

## The Bonham Line

Ever wonder how many people visit Arthur every year? We have a person who keeps track of that information. She is Christy Miller, tourism director.

When she is not away attending a tourism meeting or promoting the Arthur Area at a convention, Christy can be found at the welcome center, corner of Vine and Progress streets.

Christy presented her annual report during Monday night's Village Board meeting.

The door count for 2018 was 234,212 which is 11,858 more (5%) than the total for 2017. This figure does not include tour bus numbers.

According to Christy, visitors came from 43 states and 52 countries. This shows that the Arthur Area is not only a national destination, but an international destination as well!

The average stay was one day.

A survey question asking how our new friends heard about the Arthur Area brought several responses. The most popular were from family or friends, Internet, Facebook, the poultry processing plant, Route 66, magazine ads, events, highway signs, campground host, TV interviews, Champaign Visitors guide, and the Bicentennial Book.

During the year Christy sent out 2,134 informational packets.

Obviously, tourism tapers off at certain times of the year, including now. The Arthur Area attracts thousands of visitors every year as shown by these numbers.

But the town cannot depend solely on visitors to maintain its businesses. With so much change going on downtown, keep in mind that as each vacant storefront fills again, we need to support local businesses first.

As we have said many times before. Shop in Arthur and the Arthur Area first; if they don't have it, see if a store can order it for you. As a last resort, go out of town. The future of this great community depends on us.

Be seeing you!

-rwb-

## Guest Commentary

### ACT or SAT: What is a college-bound student to do?

By JASON FRANKLIN  
Better Prep Success Inc.

Christmas Break is over. Now parents of high school juniors may be asking, "How do I know which test is best for my student: the ACT or SAT?" Well, there are some potential problems with that line of thinking:

The only way a student would be able to determine that would be to take the ACT and SAT multiple times WHILE keeping up with all their high school courses, homework, quizzes and tests, not to mention after school activities like sports. That's not realistic for most students.

A student should make their decision based on what other college-bound students are doing because that is their competition.

During the 20th century, there were colleges that preferred one test over the other. However, we live in the 21st century. Now, all colleges accept the ACT or SAT for admissions.

However, college scholarships are a different story. More college scholarship opportunities are connected to the ACT than the SAT, and this is why most college-bound students focus on the ACT. Consider the following facts.

All colleges and universities are required to report various statistics to the National Center for Education Statistics. One of the statistics that is tracked is the percentages of students that submit specific college admissions test scores on their college applications.

Look at the major public schools in Illinois. The following percentages represent college applications submitted in the Fall of 2017 that included ACT scores: University of Illinois (85%), Illinois State (98%), Eastern Illinois (97%), Northern Illinois (97%), Western Illinois (96%),

and Southern Illinois (94%).

Look how high those percentages are, and those would include Illinois public school students that took the taxpayer-funded State SAT. The clear majority of students were still taking the ACT.

Look at the other major universities in the Midwest: Iowa (95%), Wisconsin (89%), Indiana (67%), Ohio State (86%), Kentucky (92%), Tennessee (99%), Michigan (76%), and Missouri (96%).

Look at the Ivy League schools: Yale (57%), Harvard (53%), Penn (54%), Brown (61%), Princeton (54%), Columbia (57%), Dartmouth (48%), and Cornell (56%).

Those numbers are significant because of the Fall of 2017 was the first time in history that over half the Ivy League applicants submitted ACT scores.

Here's the irony: The SAT was originally invented by the Ivy League schools! It was their test, and now most of their applicants are submitting ACT scores.

Here's the reality: The ACT has been the most popular college admissions tests nationally and internationally since 2011. Over 130 countries administer the ACT.

We live in Illinois. The ACT has been the most popular exam since the 1960s. Even though Illinois is one of eight states that administer a taxpayer-funded State SAT (while 20 states administer a state ACT), the ACT is still more popular among Illinois college-bound students.

Because more students take the ACT, colleges and universities tend to connect more scholarship opportunities to the ACT. And, that is the best reason why serious college-bound students should focus on the ACT.

(Editor's Note: Jason Franklin is the founder of Better Prep

Success, Inc. and teaches classes in Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur, Peoria, and Springfield. He has been teaching classes for over 20 years and has personally worked with over 15,000 students.

He also has online video classes that have been used by students around the world. His email address is Jason.Franklin@BetterPrepSuccess.com.).



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## Stuck in the middle with you...

By KENT A. STOCK  
Staff Writer

"Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right; here I am stuck in the middle with you."

