

# Letter to the Editor

## Low return in school survey is disappointing

To the editor:  
Regarding the recent survey put forward by our school district. Sadly I have to say that I am disgusted, disappointed and saddened in light of both a letter to the editor in the paper two weeks ago and its 'inaccuracies.' (And there were many beginning with the contention that a QR code had to be scanned or a link followed to participate in the survey. This was just not true as it was clearly stated that the survey could be obtained by calling the school and having one mailed to you.) Disappointed at reading the school board news last week and learning that just around 10% of the surveys were returned. And saddened that so few could be bothered to respond to that survey. This is too important an issue to just throw it in the trash as I fear many did. My guess is that many used the excuse that their opinion didn't matter anyway or that their responses would not be listened to. Also guess that those may be some of the same people who had no problem sharing their opinion on facebook and other means of social media during the run-up to the vote on the referendum. It would also seem to me that the writer of the letter to the editor in the January 18 issue of the paper feels that throwing a lot of words out there and bringing up issues that are not really relevant somehow makes his case stronger. Sadly there also seems to be a certain element who believes that too whether they actually can follow his reasoning or not. He also doesn't seem to understand that there are companies who do this kind of thing

all the time. It's their business and their profession to take surveys and analyze and share the results. This is nothing new and is done all the time.  
Was he also aware that several groups went door to door talking to people and informing them before the referendum? I also wonder if he is aware that since the referendum several focus groups have been meeting with people from all the communities and from all walks of life where they were able to voice their opinions and share ideas and concerns. Another question for the letter writer would be, has he actually talked with any of our administrators or school board members to see if they could give him answers or address his concerns. I suspect I know the answer to that one.  
He also expresses concern that people will not be able to read and understand the questions. Questions like why do you think people voted no? Why do you think people voted yes? Gives proposed approaches for moving forward and asks what you think. Asks how much need is there to renovate high school? Rate the job performance of the school district. States that the school district is looking for a better understanding of why the referendum failed and why there seemed to be a disconnect. There was also an opportunity to make comments on a couple of the questions. I guess I would give my fellow citizens more credit than he seems to.  
I also wonder how asking people to come to administrators and school board members with questions is a bad thing? The information on the

referendum was there to be had. Unfortunately there were those who either couldn't be bothered to find out or bought into the rumors and lies that were told.  
As for predicting the future I don't really believe that is possible but I do believe I can safely say if we don't take care of what is needed now the future will not look very bright for our students and/or our communities. I also feel, sadly, that many have lost sight of what is most important here and that is giving our kids the best in terms of facilities, technology and the ability to attract good teachers. If you don't look ahead, if you don't grow as a community in ALL aspects, then what happens? I seriously doubt that our strong manufactur-

ing firms are going to up and leave because we improve our schools. In fact I think it would do quite the opposite.  
The letter writer stated: "We all must remain a community," which is about the only thing I agree with but the contention that 'outside forces' are going to gain monetarily is puzzling. Don't people get paid for their expertise all the time? I'm not

nearly as concerned about those who are doing the job they are qualified and paid to do gaining monetarily as I am about what our children and our communities will lose if we don't look to the future and work together on this issue.  
RESPECTFULLY  
(the proper word)  
Martha K. Yeakel

## Arthur Through My Eyes

My husband John and I are both originally from Illinois (I grew up a farmer's daughter in Lovington and he grew up in North Aurora), but we spent 16 years of our married life in Southern California (namely, Panorama City in the San Fernando Valley of L.A. county). We were a minority there, surrounded by both the Phillipino and Hispanic cultures. I remember upon first moving there, going out to eat at the Hometown Buffet and hearing all different languages around our table. It was quite a culture shock in many ways. Our apartment building was located on a 6 lane main road in the front (not even a highway). The only thing my Dad could say as he stood out front looking back and forth when he and Mom moved me there was, "it's different". And 'different' it was!  
My Johnnie worked as a 2nd shift custodial supervisor at the time for a 7,000 member church, and I would have to wait to meet him outside before entering the worship service... a sea of people passed me by. I

