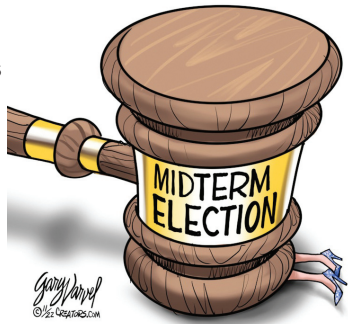


# This 'n That

The world is crashing all around us. Yes, at least we got to fire Nancy Pelosi, who is almost the worst possible representative of this nation, "almost" because her two bosses are worse. The two people in line for the Presidency are from Kalifornia, to our great shame, embarrassment, and disgust. And they are both from the Bay Area, which is the best argument I know of that Kalifornia should be broken into at least two, better three, states.



## THE BEST 2022 METAPHOR EVER

### A DONKEY LEADING A FLOCK OF SHEEP

**PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS**

Why should we in Southern California have to travel 8 hours by car (or fly and endure the security merry-go-round) to visit our state capital? Why should we be captives of the looney bin of Northern California?

I looked over the election results for our area just now, for the first time since election day. I can barely stand to see how voters seem so clueless about important issues. For instance, Proposition 1 placed in the state constitution the right to take a human life! That is unbelievably evil, beyond my understanding. How possibly can anyone seriously vote to place in a state's foundational document the right to murder?? What's next? The right to kill someone with a terminal disease? Where do you stop?

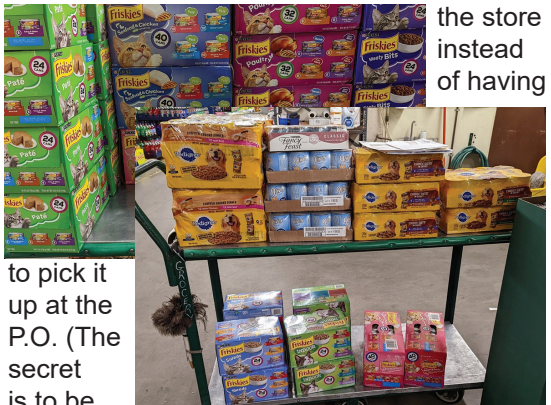
I take a little comfort from the passing (squeaking by) of Measure EE, which means, according to Ballotpedia.org: A "yes" vote supported having the elected representatives for San Bernardino research and advocate for all methods (including secession from the state) for receiving an equitable share of state funding and resources.

Nothing would please me more than if our County were to successfully secede from this rotten state with its pretty-boy governor and looney legislature! I know, I know, everyone says that that has the chance of a snowball in a hot fire. But we can always hope, right?

I don't suppose that I should reveal my trade secrets, but I'm going to let you in on a big one. Aren't you excited? A secret! Woo hoo!

You can't have not noticed – oops, that's a double negative and the Grammar Nazis out there will fry me. You must have noticed (or you can't have missed) how awful certain sections of the store look. The winner of the booby prize for worst department is the pet food department. Guess where all those large boxes of cat food, and the 12 pack and 24 pack cans of dog food come from? Yep, Amazon, Walmart, and Chewy!

Every other week, Amazon sends a huge slug of pet food, which the poor Post Office delivery lady has to stuff into her vehicle and bring over here. About a year or more ago, Amazon decided to use the Post Office for delivery here, which is a two-edged sword. It puts a real burden on the route people to deliver the packages, but now we get delivery to the store instead of having



to pick it up at the P.O. (The secret is to be

sure your mailing address in Amazon is your street address, if you want it at home.)

In between, the mountains of stuff from Amazon, Walmart and Chewy pick up the slack and deliver those items they have that Amazon doesn't. Today we received from the FedEx Ground truck 24 BIG bags of 44lb Pedigree dog food and 15 cases of 22oz



cans, plus some miscellaneous items that looked interesting. Lots of cardboard (each bag is in its own box!), packing, and the neatest flat boxes they use to place over the tops of the canned dog food.

So why doesn't our regular wholesaler, UNFI (United Natural Foods International, or some such), supply the pet food we need? I have no idea, but looking at their catalog, you'd think that Pedigree and Purina had gone out of business! Maybe they have, but somehow Walmart, Chewy, and Amazon seem to get it all the time. Maybe they are playing favorites and our wholesaler is on the bottom of the totem pole.

This kind of circus goes on all the time around the store. We can't get Cool Whip or Joseph Campione Garlic Toast or Bread; haven't gotten frozen pie shells for several loads; the ramens are wiped out; Capri Sun drink pouches have been out for months. Need Enfamil baby formula (there isn't any available yet); need Ensure Adult Nutrition (very hard to get); Calamine lotion, finger cots and splints; canned country gravy with sausage. All come from Amazon or Walmart.

