

GOT TRUCKING?

Last week we had a great ad on Springfield Vegetable Blends, 16 oz., at 99¢. These are popular vegetable combinations such as California Blend, Fajita Blend, Oriental Blend, Fiesta Blend, and several more.

Halfway through the ad, during the weekend, I was shocked to walk by that section of the freezer and to see huge holes on the bottom. At least half of the selection of vegetables were missing and there were none in the back freezer.

When I inquired what had happened, I was told that our supplier was out of almost all of these, and had been for a week or two. We weren't aware of the problem in time to pull these items from the ad.

I emailed our supplier, Supervalu, to ask why these veggies were out of stock, and the answer was that between a shortage of broccoli and cauliflower, two major ingredients in these veggies, and problems with trucking shortages, they themselves were unable to get the veggies from their supplier.

I knew this to be valid, because we had also received warning from Freshko, the produce supplier, that truckers was having so many prob-

lems with new federal regulations kicking in, and with driver shortages, that produce would cost significantly more this year.

All of the issues spring from government meddling in what should be the business of private enterprise. Are we surprised?

Below are excerpts of an article that Freshko sent us.



TIGHT TRUCKS, RISING RATES RATTLE SUPPLY CHAIN

by Tom Karst, 1/8/18, The Packer

With coast-to-coast truck rates peaking at over \$10,000 in early January, transportation costs are up a whopping 20% to 30% above a year ago in some shipping regions.

That spike could cause some tussles within the fresh produce supply chain over who will absorb the added costs. . . .

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that truck rates in early January from California's Imperial

Valley to Boston for iceberg lettuce ranged from \$8,300 to \$8,600 per truckload, up more than 25% from \$6,500 to \$6,700 reported the same time a year ago and in 2016.

While roller coaster rates are not unusual based on supply and demand, some fear that the shortage may be linked to drivers leaving the industry because of a new federal regulation requiring electronic logging devices in trucks to track hours of service. . . .

"A lot of the drivers that were heavily produce were Mexican drivers and they had Mexican drivers licenses — now it is becoming an issue," he said. Authorities were cracking down on drivers that were allowed to be in the U.S. but had Mexican drivers licenses, he said.

"We have trucking companies around here where all the drivers were Mexican and all the trucks are parked," he said Jan. 8. "There are not enough American drivers to cover the need."

Almeida said the electronic logging device mandate could create more problems in about 60 days, after a 90-day temporary waiver for agricultural commodities ends. . . .

John Sitko, with John Sitko Truck-

ing Inc, Oak Harbor, Wash., said he was hoping that the electronic logging device mandate would be delayed by a year, but so far that doesn't seem likely. . . .

Sitko hopes that when the Trump administration sees the turmoil it is causing with the regulation, they might take a second look at the regulation.

Whoopie doo, huh? I did write to Congressman Cook to make him aware of the issue. We'll see what good that does.

Linda Gommel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

A small, bedraggled little dog was walking along the sidewalk when two poodles came out of the dog grooming salon nearby. They were bathed, perfumed, and groomed to perfection and looked down at the little dog in disdain.

"My name is Fifi, F-I-F-I," said one.

"My name is Mimi, M-I-M-I," said the other.

The little dog straightened up and puffed out his chest and said, "Well, my name is Fido: P-H-Y-D-E-A-U-XI!"

THE CONSERVATIVE BRAIN!

A few weeks ago, we had a picture of a Leftist Brain in this space, and so now, here is the opposite, the Conservative Brain. At the time, I challenged the normally

humorless Leftists to loosen up and laugh a little. Now it's the turn of Conservatives to laugh a little. Actually, Conservatives normally have a sense of humor, so I doubt they (we) will have much trouble laughing at this.

I do have a couple of comments

about this one, since it so strongly resembles the sponge residing inside my cranium.

1. High Sensitivity B.S. Detector — that would describe my dad (Ernie Gommel) to a tee. We often laughed that his epitaph would have as his motto, "B---S---!". He

used that phrase regularly, as his detector would be activated.

