

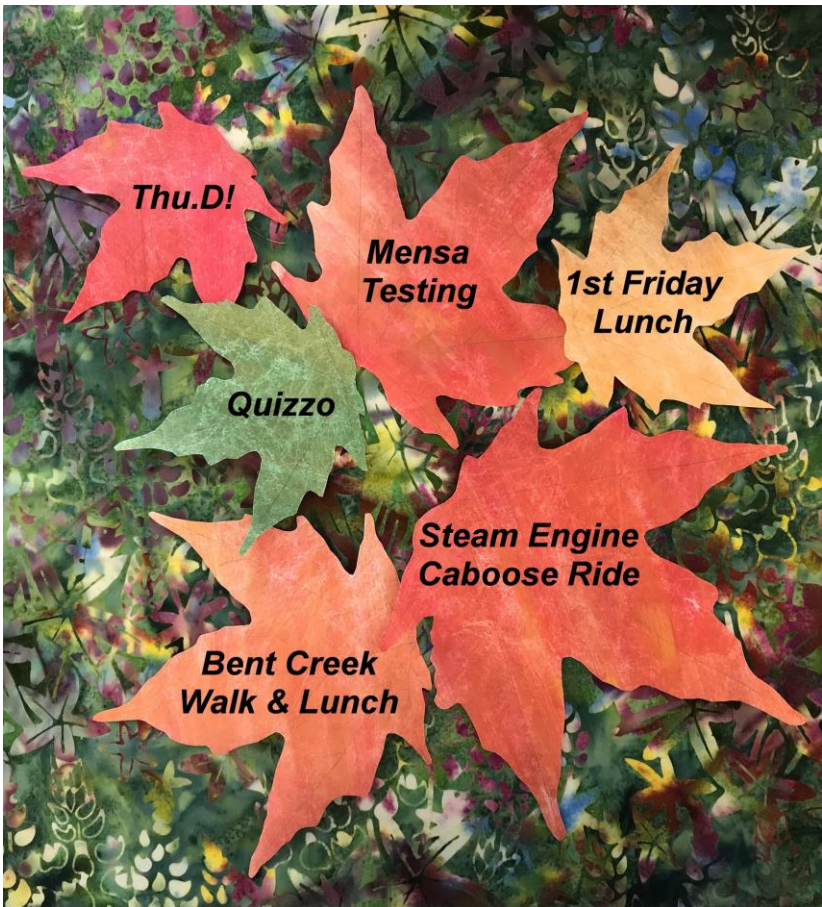
The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 25, No. 10 October 2019

<http://frenchbroad.us.mensa.org>

*What's in the October air?*



*Details in the Events Calendar, pages 3-4*

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***Submissions to the Broadcast***

Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of each month preceding publication. Original material is welcomed. Maximum length is 250 words. Editor reserves the right to decline publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning are retained.

Please, no personal attacks!

**Events Calendar**  
**(Too much fun ahead to fit on just one page!)**

RSVPs are important for table planning. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, we might not be able to seat you. And don't forget to look for the Big Yellow M Table on the table at Mensa events!



**New Members: French Broad Mensa welcomes you! Watch your mail for a coupon that you can trade for a \$5 contribution to your first meal with the group.**

**Friday, October 4, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch**

at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, 106 Bleachery Blvd. in Asheville

Website: [www.cheddars.com](http://www.cheddars.com)

Contact: Fae Armstrong, [one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com) if you can attend; drop-ins are welcome, too.

**Saturday, October 5, 1pm: Mensa Testing** at two locations:

- North Asheville Library Community Room, 1030 Merrimon Ave. in Asheville, proctored by Karen Youket
- Macon County Library, 149 Siler Road in Franklin, proctored by Carmen Jessop

Contact: Wayne Stanko, [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net) or 828 253-8751.

**Monday, October 7, 6pm: Executive Committee Meeting**

at Ay Caramba Mexican Grill & Bar, 800 Fairview Rd. in East Asheville

Phone: (828) 299-0216

Contact: [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

**Sunday, October 13, 11am: Bent Creek Walk followed by Lunch,**

Meet at Papas and Beer, 1000 Brevard Road. We will car pool into the

Arboretum with drivers who are Arboretum members. We will walk on

Bent Creek Road to Lake Powhatan, walk around the lake and return.

