J-6/Mescal Community Development Organization

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 6 Issue 05

May 2010

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Call 586-1233 to volunteer for the production team!!!

For email notifications, contact us at our new email address:

CDO@Tri-Newsletter.com

ALERT - "HIGH OPPORTUNITY" SKYLINE, MESCAL/J-6 AREAS

Powerline Corridor just east of Tucson paralleling I-10.

Tower-designs in the above picture are representative of those presented at the public meeting held April 29th in Tucson as SunZia considers routes thru the Benson, Mescal, J-6 area.

One hundred sixty foot to 190 foot towers spaced up to 1500 feet apart will be need to transport 500 kilovolts of renewable power an estimated 500 miles from New Mexico to substations north of Tucson.

The current proposed routes would be for a single line with a ROW of 200' or if a double or parallel line then 1000' of ROW would be required. The study area is a mile wide to allow for future expansion considerations.

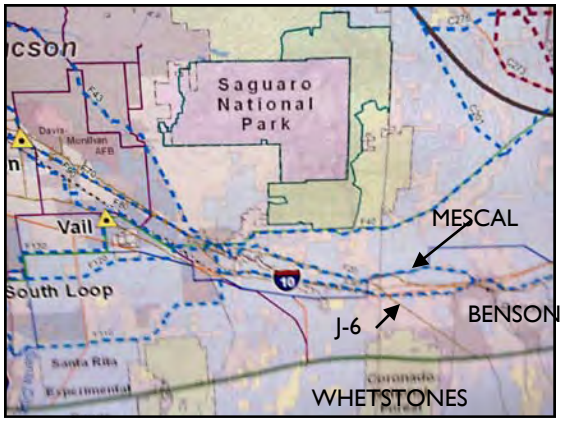
New alternative routes thru the Benson area were in response to previous comments at twelve scoping meetings during two comment periods that ended in May and then again in October 2009.

Comments during these earlier meetings included support for locating the proposed project within the existing Interstate 10 highway corridor. Comments expressed concern for potential environmental impacts to grazing/ranching operations and private lands/property values; biological resources; cultural and visual resources; local economics; etc.

(See Related Story on Page 2)

Maps are now available on the BLM project website.
http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/more/lands_realty/sunzia_southwest_transmission/sunzia_resource_maps.html

The most recent proposed routes are indicated by the blue broken lines.



COMMENT PERIOD ENDS JUNE 10, 2010.

Email: NMSunZia Project@blm.gov

Mail: BLM NM State Office
Sun Zia Project
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502

SEE PAGE 3 FOR HIGH OPPORTUNITY ROUTES.

SUNZIA POWERLINE PROJECT - Company and Process

Routes thru high opportunity areas with the new study area are identified on page 3. The SunZia project is proposed by partnership consisting of the SouthWestern Power Group, Salt River Project, Tucson Electric Power, Energy Capital Partners and Shell Wind-Energy, Inc. (SWPG has been permitted to build a 1,000-megawat natural gas power Generating plant near Bowie).

IT IS IMPORTANT TO COMMENT NOW WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPOSED I-10 CORRIDOR ROUTES ARE APPROPRIATE IN COCHISE COUNTY/PIMA COUNTY.

SunZia, LLC is a private company who has requested a permit from the Bureau of Land Management to cross federal lands. In order to do so, BLM is required to begin a process to evaluate the environmental effects of the permit decision. BLM has hired the Environmental Planning Group, an independent third party, to prepare the Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

EPG is conducting extensive outreach to the public, cooperating agencies, potentially affected federal, state, and local public agencies, and public and private landowners during the EIS scoping, draft, and final document phases. The Draft EIS will be open for public comment for 90 days and the Final EIS will go back before the public with a 30 day review before a Right of Way can be issued --- projected date of the Record of Decision being targeted for 2012.

SUNZIA POWERLINE - Comment Highlights -

Submitted comments with the writer's name are posted in the scoping report unless specific instructions say otherwise. Unique comments are added with each study area expansion; however, common themes are identified across the gamut.

