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East Zone

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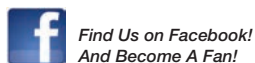
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Slices of life

Struggles with the weight of the English language

Something about a new year (or decade) gets me focused on the English language. I'm not sure why. Normal people focus on indoor exercise and weight loss during the winter months.

I think about words and the heaviness they can cause when used in a redundant manner. Heavy phrases are like extra weight on this hips – unwanted, unwarranted and unneeded. I don't want to come across as preachy. I realize the English language is an ominous and arduous beast. Still, when desiring to master something one must focus on the details. Shall we get started?

Let's take the phrase "first ever." If something is the first, it goes without saying that it is the first ever. "Ever" is a waste of four letters. It's our first trip to the ocean, not our first ever. First, in itself, is enough by itself. Drop the ever. Forever.

The same goes for "first annual." You can't have an annual party or picnic or celebration if you've only had it once. The first event is an inaugural one, not annual (yet), even if you plan to have it for years to come.

The only first annual you can technically host or have is the second annual. I'm a stickler, I



By **JILL PERTLER**
Contributor

know. But where is the beauty of language if not in the intricacies of the details?

Another redundancy: "once again." Again, you can stick with "again." We couldn't find the car keys so went inside to look again (not once again). Save yourself five letters and one whole word and you still have the same message. Extra words are just that: extra. Cut them out like you long to cut belly fat.

Related to the above is "over again." We had to run the race over again. No. We had to run the race over. Or, we had to run the race again. One or the other, but not both. Mantra: cut out the fat.

"Each and every." Really? He looked at each and every Valentine card before picking the right one. "Each" or "every" take your pick but only choose one. Did he look at each Valentine card or every Valentine card? The term "each and every" is redundant and no

one wants to be redundant. It can be really, really, really annoying.

Equally aggravating, is the use of the word "choice." When a person has to decide between two things, it's often described as having two choices. Not true. There are two options, but only one choice. If I can pick a red or blue car, I have two options from which to pick, but only one choice to make.

Which brings us to the "could of" conundrum. I could of done this or I could of done that. Wrong and wrong. You could have. Could have. "Could" and "of" are not friends and should not be forced to stand next to one another – in the gym, on the page or anywhere else.

The same can be said for "being that." "Being that" is not a phrase – or at least not two words that can be correctly strung together. Being that I'm sick I'm staying home from work. It doesn't work. When tempted to use being and that together, substitute the word, "because." It's as simple as (being) that.

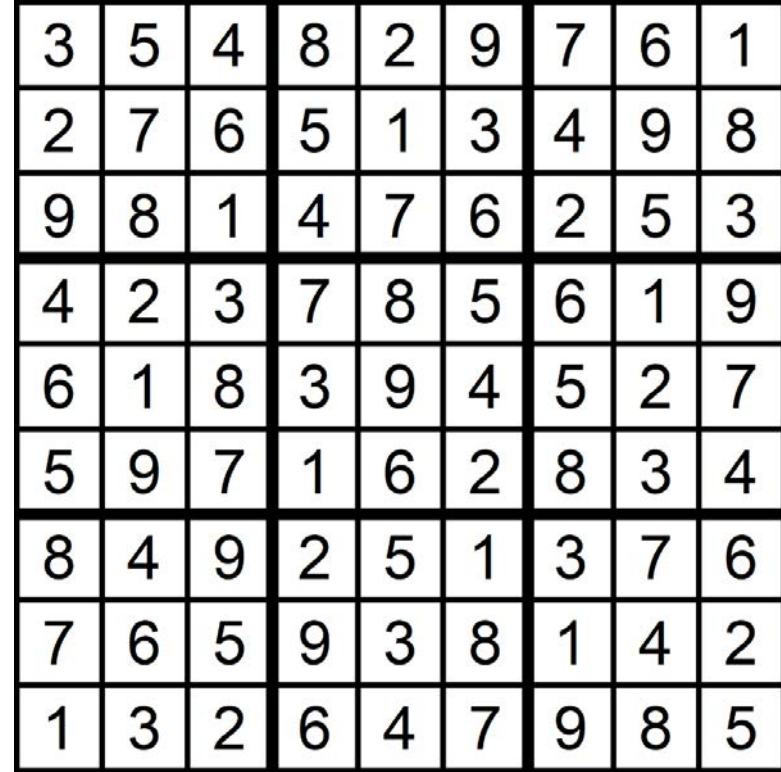
I'll finish up with the distinction between "that" and "who." This one gets a little gray for me. When I write about my pets and their personalities, I'm tempted to use

"who," because they are like little people to me, but technically animals are referred to as "that." "Who" is reserved and preferred for references to people, although "that" is okay in a pinch. The dog that ate my shoes. The man who

borrowed my shoes.