Most of the route is gravel or paved roads with a small section of trail. It

is mainly flat, rated Moderate, with a total distance of 2.8 miles. You can find more details, and some gorgeous pictures, at <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/north-carolina/old-bent-creek-road-loop>

After the hike, we will return to Papas and Beer for lunch.

Contact: Wayne Stanko, [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net) or 828 253-8751 if you are attending.

**Monday, October 14, Trivia** (6:30 for dinner, 7:30 to play)

at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave. in Asheville

Website: [jackofthewood.com](http://jackofthewood.com)

Contact: [wmcguffin@charter.net](mailto:wmcguffin@charter.net)

**Thursday, October 24, 6pm: Thu.D!**

at Chupacabra Latin Café, 50 N Merrimon Ave. in Woodfin

Website: <https://chupacabralatincafe.com/>

Contact: [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

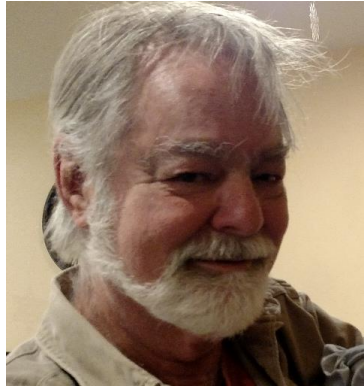
**Saturday, October 26: 2pm-6pm: Ride a Caboose** pulled by a steam engine on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad . The trip starts and ends in Bryson City. Light snacks and drinks will be provided, and we can bring additional food and non-alcoholic drinks. At press time, this adventure had a few seats left (15 max). It isn't too late to change your mind and join the fun. FBM is subsidizing the cost so that each attendee pays only \$20. Contact Wayne Stanko 828-253-8751 for last-minute tickets!

On a sad note: A fellow French Broad Mensan, 49-year member **Theodore Eggers** of Hendersonville, has died. His family requests "In his memory, please do an act of kindness for someone who least expects it."

## ***The Choice Not Taken***

*Kirk Thomas*

Now that I'm retired I do a lot of writing, mostly random prose pieces along with poetry, but also occasional riffs on well-known poems. One of Robert Frost's best known works is *The Road Not Taken*, a poem I first memorized decades ago when I was in school, and while I can no longer recite it verbatim, the first few lines and the idea have always stayed



with me. I thought that if Frost had a cat, this might be his perspective, and if you have a cat (I have three), you will recognize the behavior right away.

### **The Choice Not Taken**

Two choices loomed at an open door,  
And sorry I could not have them both  
And be one cat, I stood and stared  
And looked outside as far as I dared  
Across the yard to the undergrowth;

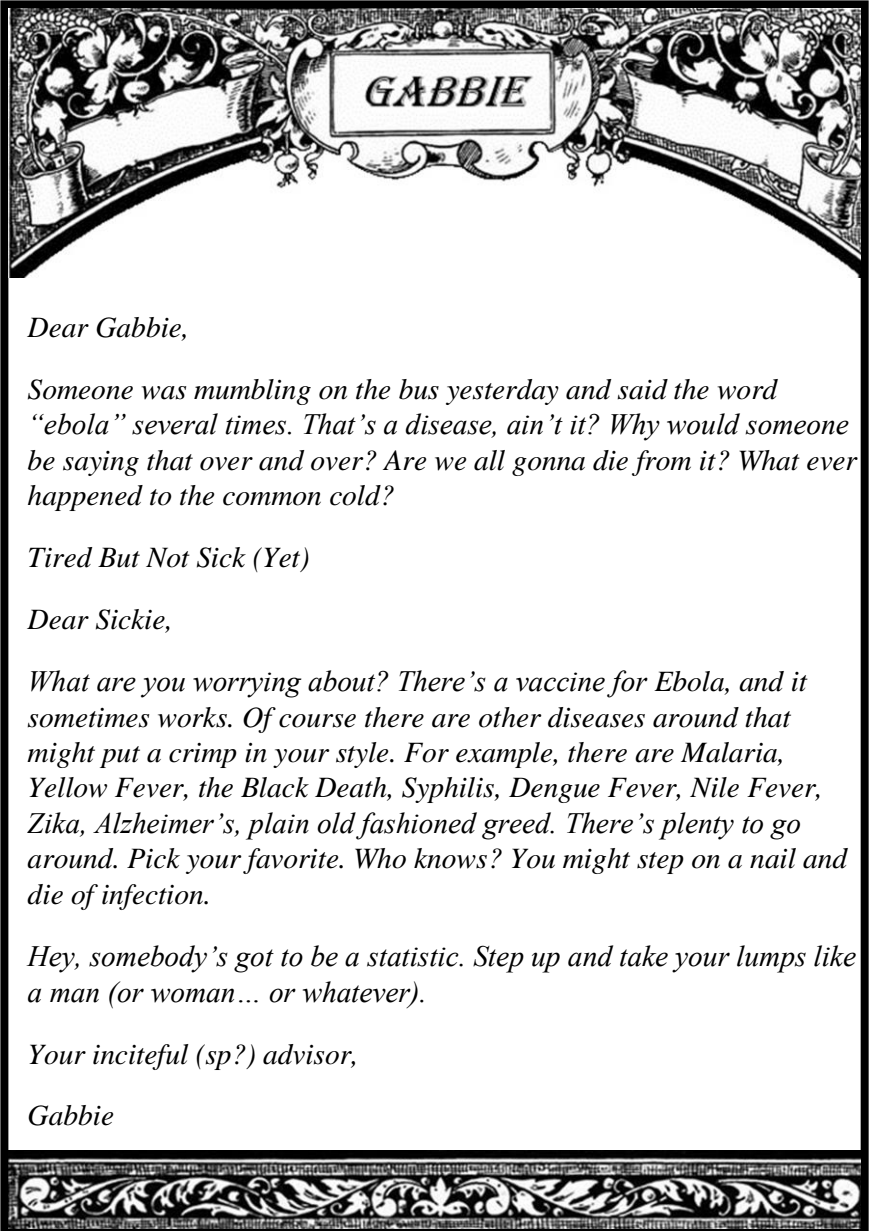
Then took a step, not very far,  
Just halfway past that thin door frame,  
Because it was cold and wet out there;  
Though warm in here beside the fire,  
Either choice was about the same.

