

January 2010

Volume Issue

Clean Air Blue Skies!

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<http://pinalcountyaz.gov/Departments/AirQuality/Pages/TravelReduction.aspx>

Pinal County Travel Alternatives

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Calendar of Events

- **Home, Health & Garden/Car & Motorcycle Show**

Date: January 23, 2010 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: Pinal County Fairgrounds

Address: 512 S Eleven Mile Corner Rd Casa Grande, AZ

- **Bluegrass Jamboree**

Date: January 29, 2010 thru January 31, 2010 (Friday thru Sunday)

Time: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Where: Pinal County Fairgrounds

Address: 512 S Eleven Mile Corner Rd Casa Grande, AZ

- **Arizona Renaissance Festival**

Date: February 6, 2010 thru March 28, 2010

Time: 10:00 am—6:00 pm (Saturday & Sunday)

Address: 12601 E Hwy 60 Apache Junction, AZ

- **O'Odham Tash**

Date: February 12, 2010 thru February 15, 2010

Where: Various locations

Events: All Indian Rodeo, Carnival, Chicken Scratch Dance, Indian Invitational Fast Pitch, Basketball Tournament, Parade

- **Apache Junction Run for the Gold Marathon**

Date: February 14, 2010 (Sunday)

Where: Apache Junction Prospector Park

Time: 7:00 am

- **Goldfield Superstition Mountain Chili Cook-Off**

Date: February 21, 2010

Where: Goldfield Ghost Town

Time: 11:30 am—3:30 pm

Address: 4650 N Mammoth Mine Rd Goldfield, AZ

- **Apache Junction Lost Dutchman Days**

Date: February 26, 27, 28, 2010 (Friday—Sunday)

Where: Rodeo Park—1590 E Lost Dutchman Blvd & Tomahawk Rd Apache Junction, AZ

Time: 9:00 am—11:00 pm (Friday & Saturday) 9:00am—6:00 pm (Sunday)

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- **Arizona State Open Chili Championship**

Date: March 6, 2010

Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Where: Ed Hooper Park

Address: 2525 N Pinal Ave Casa Grande, AZ

- **Cactus Pedal Bike Challenge**

Date: March 13, 2010 (Saturday)

Time: 7:00 am

Where: Paul Mason Sportsplex

Address: 2525 N Pinal Ave Casa Grande, AZ

- **Reel Kids Fishing Derby & Family Campout**

Date: March 12, 2010 (Friday)

Time: Tent set-up 1:00 pm—4:00pm [Derby runs 6:00 pm—8:00 pm]

Where: Heritage Park

Address: 600 N Main St Florence, AZ

- **Pinal County Fair**

Date: March 17, 2010 thru March 21, 2010 (Wednesday thru Sunday)

Where: Pinal County Fairgrounds

Address: 512 S Eleven Mile Corner Rd Casa Grande, AZ

- **Catfish Rodeo**

Date: March 20, 2010 (Saturday)

Time: 6:00 am to 10:00 am

Where: Dave White Park

Address: 2121 N Thornton Rd Casa Grande, AZ

- **Bike MS**

Date: March 27th & 28th, 2010 (Saturday & Sunday)

Time: 6:00 am

Where: Heritage Park

Address: 600 N Main St Florence, AZ

- **Country Thunder**

Date: April 14—17, 2010 (Wednesday—Saturday)

Where: Canyon Moon Ranch

Address: 20585 E Price Rd Florence, AZ

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Off-roading is a popular recreational activity.

OHV Decals

The OHV Decal will only be issued by the Arizona Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD). The OHV Decal is available online at www.servicearizona.com, and at any MVD office.

The OHV Decal is NOT issued at any Arizona Game and Fish Department offices.

The OHV Decal is valid for one year from the date of purchase. No renewal notice will be sent about the expiration of the decal. It is the responsibility of the owner to make sure the vehicle is up-to-date.

Paper or Plastic?

In **Los Angeles**, all plastic shopping bags will be banned beginning **July 1, 2010**. Shoppers can either bring their own bags or pay 25 cents for a paper or biodegradable bag. The ban will minimize cleanup costs for the city and reduce trash that collects in storm drains and the Los Angeles River.

San Francisco passed the nation's first bag ban, which took effect in **November of 2009**.

April 2010, **D.C.** shoppers at grocery, drug and liquor stores — retail outlets that sell food and alcohol — will have to pay 5 cents for every disposable plastic and paper sack they stuff with their purchased goods unless they use their own bags. Retailers will keep 1 cent from each 5 cents charged. If they offer a program that credits customers at least 5 cents for bringing their own bags, retailers get to keep 2 cents.



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Did you know?

When a **High Pollution Advisory for Particulate Matter (PM10/PM2.5)** is issued for Area A, **do not:**

- Burn wood, including wood stoves, fireplaces, outdoor fires, and fire pits or chimneas.
- Burn any vegetative matter. All burn permits are suspended during an HPA.
- Use leaf blowers or mow lawns.
- Drive on dirt roads.
- Use off-road vehicles in Area A. Off-road activity is prohibited during an HPA.

Cans for Cash—October 2010

The United States Conference of Mayors, Novelis Corporation and Keep America Beautiful Inc., have partnered to encourage and assist U.S. cities with their sustainable recycling efforts. The challenge awards twelve \$5,000 awards to participating municipalities and four \$2,500 awards to Keep America Beautiful affiliates. Participation required in the following categories:

Most Aluminum Beverage Cans Recycled

A \$5,000 award is presented to the top four cities collecting the most aluminum beverage cans from October 1—31st. Winning cities are determined by the ratio of the city population to the total number of aluminum beverage cans recycled.

