J-6/Mescal Community Development Organization

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 06

July 2009

JULY 15TH DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC INPUT INTO ADOT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Northwest County Transportation Plan team held a public meeting on June 30th to solicit comments for consideration as they develop a long-range plan identifying the need for new roads, improvements to existing roads, and other needed transportation infrastructure as well as strategies to address future needs.

Ron Ross, URS Consultant, presented the following summary of the Major Transportation Themes provided by stakeholders prior to the June 30 ADOT Open House.

The community is encouraged to closely study the new routes suggested primarily by emergency responders and are being asked to carefully read the next two pages of related text and illustrations.

1. **Extend SR 90 to the Airport.**
2. **Address encroachment and parking issues, look at transferring B-10 (4th Street) to the City of Benson as a complete Streets Project.**
3. **New emergency responder route and by-pass for I-10:**
   - **A. Connect Benson Airport with Mescal Road with east-west corridor near railroad.**
   - **B. Extend J-6 Ranch Road south to connect to S.R. 90**
   - **C. Connect J-6 Ranch Road with S.R. 90 with frontage road south of I-10**
4. **Reconstruct Post Ranch Road and make it the principal route for busing children to the school in St. David.**
5. **Pave Sybil emergency responder route and bypass for I-10. An alternative would be to pave Lonesome Road.**
6. **Address congestion and safety issues on SR 80 from the Turquoise Golf Club to the connection with B-10 (4th Street).**
7. **Maintain current high level of operation on SR 90, six-lane divided, four-lane divided, build parallel local routes, or do nothing?**
8. **Interchanges/Underpasses requiring reconstruction or improvement:**
   - **A. Whetstone TI - (Exit 302)**
   - **B. J-6/Mescal TI**

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BE INFORMED!

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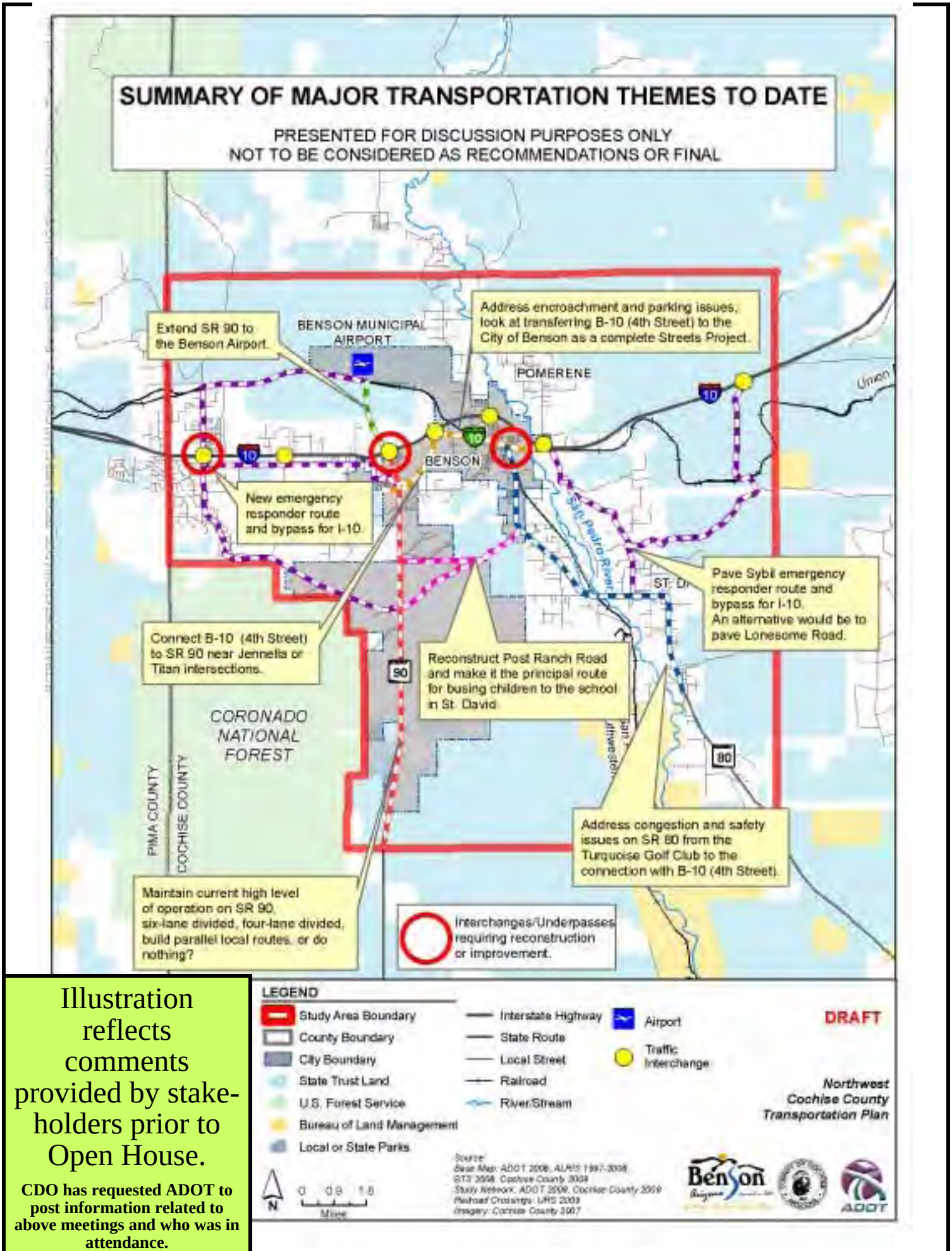