Sir William has his own set of challenges in the hardware department, finding replacements for items no longer available; discovering new restrictions against items by the State of California; ordering out-of-stocks from Do it Best warehouses in other areas of the country, and all sorts of fun stuff.

It makes us crazy chasing all this stuff down, and the store looks crazy as a result. I hope you don't get too frustrated when we don't have certain items you're looking for. Believe me, it's not for lack of trying! I hate to think how things will go if something doesn't get the cost of fuel and the shortage of diesel fuel under control. That one thing spreads costs into everything we buy and do, and at some point we won't be able to afford buying and doing anymore!

Why do we hang in there doing all of this? We do it because we serve God by serving you, our customers and neighbors. That's the foundation of this place, the calling we've had for over 50 years! Hard to believe it's been that long. And as things get darker, more confusing, and our lives get more challenging just doing the simple daily things we've always taken for granted, we hope that at least we here at your store can make it a little easier for you by our efforts to keep items you want and need available. We hope to be a lighthouse in the hurricane afflicting this world.

A small but significant piece of information we need to tell you: if we haven't activated it by the time you read this, we will soon install an automated answering recording, which we hope to keep simple, short and friendly. Even as I've been writing this, I've heard the phone ring and ring and ring and ring, which is a good thing, because people call here for their needs. However, it gets very distracting and interrupts as many as 8 people at a time when it rings incessantly.

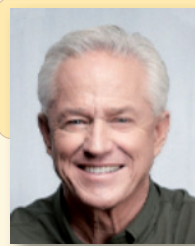


Since about 2/3 of the calls are for the Deli Café and for the Hardware Department, we thought we should try a simple answering menu for those two departments to reduce the disruption to the back and front offices. We included in the menu a simple way to get to a real person. Also we will have a recording you can choose for the store hours on each holiday.

We have always wanted to stay as personal as possible, and this type of thing is anything but. However, sometimes we must try things as circumstances change. Hopefully we will be able to do it in such a way that it's helpful and not annoying.

Please let us know how you like it or hate it once you try it!

*Linda Gammel*



**FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS**  
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

## The Kneeling God

Ray Bentley Ministries

"The Lord bless you..." — Numbers 6:24

AAAAHCHOO!

"Bless you!" we say in response to a sneeze. We also commonly bless other Christians: "Bless you brother" (or sister). Sometimes we even "bless" God.

God gave Moses a specific prayer that the priests were to say over the people. It begins with "The Lord bless you" (Numbers 6:24-26).

What does it mean to "bless?" It's a vague word in English. We know it implies something good and positive, but beyond that? Fortunately, the Hebrew word for bless —barakh —provides us with a concrete picture. It literally means to kneel.

Abraham's servant made his master's camels barakh by a water well (Genesis 24:11). In ancient times, merchants would load their camels with necessities and luxury items to sell at villages, towns, and cities. The goods were piled high and the only way to get them was to bring the camel down—to get him to kneel or barakh.

The Hebrew word barakh is also closely related to another Hebrew word: berakhah, meaning a gift or present. Now we have a greater sense of what it means to bless: literally, to kneel down and offer a gift.

Surely God can't be kneeling down to us?

Our Heavenly Father, the most powerful being in the universe, is also the most humble. "Who is like the Lord our God... who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and on the earth?" (Psalm 113:5-6).

He became a vulnerable baby and entrusted Himself to fallen human beings prone to mistakes and accidents. He stepped down from perfection to live in a body that felt pain and a world that experienced evil. He came as a servant and died for His enemies.

There is no one more humble than our God. In love and compassion, the Almighty God of the universe kneels down before us, paying attention to us, keeping track of the ever-changing number of hairs on our heads, saving our tears in a bottle (Psalm 56:8) and unloading His gifts to meet our needs.

Could He take care of us from a distance? Yes. But that's not His nature. He kneels to be close to us. Open your heart, and receive His gifts of love and awesome humility.

L.V. Roadrunners Present

## Photos with Santa

at your Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware

Dec. 10, Sat, 1P-3P

Kids stop by and get your free photo taken with Santa!

Sponsored by the L.V. Roadrunners and Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware. **Get your photos afterward on the front porch from the LV Roadrunners.** (There is no charge for photos with Santa.)



**ON THE PORCHES**  
**Roadrunners'**  
**BAKE SALE**  
**Saturday, December 3**  
**8:00 a.m. until Sold Out**

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SINCE WE'RE REDEFINING EVERYTHING NOW



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