And each that morning promised play,  
The toys inside, the woods out back;  
Why choose so early in the day?  
Not sure when next I'll have a say,  
I cannot decide which choice to make!

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere here inside the fence;  
Two choices loomed at the door, and I,  
I couldn't make up this mind of mine,  
And found it made no difference.

## ***Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie***

Back by popular demand! Gabbie hears your woes, and offers advice. Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST Editor.



*Dear Gabbie,*

*Someone was mumbling on the bus yesterday and said the word “ebola” several times. That’s a disease, ain’t it? Why would someone be saying that over and over? Are we all gonna die from it? What ever happened to the common cold?*

*Tired But Not Sick (Yet)*

*Dear Sickie,*

*What are you worrying about? There’s a vaccine for Ebola, and it sometimes works. Of course there are other diseases around that might put a crimp in your style. For example, there are Malaria, Yellow Fever, the Black Death, Syphilis, Dengue Fever, Nile Fever, Zika, Alzheimer’s, plain old fashioned greed. There’s plenty to go around. Pick your favorite. Who knows? You might step on a nail and die of infection.*

*Hey, somebody’s got to be a statistic. Step up and take your lumps like a man (or woman... or whatever).*

*Your inciteful (sp?) advisor,*

*Gabbie*

## ***Reputation***

In 2020 in China, a Social Credit Score system will go into full effect. It has been in development and has been being phased in for many years.

It is run by the Chinese government. It is a system that scores the trustworthiness of each individual and each business. It is based on things like economic responsibility, debt, civil and criminal proceedings, paying court fines, social media, big data, and more. The stated goal of this system is to get people to trust each other and to nudge people into cleaning up low scores by rewarding good scores and punishing low scores. (It is a concept based on Nudge theory.)

The scores are used to determine who will be allowed to travel, who can borrow money, and who will have access to certain goods, services, and privileges. Being blacklisted because of a low score could prevent you from flying, riding a high speed train, borrowing money, buying a house, and other things.

A system like this is predictably coming to America as well.

If someone were to collect the scores from all the places that already score us, it would almost be a finished system.

In addition to the four credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, Equifax, and Innovis), many other companies are monitoring and scoring people. In addition, Dun & Bradstreet scores businesses.

The Better Business Bureau scores businesses.

Did you know that Apple monitors iPhone and other device usage to assign you a trust score?

Did you know that there is a service called Sift that calculates Sift scores? It is like a credit score, but it rates trustworthiness.

There is no way for you to find out your Sift score, but there is an excellent Wall Street Journal article that explains the factors in a Sift score.