Previous routes being considered included several drawn on maps thru the San Pedro Valley paralleling the river from the Winchester Substation west of Willcox to San Manuel. Due to the sensitive nature of the riparian area, being a world recognized migration corridor, the location of mitigation lands, archeological sites, pristine areas, hundreds of comments were submitted - with a frequent suggestion to use existing corridors, utility right of ways where soil and the environment have already been disturbed. This brought the I-10 corridor into focus.

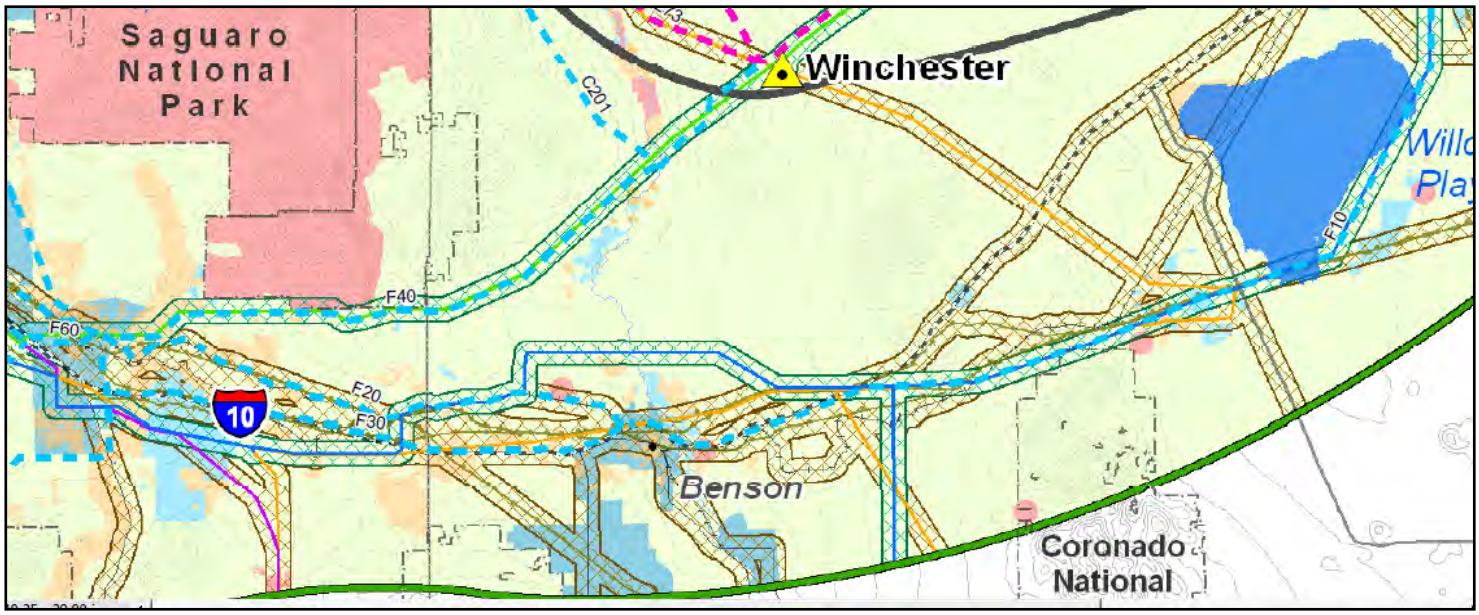
Click here to view collection of comments regarding lines through the San Pedro before our study area was added.

