

THIS N THAT

Apple Valley Errand

Yesterday, Tuesday June 9, I had to go to town to do a fairly large pickup of merchandise that our grocery supplier simply won't carry. These items were exclusively various large bags of dog and cat food, since our supplier wins the award for worst selection of pet foods ever, for all time. I could get going on this subject, but you'd probably be bored, so I'll leave it at that.

We recently bought a Ram Promaster van (about 2015 vintags) for just this purpose – picking up pet food at Walmart, so I had to steel myself for the experience of the year – driving that empty-tin can rattle trap to town when I had driven it precisely once before, scaring myself to death when I couldn't find the brake pedal or see the dashboard "information center".

As I drove west into Apple Valley, it was late enough in the day that the sun shone brightly through the windshield, making it nearly impossible to see the speedometer and more importantly, the gas gauge. But I noticed that the van was low on gas, and maybe even touching the red warning zone. Oh, no! It looks so low

that I might not make it home with the load. Besides all that, the brake pedal is positioned to the right of the steering column, which could be catastrophic for those of us trained to use our left foot on the brake pedal.

No, I didn't wait to make it to the Apple Valley cheap gas station on Hwy 18. Instead, I turned into the Chevron at the corner of Hwy 18 and Central, probably the highest price in the High Desert.

My travails were just beginning. WHERE is the gas filler thingy? I looked on both sides of the van and found nothing. Maybe it runs on a wing and a prayer! I did see a smallish door on the left side, right behind the driver's door, but didn't realize that was it. I called Sir William, who described where to find the door, and sure enough, it was that door by the driver (!).

Next challenge: how to get the locking gas cap off. Really? Little Red, my Honda HRV, has me spoiled at never having to deal with this stuff! Had to call Bill again. He had to look it up on the internet: turn the key to the left and then turn the cap to the left. Nope. Nothing worked, right or left or up or down. Just kick the darn thing and maybe a hole will open up!

I had to swallow my "woman driver" pride and go into the station's store and ask for help. They sent out a very nice man who looked like an Hispanic Mr. Clean – bald head, earring in one ear. He struggled with it just enough for me to be a little less embarrassed, but he did get it open. Hint: turn the key to the right and the cap to the left.

Other than my frustration at the simple job of filling the vehicle with gas, the experience at that Chevron was positive, despite the high price. Every single pump had a squeegee, which I needed to remove the huge bird splat on the windshield, which was big enough that it should have shaded the lousy dashboard graphics enough to be able to read them. Also every pump had paper towels available, and I actually got a paper receipt from the pump. I decided that this station was run by someone who cares to do it right, and sometimes the higher price is necessary to pay for that. I think I'll go there again, just to support it.

On to Walmart, where the pick-up attendants were busily loading orders for people. I was unexpected since the large order was indelibly set for delivery (never try to fight a computer when it makes up its mind), and I had tried to change it to pick-up, but, you know. . .

I explained why I was there, to pick up this huge order rather than Walmart having to find drivers willing to pile bags of pet food into their cars, on the roof, overflowing pickup truck beds, etc. One attendant was uncertain what to do, since the computer had not allowed for this departure from PROCEDURE. The other looked up and said, "The big order we have? Are you Linda Gommel?" I sheepishly admitted that I am. "OK, we'll bring it out."

8 carts later, with the van LOADED with assorted pet foods, I was finally able to leave and start the trip back home. I have never liked Walmart and still try not to go into one, but I must admit that their pick-up and delivery setup has been important to our effort to keep items available that our customers need, especially since it's for my favorite of all critters, doggies, and maybe cats, sometimes, only if they are OUR cats at home.

I guess the lesson for me, and maybe for you, is that I have to work through my prejudices and my innate desire for the lowest price and instead support the ones who try to do a good job, which means have a right spirit, which, guess what, reflects God's spirit to an extent.

My dad used to preach that at me, when I was suckering to my worst impulses. I would pass up filling with gas at one of our local stations in order to get the cheaper stuff in town. I have returned to using L.V. stations when possible. They are the ones extending the service to us out here. If we don't support them and the other businesses who try to serve here, then maybe they won't be here for us down the road.



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— Joel Q. Velasquez, MD, Inc. —

LUCERNE VALLEY MEDICAL OFFICE

We Are OPEN!



Melanie Tovar, NP
Nurse Practitioner



Joel Q. Velasquez, MD
Internal Medicine Physician

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WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

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Your Local Medical Home!