felt like a fish out of water for sure! Not to mention the time a policeman on a motorcycle aggressively pulled up alongside me after I walked across a super small street on the "don't walk" sign. He sternly said, "You walked on a no walking signal" and started writing me a ticket. I was so absolutely shocked that I exclaimed in response, "You're writing me a TICKET?!" In retrospect, what I should have tearfully said was, "I'm just a country mouse who just moved to this big city and it's a lot to take in..." But I didn't and I received a ticket my first month of living there for \$75! He actually even wrote in that I was walking 2 miles per hour. Oh my! That same month, the Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme that my kind Dad had just put new tires on to move to CA and talked Country Company insurance into insuring me in CA till I got established, was stolen out of that big 6 lane road - Roscoe Blvd. - only to be found days later all stripped because it was a car the gang bangers really like. Geesh! Quite a "welcome wagon" for me! All this to share that life in southern CA

was a new experience for me.  
On a more positive note... in order to get to know our neighbors better, John and I quickly learned that we needed to be open and willing to enter in to the different cultures that were around us and learn about their ways if we were to befriend them. We experienced how the Phillipino culture very specifically mourned the dead as we were invited to participate in a family dinner honoring the parent of a neighbor who died. It solidified our friendship for years to come. We also experienced firsthand how relational and communal the Hispanic culture is and were so impressed and touched by how readily they welcomed us into their family events. We were privileged to have the fun experience of tasting different foods as we were invited to birthday parties or other celebrations. It was an adventure!

As I now live in Arthur, I am realizing that even this small town lives amidst cultural differences, and it made me think about how we as English and Amish live and work and worship together. It too can be an "adventure" to learn more about how we all view life and do life. We obviously won't always agree or even be comfortable with the ways of each other, but we still have the privilege of respecting one another and appreciating one another as we walk alongside each other in this special place. We have a unique opportunity to grow as people and be an example to the world of what it looks like to live together amidst our differences. That excites me and makes me proud to be a part of the Arthur community!  
With Joy in My Heart,  
Trudy Feyereisen

## Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

## Spinning Our Wheels

To be prepared means being ready for anything that is reasonably possible to happen.  
This past week, we were supposed to get a decent snowstorm. You know how they go: cold, an abundance of flakes, and enough wind to make you wonder if the snow is falling from the sky or arriving from the neighbor's yard.  
With a prediction of 5-7 inches on Wednesday, I started preparations. Gas for the snowblower? Check. Snowblower starts? Yes, it does. Shovels by the garage door for easy use? Ready to go. Locate boots that haven't been needed since last year's snow? All set.  
Ability to get snowblower in the bed of the truck for use at mother's and daughter's house? Nope. Utter failure. Unless I planned on having my wife help lift two-stages of steel-bladed 5.5 horsepower self-propelled machinery into the back of my truck. Not that she's not willing, nor possibly able. But that's not a place a caring husband really wants to go without it being a dire emergency. So, I headed 25 miles south to purchase a ramp set that was in stock at the local Container Bay outlet.  
Ever have an "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"-kind of morning? That's how Tuesday was. I got the ramps. Went to the German grocery to see if they had a couple of things I enjoy. No, not on the shelves. Headed to the Orange Station while I was in the area and picked up some stuff to keep the squirrels fed. Why? Must be madness. Left. Forgot something. Went back in and got what I needed to do a project for a family member. Headed back to town,

stopped, and bought 3 dozen eggs. Delivered some eggs to my mom, received a bag of trash to put in the can, and snow goggles for my snow blowing enjoyment.  
Make it home, switch vehicles, and head back to the office. Get an update on the quilting exploits of the sewing ladies downstairs. Three hours after departing Arthur, I had finally made it back to do what I had intended to get done before realizing that I could not easily get a heavy snowblower around town. Then, as you know, the snow barely stuck to the ground on Wednesday. Ugh!  
Some days are a struggle to recognize that we are not wasting time, nor involved in a waste of time.  
God is the one who is in control of the moments of our day. We might have plans. We probably hope to complete our to-do list with room to spare. But the Lord is able to see what is important more than we do. Every day we are to let the hours unfold as He sees fit.  
Proverbs 19:21 says, "You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail." We can get frustrated and think we're just spinning our wheels, but God Himself measures the impact of how time plays out. We might be surprised to learn that what seemed wasted to us that morning, was exactly what He wanted to have happen just then. God redeems not just us as individuals, but our time and actions as well.  
Much love and many blessings,  
Pastor John Stewart  
First Baptist Church  
of Arthur