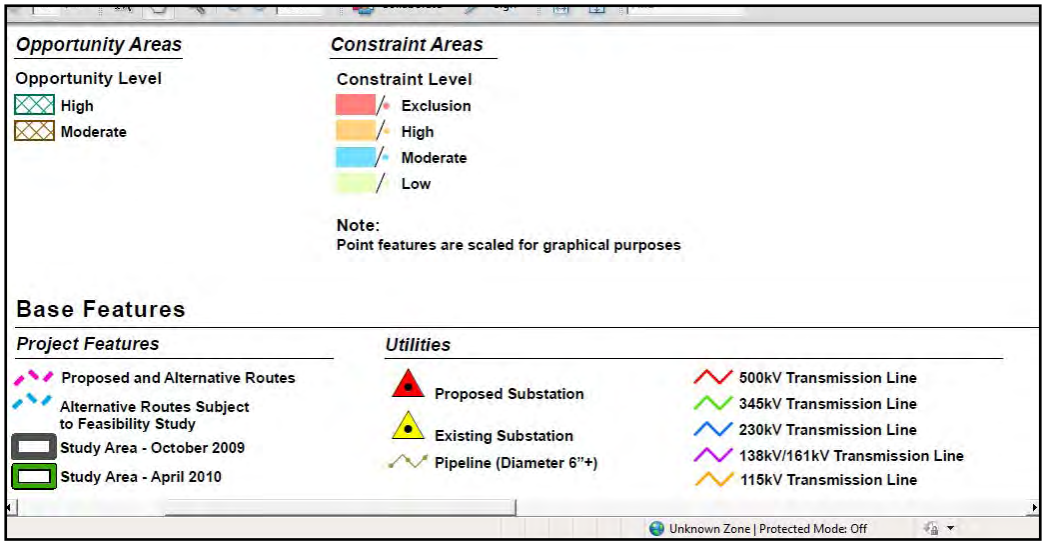
Two of the routes most recently added are shown on the next page - within high opportunity areas passing thru the narrow valley between the Whetstones and Rincon Mountains. One route follows an existing 345 kv transmission line from the Winchester Substation across State Land crossing the area near the Ash Canyon Ranch in Happy Valley. The second route is along the Freeway - changing from the north to the south side as it progresses eastward.

Common themes expressed by property owners along the proposed routes include:

1. The purpose of the lines are to facilitate transmission of renewable energy, BUT
   a. Why bring renewable energy from New Mexico into areas where alternative energy resources already abound?