While we're chatting about "that," the darn word can be deleted in many instances. But not always. Complicated, I know.

See ENGLISH, Page 3



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SAT., FEB. 23 – Rockford Home Show 'Antiques Appraisal' – Indoor Sports Center, 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, IL – 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc., Pecatonica, IL, 815-239-1436, hacksauction.com

SAT., MARCH 14 – Karl Heeren Estate Machinery Auction – 1966 S. Hoisington Rd., Winnebago, IL - 10:00 A.M. Hack's Auction & Realty Service, Inc., Pecatonica, IL, 815-239-1436, hacksauction.com

Weekly connection

Winter fun with the Grands

It's been a pretty pleasant winter so far this year. In October, we had a week of intense cold and snow, and everything I read said that we were going to have a horribly cold and snowy winter. Thank goodness those forecasts haven't come to fruition. When I was a kid I remember snow piled 15 or 20 feet high on the side of our road.

Every farm family had a snowmobile or two in their shed just in case the county couldn't get the roads plowed. Of course we also had a ton of fun with them. It seems like in the 70's we had 10 or 12 snow days each winter. On such days we would hop on the snowmobiles after chores and race

across the fields enjoying a new blanket of the white stuff every couple of days it seemed.

Sometimes we would see the neighbor kids out doing the same thing, and we would buzz over and visit with them for awhile. feed to the cattle. Sometime around the late 80's three wheelers were deemed unsafe and four-wheelers became the ATV of choice. Since my three-wheeler was pretty much shot by this time, I purchased one for my new family.

When the winter snows came I would hook up that old rubber sled and drag them around the fields listening to them laugh and scream with delight. We always



By
SCOTT CERNEK
Columnist

had a couple of dogs who got extremely excited during these snow times. They would bark, nip and chase the rubber sled with great enthusiasm for hours.

Our kids never got tired of this activity that's for sure. Last week our daughters brought the grandchildren over to the farm for some fun in the snow. I fired

up the four-wheeler, dug the old rubber sled out of the shed and got ready for the invasion.

Thankfully, we got two or three inches of snow the night before making everything perfect for some sledding.

I finished up my morning chores just as they started to roll in. Before any snow fun we had to have a good country breakfast. I made sausage, bacon, eggs, potatoes, and pancakes, and we had a feast.

After getting everyone's snow

suits, boots mittens and hats on, we headed outside not sure what to expect. It was like the old days all over again as squeals of joy could be heard as I slowly dragged them around the farm. What a blast it was. Psalm 127:4-5 says; *Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. It's so exciting to have these wonderful grandchildren and to be able to share our lives with them.*

Until next week, God bless.

•English (Continued from page 2)

When in doubt, read your sentence aloud both ways – with “that” and without. If no meaning is lost, delete. Two examples: 1. It's possible that I'll be late. 2. I whispered that I'd be late. Which needs “that?” There's no cut and dried answer, but sentence number two (in my humble opinion) benefits from “that.” Sentence number one can do without.

And with that, I'll step down from my soapbox and focus on more important things, like the upcoming bathing suit season and

the fact that my bathroom scale will once again be used for the first ever time since last fall, being that I haven't paid enough attention to the two choices I have of being healthy or eating junk food, which is a struggle for me each and every day.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Successful people are often square pegs in round holes, fueled by self-doubt

By Jack Colton
FOUNDER SILENTRICH.COM

The most successful people amongst us are oftentimes also the most conflicted, unpredictable and seem to habitually struggle with an almost debilitating battle with their own self-esteem. For better or for worse, true-bred entrepreneurs aren't like other people. You have plenty of hard edges and abrasive eccentricities that serve as the true formula behind your successes. But if left unattended, they can also be the cause of your undoing.

There is a perpetual contradictory dance of empathy versus you being a complete sociopath. You can be the most reasonable and compassionate person possible – helping to care for others on a regular basis, but then won't lose even a moment of sleep completely obliterating the unfortunate soul who made the mistake of standing in your way.

