

# OPINION

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

## Season's Greetings

By Bernie Sheahan

It is the first week of October and I haven't had a pumpkin spice anything. Nor do I intend to. But I am bombarded by pumpkin spice everything, anytime I walk into any kind of retail establishment.

I know I have discussed this before, in print, here and elsewhere. For many years, in any column I've ever written, in Nashville, Tennessee, Oxford, Mississippi, and in several possibly-defunct national publications.

I can hear the echoes of readers through the decades that remember my fussing in public about pumpkin spice and all things autumnal. That might be you. "Give it a rest, Sheahan." "Enough already about your fall phobia." "We know you love summer, but can you get with the program? Try to enjoy everyone's favorite season. Maybe even go to Starbucks and have a pumpkin spice latte."

Never. Am I drinking coffee right now? Yes. It's a combination of two-day-old Main Street mocha and a packet of instant espresso. Coffee connoisseur,

I ain't. I just like them strong, and not any kind of spicy. I've been known to carry the espresso packets to dining establishments where the coffee is just normal, not Sheahan strong. No one minds.

I wonder if folks are fed up with my you-know-what issue. Maybe I'll get gifts at my door. Pumpkin spice coffee. Pumpkin spice chicken wings — ew, no, please. Pumpkin spice diapers. I'll bet they exist. It would be a nice alternative to the usual diaper scent, yes? And I'd pass them along to my favorite diaper-handling young mother, maybe with an offer to change a tot while I'm at it. Or not. Poop is one thing. Pumpkin spice poop, yikes.

I've got to shake that notion right out of my mind. Happy thoughts, happy thoughts... here's one. I do need to announce that the difficult transition of seasons seems to be getting easier. When I mean difficult, I mean me, sobbing on the last night of summer, which really happened this year. Maybe not sobbing. But I did

need a tissue.

But I'm easing into the season now. We've had lovely warm days and cool evenings, so I can still experience a hint of summer sweat, sort of. And the best way for me to do that is to go running, which I did yesterday, at the fairgrounds and on our wonderful walking trail.

And what did I find? A dirt path, grass, things I love, right beside a river. It was my first run in a long time, and I did walk some, which is a good idea when you're getting back to it, especially if you're not 29 anymore.

During a quick sprint I had to stop and walk. Why? I saw three things at one time that required my attention: a Ferris Wheel, a grain elevator and a train depot. And a shimmering sunset, on the Innescanah. It looked like liquid silver, burred a bit by the sun.

Who gets to see those things on an evening walk or run? A carnival ride. A farm town icon. An historic building, full of stories from travelers from long ago, especially my ancestors. I

was reading them a family history last night, after my refreshing (for mind, body and soul) run along the river. "Uncle Pat went to the Kingman depot but we had gone on to Cleveland." [Miscommunication due to forgetfulness? Maybe. It's genetic. That's my great-grandpa.] "So he borrowed a surrey with two little mules from John Osner and collected us in Cleveland. We waited several hours but the store owner gave us Mary Ann cookies from a barrel." (I'd like one right now, with my coffee.)

I plan to go back today to see all those things, and I want to learn all the names of all the trees and plants by the river. That's a pretty good fall project, yes? Is pumpkin spice an herb that grows along a riverbank? I hope not. (You do realize I'm kidding. I'm not that much of a city girl.)

I'm on my way to embracing fall. And I'm OK about that. If you'd like to discuss it, I'm available for coffee. I'll even drink one of those dreaded fall concoctions. But only if you're buying.

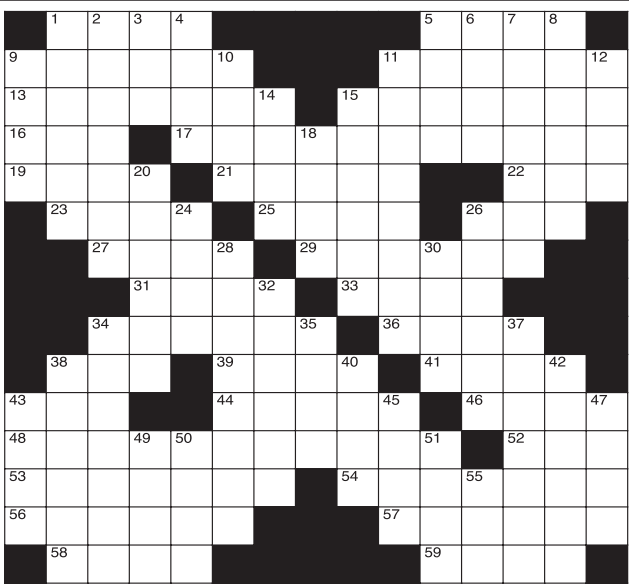
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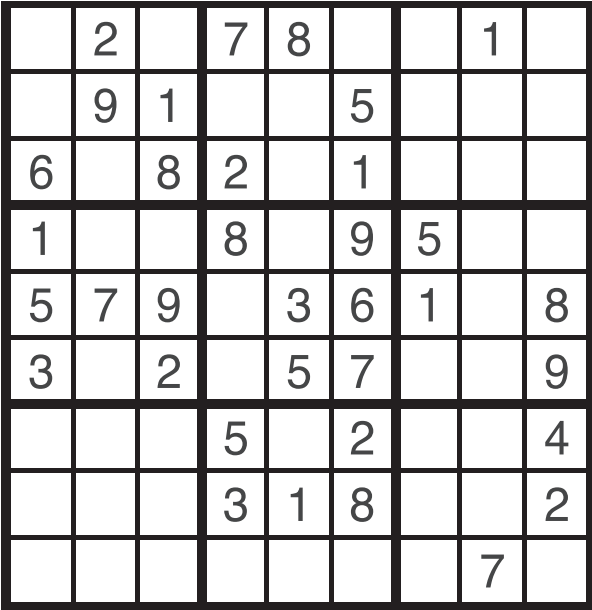


