

Wal-Mart's success

In response to "Real price of Wal-Mart seems to steep to pay" July 21:

I have read some of the letters and articles regarding Wal-Mart stores opening and also have read about the one that may be opening in Belvidere. Most of the articles and letters seem to whine and complain about Wal-Mart being the cause of other smaller businesses going out of business, lost jobs, lost history, the tax breaks, the government help, the Wal-Mart people who don't know how to answer their customer's questions, and of course they always mention the poor local hardware store that had to close.

Now, here's what I think. One of the things I do for a living is I own a water treatment company. I do business all over northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Wal-Mart sells water softeners. Big deal. I hope somebody opens a water treatment company on every corner. That will give me somebody else to beat up on. I'm successful because I work hard. I work smart. I think Wal-Mart and its founder, managers, and employees should be commended for building something so successful. They obviously did a great job. I believe in the old saying, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen" or the "If you think you can, you can. If you think you can't, you're probably right."

— Mark R. Durham Sr.,
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