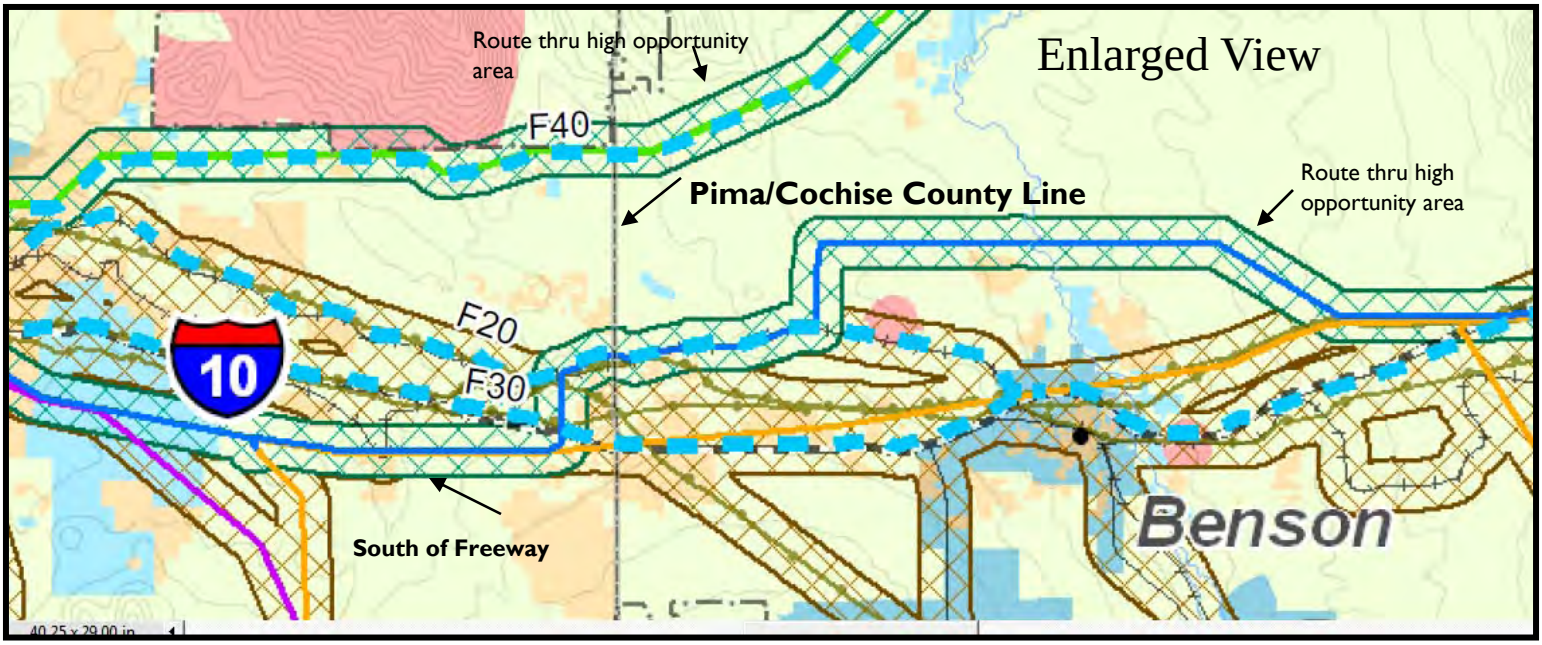
   b. What law mandates the exclusion of conventional energy sources being transmitted thru these lines? Will these lines transmit conventional power thereby not offsetting fossil fuel consumption in an efficient and effective way? These lines are proposed to pass by the 1,000 megawatt natural gas power generating plant planned near Bowie by one of the partners of the SunZia project.
   c. **Alternative energy is ideally suited for projects that can be more locally-focused and supply power on a local level without resorting to long distance transmission.**
2. In valleys that are becoming increasingly used for residences, most people do not care to look at a view of high voltage transmission lines and towers, nor do they care to live near them. High tension lines lower property values and discourage ecotourism.
3. Although existing underground utilities may parallel an interstate for a significant distance, many are relatively un-intrusive after restoration so that stunning vistas are preserved for acclaimed gateways to lands supporting outdoor lifestyles and adventures. **A "No-action alternative" is strongly supported for these areas.**





From the Land Use and Constraints Map and Legend. For full map, click here.

ACCORDING TO THE GREEN HASH MARKS, SEVERAL HIGH OPPORTUNITY AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE I-10 CORRIDOR THRU THE MESCAL/J-6 AREA.



NORTHERN COCHISE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN MEETING TENTATIVELY JUNE 8TH

The Northwest Area Plan project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2010. Existing conditions and No-Build conditions for the out-years 2020 and 2040 are being modeled. These modeled results will assist in determining future transportation needs and inform the discussion about potential solutions. Solutions will include policies as well as actual infrastructure projects. The final plan will be fiscally constrained and take into account expected funding availability for future projects.

What the County heard on March 29th:

Comment Themes

Common themes expressed by the community at the J-Six/Mescal CDO meeting "were a desire to see context sensitive roadways that took into account equestrian travelers; frontage roads as the primary higher speed routes; preserving internal circulation within the J-Six/Mescal community without making new highway connections to SR 90 and improvements to the J-Six/Mescal interchange".

Stakeholders may also provide additional comments to the project team at any time by e-mailing any of the project staff or filling out a comment form available on-line on the project website.

The Existing Conditions, Key Issues and Railroad Crossing Assessment reports are posted on the project website located at:

http://www.dot.state.az.us/mpd/systems_planning/nw_cochise_co.asp

SAVE THE DATE!

A public open house is tentatively scheduled for June 8th in the Benson area.

The final plan will include modeled alternatives and will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in late August of 2010.