Illustration reflects comments provided by stake-holders prior to Open House.

CDO has requested ADOT to post information related to above meetings and who was in attendance.

CDO REQUESTS MORE INFORMATION FROM ADOT AND CONSULTANT

CDO has requested the following be placed on the ADOT website since participants at the Open House had difficulty absorbing the information displayed only on posters.

1) Copies of the Maps and Posters that were displayed - Wildlife/Conservation Maps, Drainage and Topographical Features, Benson and Cochise County Land-Use Zones, Accident Frequency Locations, etc.
2) An on-going list of stake holder meetings, participants, with comments specific to each meeting (Pre and Post Open House)

In addition, CDO would like meeting notes, minutes of previously held Technical Advisory Committee Meetings.

NOTABLE COMMENTS AT OPEN HOUSE included:

Mark Williams articulated the need for redesigning freeway medians - perhaps the best solution if ADOT is concerned with reducing the number of accidents and rollovers on I-10. People moved to the area for the rural atmosphere - not wanting it to be destroyed by construction of a bypass road connecting J-6 Ranch Road to SR 90.

Gray Gordon told ADOT that he has personally collected over 400 signatures in opposition to the J-6 Ranch Road Extension and, if need be, will continue collecting until this by-pass alternative is removed.

Mary McCool, CDO Representative, reminded ADOT that frontage roads were strongly recommended by the community five years ago and continue to be a significant preference. The desired location of the frontage road was north of the freeway where commercial properties already exist.

In addition, McCool noted that a community survey indicated a northern east-west route connecting the airport with Mescal Road beyond existing residential development was tolerable with conditions. A northern route would meet the emergency freeway closure criteria but would not generate bypass level traffic from those headed toward Sierra Vista. With weight restrictions, large trucks would use only during emergency re-routing. (See link on home page for view of written comments submitted.)

Joyce Hostetter's question regarding funding generated comments from Supervisor Searle that neither ADOT nor the County has the monies for any of the routes suggested on the summary map prepared by the consultant. Bill Harmon, ADOT Engineer, explained that although highway funding primarily comes from gasoline tax, the final source is often the taxpayer.

RON ROSS, URS CONSULTING, WILL PREPARE COMMENT REPORT SOON AFTER JULY 15 DEADLINE

Your neighborhood, Your peace of mind, Your voice!