You can't walk into any situation and see things as they are, but rather are entirely consumed with deconstructing how they got there and what can be done to make them as good as they should be. And instead of sitting idle in helpless frustration, you are fueled with the confidence to actually take action and to do the things necessary to change what you don't like. Thus, these are the situations where your best opportunities are found and acted upon.

When you truly believe in something, even the most extreme risk won't overly concern you. You'll take things to the edge if you have to, jeopardizing everything. And if it comes down to it, you'll jump off that edge and just figure it out on the way down. Having your back against this wall of assured destruction is often where you shine the brightest. This willingness to risk it all is what separates you from the people who want things, but who never have the stones to sacrifice what is necessary to achieve them.

You are relentlessly unattached to anything and will change your mind at a moment's notice as new information comes into the picture, no matter the cost of time or investment. You know that the line to success is rarely a straight path, so being able to immediately pivot to such extremes is merely seen as altering the route to your same eventual destination.

High achievers tend to focus more on what they haven't done versus what they have and are notoriously vulnerable for crippling self-doubt and having a nasty case of Impostor's Syndrome. Your obsessive pursuit of perfection and constant attention to detail always have you second-guessing yourself, then wondering if others will finally find you to be a fraud. Seeing you as you actually see yourself, not as smart or as talented as you “should be.”

It seems that the only people immune to Impostor's Syndrome are those who are perfectly comfortable being mediocre and living well below the uncompromising bar that you've set for yourself.

They can't possibly understand

that regardless of how much you have accomplished, how many pats on the back you've received or how much money you've made in the process, none of these things

See **SUCCESSFUL**, Page 6

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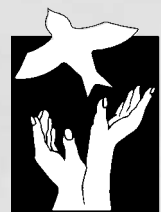


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Successful (Continued from page 3)

actually matter. Instead, you beat yourself up over what you haven't done and wonder if everything you've pulled off up to this point was just luck. At your lowest moments just before it's time to again perform, you ask yourself "what the fuck have I gotten myself into, how am I going to do something again that people will love?"

While inescapable self-doubt manifests itself differently in all successful people, oftentimes it originates from an undeniably difficult background that you've spent much of your life trying to overcome and compensate for. When you peel back your layers and the prickly protective shell that are essential to hiding your vulnerabilities from those who would seek to destroy you, you'll often find your driving force to be the poverty you were raised in, the abusive relationships in your past, the adversity your family overcame, your tumultuous relationship with loved ones or any number of

other things that for all intent and purposes just plain sucked. To this I say, embrace your past and whatever your actual driving forces truly are. It's why you are able to do what you do and has brought about every opportunity that you've ever taken advantage of.

There is a reason most people aren't capable of doing the things that you do, they haven't lived your life. — JC

About Jack Colton:
As *Founder of SilentRich.com*, Jack Colton has always had a passion and a knack for networking and connecting people who can help one another. Prior to *Silent Rich*, Mr. Colton founded and exited a number of successful online companies, including the popular *Las Vegas tourism guide JackColton.com* and *Blackout Artist Management*. Additionally, Colton serves as a mentor for Nevada-based startup incubator, *StartupNV*. Jack can be reached at: Jack@SilentRich.com

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- ACROSS**
- Frenzied
 - Between fathers and sons?
 - Not fake news
 - Black-tie occasion
 - Pupil's place
 - Whatchamacallit
 - Similar
 - Nessie's lake
 - Poet T.S.
 - *He called his residence the White House
 - Dashing style
 - Opposite of cathode
 - No-goodnik
 - Same as Danzig
 - Inside information, pl.
 - Antonym of keep
 - Data input device
 - ____ Madrid Club de F' tbol
 - Anomie, alt. sp.
 - Stupid person
 - First M in MGM
 - Narcotics agent, for short
 - Jennifer Lopez' 2019 movie swindle
 - Band aid
 - Hiked the Inca Trail, e.g.
 - Threat, two words
 - H+, e.g.
 - "Fences" actress Davis
 - Long forearm bone
 - *His epitaph doesn't mention his presidency
 - Abracadabra, e.g.
 - *First Lady of the US for only one month
 - Milano moolah
 - *Where JFK's "Honey Fitz" spent time
 - Two of a kind, pl.
 - Winglike
 - Ring-around-the-rosy flower
 - "C" ____ la vie!"
 - *President during Mexican-American War

