

Oh, How Things Have Changed!

As I look at this blank piece of paper and think about what to put here, I find myself in a dilemma.

I hate to be "Debbie Downer" all the time, always focusing on the negative. I fear those of you who read this may get tired of being reminded of the ugly realities coming at us fast and furious.

But since this space is dedicated to expressing what the Spirit of God wants expressed, if I read Him correctly, the "Debbie Downer" stuff is much of what He wants you and me to face. Also, however, He wants you to have the ultimate joy and relief you will receive if you do face it and then turn to Him in commitment.

I sit here with my jaw dropped as I watch the world events of recent past unfold at blinding speed. You can frame it in years – the 2 ½ years since the virus hit; you can frame it in months – the horrendous exit from Afghanistan, the fallout of the 2020 election, and much, much more; or you can frame it in weeks and days – the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the spike in oil prices reflected at the gas pumps, and so much more.

Hanging over all of this like a cloud: the Iranians spreading terrorism all over the Middle East, funded by our relieving them of some sanctions and pushing a new nuclear deal that will make it much easier for them to finalize their status as a nuclear power, with missiles aimed at Israel and American installations all over that area. How soon before they export some of their technology to unfriendly countries in our hemisphere (Venezuela?) in order to harm the hated "Great Satan" of the United States.

The new axis of evil is forming: Russia, China, Iran, with junior members like Venezuela, Cuba, Yemen, taking advantage of the weak leftist idiots "running" our country.

What do we do in response? We turn our military into a woke institution, training soldiers transgenderism and critical race theory rather than becoming battle-ready warriors ready to protect our country and our people. We moan about climate change as if it poses the ultimate threat to human existence and continue ignoring and actually funding the development of the true threat of nuclear holocaust.

Have you noticed that the possibility of Russia using nukes in Ukraine is now an accepted reference in conversations and analysis of current happenings? It's "Oh, well, if they use low level nukes, the damage and destruction won't be as bad as if they go full bore." Really??

Have you noticed how "Covid 19" has almost disappeared as a subject, now that the bigger issue of Ukraine is providing cover? Unfortunately the tyrannical controls like vaccine mandates are largely still in place, or ready to be used again as their plans develop.

Recently American Thinker ran an article, "**Democrat Leadership Has Devalued America Beyond Recognition**", by Terry Paulding, 3/14/22. Excerpts follow:

"The world has been watching our country tilt to the dark side, which set things in motion that have consequences far beyond our own society. I see what is happening in Ukraine, at least in part, as

the result of our dishonest left's manipulation, leading to the emasculation and degradation of our once well ordered society. . . . we Americans have lost our right to claim the moral high ground — and along with it, our ability to influence others positively. . . .

Unless we change, this idiocy will be our downfall as a country. The stage is set for our tumble to happen quickly. Vacant leadership, rampant inflation, a lack of energy production, and a collapsed supply chain will combine with the consequences of the COVID scam, the climate scam, Russiagate, our open border, the violence of BLM and Antifa, to ensure our downfall. . . .

I may be a cynic, but if I'm not mistaken, this all ties in with the naked globalist aim to diminish our population by a billion or so. WW3 would certainly fit the bill. After all, the Great Reset requires far fewer inhabitants warming the Earth. . . ."

I remember this same thing from my elementary school days, and being proud of our wonderful country: "Once upon a time, long ago, when I was young and the Cold War had us practicing duck and cover at school, we Americans were sure we held the high ground, and our free-market economy and thriving society demonstrated moral superiority over communism. The Russians — Soviets, then — had thuggish leaders who pounded their shoes on the table, unwieldy five-year plans, empty store shelves, and a poor and downtrodden populace, collectivized and profoundly unmotivated. They were not allowed ownership or pride of accomplishment, existing under the thumb of an ever-richer dictatorial leadership they reviled.

We, on the other hand, had our free society — freedom of speech, an open invitation to better ourselves through hard work and personal achievement, and a system of law and order that was based on fairness, not who greased the most palms or gaslighted the most.

Times have certainly changed."

Oh, how they have changed, radically and quickly, especially over the last two years! What are we to do??

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many

rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14:1-3)

Hallelujah! The ONLY way out of this mess of a broken world!

Linda Gommel



Come & Get It! Got Up and Went

Wow, was I surprised! I went looking for Come & Get It! (dog food) and found that it got up and went!

I'm continually investigating areas of our shelves where we have large empty holes of missing items, hoping to find alternatives. Or if there are none, to pre-order items to arrive here at the first possible moment after they are received in our wholesaler's warehouse.