To view the study or provide comments, log on to the ADOT web: http://mpd/azdot.gov/planning/nw_cochise_co.php

NEWS BRIEFS

MESCAL RESIDENT, TERRI JO NEFF, INDICTED ON TWO FELONY COUNTS:

On June 18, Terri Jo Neff was indicted for two felonies: theft and fraud. Neff pleaded not guilty at her arraignment on July 6th.

Her former employer, Mescal Auto, contacted authorities in November of last year. Bakers alleged that Neff had embezzled monies throughout the course of her employment.

For more details, see the News-Sun, July 8th Issue, NEFF INDICTED BY GRAND JURY, by Thelma Grimes on line at:

www.bensonnews-sun.com/articles/2009/07/09/news/nnews.txt

"PROPOSED ANIMAL ORDINANCE TAKES "CONTROL" TOO FAR" - is being heard more frequently in circulating emails across Cochise County. The proposed lengthy document may be viewed from a quick link on the Home Page. This document is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors for approval within the next thirty days.

The tone of the new proposal is regulatory - "authoritarian" - for example Pima County's ordinance on Barking Dogs differs by including warnings, mediation, documentation, and a hearing before someone is fined.

Definitions for "owner", "hunting dogs", "kennel", and "abandonment" are worrisome with unexpected consequences.

Sections which are drawing a significant number of concerns include:

5.1 A dog owner shall at all times keep such animal on his or her own premises, unless such animal is restrained by a pet carrier, leash, chain, rope, or cord of sufficient length and strength to control the action of said dog. In no event shall the length be so long that the animal can make contact with another animal under the control of its owner without that owner's permission, or a person without permission from that person or his or her agent.

6.5 When a specific complaint has been made against a cat and the cat has not yet for the purposes of this complaint been captured, the complaining County resident may, by personal check, pay a $25 refundable deposit to the County for a humane capture trap.

7.1 It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog to permit said dog to bark, howl or otherwise make noises so as to disturb the peace and quiet of any person or persons at any hour of the day or night.

7.2 An Animal Control Officer who believes that any animal within the county limits is barking or howling or otherwise making disturbing noises, and that the noise will continue, may impound the animal as provided in Section ___11 or Section ___12.

9.3 That, except for livestock, all animals have convenient access to natural or artificial shelter throughout the year. ....Any shelter which does not protect the animal from temperature extremes or precipitation, or which does not provide adequate ventilation or drainage, is in violation of this ordinance.

11.2 Removed and impounded animals who exhibit any of the following symptoms, may immediately be humanely euthanized: (listed items are being viewed as subjective in nature)

COMMUNITY WATERSHED ALLIANCE of the San Pedro Valley

CWA MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JULY 11, 2009
RAINHARVESTING TOUR - 4 SITES CONFIRMED
9 TO NOON - WEB FOR DETAILS

JULY 28, 2009
RAINHARVESTING - ASK THE SPECIALISTS -
6:30 P.M. CITY HALL

AUG. 25, 2009
USGS REPORTS RESULTS FROM "AGE OF WATER" INVESTIGATION AND ADDITIONAL STUDIES
6:30 CITY HALL

JUNE BUSY MONTH FOR FIRE DISTRICT

In addition to emergency driving training, traveling to Phoenix to do final inspection of the new tender, overseeing asphalt resurfacing at Station 2 and the emergency repair of the well pump, firefighters responded to 24 calls for service. Calls included:

2 brush fires,

3 motor vehicle accidents,

1 standby for Pima County Sheriff,

18 Emergency Medical Calls

Included in the total of Medical Calls was the mass casualty rollover on I-10, MP317 on June 3 at which 7 of the 17 people in a van died, a girl thrown from a horse, an ATV accident along the railroad tracks requiring a medivac, 2 separate heart attack calls, and 2 back to back medicals on June 20th.