And Sift has competitors such as SecureAuth.

Facebook is rating the trustworthiness of its users.

LexisNexis calculates and sells PowerScores.

And then there are companies such as Mylife.com that collect and use unverified data (according to Wikipedia, it is a rebranded classmates.com), to create a bogus social reputation rating. They call themselves the “leading reputation platform.” Warning: There are many complaints about them on the internet.

A social credit system might be a good thing, but identity theft, fraud, and other factors could turn it into a nightmare for individuals and businesses.

What do you think?

Submitted by “Josie”

### ***Local Secretary’s Message***



I qualified for Mensa in the 1960s, joined in the 1980s, and became active with French Broad Mensa in the 20-teens. (Sometimes I’m a little slow.) There’s so much I don’t yet know and haven’t experienced with the group. Getting to know fellow members, in person or via email and snail mail, is a continuing treat for me.

So now I’m contemplating going to my first Regional Gathering. At September’s First Friday lunch, Wayne Stanko mentioned a good list of not-too-distant cities hosting RG; the closest are Greenville SC and Charlotte NC. I’ll keep an eye on our Regional Vice Chairman’s messages to find out when and where the next will be. Maybe you’d like to think about attending, too.

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary, [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)



## ***Regional Vice-Chairman's Message***

Welcome to new LocSecs Kerri Domingo at Coastal Carolina Mensa, and Baker Ring at Middle Tennessee Mensa!

By the time you are reading this, yet another Peachtreat Regional Gathering (RG) will be history. Now it's time to start looking forward to the new game in town – Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa's planned RG, "For the Health of It," scheduled for November 15-17, 2019 in Charlotte, NC. Bring the family!



There is an extensive Kids' Trak scheduled for the under-17 crowd, and two seminar tracks for the adults, mostly health and wellness related. More information is at [www.cbrmensa.org/rg](http://www.cbrmensa.org/rg) .

Please volunteer for one of the National Committees. You can find them at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/committees/> Wish there were better programming for Youth? Join the Gifted Youth Committee. Want a safer experience for all Mensans? Join the Event Safety Task Force or the Risk Management Committee. Want better training at all levels of leadership? Volunteer for the Leadership Development Committee. Please take a few minutes to choose one of the National Committees to join. Mensa will be stronger for it.

And speaking of Leadership Training, here is another shameless plug for the Region 5 Leadership Development Workshop to be held in Mobile, AL on March 6-8, 2020. The registration fee is only \$25. Region 5 will provide all meals, including snacks. If you can't afford the hotel, there will be some home hospitality available. Plan now to send your LocSec, Treasurer, Gifted Youth Coordinator, Editor and several members for a weekend of training by regional and national leaders. Need to learn how to fill out the annual report? Want some help dealing with that problem member? Plan now! We won't have another LDW on the west side of the Region for at least two years.

Nancy Campbell

704-533-3351 or [mensanancy@gmail.com](mailto:mensanancy@gmail.com)

## ***Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarships***

### ***ELIGIBILITY for MENSA scholarships:***

The only eligibility requirements are that the applicant be enrolled, for the academic year following the award, in a degree program in an accredited American institute of post-secondary education, and be a resident of the area of a participating local group of American Mensa. For the general awards, the applicant need not be a member of Mensa nor qualified for Mensa, and the general awards are unrestricted as to age, race, gender, level of post-secondary education and financial need.

### ***CONDITIONS of awards:***

Awards will be made on the basis of an essay of fewer than 550 words, which describes the applicant's career, vocational, or academic goal toward which the scholarship is to provide aid.

Entries will be judged and awarded at three levels: local, regional and national. Awards are made in amounts ranging from \$600 to \$1000.

Visit <http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships/> to apply after October 7, 2019.

The deadline for entry is JANUARY 15, 2020

Visit AMERICAN MENSA, a High IQ Society: [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org)

## ***Restaurant Review***

Last month, the Executive Committee enjoyed dinner at Mr. Kabab Middle East and Mediterranean Grill on Fairview Road in East Asheville. The authentic menu is limited, but everything's delicious, and the prices are reasonable.

Submitted by Grace Lehto and Sharron Armel

## ***Executive Committee Meeting Minutes September 2, 2019***

The ExComm meeting was held at Mr. Kabab Grill in Asheville. Attendees included Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.

The October schedule of events was established. Wayne reported on how many people have signed up for the October 26 train ride.

