LUCERNE VALLEY

the Best Little Town in California!

Some people drive through our dusty little town and see rundown buildings, ghost town type ruins, old cars on jacks, and even a few bums pushing carts along the roadside. They feel relieved to be driving through and not to our town (unless of course they came here for Crossroads Crispy Chicken, or our plentiful toilet paper, or a wood stove at a great price, or a Stihl chainsaw!).

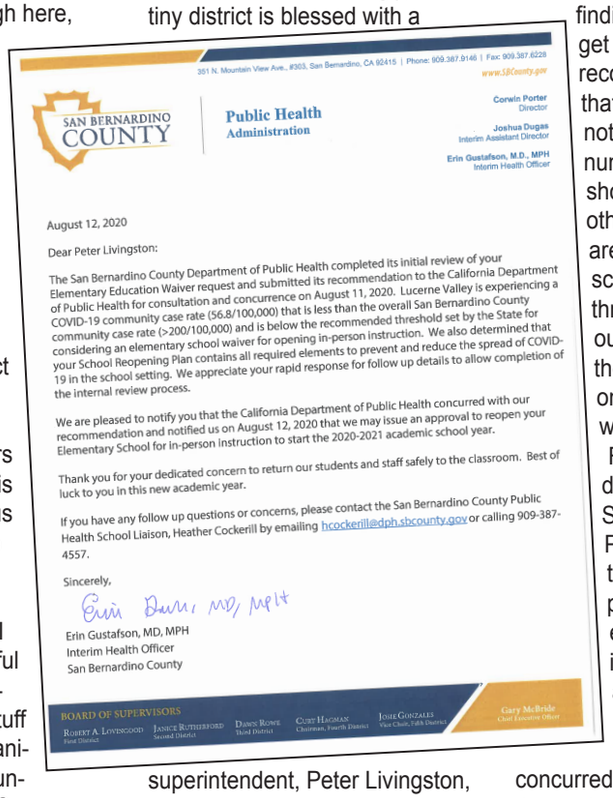
Yes, there can be that put-off when you come through here, especially if you don't realize that you are seeing a thin veneer of shtuff, and not the heart and soul of a small community. That small town warmth, including the neighboring at the store or the Post Office, and involving the small school district characterized by tight friendships that our kids develop over years of schooling together, is reserved for those of us who live here and who cherish it.

Over the 45(!) years that I have lived here, I have watched wonderful people participate, volunteer, and do great stuff for others through organizations like the Roadrunners, the Chamber of Commerce, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Ass'n (LVEDA), the Moose Lodge, the VFW, and more. Yes, many who have given so much have passed on or are near their end on this earthly life. Who will replace them?

A major threat to this little safe-haven from modernization into a largely faceless society has developed lately, and very quickly over the last few months, coinciding to a degree with the onset of that stupid virus panic-demic. Our valley is being overrun with marijuana growers who thumb their noses at our toothless laws and hamstrung law enforcement. There are over 300 growers in Lucerne Valley alone! And because we are being ruled by the PRC (People's Republik of California), there is little hope of improvement in that area. (Stay tuned for possible public meetings on this issue!)

Despite the ugly reality of the potential loss of our community to these lawless punks, we still enjoy amazing advantages for a community our size, or any size. I have been reminded of a couple of them in the last few weeks, having been privileged to express support to the ruling regulators on behalf of two great organizations here.

Our school district (LVUSD) is one of them. Amazingly, this tiny district is blessed with a superintendent, Peter Livingston, who CARES about our kids and doing right by them through the schools. In this day and age, the schools virtually raise a lot of the kids who don't enjoy solid family relationships, so having someone at the top with his head on straight MATTERS. Thank You, Father, for sending him.



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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Public Health
Administration

Corwin Porter
Director

Joshua Dugas
Interim Assistant Director

Erin Gustafson, M.D., MPH
Interim Health Officer

August 12, 2020

Dear Peter Livingston:

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health completed its initial review of your Elementary Education Waiver request and submitted its recommendation to the California Department of Public Health for consultation and concurrence on August 11, 2020. Lucerne Valley is experiencing a COVID-19 community case rate (56.8/100,000) that is less than the overall San Bernardino County community case rate (>200/100,000) and is below the recommended threshold set by the State for considering an elementary school waiver for opening in-person instruction. We also determined that your School Reopening Plan contains all required elements to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. We appreciate your rapid response for follow up details to allow completion of the internal review process.

