The SHOPPER

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Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Sale to be held at:
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AUCTIONEER NOTE: The buildings are completely full! We will be updating our AuctionZip page (www.auctionzip.com/Listings/3616679.html) with updated listings and photos. Any questions, please call auctioneers.

TERMS: Cash or good check. Have positive ID. Not responsible for items after sold.
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Slices of life

When life makes other plans, find harmony

By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

A few weeks ago I started writing about a series of seven words that I thought would help each of us on our paths forward, whatever direction that might be. Seven words that when embraced could help us all in times of joy as well as times of trouble. Seven words to set us up for the future.

It was perfection.

And then, as quickly as I had the great seven word idea, my laptop crashed. I lost two of those perfect columns about the seven perfect words. At first it felt like a punch in the gut, but then as time marched on, I realized I was okay with not publishing the lost columns. Okay? Heck, I was more than okay.

That's because I realized the first seven words weren't the right ones.

As the days unfolded my perspective on the seven words changed, and I realized that is how life goes. We are always unfolding. Always changing. Forever evolving into the new me that we want to be. And that's exactly how it should be. Just as soon as we believe we have it figured out, our seven words change.

Isn't that cool? I'd hate to ever be done figuring things out. Although it is tempting sometimes, especially on those days when your laptop crashes. (Thank goodness that isn't often.)

I still love words, and realizing there isn't a magic seven only opens the door for more exploration. I'll start now.

Originally, I planned to write about balance. It's a great word. Balance is a duality that runs throughout nature, throughout life. It provides peace and stability. Yin and yang. Balance is equality between the two. What could be better?

I wasn't sure, but then the cosmos put the idea of harmony in my path. If balance between two things is good, harmony be might be even better.

Balance tethers us to two. Harmony opens up the equation. It gives us alternatives. A cord of three strands is stronger than one of two, just like three part harmony, when well done, often outdoes the two-part version.

A set of two points can easily topple. Three points is steady and stable.

Three is a strength seen throughout nature and the world. Good things come in threes. Past, present and future sums up time better than now and then. We say the ABC's, not the AB's. There are three primary colors: red, yellow and blue, from which all other hues are created.

The Earth is the third planet from the sun. There are three Olympic medals: bronze, silver and gold. First, middle and last. Small, medium and large. Solid, liquid and gas. Land, sea and air. Breakfast, lunch and dinner (snacks would only add to the harmony.)

Me, myself and I. Rock, paper, scissors. Mind, body and spirit. The three amigos, musketeers, stooges, Charlie's Angels, blind mice, little pigs, French hens, Goldilocks' bears.

Balance is two factors, working in tandem. The best balance can do is balance. Harmony is more. It takes us beyond balance to stability. Harmony is quite literally music to our ears.

Balance is working things out between two people. Harmony is a deeper cooperation between the group. Balance exists between you and me. Harmony makes us all part of the whole.

Balance in life is good; it is sought after. Harmony makes balance complete. And, like a braided cord, harmony makes us all stronger.

When you focus on just the melody, that is all you hear. When you expand your focus to include multiple notes and chords, you achieve a greater perspective – one that goes beyond the note you are playing and reaches beyond you to the innate harmony that exists in our world, in nature. The harmony that exists between us all.

And that, is music to the ears.

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

Weekly connection

Loading pigs in the rain

By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

The cold fall rains are upon us, and we sure need the moisture to build the underground water table back up. I read that we are 10 or 11 inches short of normal rainfall for our area after such a dry spring and summer this year.

A couple months ago, I had scheduled with a local butcher to slaughter our daughter and son-in-law's two pigs on a Monday morning. So, after a busy Sunday morning at church and a short nap on the couch, I hooked up the cattle trailer and set off for their place about an hour away.

I traveled along with that steady cold rain coming down as I drove along. Thankfully, they had a grassy path leading back to the hog pen and so I backed my trailer up the path without making a muddy mess. However, the hog pen was a different story. I was a muddy mess as you can imagine.

We opened up the gate and began to herd the two of them into the trailer in a nice smooth orderly manner, or so we thought. My son-in-law had the right idea as he got out the feed buckets and rapped them together sprinkling a little ground feed by the open gate and up into the trailer.

The two big pigs came waddling over and out the gate just like we had planned. We moved in quickly behind them as one hopped up in the trailer. The other one however, decided to double back on us, and I wasn't able to keep his nose pointing in the right direction, and he squirmed under the trailer gate and back into his safe surroundings.