HOLIDAY PAY FOR FIREFIGHTERS = BETTER SERVICE FOR COMMUNITY

Mescal-J6 Fire District will pay assigned firefighters to work designated shifts answering calls during Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Xmas, New Years, Easter and Memorial Day weekends.

When not on a call, staff will complete tasks at the station or within the district.

This new procedure paid off over July 4th since assigned firefighters were in the area to immediately respond to three emergency calls. During medical calls, minutes may make the difference!!

KUDOS to the paramedics at the Mescal Fire Dept. On June 15, my wife had taken a fall trying to get into bed and unfortunately fell backwards and hit the nightstand in the process. I could not reach her in time. I dialed 911 for paramedics and requested an ambulance. Three paramedics arrived within minutes and administered oxygen, took her blood pressure and blood type, and prepared her for the ambulance trip to the Benson hospital. It is so great to know we have these dedicated and professional folks at our finger tips by dialing 911.

MANY THANKS AGAIN, GUYS!!! J. Parrott

MESCAL - J6 FIRE DISTRICT APPROVES FY 2009 BUDGET

Monday, July 6th, the Fire District held its first public hearing for approval of an annual budget.

The adopted budget reflects $ 147,000 revenue from property taxes using a .7% tax rate. Additional contracts, insurance billing, refunds, etc. increase the total projected revenue to $ 195,719.

Anticipated Maintenance and Operation Expenses total approximately $ 147,719 with an additional $48,000 for Station #2 upgrades and Tender Truck Payments under Capital Outlay.

If the Fire District is awarded all the grants for which they have applied, they will have an added $327, 684 in revenue and would be able to pay $ 66,561 toward additional labor and purchases. The remaining Grant monies ($261,123) would be utilized for Capital Outlay Expenditures for a Rescue Truck, Brush Truck, and Radios and Rescue Equipment.

ARRIVAL OF NEW TENDER EXPECTED SOON

The new large capacity Tender is completed and waiting for a check to be issued before Truckworks hauls the new vehicle from Phoenix to Mescal.

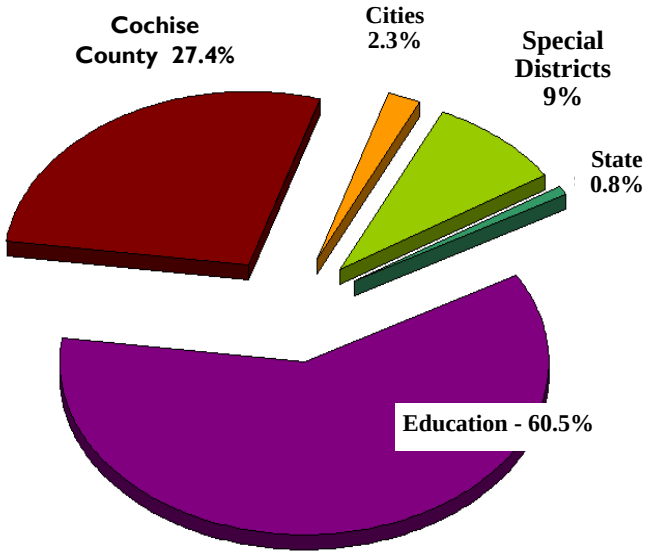
According to the Mescal-J6 Chair, Terri Jo Neff, the District Board is completing the last details before their USDA guaranteed loan application is processed.

The June 26th meeting with the ISO officer was postponed to the end of this month since inspection of the new tender is critical to maintain our current ISO rating and prevent insurance rates from increasing.

In February, the Fire District was granted a six month extension. The new deadline is August 2nd. Our new tender truck must be in service and inspected by late July in order to satisfy the ISO inspector. No further extensions are available.

The District is financing approximately $165,000 at a 4.5% fixed interest rate.

WHERE DID YOUR 2008 PROPERTY TAXES GO?



Supervisor Searle addressed approximately 35 residents at the June CDO Quarterly Meeting and explained the basic taxation process of Special Districts. Although the County has actually lowered the taxing rate, higher appraisals and Special District Taxes combine to make individual tax bills higher. Searle strongly encouraged residents to monitor the annual budgets proposed for special districts and when a significant change is made from the previous year, be sure to become active in the hearing process.

BENSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF TAX INCREASE

Benson Unified School District is notifying its property taxpayers of its intention to raise its primary property taxes over the current level to pay for increased expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

JULY 14 6:00 BOARD RM.

360 S. Patagonia, Benson

BENSON HOSPITAL DISTRICT

At the end of June, fifty-eight percent of the voters of the Hospital District approved to continue giving 90 cents per $100 of assessed valuation on a property to the hospital district.

Much of this secondary tax pays for monthly operational expenses. Without it, the Benson Hospital would have had to close.

The tax must be renewed every five years.

MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

BASED UPON ESTIMATED TAX LIABILITY -RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES -

"The first year tax rate will be 0.7% of the full-cash net assessed value. It is the intent that the tax rate not be increased by more than .5% per year for each of the next three fiscal years"…...*Organizing Board, Impact Statement*

Full-Cash Value	2009 .7%	2010 1.2%	2011 1.7%	2012 2.2%
$ 100,000	$ 70.00	$ 120.00	$ 170.00	$ 220..00
$ 150,000	$ 105.00	$ 180.00	$ 255.00	$ 330.00
$ 200,000	$ 140.00	$ 240.00	$ 340.00	$ 440.00
$ 250,000	$ 175.00	$ 300.00	$ 425.00	$ 550.00
$ 300,000	$ 210.00	$ 360.00	$ 510.00	$ 660.00

Tax notices for the current year are mailed as soon as received from the Arizona Department of Revenue and include coupons for the 1st and 2nd installments.

First Installment due on October lst. **Second Installment - March lst.**

Appeal of property valuation has already passed - May 15!

PUBLISHED IN SIERRA VISTA HERALD - JUNE 22ND

ASSESSORS CALL FOR PROPERTY TAX DISCUSSION

To the Editor,

Open Letter to Citizens of Arizona:

As elected officials on the front line of the property tax issue we need to bring to the public's attention one of most important tax policy changes in recent history. In Senate Bill 1036, a companion bill to the state's budget, the Arizona Legislature is proposing to redistribute a substantial portion of the current tax burden from commercial and vacant land property owners and place it on residential property owners for voter approved bonds and overrides.

Simply put, every homeowner will have a tax increase and nearly every business will have a tax decrease for all future bonds and overrides against the status quo.

Every year, thousands of Arizonans interact with their locally elected County Assessors and their staffs and struggle to understand our quarter-century old valuation structure.

How do we look these taxpayers in the eye and explain this tax shift?

We believe a public debate needs to occur. It appears no public discussion was held on the topic at the legislature and the ramifications are only now coming to light. It really does not matter whether you support the proposed change or you support the status quo, how are the citizens of Arizona supposed to participate in a debate that never happened?

We, the elected assessors of all counties in Arizona, both Republicans and Democrats, asked the new leadership in the Legislature to form a group to examine the property tax structure and were told to wait for an appropriate time. We are still waiting and hoping such a group will be formed soon. The entire property tax system needs to be examined in its entirety.

Transparency in government has been a buzzword used by politicians for decades. This has resonated from the President of the United States to leaders of the Arizona Legislature. Therefore, if the Arizona Legislature believes this major tax policy change is the right thing to do, then they ought to have the courage to have an open public discussion on the subject. The citizens of this great state deserve no less.