VOTE ON MAY 18TH
SPECIAL ELECTION DAY

Polls open 6 a.m. Be in line before 7 p.m.

DON'T FORGET YOUR I.D.!

PROPOSITION 100 -

Prop. 100 would raise the sales tax rate by 1% until 2013, at which point it would be automatically repealed.

INTIMIDATING PLANTS TAKING OVER YOUR PASTURE, FIELD, OR YARD?

Now is your chance to see what plants are considered noxious weeds and how frequently they appear in the local area. Kim McReynolds, U of A - Cochise Co-operative Extensions, is doing a timely presentation at the monthly meeting of the Community Watershed Alliance on May 25th at Benson City Hall starting at 6:30. The public is encouraged to attend.

With plants currently flowering, it is an ideal opportunity to see fresh samples of troublesome plants and learn effective control techniques. Are you actually helping to spread the seeds?

Control noxious weeds before while it is economically feasible to do so. The first step in Management is awareness and education – learning to recognize key noxious weeds species.

THE TIME IS RIGHT - WHEN THE FLOWERS DISAPPEAR - IDENTIFICATION BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT!!!!! DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!

MAY 25 6:30 P.M. BENSON CITY HALL

J-6/Mescal Community

Development Organization

QUARTERLY MEETING

IMPORTANT ALERTS AND UPDATES!

JUNE 3RD

6:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

J-6 RANCH ROAD

TOPICS TO INCLUDE:

- **SunZia Powerline Proposed Routes**
- **Do We Need a Neighborhood Watch - representative from Sheriff's Department**
- **Wrapping up the Transportation Plan**
- **Mescal J-6 Fire District Updates**

Budget, Appointing a Fire Chief, Board Elections

CONTRA DANCE FUND RAISER - MAY 14

benefitting the King's Horses Children's Ranch in Benson

NEW TO THIS TYPE FUN????

BEGINNERS COME EARLY FOR SPECIAL COACHING SO YOU CAN ENJOY THE MUSIC AND FUN!!!

A 'caller' announces the next move and dance partners change every few minutes so everyone gets to meet each other.

Visiting North Carolina Senior Class calling and playing music for this fund raiser - Donations Accepted Dancing at the Large Ramada - Lions Parks 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SEAGO

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

FREE

- **Do you think paying future mortgage payments will be a problem?**
- **Do you have an adjustable rate mortgage that will reset soon?**
- **Is your interest rate over 8 percent?**
- **Are you a victim of predatory lending?**
- **Have you been told if you pay money you will get a loan modification?**

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, we encourage you to attend this FREE Workshop.

QUESTIONS?

Please Call:

520-432-5301
Ask for the Housing Department or
E-mail:
housing@seago.org

WHEN:	THURSDAY - MAY 20, 2010
WHERE:	GRAHAM COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES ANNEX ASSEMBLY ROOM 921 THATCHER BOULEVARD SAFFORD, AZ 85546
TIME:	6:30 P.M.

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SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF
MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Mescal-J6 Fire District is seeking a volunteer leader to serve as the Fire Chief of this rural Southern Arizona fire district. The selected candidate must have experience in public safety, fire, and/or emergency medical service, along with a desire to give of his/her time and efforts to serving the community in this important leadership role.

THE DISTRICT

The Mescal-J6 Fire District was created in 2009 under the laws of the State of Arizona to provide fire protection and life safety services for the area within the Fire District boundaries. The District is staffed by volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics. The District operates out of one station.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Fire Chief reports directly to the Mescal-J6 Fire District Governing Board, and directs all departmental operations including fire suppression, emergency medical services and administration. The Fire Chief participates in emergency response and directs activities on scene as necessary.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

The ideal candidate for the unpaid position of Volunteer Fire Chief shall be a proven leader who is self-motivated, self-sufficient, and prepared to function as a hands-on leader involved in administration, daily operations, and emergency response. Basic requirements include:

