your imaginary friend (and total snooper) Siri, or Alexa to show you one.

Did you get a Portugal

postcard from me yet? Beautiful, yes? I mailed out 16 postcards today. My favorites are the dull, boring ones, featuring, for example, the 1964 Joe Schmo Memorial Library at Wossamotta U in Frostbite Falls, Minnesota. (Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoon, remember? No? Then you're too young. Check YouTube. You'll thank me later.) Or one picturing the rail lines at the John Deere manufacturing compound in Moline, Illinois.

Boring, unless you're my dear uncle, Dan Hageman, who's been a John Deere superstar for 50 years. Fifty! I sent him that postcard and he was quite tickled.

It's not the front of the postcard that matters. It's the back. I'm now a famous postcard artist, if "famous" means at least 200 people like them—although when I

said I'd done about 200 my brother said, "Two hundred a week, you mean. Maybe 2000, total."

Sure, I drop a load of dough on stamps, but my postcard habit is healthier than smokes and booze, isn't it? (It's possible to indulge in all three simultaneously. So I've heard.)

I can blame or thank my friends at our local art gallery and studio, because two years ago, at my first art class, I was sad that my painting was done and I had paint leftover. What a waste. Oh, but I had postcards in my backpack!

So I took a postcard and the leftover paint and brushed up a little man with a hat and a beard. No man in particular, then I sent it to my friend Deena who was so excited because it was Post Malone, her favorite pop

star! Really? Didn't mean it to be.

That's what got me started, on Nov. 20, 2024, with Crayolas and felt markers and whatnot, doodling and drawing in bright colors on the blank side of the card, adding a message right on top of the artwork, writing whatever comes to my head about anything.

I sent a fun postcard to my favorite four-year-old from a California pub called "ManyFriends" which has bright balloon faces painted on their window. You'd think it was a preschool, but it's a beer hall. A nice one, with chess sets and board games instead of pool tables.

So the ManyFriends pub postcard looked just like the window, with the cartoony-balloony happy faces, holding teeny, tiny mugs of beer, which you can hardly notice. I wrote a sweet little thing about missing this four-year-old and I hope she will keep it for another 17 years because in teeny, tiny print on the bottom I wrote a note to her mother. "Can't wait to buy Sally her first beer."

Her mama, my beloved third cousin once removed, loved that. Turns out Sally did notice the teeny, tiny mugs. "Look! People drinking lemonade!" That's right, baby girl, lemonade. For now.

Why would I send a four-year-old a souvenir from a brewery? Because I love her, that's why. Shoot, I got a tiny Coors mug when we took Grandma, Grandpa and Aunt Julia to Colorado. Of course I was at least five by then, so I could hold my liquor. In my Barbie-size beer stein.

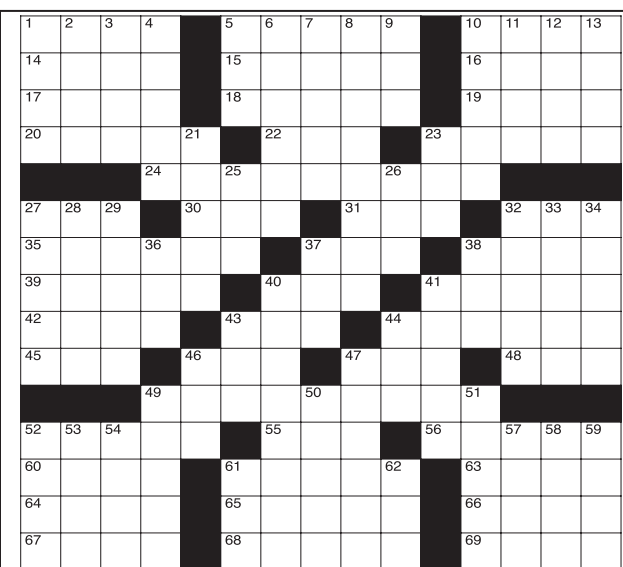
I think I still have that tiny Coors mug. It's ceramic, so you can't see through it. It can hold about a thimbleful of Coors beer. Or lemonade. For now.

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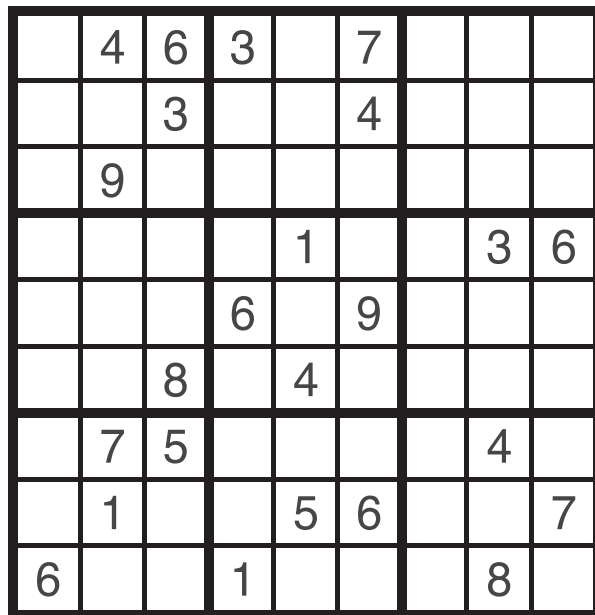


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. McCarthy acolyte Roy
- 5. Ancient Korean chiefdoms
- 10. Not soft
- 14. Jai \_\_\_ sport
- 15. Philosophy
- 16. Do what you're told
- 17. Gaffe
- 18. Widely known and esteemed
- 19. Amusement park attraction
- 20. Popular comic strip Viking
- 22. Usually has a lid
- 23. American sportscaster
- 24. Lung fibrosis
- 27. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 30. Pouch
- 31. Upset
- 32. Partner to hem
- 35. Astronomy unit of distance
- 37. Witch
- 38. Gradually disappear
- 39. Regions
- 40. Possesses
- 41. Body parts
- 42. A way to comprehend
- 43. Defraud
- 44. Sandwich type
- 45. Expression of disappointment
- 46. Popular Dodge truck model
- 47. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 48. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 49. Songs to a beloved
- 52. Custom
- 55. Partner to cheese
- 56. West Indies trees
- 60. Member of a Semitic people
- 61. Plant that originated vegetatively
- 63. Squandered one's money
- 64. Ethiopian river
- 65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 66. Acquire by one's efforts
- 67. Irish goddess
- 68. Hungarian village
- 69. Cereal grasses

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Currency
- 2. Ceramic jar
- 3. Reagan's Secretary of State
- 4. God worshipped in Kanesh
- 5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 6. Semitic
- 7. About blood
- 8. Benign tumors
- 9. Move one's head
- 10. Hours (Spanish)
- 11. Hebrew calendar month
- 12. Advise someone
- 13. Colors clothes
- 21. The sun does it
- 23. Concealed
- 25. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- 26. Droop
- 27. Away from one another
- 28. Challenges
- 29. A harsh scraping sound
- 32. Attaches to a wall
- 33. Capital of Ethiopia: \_\_\_ Ababa
- 34. German river
- 36. Disappointed
- 37. Star Wars character Solo
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Not mass-produced
- 41. Nonsense
- 43. Automobile
- 44. Hoghead (abbr.)
- 46. Soak in water
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Romanian city
- 50. A parent is often one
- 51. Fencing sword
- 52. Body part
- 53. Region
- 54. Farm building
- 57. Ali's surname at birth
- 58. Waxy bird beak covering
- 59. Stiff bristles
- 61. VCR button
- 62. Small amount



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