Regarding the tentative scheduling of a visit and special tour at the Heart of Horse Sense Ranch on October 12, the group authorized Grace Lehto to commit to a fee not to exceed \$100.

Regarding our June decision to seek approval of a By-Laws change to allow two-year terms for ExComm members, Sharron Armel noted that we are following the process required by existing By-Laws, and after next month's ExComm meeting, she will notify Becky Folger of American Mensa of our results. If approved, the term-length change will take place immediately, with current ExComm members serving through 2020:

1. Becky Folger, on behalf of the national office, gave approval to proceed.
2. Publication in our newsletter was done in late June.
3. More detailed article appeared in the August newsletter.
4. Lizz Russell has published the current By-Laws on the FBM website.
5. Group members will vote by paper ballot published in the September newsletter.
6. Deadline for ballot return (no fewer than 90 days following the first publication of the proposal) is October 1, 2019.
7. To become effective, an amendment requires an affirmative vote of the majority of those casting valid ballots, as well as the above approval of the AMC.

Submitted by  
Grace Lehto  
Deputy Local Secretary

You may suggest topics for future agendas by emailing [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com).

# Financial Report for August 2019

Opening Balance at July 30, 2019 ..... \$3,803.78

Receipts:

Am. MENSA Monthly Subsidy ..... \$112.50

Total Receipts ..... \$112.50

Disbursements:

Mail sealing labels ..... \$20.95

Total Disbursements ..... \$20.95

Closing Balance at August 31, 2019 ..... \$3,895.34

Submitted by Wayne Stanko, Treasurer

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**7 SAINT DAVIDS CT, ASHEVILLE, NC 28803-8303**

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h. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 16c (1), (2), (3), and (4))	0	0
i. Total Distribution (Sum of 16e and 16g)	0	1
j. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 page 80)	82	125
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m. Total (Sum of 16i and 16j)	97.6	99.2

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**Wayne Stanket, PUBLISHER**  
 Date **8/30/2019**  
 I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

## ***Amboy Road Greenway Cleanup***



On Saturday, September 14, members of FBM returned to the Amboy Road River Park to clean up trash. It was rewarding to hear several park visitors thank us for our work, and remark on how clean the park is. Will reported seeing a number of potatoes floating down the river; when questioned (“Whaaaaat?!”) he clarified “Tubers!”



After the cleanup, we went to Westville for lunch. From left to right, that’s Will McGuffin, Wayne Stanko, John Federspiel, Jamie Sullivan, and Sandy Stoddard, with Sharron Armel behind the camera.

Doing this several times a year is easy work, and great fun. Wayne brings safety vests, gloves, trashbags, and trash-pickers. And FBM treats us to lunch after! Maybe you can join us next time -- just check the Events Calendar in upcoming issues of the *BROADCAST*.

## ***Trivial Report***

Jan, Sharron, Wayne and Will, representing “The Whoos,” played Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in September, competing against 15 other teams.

Shout-Out Questions are asked of the entire group, with no team points scored, but the winner gets a prize.

First: Which New England state was the first to join the union after the original thirteen?

Second: On the TV series “Gunsmoke,” whose sidekick was Chester Goode?

We knew both answers (*Vermont* and Matt Dillon) but couldn’t shout out quickly or loudly enough. Do you like to yell indoors? Come help us next month.

The theme of the first round of questions was *CODES & CODE NAMES*.

1. In what code does the first number represent an area, and the fourth and fifth numbers represent a post office?
2. In Morse code, a single dot represents what letter?
3. In the bankruptcy code, which chapter allows a company to reorganize?
4. In what code does Rule 11 state “no shoes with springs” and Rule 2 says “no hugging”?
5. Which US Vice President said he is so dull his code name is Al Gore?
6. On the Apollo 11 flight, the lander was called the Eagle; what was the name of the orbiting command module?
7. What is the only state whose laws are based on the Napoleonic Code?

Extra: What group voted 406 to 1 in 1967 to adopt a code of conduct?

8. Where is the only place that another flag may fly above the flag of the United States?
9. What 3-letter code, representing an airport’s location, is based on the previous use of that airport’s land (an orchard)?
10. During World War II, the language of what tribe was used as a radio code?

*Answers*

1. ZIP Code (Sharron); 2. E (Wayne); 3. Chapter 11; 4. Marquess of Queensbury; 5. Al Gore (Sharron); 6. Columbia; 7. Louisiana; Extra: U. S. House of Representatives; 8. United Nations; 9. O'Hare (ORD for orchard); 10. Navajo.