Most Innovative Ideas

The top three cities with the most innovative ideas for promoting aluminum beverage can recycling will each win \$5,000. Cities must submit an application form detailing their efforts and provide sample materials used during your campaign.

Most Innovative Ideas for Cities partnering with KAB

The top four cities with the most innovative ideas for promoting aluminum beverage can recycling while partnering with their local Keep America Beautiful affiliate will also win \$5,000 each and their KAB affiliate will win \$2,500. Cities must submit an application form detailing their efforts and provide sample materials used during their campaign.

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EPA Strengthens Smog Standard



The EPA has proposed the strictest health standards to date for smog. Smog, also known as ground-level ozone, is linked to a number of serious health problems, ranging from aggravation of asthma to increased risk of premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Ozone can even harm healthy people who work and play outdoors. The agency is proposing to replace the standards set by the previous administration, which many believe were not protective enough of human health.

The agency is proposing to set the “primary” standard which protects public health, at a level between 0.060 and 0.070 parts per million (ppm) measured over eight hours. The current existing ozone standard is set at 0.075 ppm (2008).

The proposed new standard will protect the environment, especially plants and trees. This seasonal standard is designed to protect plants and trees from damage occurring from repeated ozone exposure, which can reduce tree growth, damage leaves, and increase susceptibility to disease.

Should EPA set the new standard at 0.060, all Pinal County ozone monitors would exceed. If it should be set at 0.065, it would effect Queen Valley, Apache Junction, Casa Grande and Pinal Air Park. If the standard would be set to 0.070, Queen Valley and Apache Junction will exceed the minimum requirements.

Ground-level ozone forms when emissions from industrial facilities, power plants, landfills and motor vehicles react in the sun.

EPA will be taking public comment for 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register. The agency will hold three public hearings on the proposal:

February 2, 2010 (Arlington, VA and Houston, TX)

February 4, 2010 (Sacramento, Ca)

Ground-level ozone's harmful effects on human health and the environment prompted the federal government to set air quality standards for the amount of ozone in the air over certain time periods. Counties that do not meet these standards receive a **nonattainment** designation that triggers increased pollution control requirements for businesses in the area, along with other efforts to reduce ozone levels.

Ozone Nonattainment

When a county is identified as not meeting a federal air quality standard based on monitored values of the outside air, it is designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as nonattainment and given a target date to meet the standard. State plans are then prepared that include regulations for controls on emissions that are needed to reduce the air pollution and meet the standard. If at any time monitored values show that the air quality has improved and the county now meets the standard, the state can request re-designation of the county.

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EPA Continued.....

EPA will issue final standards by August 31, 2010.

Estimated Timeline For Implementing The Proposed Standards

- EPA, states and tribes will work together to implement the ozone standards that result from the reconsideration.
- EPA is proposing an accelerated schedule for designating areas for the primary ozone standard. Also, EPA is taking comment on whether to designate areas for a seasonal secondary standard on an accelerated schedule or a 2-year schedule.
- The accelerated schedule would be:
 - By January 2011: States make recommendations for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment or unclassifiable.
 - By July 2011: EPA makes final area designations.
 - August 2011: Designations become effective.
 - December 2013: State Implementation Plans, outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standards, are due to EPA.
 - 2014 to 2031: States are required to meet the primary standard, with deadlines depending on the severity of the problem.

Will your facility be required to report emissions under the EPA's new Greenhouse Gases Rule?

The EPA's new rule is on a fast track for implementation at the start of 2010. When the rule goes into effect, its new, more stringent requirements may come as an unpleasant surprise to some businesses.



Which facilities will be required to monitor and report emissions?

- Suppliers of fossil fuels or industrial greenhouse gases, manufacturers of vehicles and engines, and facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of GHG emissions per year.
- Those industries identified by certain North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

All qualifying facilities will be required to submit annual reports to the EPA starting with calendar year 2010.

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Five Jobs That Allow You To Work At Home

1. Medical Transcriptionists

What they do: When medical professionals dictate their observations of a patient's health or condition, medical transcriptionist transfer their recordings into text. You see their work on lab reports, patient histories and any other documentation that comes as a result of procedures.

Who hires them: Insurance companies, health-care institutions, medical transcription service organizations.

2. Telemedicine personnel

What they do: Nurses, pharmacists and other health-care professionals provide advice to patients through phone calls or video conferencing. When patients have health questions but don't need urgent care, they can contact these experts to see what their next course of action should be.

Who hires them: Insurance companies; hospitals; doctor's offices

3. Remote tech support agent

What they do: Computer users who aren't sure why their PC shuts down every time they try to open a file need help, so they call tech support. Believe it or not, not every problem requires in-person help. As long as you have the patience, communication skills and technological knowledge, you can work as a tech support agent from your home.

Who hires them: Technology manufacturers; technology support businesses

4. Teachers and tutors

What they do: As online learning continues to grow, internet-based instructors have seen an increase in jobs. Some teach online courses that last a full semester, while others offer seminars that only take place for one or a few days.

Who hires them: Traditional and online universities; K-12 schools; certification programs; online-based tutoring companies

5. Virtual Assistant

What they do: Virtual assistants are responsible for the same tasks that traditional assistants are: running errands, coordinating meetings, screening calls and clerical duties. You've probably seen high-ranking professionals who rely on their assistants just to get through the day. Virtual assistants do the same thing, except they're not in an office.

Who hires them: companies devoted to providing virtual assistants for clients; large companies with a need for flexible assistants. Note: Many virtual assistants are freelancers in charge of their own businesses.