I had been noticing that the big bags of dog food that we have on a section of special shelving in aisle 11A have been getting more and more sparse. There would be big holes of missing items for days at a time, and then, whew!, that missing dog food would show up.

For years our grocery wholesaler specially ordered 47lb Alpo Come & Get It!, 47lb Alpo Prime Cuts, and 46lb Purina Dog Chow just for us, since in Lucerne Valley we have an unspoken understanding that in order to live out here one must have at least three and preferably five or six LARGE dogs. One may also have a couple of small yappers in the house if one so chooses. That creates much demand for those BIG bags of dog food.

Apparently no one else in all of Southern California, at least in the independent grocery world, sells dog food in bags larger than 16lb, so needless to say, the battle for the bigger bags has been a constant one.

But I digress. Of late I have noticed that all of a sudden, our 47lb Come & Get It!, and then even our 16lb Come & Get It!, have been spotty and often out. (The Alpo Prime Cuts quietly disappeared months ago.)

So I investigated, sure that as usual I would find that the 16 and 47lb bags would be scheduled to be received in the next week or two, and I would be able to preorder them as usual. Instead, I found the note on each of them: "Discontinued. Out."

What?? You might as well have told us that gallon milk or Best Foods Mayonnaise or 4lb sugar are gone!

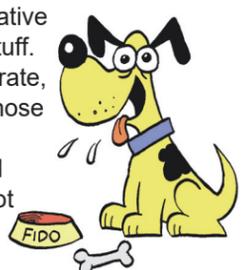
So I look again. No downsizing and replacements available? Nothing in its place? Our best selling dog food, and what's even worse, the one I get for Rocky and Maggie?? (I must confess that I care more about my two dogs than your five. . . 😊) Nope. Nuthin. Nada.

All kidding aside, I was dismayed, to say the least, and so I sent a hot email to the buyers of pet food at the wholesaler and asked what gives. And by the way, the guy who decides what pet food is carried in Southern California works from – guess where? – Minneapolis, Minnesota! A city guy from the Midwest is in charge of pet food for the desert of Southern California. Go figure! Gives me a lot of confidence!

He did answer, with a chart showing that Nestle Purina, who owns Alpo, has withdrawn it from our section of the country in order to focus their resources on the Purina Dog Chow line. Am I irritated about that? Yes, mucho. Do I understand the growing supply chain crisis that is causing all this? Definitely. But this one really hurts, because it's personal, involving pets, and my pets.

The noose is tightening, folks! We here at this store have worked our tails off to keep the store fully supplied, using alternative suppliers and getting different brands just to have stuff. But I suspect that the holes are only going to proliferate, and that you will more and more be unable to find those items you like and count on.

It's a sad story, one that could have been avoided and might even be purposeful. Let's just say that not only dog food, but also brains and common sense among our political "leaders" GOT UP AND WENT.



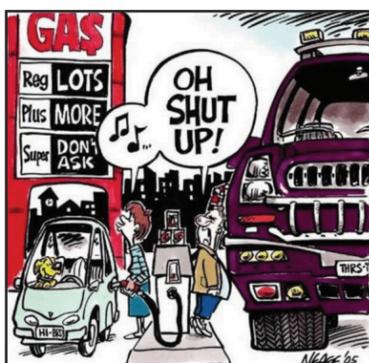
LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

MON. April 4, 5 PM. at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- **Our County Supervisor Dawn Rowe** will present community updates/issues and report on a Lucerne Valley solar project, etc.
- **School Dist. Supt. Peter Livingston** will talk about LCAP (local control) and other school issues.
- From our County, State and Fed. representatives: **Reports from the Sheriff Dept. and CHP.** How is Abatement ordinance working. Code Enforcement activity. What's happening at the County, State and Federal levels. Status of bills submitted to the legislature re: illegal marijuana grows.
- Any work performed by Mojave Water Agency's involvement in cannabis water use, and over-pumping without water rights.
- **Status of MET team's busts in Lucerne Valley.**
- Ideas re: the **Lucerne Valley Leader newspaper** and follow-up on past agenda items.

On The Lighter Side . . . Contributed from the Web



NO GAS, NO ELECTRIC, AND ZERO EMISSIONS - THESE ARE THE VEHICLES OF THE FUTURE!



4D Chess: U.S.-Mexico Border Disguised As Ukrainian Border So Democrats Will Defend It