# Church Directory

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

**ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - USA, 311 E. Jefferson, Arcola. Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Phone 268-3212  
**ARCOLA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE** - Rev. Ivan Jess 268-4769, 276-3020; Sam Miller, SS Supt. 202-6094. Sunday School, 9:30am Morning Worship, 10:30am; (Sign Language Interpreter) Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm; Wednesday evening Bible Study 6:00pm; Missionary Meeting second Wednesday night of each month.  
**ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH** - 710 E. Park St., Arthur. Worship begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. Christian Education classes for all ages begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome, come and join us! Call 543-2781 for more information. Ministry Team: Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling & Administration; Jeff Marnier, Minister of Worship and Youth; Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach; Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life. Website: arthurmennonite.org Email: arthurmennonite@gmail.com  
**ARTHUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH** - 530 N. Vine St., Arthur. Pastor: Doug Davis, Worship 10:00am; Children's Church every Sunday morning at 9:30am, Nursery provided. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm, Wednesday: Service 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. 543-2672.  
**ATWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - 229 S. Main, Atwood. Pastor Don Gerkin. Phone 578-2880. Sunday School 9am; Church, 10am; Bible Study 6:30pm  
**BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH** - David Babb, Pastor, Sunday Worship, 9:30am; Sunday School 10:45am; bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com  
**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH** - Missouri Synod. 1 mile south of Sullivan on Highway 32. Glenn Strohschein, Pastor. Sunday Morning Service 10:00am; Sunday School 9:00am; Saturday services 5:00pm. Online services: www.worshipnew.com  
**FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH** - 320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, Timothy Froese, Pastor. Sunday School 10am; Sunday Worship & The Word 11:15am; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm. Website: www.facarthur.org  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABCUSA)** - 120 E. Park, Arthur. John Stewart Pastor; Sunday School 9am, Worship 10am; American Baptist Women's Ministries meets 2nd Mon. 7pm; Prayer chain, 543-2296. For other activities and information, call church 543-2592 or Internet at www.firstbaptistarthur.com  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** - 231 N. Illinois, Atwood, 578-2555. Woody White, Pastor. Sunday School 9am; Morning worship 10am; Youth 5:00pm; Discipleship Class 6pm; Woman's Bible Study Tues. 9am; IGNITE Children's Ministry Weds. 6:30-8pm. Child care provided at all services. Website www.firstbaptistatwood.org  
**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH** - 300 Northline Rd., Tuscola, 253-2084, Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Worship 10:30am; Evening service 6pm; Wednesday Evening 6:30pm. A Ministry for Everyone: Sunday School for all ages, King's Kids, Teen Dept. Homebuilders & more! www.faithtuscola.org  
**LOVINGTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - Corner of County (Route 32) and Church Streets. Worship 9:30am; Children's Church 4 yrs.-1st grade 10:15am; Sunday School 10:45am for all ages; Wednesday night Bible Study, 6:00pm. Craig Swinford, Pastor.  
**LOVINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 241 S. Broadway, Lovington Sunday School 9:15am; Worship 10:30am Larry Bricker, Minister.  
**FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP** - 228 N. Broadway St., Lovington. 873-8791. "Real Faith, Real Life". Sunday Service 10am. www.lovingtonfaith.org  
**EAGLE MOUNTAIN** - Assembly of God. Pastor Darin Elder, 253-4444, 401 E. Sale St., Tuscola. Sunday Services, 10am and 6:30pm and Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm Nursery and children's ministries provided during all services.  
**SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH** - Larry Rocke, Senior Pastor, Luke Goss, Assistant Pastor. Sunday School 9:30am; Services 10:30am  
**COWBOY CHURCH** - Penn Station, 122 E. Progress, Arthur, 217-273-4202. Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Darrell Helmuth, Minister. Everyone welcome.  
**JONATHAN CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - "Forward in Christ, United in Love, Come as You Are". 1425 Jonathan Creek Rd, Sullivan, 728-4369.

