

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE

## Photographers CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

us the dragonfly wouldn't leave her alone until she took its picture. She also got the shot of the cactus flower in full bloom. They last less than a day then fall off.

Ada Peabody shared the beautiful picture of the water and small boat with the mountains and the rain clouds, which is also in Potrero. Michele Strand provided the snow pictures from Boulevard, the landscape shot featured wagon wheels and pine trees with snow capped hills in the distance. Another offering showed the sun breaking through to illuminate the dusting of snow on the trees and a yard planter. Michele also captured a shot looking up at approaching snow clouds on an already snow covered day.

Sonia and Luis Mayor

of Descanso sent us the picture of the oak tree at the edge of a pond with snow all around complete with a reflection of the mighty oak in the pond. Wendi Erskine sent us the "Boulders of Bankhead Springs" photo that had a corner post in the foreground. Deb Tice sent us the picture of the hummingbird on the branch.

Craig Williams took first place with the picture of the spider that bit Spiderman, just kidding. The picture of the spider was chosen because of its uniqueness, clarity, and its WOW appeal.

Visit our website at [www.backcountrymessenger.com](http://www.backcountrymessenger.com) and click on the photo contest to see all of the great pictures our neighbors shared with us.

## Thanksgiving CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the idea. Many castigated the President, severely criticizing him. One of the few supporters of his plan was an office supply company in Amarillo, Texas, that had mistakenly printed the wrong date for the holiday, and were delighted to find they were the only calendars to actually be correct for that year!

The controversy divided the country - instead of the one holiday, the nation ended up with two. Twenty-three states decided to celebrate the original date, 23 others went along with the new one, while Texas and Colorado couldn't decide so chose to celebrate both! People in most states were confused,

and Roosevelt decided it wasn't as good for business as he had hoped. (Retailers liked the idea sooooo much, Christmas shopping now starts much, much earlier every year.)

Admitting it was an idea before its time, President Roosevelt saw Congress pass a law forever fixing the 4th Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. He signed the bill into law two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7th, 1941, but I will always remember 1939 as the year we had 2 Thanksgivings, the first and last time it ever happened.

## Pastor George CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

consideration of what the Bible predicts. I think it is fairly obvious, we can't continue in the direction the world is going, financially, morally or physically, for an extended period of time.

I hope these series of articles have stimulated a challenge to your thinking and may be an encouragement for you to begin a walk with Jesus

as your personal Savior. Notice one thing the verse in Hebrews didn't say was to come to LMCC, although you would be welcome. It just told us after believing to start assembling ourselves with like-minded people.

George Simmons  
Pastor LMCC

## MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MULTI YEAR '72-'82 HOLIDAY POTLUCK

This year's holiday potluck is being held on December 12th from 6:30 to closing at Dirks Nite Club - 7662 Broadway in Lemon Grove. Contact Len about what to bring (619) 596-0329. Music by the Zone 4 Band  
Food - 7:00 pm Music - 8:45 pm

## County Hoping New Bill Will Spur Home Solar, Wind

**AB 920 to compensate solar and wind powered homes for surplus energy**

SAN DIEGO— Owners of home solar and wind energy systems that generate extra kilowatts can soon turn those surplus electrons into compensation thanks to new legislation signed by the Governor this week.

Assembly Bill 920, which earned strong backing from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, allows electric utility customers who install solar or wind generation systems on their properties to be paid by their electric utility for the surplus electricity they produce.

"The Governor is to be commended for giving

green-minded San Diegans a fair return on their investment," said Chairwoman Jacob, who brought the matter to the Board of Supervisors in November 2008. "The utilities have been allowed to profit from the investments of home solar and wind customers for long enough," she said.

In the past, for generation systems of up to one megawatt, the surplus was carried forward on a customer's bill for 12 months. Any yearly excess went to the utility. Jacob said California's new legislation has the potential to drive many more homeowners to invest in home solar and home wind.

SEE NEW BILL PAGE 31

## Joy CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

by December 12, 2009 to Lake Morena Community Church. Our boxes will be going to the Church we have been working with in Valle de Redondo, which is west of Tecate. We will be distributing the boxes in

December, 2009.

If you have any questions please call, Belen @ 478-2948 or by email, [belenb2@live.com](mailto:belenb2@live.com) or [Michaelynn@478-5037](mailto:Michaelynn@478-5037).

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## Eye Gnats Continue to Plague Jacumba

By TONY NEFF

Jacumba residents were so incensed at the eye gnats they formed a group known as JAG.

The group "Jacumba Against Gnats" has met with the farmer, the land owners, and San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob to convey their concerns about the quality of life in Jacumba. There have been several studies conducted by the Department of Agriculture but their findings have varied.

In 2007 the residents were told they have gnats because of "...how you people live," meaning there are trees and shrubs next to homes that host the eye gnats. In 2008 it was determined that the type of farming being done next to the town of Jacumba was causing the eye gnat problem. Several solutions have been tried since this finding, including spraying an organic pesticide (Entrust®) on the crops. After the spraying residents were not bothered by the eye gnats for two weeks. After that, they returned.

The next attempt at curbing the eye gnats was to trap them. Two types of traps were set up; the first called an emerging trap. It is hung about 2 feet off the ground and is baited with liquid egg bait that attracts and catches the gnats in the trap made of two clear plastic jars joined by a black collar with a funnel into the upper jar. The traps are secured by a wire to a fence every 7 1/2 feet. Similar traps known as collar traps are on the upwind side of the farm to capture that population of eye gnats. The 1200 traps setup by Bornt Farms captures about 85 million gnats a week.

The majority of eye gnats develop in light, well drained, sandy soils that are freshly plowed and contain abundant humus or vegetable matter, and sufficient moisture. The ideal temperature for the eye gnat activity is 90-100 degrees Fahrenheit however eye gnats can survive freezing temperatures.

While a number of effective mechanisms exist to control eye gnats within farming areas, such as chemical insecticides for both adult and immature gnat populations, options are limited for organic farming procedures. In the Coachella Valley, eye gnats have been a problem since agriculture was first introduced there. So common was the gnat problem in the 20s and 30s that Coachella Valley residents constant waving in front of the eyes was know as the "Coachella Hello." The Coachella Valley Mosquito Abatement District was established in 1928, primarily for controlling eye gnats.

There are no species specific biological control agents for eye gnats and predation of adults by birds, spiders and other insects isn't sufficient to reduce the population. The presence of bat colonies and other potential nocturnal predators would have little or no effect on the eye gnats as they are active during the day. At this point the experts say, turn off the water and they will go away. Farm a crop that allows the soil to dry out and the population will diminish. The 2009 study will be delivered November 17th at 6pm at the Community Center in Jacumba. More to come next month.

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It has been fun to see you all once again. This is an invitation to come by again to get your last minute Fall/ Thanksgiving decor - FALL ITEMS ON SALE!!!

Christmas gifts and decor along with our usual yummie candles, cowgirl handbags, lotion/candle gift boxes, cards and candy, etc. are available for you to browse. Look forward to seeing you.

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