Rodger Dahozy – Apache County Assessor; Philip S. Leiendecker – Cochise County Assessor; Chris Mazon – Coconino County Assessor; Dale Hom – Gila County Assessor; Darlene Alder – Graham County Assessor; Linda Durr – Greenlee County Assessor; George Nault – La Paz County Assessor; Keith E. Russell, MAI – Maricopa County Assessor; Ron Nicholson – Mohave County Assessor; Cammy Darris – Navajo County Assessor; Bill Staples – Pima County Assessor; L. Paul Larkin – Pinal County Assessor; Felipe Fuentes – Santa Cruz County Assessor; Pamela J. Pearsall – Yavapai County Assessor; Joseph L. Wehrle – Yuma County Assessor

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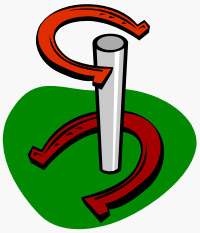

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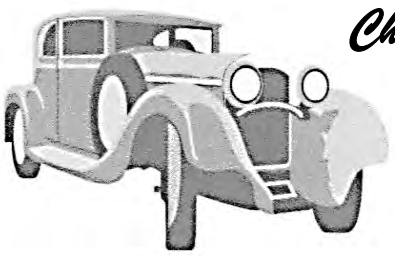

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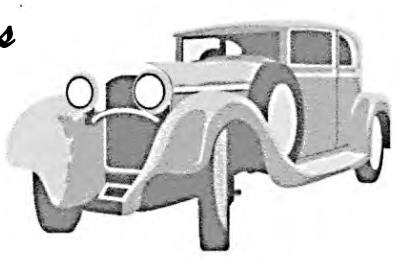

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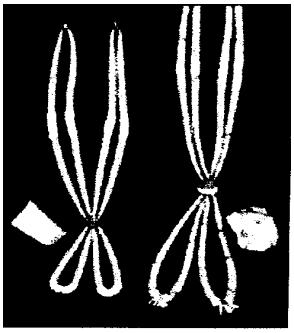

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FREE LESSONS

Wednesdays

Beginners - 6:30

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Quality Boarding - Quality Care
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Horsemanship Clinics, Horse Shows, Gymkhanas
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ALL ROADS LEAD TO MESCAL BAR AND GRILL

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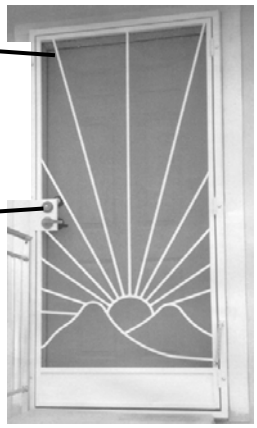

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Click on Business Ads and Specials on the Home Page!

FOR SALE

FREE: Old 19' sail[illegible]t hull with small cabin. No m[illegible]er. Would make good [illegible]ing boat or use to make pond [illegible] your yard. Call George, 586-1233 GONE

FOR SALE: 1986 Honda Outboard Motor, 4 stroke, 7 1/[illegible]HP. Has only about 20 ho[illegible]but not used for at all fo[illegible]bout 12 years. Comes complete with spare parts and owner's manual. Asking $ 250. Call George, 586-1233 SOLD

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FOR SALE: Classic Continental Mark VI. L[illegible]runs good. More info[illegible]9706 SOLD

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250 N. Prickly Pear Road

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Farm Only - Wed. 6:30 A.M. to Noon

Farm and Swap - Fri - 5 to 11A.M.

Sat - 6:30 to Noon

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

J6/Mescal CDO
3111 Clark Road
Benson, Arizona 85602

Mail to a Friend:

Volume 5 Issue 6
JULY ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE:

PACKED WITH NEWS!

MAIL TODAY!

J-6 / Mescal Community Development Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM - CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Name of members for given address:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Physical Address:

_____

_____ZIP_____

Email Address:

_____

Phone: _____

All residents and property owners within the J-6, Mescal, Skyline and surrounding areas are eligible to join.

Households may have more than one member. Each member must be at least 18 years old.

Each membership is $ 10.00

Each member is entitled to cast one vote for meeting action items.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAY FOR:

- Operating expenses such as copies, postage, printing, phone bills, and office supplies
- Production costs for the Tri-Community Newsletter and web-site.

Bring to next meeting or mail to : Nancy Upp, 412 S. Many Winds Rd., Benson, Az