

Community Comment  
Tuesday, November 8, 2016

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

We made it! We're almost to the finish line! Just a few more hours to go!

I suppose I don't need to remind you what today is. Singer Bonnie Raitt and Sharknado's Tara Reid both have birthdays today.

It's also the state of Montana's birthday – or anniversary of being admitted into the Union if you prefer.

HBO launched its programming on this date in 1972 with "Sometimes a Great Notion" – remember when they would just run the same movie over and over again?

Oh, and it is Election Day. Or, you might see it as the end of an election cycle that saw civility and convention fly out the window. An election cycle when civility was pretty much a disadvantage.

I have been following the election on twitter, cable news and network news. I've read articles from the major newspapers and magazines, breathlessly followed the projected Electoral College map, and bit my tongue each time I wanted to publicly state my opinion. It's going to be a letdown when it's over. I liken it to the end of football season—you watch, read, keep up on scores then, poof, the season is over and you have to find something else to occupy your time.

We learned a new way to talk about elections this year—about pivoting away from one issue to another; about the importance the election has on down ballot candidates; and, now in our vocabulary—having an "Aleppo moment."

It's hard to believe, but life went on during those final days of campaigning.

The Willits By-Pass opened. That is going to make a difference to many lives, give time back to anyone who drives up and down Highway 101. The election had nothing to do with that happening.

The Cubs won the World Series for the first time since 1908. The election didn't impact that at all.

The ice rink is going up as scheduled in Fortuna—no election influence there.

I think you see where I'm going. Yes, there are many ways our next President will touch our lives, but our lives will also go on as before no matter what happens today.

We have big issues to face locally—will Prop 64 pass and cannabis become part of everyone's everyday lives in some way; will we no longer have plastic bags at the grocers; will Eureka change their precinct voting law; will Measure E pass in Fortuna. Those are the issues that will be impacting us directly.

You know what I'm going to say. Please vote if you haven't already. No matter what. Your vote does count, it does matter.

If you don't vote because you are protesting choices--then that is a vote, a vote that you don't care enough about your own future to take a stand. Because one way or another, a new President will be elected and take office in January. We will all have to live with the decision, like it or not.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.