- DOWN**
- Petri dish filler
 - Kind of shark
 - Assortment
 - Dorothy Gale, e.g.
 - Gordon Gekko: "____ is good"
 - Bridal path
 - "Hey, over here!"
 - *He installed library at the White House
 - Marco Polo's destination
 - "Oh ____!"
 - Little squirt
 - Conjure up
 - "Faster!" to a horse
 - Glorify
 - *Announce presidential ____
 - *He established Yellowstone as 1st national park
 - 1/100 of a rial
 - "I love you" or "J" ____
 - *Only one to hold position in Executive and Judicial branches
 - Prenatal
 - Orwell's animals' turf, pl.
 - North face, e.g.
 - "You had" or "you would"
 - Baryshnikov's step
 - *First president to campaign by telephone
 - Dixon of "The Walking Dead"
 - Farm layer
 - Body scrubbers
 - Bear Down Under
 - Hearing organ cover
 - Second planet from the Sun
 - "____ me, then who?"
 - Machinating
 - Not more
 - Green gem
 - Storage cylinder
 - Face-to-face exam
 - Police informer
 - Tree juice

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 For your convenience
 Visa & Mastercard
 are accepted
 

EMPLOYMENT BUSINESS & SERVICE AUTOMOTIVE

Help Wanted

BYRON CUSD #226 BUS DRIVERS WANTED!

- Regular Route Bus Drivers
- Substitute Bus Drivers

Apply online at www.byron226.org under the 'About Us' tab in the Employment Opportunities section.

**NEW HIRE BUS DRIVER
STIPEND: \$1,500**

**SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER
STIPEND: \$500**

Contact Barb Rundle, Transportation Director, for more information: 815-234-5491 ext. 400.

BYRON CUSD #226

has a vacancy for:

- Full-Time Custodian,
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Interested individuals should apply online at www.byron226.org under the 'About Us' tab in the Employment Opportunities section.

HELP WANTED ■ FULL TIME Printing Press Operator Assistant

- 4 Day Work Week •

Health Insurance • Paid Holidays • Vacation Time
 Pay will be based on experience. Review at 90 days

Apply in person
SOUTHERN LAKES PUBLISHING
 1102 Ann Street, Delavan, Wis.

Sales/Marketing

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Rock Valley Publishing, your hometown newspapers serving the stateline has an opening for an experienced Media Sales Representative to call on current and new accounts in a protected sales territory.

Growing area with many new businesses, this is a great opportunity for the right applicant.

We publish newspapers, shoppers and niche publications throughout the stateline. You have the opportunity to sell into all Rock Valley Publishing, L.L.C. publications, making your paycheck much larger!

For immediate consideration send resume/job history to:
 Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
 Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
 Fax: (262) 725-6844

Sales/Marketing

Part-Time Advertising Sales Representative

We are currently seeking a Part-Time Advertising Sales Representative to serve new and current clients in our Belvidere market. If you like a fast-paced environment and enjoy a challenge, this is the opportunity for you!

**For immediate consideration
send resume /job history to:**

Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
 Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
 Fax: (262) 725-6844

ROCK VALLEY
Publishing LLC

FOR RENT

Apartments

CLAYTON COURT APARTMENTS

51 Clayton Ct. • Winnebago, IL 61088
 Call today to request an application!
1-815-339-2140

Immediate Openings for 1 & 2 BR apartments. Rent includes water, sewer & trash. Amenities are: range/refrigerator, A/C, off street parking, W/D hook-ups as well as on-site laundry.



Now managed by
Haun Management Systems,
an equal opportunity provider.



REAL ESTATE

Farms

FOR SALE:
 60 acres, Pecatonica,
 50 tillable, 10 creek
 and pasture. \$6900
 per acre or best offer.
386-679-0771
jackottoson@aol.com

Other Real Estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

*Need Help
Finding
Your
Next Home?*
**Check Our
Real Estate
Section**
Call 815-654-4850
 for details on
 placing an ad

For details on
 placing an ad in our
 Business & Service
 Section
 Call Mary Jane
815-877-4044 Ext. 22

Farm Market

TOP PRICES PAID
 For your lame & injured cattle
Call Collect 815-871-2697

For details on
 placing an ad in
 our
**Help
Wanted
Section**
 Call Mary Jane
815-654-4850
 ext. 22
 or email mjane@rvpublishing.com

FOR SALE

Announcements

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

Firewood / Fuel

FIREWOOD FOR SALE Cut in length, unsplit. Starting at \$50 a truck load. 815-509-3910

Automobiles

2000 CHRYSLER CONCORD Great car, 116,000 mi, 4dr, sun-roof, AC, leather seats \$1,800 262-351-9712

2007 DODGE DURANGO Fully loaded: AWD, leather, 3rd row seat, running boards & moon roof. \$3,900. Call or text. 262-758-2089.

