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E-mail
editor@mountainmailnews.com

Phone: 575-854-3500.

**Address: 504 First St.,
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THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

OPINION: A Look Behind The Scenes At The Grizz And SEC

Magdalena Potluck

By Don Wiltshire

There are two items in my “Absolute Must Do” list for this weekend. One is the Yard Sale to benefit The Grizz Project on Friday and Saturday, April 16 - 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parking lot next to the Golden Spur Saloon on Highway 60 in Magdalena. I’ll even part with some of my treasured “rusty bits” for this one. The other is the Annual Meeting of the Socorro Electric Cooperative on Saturday, April 17 with voting starting at 5 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. in the Finley Gym in Socorro.

Let’s take a look at the thinking that went on “behind the curtain” before these two events came to our attention. The Grizz Project is the brain child of Marguerite Sweeney. It’s named after her all-time favorite dog. Grizz is dedicating itself to relieving the suffering of animals and to furthering the humane treatment of animals in and around Magdalena. “Animals”, for the moment includes dogs, cats and horses. I’m sure other animals will follow.

There is a wide spectrum of attitudes toward animals in this area, ranging from

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appreciating animals as “part of the family” and all of the creatures that make up our environment, to the legitimate use of animals as food, to kids who see animals as nothing more than moving shooting targets. We seem to range from bunny huggers to dog kickers, from ravenous carnivores to mild mannered vegetarians. We all find ourselves somewhere on this continuum, and an occasional “reality check” can be a good thing. I for one, have come to respect the full range of emotional intelligence that our canine, feline and equine friends can exhibit.

Magdalena seems to be a popular spot to “drop off” animals that are unwanted. My own dog, Abby was one of those drop-offs. I was lucky that she chose to follow me home and she’s been a loyal friend ever since. Other drop-offs and some dogs that “get loose” can be of questionable “friendliness”. Some are outright dangerous, yet I have rarely met a dog that couldn’t be reasoned with or at least “shouted down”. If you encounter such an animal, contact the Marshal’s office at 854-2493. It can be sheltered and cared for at the improved pens in the rodeo grounds. This was one of Grizz’s first projects.

Grizz hopes to raise funds for the neutering and spaying of animals and to place unwanted pets in good homes. Without this effort, Magdalena could (and has in the past) become over-run with feral dogs and cats. The Grizz Project also hopes to offer assistance to individuals to help them to keep and to provide for their pets.

Intervention, education and foster care programs are also in the works. Pets looking for homes in the Magdalena area are posted at . Contact Grizz at (505) 206-3565. A Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser is being planned for May. I’ll keep you posted. It’s a wonderful thing to have a group of people working together in this area to this end; many kudos and continued success.

Another group of people who are working for the common good (although this might be a bit of a stretch) is the Socorro Electric Cooperative. It is, as it’s name implies, a cooperative, not-for-profit organization with the purpose of providing electric power to its “members”. Electric power is purchased from a variety of vendors and supplied

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- [Village Board Delays Decision On Water Flow](#)

to us through a distribution grid, built and maintained by a staff of 38 employees. A Board of Directors of 11 members, at a cost of nearly half a million dollars seems to be a bit excessive to “direct” this operation. This matter and other overdue changes to the by-laws are to be voted on by the members (us) at the annual meeting this Saturday at the Finley Gym in Socorro.

We are in a unique situation here in New Mexico with our Electric Co-op. Many US residents are at the mercy of privately owned for-profit electric corporations. Consider for a moment, the reign of terror that was Enron: for the Greater Greed rather than for the Greater Good. This is why Dennis Kucinich (yes, that progressive, socialist do-gooder), back when he was the Mayor of Cleveland, fought tooth and nail to keep the Cleveland Electric Company (Municipal Light) a publicly owned utility. I watched this case closely back when I was still a Cleveland boy; that’s why I’m a bit strange; perhaps it was the water. This is YOUR Co-op and YOU have a say in how it’s run. Come, experience Demo-cracy at its finest.