We had one in and one out, so for the next hour or so in the steady cold rain we worked to get that pig back to the trailer slipping and sliding around in the mud doing our best to stay upright. Since he was a little riled up, we didn't really have a chance.

Finally, we constructed a new plan. We moved the truck and trailer to a different opening at the edge of the fenced in lot that wasn't a part of their pen. We had good footing there and using a long wire panel with one of us holding each end, we herded him down the grassy lane out the gate and into the trailer with his buddy.

We were soaked and quite cold, but the job was done. Since I had my cover-alls on, my underneath clothes were clean but had become very wet so my daughter let me throw them in her clothes drier. After a nice supper and a couple of stories with the grandkids, my clothes were hot and dry, and I was ready to roll back home with the pigs in tow.

It was yet another learning experience to store away for the next time they decide to raise a couple pigs. Somewhere back in my experience with pigs, I remembered how important it was to use hog panels to move these creatures, and that's what we used to finally get the last one loaded.

In Job 12:12 we read that *"Wisdom is with aged men. With long life is understanding."* I just wish I would have remembered about the panels when we began and not after one had gotten away. It would have saved us a great deal of time. Anyway, God is good and always there to help us.

Until next week, God bless!

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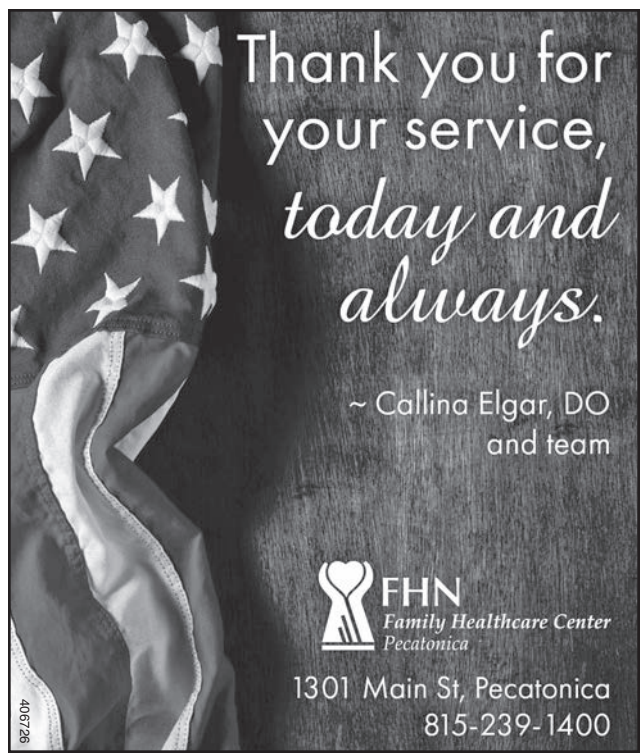
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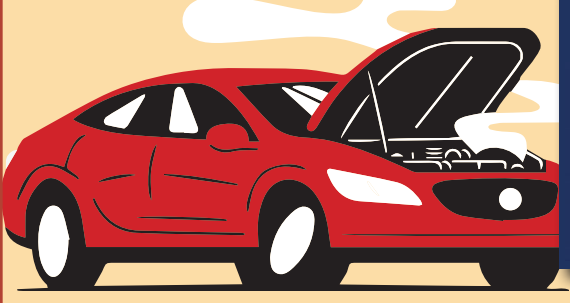

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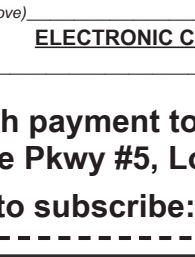

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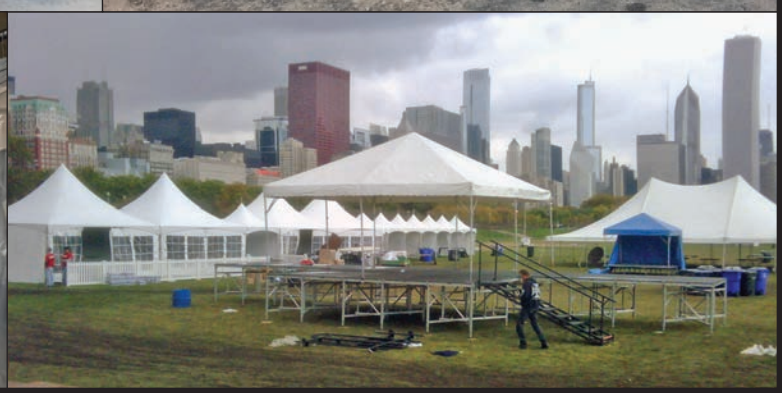
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