

Waiting

I am sitting here waiting. . . waiting. . . waiting. . . waiting.

Our wonderful staffers are waiting. Finding busy work to do as they wait. You know, that boring stuff you conveniently never have time for? Well, they have time at the moment.

Other stores like ours are waiting, waiting, waiting . . .

Waiting for what? For our daily routines to resume. For groceries, frozen, deli, and meat to arrive. For a truck from UNFI, the wholesaler, to arrive. For something positive to happen.

Alas, we wait in vain. There is no truck coming. We had hopes that a truck would come, but they were tentative hopes, more doubt than hope. Which will win? Will there be a truck still today, and maybe one tomorrow?

So why all of a sudden must we wait in vain? Technology. The dreaded total failure of technology.

We talk about that a lot – how technology has overtaken so much of our lives, and how disastrous it could be someday if it failed. And it has failed at times, on our own computers or in our office, in annoying ways, forcing us to call our network support people. Or if at home, find a person that knows enough to get us out of a jam when SOME STUPID THING WON'T WORK!

Technology hassles in the smallest things like passwords. "Can't remember your password? Click here." Then you enter an exchange with that automated something that argues with you and you can't argue back. You just know you can't get past it without giving in and doing what it demands.

But this waiting forced on us this week (June 6 until whenever it's resolved) is a much bigger deal. This is the big kahuna, or at least a major preview of what might, and probably will happen in the not-so-distant future.

On Friday, June 6, I logged onto our wholesaler UNFI's website as usual. I stepped through the requisite pages to land on the page listing invoices. You know, that little (or big) piece of paper showing what you must pay or you will likely land in court?

Four days a week I visit that page and download our invoices for the deliveries UNFI makes. Sometimes the process does not work very smoothly, so when there were no invoices showing at all, I was irritated but not terribly surprised. All day I tried to find the invoices to download but they didn't show up that day.

We became alarmed when our hand-held ordering devices wouldn't connect to UNFI, and then we got the call. UNFI was down, as in really, really down. There would be no orders placed that Saturday (dry groceries for Monday) or any time in the next few days.

What?? No orders for a few days? That means no loads for a few days!! What the heck is going on? Sometime in those few days we got the dreaded word: UNFI had detected "unauthorized activity" in its I.T. systems. (I.T. means "information technology". I had to look it up. Duhhh.) Translation: UNFI was hacked. To what extent they won't say, but as of tomorrow, it will have been a week since it happened and still we don't know when our service will be restored.

We were given the hope that we might receive a grocery load today (Thursday, June 12) by their duplicating last Thursday's order. So this morning we waited. And waited. And guess what? Nothing showed up. All day we waited. Still nothing.

For tomorrow there was the hope that a frozen, deli, and meat load might show up. I suspect that we will wait and wait, to no avail. The latest hope given to us retailers is that the systems will be restored by some time Tuesday. Do we wait and wait some more?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes, since there is no other wholesaler available to us in all of Southern California. Unbelievable, isn't it? So what can we do?

What we have been doing is ordering the biggest holes on the shelves from Walmart and from Smart & Final. Some is being delivered, and some is being picked up by various staffers as they come to work. Today we focused on lunch meats, juices, yogurts, cottage cheese, and other refrigerated stuff.

The most significant aspect of this whole thing is that it represents the tip of the iceberg we all know is down there, beneath the surface of our lives. We have become so dependent on the complex workings of technological "miracles" that there is no recourse. Some of our staffers ask why there is no manual option for placing orders, as there used to be in the earlier days. My answer: we have gone way beyond that possibility, and even if we could hand in a list of order codes we need, the WHOLE system is down and there is no possibility of inputting anything into it.

So what will we do when such I.T. failure spreads nationwide and we find ourselves without power or water or (gasp!) internet? It's coming. We know it. If we're honest with ourselves, we realize that we have an underlying anxiety about that reality.

Guess what? While I'm writing this, I'm also watching the Telegram channel of Amir Tsarfati, the Israeli Bible prophecy teacher I listen to. What is happening while I write? Israel has finally started attacking Iran's nuclear sites in order to take them out entirely. The security of the entire Middle East and even much of the world depends on someone having the guts to do this, and Israel has volunteered, for good or bad.

My conclusion(s): We will do our very best to keep important items on the shelves while this UNFI crisis lasts; (2) We will pray that Israel's attack on Iran wipes out the weapons of evil based in Iran; (3) We will pray that we trust God and let His peace that passes understanding govern our hearts and our minds through all of this.

Linda Gammel


Lucerne Valley Residents:
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION
Sat. July 12, 2025
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Behind Lucerne Valley Fire Station
33269 Old Womans Spring Rd
(Enter through gate on Ladera Rd)

CAN ONLY TAKE:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Fluorescents
- Medical Needles
- Latex and Oil based paint (max 15 gallons)
- All Electronic Wastes (E-Waste)
- Oil and Filters (max 15 gallons)

NO TRASH - NOTHING ELSE



P.S. Guess what? Pause in waiting. On Friday, we were surprised



to receive a frozen, deli, meat load, and then at the same time, a grocery load. And at the same time, the milk load, and then minutes later the Seven Up load. Wow.



LVEDA Meeting
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, JUNE 30th
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 **CHP, Code Enforcement and Sheriff's Dept.**
- ✓ Preventing thefts of property titles.
- ✓ Details on the "Ranch" fire - how it started, and how did a water system get contaminated, etc.
- ✓ Caltrans' shoulder right of way project and 4-way stop pavement.
- ✓ July 12 Hazardous Waste and July 26 Town Cleanup.

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

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

HERE IS \$500 BACK FROM THE \$8000 I TOOK FROM YOU



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WHY ISN'T CHINA CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?



BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT

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DON'T BE TOO IMPRESSED BY COLLEGE DEGREES ANYMORE. GRADUATES ARE NO LONGER THE MOST EDUCATED. THEY'RE JUST THE MOST INDOCTRINATED



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"In 100 years we have gone from teaching Latin and Greek in high school to teaching Remedial English in college." – Joseph Sobran

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LVM Commentary - June 26 - July 2, 2025

The Lucerne Valley Fireworks Committee presents

FIREWORKS SHOW

AT PIONEER PARK

SAT, JUNE 28
5 P.M. - 9 P.M.

FIREWORKS 9 P.M.

ENJOY A FUN DAY OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

- FOOD • VENDORS
- GAMES • BEER GARDEN

JULY 4 PARADE

FRIDAY, 9 A.M.

ROUTE STARTS AT TRADE POST ROAD AND ENDS AT PIONEER PARK