Website: jrcreek.org. Email: jonathancreekchurch@yahoo.com. Pastor Tim Henderson. **Sunday Worship:** 8:00am Traditional Service, 10:00am Contemporary Service; 10:00am FROG (Fully Rely on God) Super Kids Church (for children 4-12); 6:00pm Believers Meeting (Contemporary Service.) **Corporate Prayer:** Tuesdays at 6:30pm. **Family Night:** Wednesday Evenings @ 6:30-8 pm Summer Schedule: 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7. Will start back weekly in September. Lite meal at 6:30-7pm then break up into classes til 8pm. **Bus Service Available** Call 521-9576 for bus info. Jonathan Creek Christian Church a Regional Life Transformation Center, LovingPeople to Life; **Everyone Welcome.**  
**NORTH VINE MENNONITE CHURCH** - 312 N. Vine, Arthur, Brian Petersheim, Sr. Pastor; Mike Helmuth, Asst. Pastor. Sunday School for all ages 9:30am; Message 10:30am; Sunday evening services 6pm. No services on last Sunday night of every month. All are welcome.  
**SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH** - Washington & Pine Streets, Arcola, 268-3766. Rev. Angel Sierra, Pastor. Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.; Weekday Mass Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Confessions Wednesday 6:15 p.m. or by appointment. Affirmations Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Email: johnbaptist@consolidated.net  
**LIFEPOINTE CHURCH** - 700 E. Main, Arcola. Nondenomination/Spirit-Filled Church. Ph. 217-268-4586. Rev. Gephard and Judy Warman. Sunday Worship Service: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rogelio Gutierrez - Spanish Church. Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m. Friday Service: 7:00 p.m.  
**ARTHUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - 128 E. Illinois, Arthur. Pastor Jill Bunker. Worship 8am & 10am; Sunday School 9am Nursery for Sunday School and 10am Service. www.arthurunitedmethodist.org  
**VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH** - 249 S. Vine, Arthur. Pastor Bob Silvanik. Sunday School 9am; Worship 10am. Christian Women's Fellowship meets first Wednesday each month 1:30pm, September-June. Nursery and air conditioning.  
**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** - P.O. Box 252, Arthur. 2 1/2 miles south of Garrett. Church Worship 9:00am; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m  
**LOVINGTON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (ANDERSON)** - 301 W. State St. Lovington, IL 61937. Pastor Rodney Houser. Phone 873-4749 9am Sunday School, 10am Morning Worship, Wednesday 7pm Midweek Services, adult and childrens ministries.  
**PRAIRIE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** - 2423 CR 500 E, Lake City, IL 61937. Phone 677-2464. Nursery available for all services. Sunday School for K4-Adults 9:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening services 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m. with Flyer's Club (K4-1st Grade), King's Kids (2nd-6th Grade) and Teens (7th-12th Grade) every Wednesday (Sept.-May). Email: info@prairieviewbaptistchurch.com Website: www.prairieviewbaptist.com  
**LOVINGTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** - 360 W. Springfield Rd. Sunday School 9:30am, Morning Worship 10:30am, Evening Service 6pm, Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study, 7:00pm Church phone: 873-5116. www.fblovington.org  
**NEW LIFE CHURCH** - R.R. 1, Sullivan, IL 61951 (3 1/2 miles east of Sullivan on the Cadwell Rd.) Ph. 728-4200 Dave & Debra Dolan, Pastors; Liz Dolan, Minister of Music; Debra Dolan, Secretary. Sunday Worship 9am. Wednesday Worship Service (for all ages), 7pm. Website www.newlifesullivan.org  
**CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP** - 212 E. Third Street, Arthur. Sunday Worship services 10am, Sunday evening worship service 6:30 pm. Everyone warmly invited to join us for worship.  
**UNITED CHURCH OF ATWOOD** - 210 N. Main St., P.O. Box 379 • Atwood, IL 61913 • 578-2832. Mike Drake, Pastor. Non-Denominational Christian Church. Service: 10:00am. Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-Noon

Since 1994  
**A.J.'s AUTO BODY**  
111 N. Vine Street, Arthur, IL 61911  
217-543-3691  
ajsautobody@consolidated.net  
Division of A E Jess Inc.

**Dutch Valley Meats, Inc.**  
• Hickory Smoked Hams & Bacon  
• Fresh Beef & Pork  
• Freezer Bundles  
• Deer Processing  
On the curve on Rt. 133 in Chesterville  
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.  
(217) 943-3354  
www.dutchvalleymeatsinc.com

**ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION**  
113 E. Illinois • Arthur, IL  
543-2151  
www.thearthurgraphic.com



**Bob Brady** INTERSTATE 72  
**Auto Mall**  
DODGE CHRYSLER Jeep RAM  
BUICK HYUNDAI HONDA FIAT GMC  
4025 E. Boyd Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
800-634-6889 / 217-876-3800  
www.bobbrady.com

Call: Curt Welch  
Sales & Leasing Specialist  
Cell: 217-840-4105 • welchx62@yahoo.com