- 7 years of experience in public safety, fire, and/or emergency medical services, with at least 4 years in an administrative, management or supervisory capacity.
- Possession of 1st Responder / CPR certificate (or ability to obtain by date of appointment).
- Possession of State of Arizona certification as a Wildland Firefighter (or ability to obtain within one year of appointment)
- Possession of a valid Arizona Driver's License
- Basic computer skills, including word processing, electronic mail communications, and spreadsheet use.
- Other knowledge, skills, and abilities as set forth in the job description.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants should email a request for a full information/application packet to: Brendahrs@aol.com

Application deadline: May 26, 2010

PUBLIC NOTICE
COCHISE COUNTY SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS
PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET
Mescal-J6 Fire District
FY2010 Maintenance Operations / Current Capital Outlay
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

REVENUES:	
Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes	**147,070**
County Fire District Assistance	29,414
Interest Earned	600
State Foresters Contract	10,000
Insurance Billing	5,000
Contributions/Donations	3,500
Projected Carryover from FY2009	8,500
Subtotal Before Grants	**204,084**
Grants	
FEMA (AFG Operations)	55,000
FEMA (Fire Prevention)	9,000
FEMA (AFG Brush Truck)	100,000
AZ Forestry Fuels Reduction	87,000
Subtotal Grants	**251,000**
Total Revenues w/Proposed Grants	**455,084**
EXPENDITURES:	
Maintenance & Operations:	
Vehicle Maintenance	13,500
Fuels Oils and Lubricants	6,000
Firefighter Call Response	12,000
Firefighter Rehab	500
Fire Prevention Activities	1,000
Equipment Testing - Services	2,700
Testing Equipment Purchases	2,600
Travel	6,000
Professional Services	6,000
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,500
Disability Insurance	2,000
Vehicle/Property Insurance	8,500
Liability Insurance	5,000
District Formation Costs	2,481
Election Fees	1,800
Uniforms	800
Training	5,000
Structure Gear	20,000
Wildland Equipment/PPE	3,000
Structure Fire Equipment	4,000
Dues	600
Utilities	4,700
Publishing Legal Notices	2,000
Miscellaneous Ads	300
County Services Expenses	4,500
Interest	3,600
Miscellaneous Items	5,451
Office Expenses	3,900
Emergency/NFIRS Reporting	1,300
Communication R & M	1,500
Station #1 R & M	8,000
Station #2 R & M	4,000
EMS Supplies	4,500
EMS Equipment	4,500
FY2010 Carry Over	10,000
Grant Match Funding	8,200
FY2010 Reserve	1,480
Subtotal M&O Expenses Before Grants	**172,912**
Grants	
FEMA AFG Operations	15,000
FEMA Fire Prevention	9,000
Fuels Reduction Labor	35,000
Fuels Reduction Expenses	1,000
Fuels Reduction CWPP	5,000
Subtotal Grant M&O Expenses	**65,000**
Total M&O Expenditures w/ Proposed Grants	**237,912**
CAPITAL OUTLAY	
Tender Truck Payments	11,172
Repeater	10,000
Rescue Truck Payment	10,000
Subtotal Before Grants	**31,172**
Grants	
Fire Station/Communications Fund	46,000
FEMA AFG Brush Truck Purchase	100,000
FEMA AFG Operations	40,000
Subtotal Grant Capital Outlay	**186,000**
Total Capital Outlay w/Proposed Grants	**217,172**
Total Expenditures w/ Proposed Grants	**455,084**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at 6:30pm on Monday, June 7, 2010 during the Mescal-J6 Fire District's Governing Board meeting at Fire Station #1 (448 N Warren Road) In Mescal. Following the Public Hearing the Governing Board will adopt the Fiscal Year 2010 budgets.