We got off to a low start, getting only six correct. We were in 12<sup>th</sup> place, and 12 points behind the leader.

The theme of the second round was *INTELLIGENCE*.

1. SETI is an abbreviation for the search for what?
2. What was the name of the artificial intelligence robot in an early Superman story?
3. In a John LeCarre novel, what furry mammal refers to a spy?
4. What head of intelligence under General McClellan during the Civil War later returned to his detective agency?
5. What French psychologist designed a test to measure student intelligence?

Extra: A Stanford psychologist coined what term to describe what the test measures?

6. What Latin word means someone of great intelligence?
7. What word in sanskrit means an expert, and in India means a learned man?
8. The U.S.S. Pueblo intelligence ship captured in 1968 is still in what country?
9. What U.S. Senator from North Carolina is Chairman of the Intelligence Committee?
10. The location of the CIA is named after what English estate and Virginia plantation?

*Answers*

1. Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence; 2. Brainiac; 3. Mole ; 4. Pinkerton (Will); 5. Binet (Will & Sharron); Extra: Intelligence Quotient;6. Genius; 7. Pundit (Sharron); 8. North Korea (Will); 9. Burr; 10. Langley.

We did much better in this round, correctly answering 10 or 11. We “jokered” (doubled) our score for this round, and were now tied for third place, 8 points behind the leader.



Round three, always a speed round, gave us a sheet of questions to answer in 5 minutes.

Part 1 was *NUMERIC WORDS & PHRASES*. Each answer contains a hyphenated phrase with a number.

1. Traditional time for Take Me Out to the Ball Game
2. A rare, lucky specimen of genus trifolium
3. A contest that's really no contest
4. A married person having an affair
5. Revolver in the old west
6. Simultaneous entertainment under the big top

*Answers*

1. 7<sup>th</sup>-inning stretch; 2. 4-leaf clover; 3. 1-sided (or zero-sum game);
4. 2-timer; 5. 6-shooter; 6. 3-ring circus

Part two was *ON THEIR TOMBSTONES*. Given their birth/death dates, and epitaph, we had to name the celebrity.

1. 1917-1995: "Everybody loves somebody sometime."
2. 1938-2007: "Motorcyclist and daredevil"
3. 1935-1998: "And the beat goes on."
4. 1926-1965: "Haij Malik El-Shabazz"
5. 1900-1971: "Satchmo"
6. 1921-2004: "There goes the neighborhood."

*Answers*

1. Dean Martin; 2. Evel Knievel; 3. Sonny Bono; 4. Malcolm X;
5. Louis Armstrong; 6. Rodney Dangerfield

We got 10 of the 12 correct, and slipped to fifth place, trailing the leader by 9 points.

The theme of the fourth round is always *POTPOURRI*.

1. Appropriately, what is the Greek word for both sharp and dull?
2. By area, what is the largest U. S. state that borders the Pacific Ocean?
3. What unit is equal to the amount of heat to raise one gram of water one degree Celsius?

4. In which Jules Verne novel would it take a speed of 13 MPH to accomplish the title?
  5. In 1932, Ed Harberg was writing a song when someone asked him what?
- Extra: What was the code of a Babylonian king?
6. In a Grimm story, Jorinda and Joringel were turned into what singing bird?
  7. What is the name of a popular software and a home made of clay and straw brick?
  8. A member of what wealthy family was the first Jewish member of Parliament?
  9. In 1624, what captain wrote a report on Virginia and New England?
  10. What seven-letter word means a blank page at the front or back of a book?

*Answers*

1. Oxymoron; 2. Alaska; 3. Calorie (Wayne); 4. Around the World in Eighty Days (Will); 5. Buddy, can you spare a dime?; Extra: Hammurabi; 6. Nightingale; 7. Adobe; 8. Rothschild (Wayne); 9. John Smith; 10. Flyleaf

Although we got 9 of 11 right, we ended tied for 6<sup>th</sup> place.

We need some help to finish in the money. Why not join the Whoos for the fun in October? Quizzo is the best trivia game in the area.



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Nancy Campbell..... mensanancy@gmail.com g

### **French Broad Mensa Officers:**

#### **Executive Committee**

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#### **Deputy Local Secretary**

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**S.I.G.H.T.**..... Position Open

**Membership Coordinator** ..... Position Open



# BROADCAST

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