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32946 State Highway 18, Suite C, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356



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Dr. Velasquez Announces New Hours

Our local doctor has now added a day to his schedule out here. His office will be open on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, making it easier to pick a time to go there. Dr. Velasquez is affiliated with Providence St. Mary, which I personally appreciate since Providence has facilities in Orange that are available to us desert dwellers when certain services are much more limited or even non-existent up here.

Not everyone loves St. Mary Hospital, but then not everyone loves any hospital. We all have our personal experiences that cause us to like or dislike XYZ doctor or hospital, and then we can get all righteous, folding our arms and declaring how we will NEVER go to XYZ again because XYZ did this or that, or didn't do this or that. I tell myself to climb down off my high horse and decide what's best more rationally and less emotionally.

Regardless of my pontificating, Dr. Velasquez is committing the resources (aka money and time) to offer this service to our community, so lets take advantage of this opportunity to save the trip to town and to utilize the offered service right here at home.

Medical Vans

For a few months lately, we have had the Bear Valley medical van and the St. Mary Dental Van present in the parking lot two days per month, offering service to those on Medi-Cal or in some cases, those who are uninsured. All of a sudden, we don't have any vans for different reasons. The Bear Valley Medical van had to suspend service due to needed maintenance of the van. The dental provider for the dental van resigned, so the dental van had to suspend until they find a new provider. Hopefully both will be back soon.

Here is what was told us about the dental van:

"I wanted to inform you that we will need to temporarily pause our dental services due to the resignation of our dental provider. The last day our mobile unit will be providing services is Thursday, June 18.

At this time, we are actively interviewing candidates and working to identify a replacement as quickly as possible. Once a new provider is onboarded, I will reach out to coordinate the resumption of services. In the meantime, we kindly ask for your support in continuing to share information about our dental services with the community. While we are not currently able to provide in-person care, we can still assist individuals over the phone and place them on a waitlist. This will allow us to schedule appointments once services resume."

Linda Gommel

The Lucerne Valley Fireworks Committee presents

FIREWORKS SHOW

AT PIONEER PARK

SAT, JUNE 27

STARTS AT 5 P.M.

FIREWORKS

9 P.M. ★ ★

ENJOY A FUN DAY OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

- FOOD • VENDORS
- GAMES • BEER GARDEN

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, June 29th

5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge


on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- ✓ Reports from our **County, State and Federal representatives.**
- ✓ Progress reports from **County Sheriff's Department, CHP and Code Enforcement, Animal Control.**
- ✓ Sienna Solar Update
- ✓ Caltrans projects / Code Enforcement actions / Animal Control
- ✓ COP recruitment.
- ✓ Health Vans -- which ones do what.
- ✓ "Disadvantaged Community" status.
- ✓ Graffiti

Is something bugging you?
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING
TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

AMERICANS ARE SICK AND TIRED OF OUR ANCESTORS BEING COMPARED TO THE MIGRANTS OF TODAY.



THEY SETTLED AN UNDEVELOPED LAND AND BUILT A CIVILIZATION. THEY DIDN'T JUST WALTZ IN AND DEMAND WELFARE.

PatriotPost.US: ANALYSIS FROM OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY

Deserves Free Healthcare	Does Not Deserve Free Healthcare
	
PatriotPost.US: ANALYSIS FROM OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY	PatriotPost.US: ANALYSIS FROM OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY

Democrats finding out that it's illegal for Black people to just stab White people to death.



PatriotPost.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

DECISION 2026 LOS ANGELES MAYORAL ELECTION

WINNER

JOE BIDEN

ELECTED MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

TOTAL VOTES
81,000,000

BREAKING NEWS

After Mail-In Ballots Tallied, Joe Biden Wins L.A. Mayor Race With 81 Million Votes

PatriotPost.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS



California Officials Pleased With Voter Turnout Of 250 Percent

LVM Commentary - June 25 - July, 1, 2026

When someone says entertainment and media are brainwashing our kids



Hey, let's give some credit to our public schools

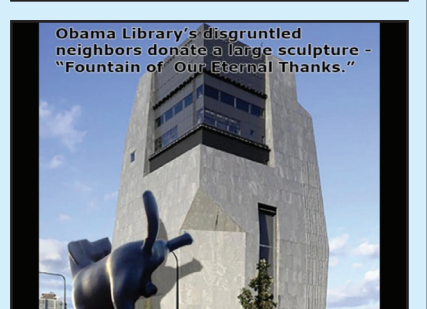
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Health Officials Warn Of Mysterious Infertility Crisis Among Trans Women

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Obama Library's disgruntled neighbors donate a large sculpture - "Fountain of Our Eternal Thanks."



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