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## YOUR LETTERS: 1-01-2019

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### **Praise for Bev Lowry**

I am writing to thank the Daily Press for the outstanding article that appeared last week concerning the many contributions of longtime public servant Beverly Lowry. Over the course of the 30 years I have resided on the High Desert I have met numerous appointed and elected leaders, none more impressive and effective than Bev Lowry.

Many of us remember when the High Desert faced a water moratorium that ultimately brought about the adjudication that we all live under today. Coming on the heels of the closure of George Air Force Base, which cost our region nearly 10,000 jobs, a moratorium would have dealt a death blow to the High Desert economy. Under these most difficult circumstances Beverly Lowry was instrumental in facilitating the adjudication agreement that continues to be in effect to this day, providing badly needed water not only for the five incorporated cities of the Mojave River Basin but also Yucca Valley, Lucerne Valley and Newberry Springs. Additionally, through her relationships with key leaders such as former Congressman Jerry Lewis, Ms. Lowry has helped attract millions of dollars towards a balanced regional water management system.

Continuing to this day, Beverly Lowry's leadership and ability to work with her fellow directors helps the Mojave Water Agency achieve tremendous results in facilitating economic development while ensuring a long-term, viable source of water for the High Desert and its citizens. Having worked with the agency on numerous real estate contracts I have been continually impressed by how well the Board works together in pursuit of the common goal of a united Mojave Water Agency. Much of the credit for this spirit of cooperation, in my view, goes to Ms. Lowry.

We all owe an enormous debt to Bev Lowry for the quiet, yet effective leadership she has brought to our community over the past 40 years. Debbie and I are proud to call her our friend and we wish her the best in her well-earned retirement.

**Joseph W. Brady and Deborah K. Brady, Victorville**

### **Technology making us more alone**

Ever since technology was invented it has changed everyone's lives because they rely on the technology they have, but every second it still changes our lives. Every day so many people look at a bright screen probably not even for important things, just for Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and those kinds of similar apps.

They say that technology makes our lives easier, but it has actually ruined our generation. It's true that technology helps make communication a lot more easier, but if you think about it, it actually de-socializes us. I myself had been in that situation. I would always be on my phone for no good reason. But now ever since I made it to my sophomore year in high school, I've been decreasing the amount of time I spend on my phone.

I see so many students at school using their phones during class time, then they start arguing that they're failing their class and blame it on the teacher but the person they have to blame is themselves. They put themselves on that situation so there is no reason for them to complain.

**Nancy Reyna, Hesperia**

### **Ranchero grading system**

Have you ever felt dumb, knowing you're smarter than that? When I went to Ranchero Middle School the teachers would pass out their rubrics and their grading scales would be an A: 100-90, B: 85-80, C: 75-70, D: 65, and lower F, a regular grading system. Now one of my family members goes there and she has C's and B's. That's something people should be happy about but when I looked at her percentages the C's were less than 70 percent and the B's were less than 80 percent.

When middle schoolers from Rancho transfer to Sultana High School, how are they going to pass when they see the standard grading system?! It's like when you hold someone's hand for too long and randomly let go; they fall down. The school district needs to change the grading scale back to how it's supposed to be, stop handicapping it. Students have to learn from failure; if they don't learn how to accept failure it can lead to anxiety or meltdowns.

So please let's show our students it's OK to fail, because that is how the real world works.

**Britney Bridges, Hesperia**

### **Can you be good without God?**

The following question remains and causes great discussion, if a person can essentially be good without God. This question is answered biasedly and differently with each person as morals, beliefs, and the background of that person plays a part in answering this. I personally believe it depends on how you act, not what you believe religiously that decides if you are a good person. Religion is a guideline for how to live life, and that doesn't decide in itself if you are a good person.

I believe going to church and receiving a lesson from your pastor and repenting of your sins doesn't make you a good person and if you don't go to church that doesn't make you a bad person.

In the article "Can You Be Good Without God?" Ham quotes "They will use those sorts of words, and you need to challenge them every time. How do you know? Where do you get that from? Who decides?"

This explains the reasoning of good and bad and why does someone get that ability to decide? The way you live your life, your decisions, and how you treat people decide if you are a good person.

**Natasha Phillips, Victorville**