Actually, if you were in this area; you probably weren't stuck at all as the latest dose of nasty winter weather went both north and south of us.

Not only did we not get any snow and very little ice, we actually ended up after the week-end with less snow on the ground than before. Who saw that coming? Obviously, the weather forecasters had to be surprised. Oh well, we all make mistakes.

I'm waiting on someone to blame the government shutdown for the National Weather Service missing some of the forecast so badly. It will happen, give it time.

I did not miss that it did not snow because the wind would have made it quite miserable as it did elsewhere in our fair state. Right now, it is six degrees with a wind chill of minus nine; pretty nippy even for a Midwesterner.

No, I am not going out to look at the total lunar eclipse of the full red wolf super moon or whatever it is. I prefer my celestial events to occur in more appropriate weather conditions, thank you very much. I'm sure

## Town Talk

I'll read all about it on the Book of Faces.

My plan after football is over for the night is to take the dog out for a very, very quick bathroom break, come back inside, crawl underneath the stack of blankets, and then get the dog and kitty in with me to anchor it all down.

Wake me in March!

**Super Bowl Whatever**

Well, the two teams for the Super Bowl are set. I am not thrilled with either one. The Rams are at least somewhat new, at least this version. The Patriots, I just really can't stand, and I am tired of hearing about Tom Brady. Next, please.

I'm not sure I'll even watch because professional football

just does not do that much for me anymore. I have to admit I was somewhat excited about the Bears winning their division and making the playoffs. That sure was short lived was it not?

Anyway, two weeks to plan your big party and two weeks closer to baseball season; I am looking at that as the silver lining.

**Happy Birthday  
Good Ole Jer!**

We have a gentleman in our midst who will be turning 90 on January 26; I have confirmed this

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## LyondellBasell takes leadership role in effort to end plastic waste

LyondellBasell, one of the largest plastics, chemicals, and refining companies in the world last week announced CEO Bob Patel has joined with Proctor & Gamble CEO David Taylor and Veolia CEO Antoine Frerot in leading the newly announced global Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW).

The AEPW is the first-ever international coalition of chemical and plastics manufacturers, converters, consumer goods companies, retailers and waste management companies dedicated to partnering with the finance community, government, and environmental and economic development NGOs to find market-based solutions to ending plastic waste in the environment. LyondellBasell is a founding member of AEPW.

"From helping to reduce food waste and improving healthcare products to cutting fuel consumption and emissions from lightweight vehicles, there is no doubt that plastics have played a positive role in improving quality of life for billions of people around the world," said LyondellBasell CEO Bob Patel.

"But like so many other products, responsibly managing their disposal or reuse has become a concern—not just for governments or NGOs, but for all of us."

The nearly 30 companies and organizations that comprise the AEPW have a goal to commit \$1.5 billion over the next five years to develop and bring to scale solutions that will minimize and manage plastic waste and promote post-use solutions.

"This approach is unique because it brings together and focuses the efforts and knowledge of plastics producers, consumer goods companies, and retailers—as well as waste management companies," Patel said.

"Having the resources and knowledge of the entire global value chain under one umbrella with the same goal is really very powerful."

AEPW focus areas  
The AEPW's efforts will focus on four key pillars:

—Infrastructure development to collect and manage waste and increase recycling;

—Innovation to advance and scale new technologies that make recycling and recovering plastics easier and create value from all post-use plastics;

—Education and engagement of governments, businesses, and communities to mobilize action;

—Clean up of concentrated areas of plastic waste already in the environment, particularly the major conduits of waste, like rivers, that carry land-based plastic

waste to the sea.

**LyondellBasell's Efforts**

With the growth of the circular economy, LyondellBasell has increased its focus on issues related to eliminating plastic waste. In 2018, LyondellBasell announced two key projects in this area, namely:

—A first-of-its-kind plastic recycling venture: In March 2018, LyondellBasell and SUEZ entered into a joint venture to acquire Quality Circular Polymers (QCP), a premium plastics recycling company in the Netherlands.

The innovative 50/50 joint venture leverages SUEZ's collection network and leading-edge technology solutions to improve the identification, separation, and preparation of materials to be used as feedstock at QCP.

LyondellBasell's longstanding leadership in innovative plastic production technology, vast experience in product development, and deep knowledge of important end markets, such as consumer goods, are being leveraged to further grow QCP's success.

—R&D partnership on chemical recycling: In July 2018, LyondellBasell announced it signed an agreement with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

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