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult  
5. Coarsely ground corn  
9. A group of similar things ordered one after another  
11. Loved Romeo  
13. Something to solve  
15. Pelvic areas  
16. Informal debt instrument  
17. Ineffective  
19. A device attached to a workbench  
21. Related on the mother's side  
22. "Fresh Prince of \_\_\_ Air"  
23. Astronomer Sagan  
25. C. Utah city  
26. Turkey  
27. Informal terms for money  
29. Awakens  
31. Those who favored Prohibition
33. Blabbed  
34. Looked through  
36. Rhode Island rebellion  
38. A type of "cast"  
39. One's duty  
41. Where golfers begin  
43. Make a mistake  
44. Semitic Sun god  
46. Ancient Greek City  
48. Removed someone's head  
52. A place to stay  
53. Unwise  
54. Most unnatural  
56. "Dennis" is a notable one  
57. Ointments  
58. Examination  
59. Leaked fluid

### CLUES DOWN

1. Brave  
2. A state of excitement  
3. Jest at  
4. Sandwich store  
5. Chapter of the Koran  
6. Dismounted from a horse  
7. Small vehicle  
8. Irked  
9. A disreputable man  
10. Monetary unit of Samoa  
11. A list of woes  
12. Weight unit  
14. Alone, single  
15. Broadway legend Bernadette  
18. Monetary unit of Serbia  
20. Worn by exposure to the weather  
24. A body of traditions  
26. Students seek one
28. Hydrophilic amino acid  
30. Nasal mucus  
32. Branch of U.S. Congress  
34. Swinish  
35. Russian assembly  
37. Grant an exemption to  
38. Set up in advance  
40. Satisfy  
42. Felt  
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls  
45. Witnesses  
47. Strong insects  
49. Gasteier and de Armas are two  
50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland  
51. Cheerless  
55. Unhealthy



F D B D O H U A E C P S C C H M I L C U  
I X A A C E F G G W M A I C U R V E S R  
E C E H T E U U N V G R L O A N U G S E  
G A N H Y P L N E V O L R T S E W O N D  
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V I I M B A F F C Y N Y T N P O L L G F  
H C G L E F I E D X I W S E Y P M O B O  
G P P I A T S T R B S D A T H I I S U C  
P B H U R S E F L I I Y H X X A W V G A  
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## Main Street Civics

By Brande Vogele

If you had told me when I started teaching that I would someday write a newspaper column about civics, I probably would have thought, "yeah, right."

I have spent the last five years of my career teaching students about government, history, economics, and what it means to be a citizen. In my classes, we talk about the founding, the Constitution, elections, the branches of government, the rights we have as Americans, and the responsibilities that come with those rights.

But here is something I have come to believe very strongly: Civics shouldn't stop when we graduate from high school.

In fact, that's when it becomes real. Every day, we are affected by decisions made by our local, state, and federal governments. Those decisions influence our schools, roads, taxes, communities, businesses, rights, and opportunities. Yet many of us don't always know how those decisions are made — or how we can have a voice in them.

That's why I am passionate about civic education.

I don't believe being a good citizen means that we all have to agree. Actually, democracy would be pretty boring if we did. Being a good citizen means being willing to learn, ask questions, listen to people who disagree with us, participate in our communities, and understand how our government works.

It means knowing that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand.

I also believe that civic participation is not something reserved for people who love politics. You don't have to run for office, attend every city council meeting, or memorize the Constitution. Civic engagement can be as simple as voting, serving on a jury, contacting an elected official, attending a school board meeting, volunteering in your community, or helping your neighbor.

Recently, several people in our community have approached me to say they wish they could take a government class again. They want to learn the things they forgot in high school. They want to better understand how our government works. And, perhaps most importantly, they want to find that passion for civics that may have gotten lost somewhere along the way.

So when the opportunity came to write a newspaper column about civics, it seemed like a pretty perfect fit. I love writing, I love teaching, and I believe that understanding our government shouldn't require a person to go back to high school.

As a teacher, I have the privilege of teaching young people that their voices matter. As a member of my community, I believe adults need that reminder, too.

So, consider this column a little "Government without the homework." My goal is to take some of the mystery out of government and explain the things we should all know as citizens — without requiring you to sit through another high school government class. (Although I would love to have you all in class!)

We'll talk about elections, the Constitution, local government, voting, civic participation, and maybe even some of those government questions you were too embarrassed to ask in class.

Because democracy works best when We the People actually participate in it. And I think that's worth teaching.

## LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

JOHN C. ANTHONY,  
Case No. KM 2026 PR 000026  
Deceased.  
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by David Anthony, an heir of John C. Anthony, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate, situated in Kingman County, Kansas:

Lot Twelve (12), Block Eight (8) of the Original Town of Cunningham, Kingman County, Kansas.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before October 27, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the city of Kingman, in Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

David Anthony  
Petitioner

BY: Matthew W. Ricke  
349 N. Main, PO Box 113  
Kingman, KS 67068  
(620) 532-3103  
Attorney for Petitioner



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