2007 SATURN VUE AWD, V6. 127,318 miles, runs good, very good condition. \$3,500 OBO. 262-492-9613.

Automobiles Wanted

TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR FULL SIZE JUNK TRUCKS & SUV's. Haul away 7 days a week. 262-758-1807

Farm Machinery

ENCORE PARTS MOWER Pro 48, \$50, trade men's bike? Wanted: truck, car, electric bike, 50 cc scooter. 847-987-7669 noon +

INTERNATIONAL M TRACTOR 1949 with narrow front end. 3 point hitch, thresher pulley, runs great. \$1,800. Days 262-909-2878, eve., 262-862-7070.

Snowmobiles

VINTAGE 1988 YAMAHA Phazer. 485cc, runs & drives. \$500 OBO. 262-930-9109.

Sport Utilities

2006 FORD ESCAPE 4 wheel drive, runs great, 170K, 1 owner, \$1800 Call (262) 763-3774 or text (262) 758-9027

Trucks & Trailers

1998 CHEVY PICKUP 4x4, V8 350. Good condition. 98K, fiber-glass top. 7 1/2' Western plow., \$4,900 OBO. 262-843-3034.

FREE
 Are you selling a single item for
LESS THAN \$100?
IF SO, WE WILL RUN YOUR AD IN THE JOURNAL, HERALD, GAZETTE, TEMPO BELVIDERE REPUBLICAN, McHENRY COUNTY NEWS & SHOPPERS AT No Charge!
 Private Party Only
 Just fill out the coupon below and drop off or mail to:
 Rock Valley Publishing, FREE Ad,
 7124 Windsor Lake Parkway, Suite 5
 Loves Park, IL 61111-3800
 Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

Ads will not be accepted without the following information. Only one free ad per month.
 YOUR NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____



TIRE DEPOT
CALL (815) 633-8307
4734 N. 2nd St.
Loves Park
Manager Andy Scharlow



**BEST OUT THE DOOR
TIRE PRICING
ON MAJOR BRANDS**



**TIRE DEPOT
SAVINGS**
\$30 off
**any Service of
\$150 or more**
Most cars & light trucks. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offer or special.
Expires 2/20/20

**TIRE DEPOT
SAVINGS**
**OIL CHANGE
& FILTER**
Install new oil filter • Includes up to 5 quarts of 5W30
Lubricate chassis (if necessary) • Free brake inspection
\$9.88
Most cars & light trucks. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offer or special.
Expires 2/20/20

**LIFETIME
BRAKE PADS
50% OFF**
Expires 2/20/20. Most cars & light trucks. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offer or special.

**THE
WORKS**

- 1) Lube, Oil Change & FILTER
(up to 5 quarts of 10w30 Motor Oil)
- 2) Check Fluid Levels & Top Off
A: Coolant in Reserve Tank & Condition
B: Power Steering Fluid & Condition
C: Fill Wash Fluid (REAL Wash Fluid)
D: Transmission Fluid Level & Condition of Fluid
E: Brake Fluid & Condition of Fluid
- 3) Inspect Belts & Hoses
- 4) Inspect Tires & Correct Air Pressure
- 5) Rotate Tires
- 6) Inspect Thickness of Brake Pads
- 7) Check Vehicle Charging System
A: Test Output of Alternator
B: Load Test The Battery
C: Check Condition of Battery Connections

\$24.95 Plus Disposal Fee & Sales Tax

- OFFER GOOD FOR MOST CARS •
- MINI VANS – LIGHT TRUCKS UP TO 1/2 TON •
- 3/4 – 1 TON TRUCKS – ADD \$10 •
- 5W20 – ADD \$2 • With Coupon •
- Not valid with any other offer •
- Expires 2/20/20 •

**BRAKES • ALIGNMENT • AIR CONDITIONING
BATTERIES • TUNE-UPS • CUSTOM EXHAUST
STRUTS • SUSPENSION • BELTS & HOSES
ENGINE REPLACEMENT • HEAD GASKETS
INTAKE GASKETS • AND MORE**

FREE
**Lube, Oil & Filter
Change**
With the purchase of 4 tires
Cannot be combined with any other offer