

Community Comment
Tuesday, December 8, 2015

This is Erin Dunn from the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

I'm cranky. And I shouldn't be. There is so much to celebrate and be happy about. It's a festive time of year, the Humboldt Ice Rink opened in Fortuna, the rain is helping the drought.

But I'm still cranky. And I've been cranky for a while. It started when I saw the notice for the meeting in Rio Dell that was bringing together different experts to discuss the future of legalized pot. The idea didn't make me cranky, the participant list made me cranky.

On the list was our former District Attorney Paul Gallegos. And it felt bad. It felt like I was seeing a list of vultures poised to make money off of the industry that has compromised our county.

Paul Gallegos contributed to our current degradation by declaring the 99 plant rule. That people who needed medicine and get a 250 card could legally grow 99 plants. It didn't make sense at the time and it just feels grimy now. That law has led to a proliferation of grow houses and following that, a decline in affordable housing. And that's just one example. One trickle down has been hash oil labs and dangerous explosions.

I'm not deriding the need for medical marijuana. But the 99 plant rule made a mockery of the whole idea of "medicine."

And now he's poised to make money off of the industry.

The timber companies, who gave back to our communities, schools and youth, have been replaced by pot growers who don't. And they get to make money off of our county's struggle with drugs and faltering budget?

And thinking about that whole cycle has made me cranky.

And why didn't anyone tell me about the TV show "The Gilmore Girls." All these years I thought it was a trite family dramedy featuring a family of sisters who, at the end of each show, learned a hackneyed lesson. I refused to watch it out of spite, but I kept seeing pop culture references and people saying how good it was.

The Gilmore Girls is the bomb. And now I'm stuck evenings and weekends tuned in to Netflix binge watching. And I'm only nearing the end of season two.

Have you seen that episode of "Portlandia" where the couple starts binge watching a Netflix series? They start out saying "just one more episode" and pretty soon they haven't bathed in days, they are having food delivered, and they start calling in sick to work. I know how they feel.

And finally, a word about the holiday cut-outs on the Boulevard in Fortuna. It's a holiday tradition that even I enjoy. The high school is repainting and repairing them this year—the last time was in 2007. Some of them are still at the high school being worked on. There seems to be a concern that the missing cut-outs are somehow a symbol of a war on Christmas. I assure you that is not the case. They will all be back next year better than ever.

Well, I feel better now, not nearly as cranky. Thank you for letting me share.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.