If you have any comments, problems, solutions, upcoming events or body armor for the SEC meeting, contact me at .



POSTED BY MOUNTAIN MAIL NEWSPAPER AT [11:26 AM](#)

NO COMMENTS:

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Meter

County Passes An Illegal
Tire Dumping Ordinance

'T' Mountain At Tech?

Voting At SEC Annual
Meeting Will Be By Hand

Two Men Arrested In
Amber Alert Case

Fite Recalls Marriage, The
Caboose, Tokay

Street Fight

OBITUARY: Tom Cassady

OBITUARY: Nelson
Michael Zamora

OBITUARY: Eluvie T.
Peralta

OBITUARY: Craig Alan
Butler

OPINION: A Look Behind
The Scenes At The Grizz
And...

OPINION: Major General
Butler Finally Comes In
Fro...

LETTER: Census Question

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LETTER: More SEC Talk

LETTER: In Favor Of Paper
Ballots

LETTER: Save \$300,000

LETTER: Public Safety

LETTER: Thank You

Young Steers Struggle On
Diamond

Warriors' Golfers Earn Bid
To State

Lady Warriors Fall To
Powerful Cobre

Plans Underway For New
Youth Football League

Reserve Election
Contested

Seasons' Change Brings
Life Back To Valley

Sylvia Fights Change With
Ridiculous Rhyme

Quemado School Prom Set
For April 24

Datil's New Cafe To Host
Providenti Show

Muddy Day

Two Arrested On Felony Gun Charges

Local Students Win At State Science Fair

Democrats' Picnic

- ▶ April 4 - April 11 (29)
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▶ [January 3 - January 10](#)

(22)

▶ [2009 \(470\)](#)

MAGDALENA WEATHER



[Forecast Radar Cameras](#)



GOVERNMENT LINKS

[Alamo Navajo Chapter](#)

[American Recovery &
Reinvestment Act official site](#)

[BLM Socorro office](#)

[Breakdown by county of
stimulus funds](#)

[Catron County](#)

[City of Socorro](#)

[Middle Rio Grande
Conservancy District](#)

New Mexico Attorney General's
office

New Mexico courts

New Mexico Department of
Health

New Mexico Environment
Department

New Mexico Legislature

New Mexico Public Education
Department

Socorro County Chamber of
Commerce

Socorro Electric Cooperative

Socorro Soil and Water
Conservation District

U.S. Census

Village of Magdalena

SCHOOLS

Magdalena Schools

New Mexico Tech

Quemado Schools

Reserve Schools

Socorro Consolidated Schools

BLOGS

[Catron County Connection](#)

[Heath Haussamen on New
Mexico Politics](#)

[Life in Magdalena](#)

[New Mexico Independent](#)

[Socorro Photo Blog](#)

[The Rural Blog](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Animal Protective Association
of Socorro](#)

[Bosque del Apache National
Wildlife Refuge](#)

[El Camino Real International
Heritage Center](#)

[Fur and Feather Animal
Assistance](#)

[Gila National Forest](#)

[Hammel Museum](#)

[Keep Socorro Beautiful](#)

[London Frontier Theatre
Company](#)

[Magdalena Ranger District
\(Cibola National Forest\)](#)

[Magdalena Ridge Observatory](#)

New Mexico Activities
Association

New Mexico Cattle Growers
Association

New Mexico Foundation for
Open Government

New Mexico Tech Golf Course

NRAO Very Large Array

Save Our Bosque Task Force

SCOPE (Socorro County
Options, Prevention and
Education)

Sevilleta National Wildlife
Refuge

Socorro Animal Shelter

Socorro Civitan Club

Socorro Community Theater

Socorro County Extension
office, 4-H

Socorro General Hospital

Socorro Mental Health

Socorro music scene

Socorro Public Library

White Sands Missile Range

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