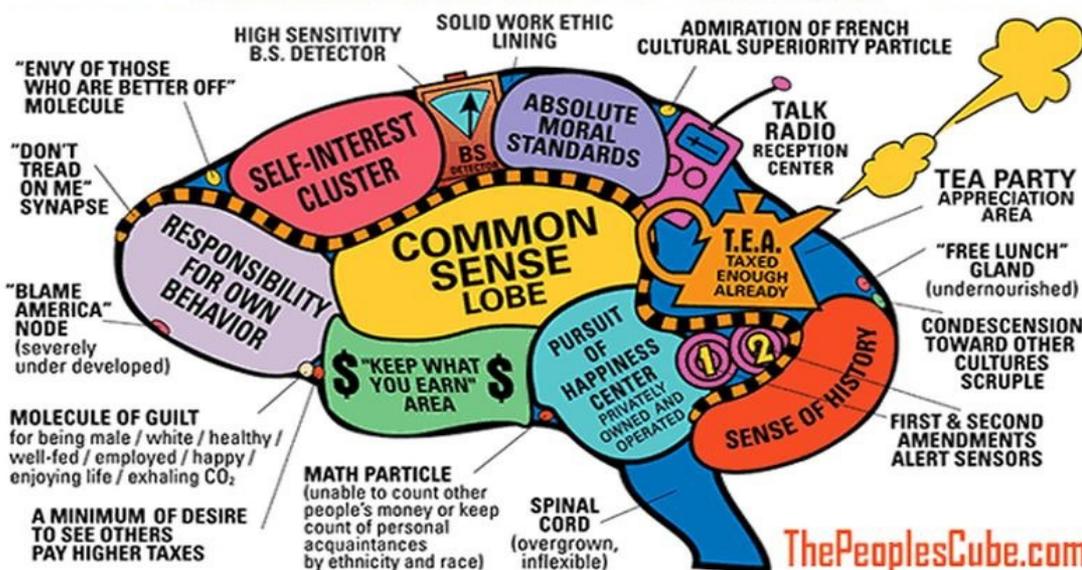
2. Talk Radio Reception Center — I confess that mine is probably overdeveloped since I have listened to Rush Limbaugh for 30 years. Now you know why I am such a wacko!

3. Self Interest Cluster — This can be (and will be) misunderstood to mean self-centeredness, but what it means is that in reality, humans do best when they live to serve their own particular needs and values and beliefs. Then couple that with "Love your neighbor as you love yourself", or, "Respect your neighbor's self-interest as you serve your own self-interest", and you have a morally strong society.

The big change I would make to the diagram is to place "Love of God and Commitment to Him" in the center, where the Common Sense lobe is, and move the common sense lobe to a lesser, but important, spot. Or maybe I should make a whole new brain diagram for the Christian Believer. Or not. If I even had one up there, it would help.

Linda Gommel

CONSERVATIVE BRAIN



ThePeoplesCube.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. FEB. 6, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

- Our new Sheriff Sgt. will present an update on the County's marijuana regulations.
- Status of our Lucerne Valley Community Plan.
- Proposed new commercial businesses in town.
- Any updates on water, solar, wind power, roads and more.

GOT ROCKS?

Rockhounding is a great family hobby here in the High Desert.

LV Museum and History Association is hosting Mining Supplies and Rock Shop owners Cyndy Mandell and Lois Papner of Hesperia.

Free program open to the public.

Saturday Feb. 3 from 3-5 pm. at LV Community Center between Pioneer Park and Library.

Light refreshments available. Bring the kids, too. For info go to www.LucerneValleyMuseum.org

L.V. School Board Meeting Thursday, February 8, starts at 5:30PM. At the Alternative Education Center, 8560 Alioto Rd up Highway 18.

- Lucerne Valley Market
- "Do it Best" Hardware
- Wash n Shop
- Crossroads Center

e-mail address: Market.Hardware@lucernevalleymarket.com

website: lucernevalleymarket.com

Proud to be a member of Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce

LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

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