

Community Comment  
August 2, 2013  
Sam Pennisi

### Friday Poppurri

Sometimes, when I sit down to write a community comment, I think about a former writer for the San Francisco Chronicle who is long deceased. Herb Caen often titled his Friday column the Friday fishwrap. I had a sense he did this for two reasons; he didn't take himself too seriously and he had a lot of small or short topics he wanted to mention. Sometimes, it just seems right.

In Arcata, but it's truly a Humboldt classic, we have the Crabs. Not those Crabs and not those other Crabs; we have the Crabs baseball. I'm not much of a baseball fan. In high school, growing up in Southern California, I was a dedicated Dodger fan. Sandy Koufax was my favorite player and we listened on the radio. Some how, television and big money changed the game for me. Major League baseball got boring. Unlike football, television just doesn't work for me. But then there are the Crabs. We are so fortunate to have this organization in town. The Crabs bring great kids to Arcata and Humboldt County who love the game, love to play, and love to share their talent in the form of camps. The Board and President of the Crabs spend countless hours all year long to make this happen. This years President, who is also a past-president of the Arcata Rotary Club, worked tirelessly to make this happen. Thank you Matt Filar. And thank you to all the volunteers that give their time so really good, local baseball can come to Humboldt County. And the Crabs are so Humboldt. Right down to the band. We couldn't buy this kind of quality activity that adds so much to our local community. Congrats to the Crabs on winning the league and good luck in this weekends tournament.

As a former professional planner, I've been watching the general plan update with some interest. With out being specific, California has taken planning requirements to the point of trying to write a law for every possible situation. It is called a general plan for a reason. Too much detail will suck the creativity right out of us. Some of the requirements are simply the result of special interests but much of this comes because of our numbers. The more the population grows, the more we will have to regulate our lives to try to avoid conflict and environmental damage. A sad fact of life.

Congress has a new rating according to political polling. The lowest rating it's ever had. Like him or not, we elected a President for a second term. The obstructionist in Congress would rather do harm to our country and our economy than admit this and attempt to work together. The political damage they are doing to our institution of citizen government is the real danger here. It's disappointing.

It looks like there will be a bit more money for schools this year. Let's hope the various school boards and administrators use this money in the best interest of educating our children. We don't need more administration, we need more teaching.

Have a good August. This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.