Copies of the proposed budget are available by calling 520-586-7007 or send an email to mescalj6fire@hotmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
COCHISE COUNTY SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS
ANNUAL BUDGET
Mescal-Fire District
FY2010 Reserve Account
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

REVENUES:

Carryover from Reserve Account 6-02-16-500		**0.01**
Carryover from FY2009 Operations Account		**1,480.00**
Transfer from FY2010 Operations Account		**1,480.00**
Interest Earnings		**10.00**
	TOTAL	**2,970.01**
EXPENDITURES:		**0.00**

Copies of the proposed budget are available by calling 520-586-7007 or send an email to mescalj6fire@hotmail.com.

PUBLIC HEARING

MONDAY JUNE 7TH

Fire Station #1 - 448 N. Warren Road

Mescal

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 7, 2010 during the Mescal-J6 Fire District's Governing Board meeting at Fire Station #1 in Mescal. Following the Public Hearing the Governing Board will adopt the Fiscal Year 2010 budgets.

Copies of the proposed budget are available by calling 520-586-7007 or send an email to mescalj6fire@hotmail.com.

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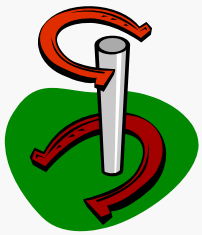

2ND & 4TH SAT.

KARIOKE

7:00 P.M.

Russell says:

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6:00 TIL 8:30 P.M.
-or until it's gone!!!

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RE-ELECT

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Pastor Bill Galloskas **Ph. 520-221-9231**

Sunday Services

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Wednesday Service

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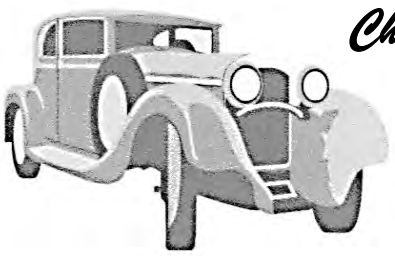

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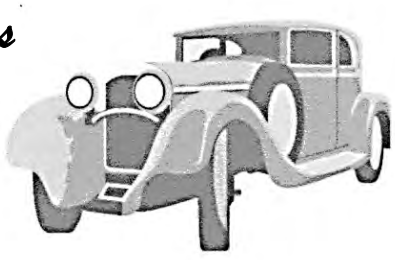

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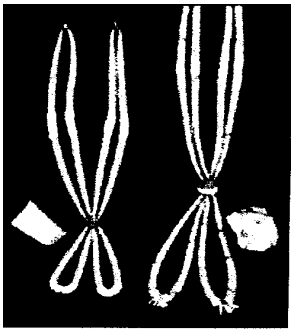

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MAY - JUNE

Pre-Monsoon Tune-ups

10% off all parts

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Shampoo Haircut $15
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EAT IN,
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Homemade thin crispy crusts with homemade sauce!

All 12" Pizzas except Veggie - 9".

Cheese and Sausage	**$12.00**
Cheese, Sausage & Pepperoni	**$12.00**
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Veggie (Cheese, Onion, Mushrooms, Olives, Sweet Red Peppers, Artichoke Hearts, Olives)	**$11.00**
Supreme (Cheese, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onion, Sweet Red Peppers, Olives)	**$13.00**
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FROM 7 P.M TO 11 ISH
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Neighborhood Choice for Morning Coffee!!!

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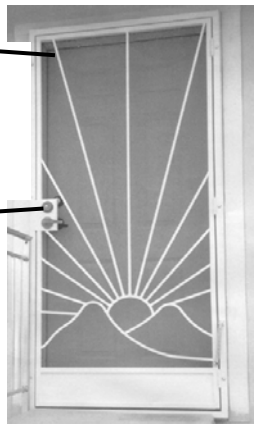

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- Fences
- Yard Sculptures
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TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

J6/Mescal CDO
3111 Clark Road
Benson, Arizona 85602

Volume 6 Issue 05
MAY ISSUE

Mail to a Friend:

IN THIS ISSUE:

PACKED WITH NEWS!

MAIL TODAY!

J-6 / Mescal Community Development Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

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.

Name of members for given address:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Physical Address:

_____

_____ZIP_____

Email Address:

_____

Phone: _____

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