We are pleased to notify you that the California Department of Public Health concurred with our recommendation and notified us on August 12, 2020 that we may issue an approval to reopen your Elementary School for in-person instruction to start the 2020-2021 academic school year.

Thank you for your dedicated concern to return our students and staff safely to the classroom. Best of luck to you in this new academic year.

If you have any follow up questions or concerns, please contact the San Bernardino County Public Health School Liaison, Heather Cockerill by emailing hcockerill@dph.sbcounty.gov or calling 909-387-4557.

Sincerely,

Erin Gustafson, MD, MPH
Interim Health Officer
San Bernardino County

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Peter knows that it is of vital importance to our kids to have in-person school – teachers and students relating to each other daily in the classroom. He has been fighting the battle to have that happen in Lucerne Valley, in spite of Governor Nuisance's order that we practice only "distance learning" in those counties unlucky enough to "qualify" due to high virus infection rates. Of course San

"If it can't be grown, it has to be mined!"

Bernardino County is one of those afflicted counties, with numbers comparable to LA and other areas with high rates of infection.

Peter has refused to accept that finding, and has fought to get the County and State to recognize the obvious reality that the rural desert does not have the same infection numbers as the cities and should be treated like the other rural Counties that are allowed to open the schools. He has jumped through the hoops and filled out the forms and obeyed the masters as required, only to hit his head on brick walls time after time.

Finally, in a letter dated August 12, the San Bernardino County Public Health Administration gave their gracious permission for our elementary school to open in-person instruction. "We are pleased to notify you that the California Department of Public Health concurred with our recommendation and notified us on August 12, 2020 that we may issue an approval to reopen your Elementary School for in-person instruction to start the 2020-2021 academic school year." Woo-hoo! Yay, Peter! (And please do not misunderstand: I have nothing but disgust for the whole thing. It galls me that Peter had to dance to their discordant music.) But Peter persisted, with the support of some local organizations, and became one of the first in the state to successfully qualify for the waiver offered by Nuisance.

Mitsubishi Cement is the second great outfit here in LV. Their product is cement, a basic ingredient in concrete, a basic building block of roads, buildings, dams, and much more. They mine limestone and process it into cement and then truck that cement all over the place.

Because they mine rock out of mountain quarries, they are targets of the "conservationists", aka radical environmentalists who care mostly to hassle the productive sector of our economy and line their own pockets with taxpayer money in order to be able to do that. (Long story for some other time.) Mining companies are also targets of myriad federal and state regulatory agencies, so they have to dance to the regulators' tunes just like Peter Livingston had to.

Mitsubishi is trying to expand their quarry in order to keep quality limestone available for the foreseeable future, and has had to spend the last 10 years in reports, meetings, grillings, and all sorts of stuff I could never do. I'd end up in jail for shooting someone, I think (unless I could prove that I'm an illegal immigrant. . .). They recently got a 5 to 0 approval vote by the Planning Commission, but then what happened?

Two environmental groups protested the approval and requested the County rescind it. Their "case" was heard before the Board of Supervisors on a recent Tuesday. I was privileged to be able to speak on Mitsubishi's behalf at that meeting, to testify to what we know of their excellent operations, spirit, and community support. I wanted to lash out at the radical environmentalists, and had a tirade ready in my head, but I thought I heard God tell me to stick with my written script and resist expressing my outrage at these leftists. Rats! But wonderfully, the Supervisors voted to support Mitsubishi and discarded the objections.

Whether or not you know it, or Peter Livingston knows it, or people at Mitsubishi know it, I know that our little town is extraordinarily blessed by God for reasons known only by Him. Maybe it is ugly on the exterior, but not in the heart. It's one more reason to thank Him and turn to Him as the world darkens around us!

Linda Gimmel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

SPEEDING

The police officer got out of his car as the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day." the officer said.

The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could."

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

"A girl phoned me the other day and said, 'Come on over. There's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home." – Rodney Dangerfield

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

WED. SEPT. 2, 5 PM.
at the Moose Lodge on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road. Outside patio with misters & food service available.

• Most of agenda will be about **marijuana grows and County/ State responses**.

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