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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

Co-op Talks To Community Leaders

By John Severance

The Socorro Electric Cooperative gave local businesses, school administrators and government officials a heads up last week.

The beleaguered co-op said it was going to raise its rates, possibly by February of next year, interim manager Richard Lopez said.

How big an increase?

The co-op does not know yet, but Lopez said the increase should be known in November or December after a study is done by Catt Cobb, a rate analyst for SGS Engineering.

Lopez told the audience that the co-op missed its margins last year by \$410,000. And this year, the co-op is negative in its margins and it could get worse with impending litigation expenses.

The news of the rate increase did not sit well with mayor Ravi Bhasker, who wanted to know about the breakdown of city and county taxes as well as the franchise fees for his hotels.

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The mayor also wanted to know why the co-op never offered the city a better rate for electricity during off-peak hours.

“Your business has to be accountable and I just don’t see it,” Bhasker said.

Socorro Consolidated Schools superintendent Cheryl Wilson and her counterpart at Magdalena Mike Chambers said they have absorbed budget cuts the past two years and they didn’t know how much more they could cut if there was going to be an increase in electricity rates.

Wilson summed it best when she said, “I don’t have the ability to raise the cost of public education.”

County manager Delilah Walsh also did not have much empathy when she asked what the co-op was doing to shave costs.

Lopez answered that the co-op was going to refinance some of its debts and that the trustees had a cap placed on their expenses. Last year, the co-op board had expenses of close \$480,000, which exceeded what the co-op’s negative margins were.

Lopez said the co-op owed close to \$30 million to RUS and Cobb said if the co-op could not make its mortgage payments, the co-op would be taken over by the federal government.

“And if that happens, the rates are going to go up even more,” Cobb said.



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Fly-In To Attract
Hundreds

Gunslingers Shoot 'Em Up

Magdalena Library Board
Discusses Opening

Co-op Talks To Community
Leaders

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OBITUARY: James E.
Scartaccini

OBITUARY: Tasha Otero

Newsweek Ranks Tech In
Top 10

EDITORIAL: Stop The
Bleeding

OPINION: Comedians
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Bigger Problem Than We
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Breakfast

Alamo: Cell Service
Coming Soon

Publishing Is What Dreams
Are Made Of, Says
Sylvia...

Letters To Myscie: A
Western Love Story By
Suzanne...

Pot Bust Details Emerge

Magdalena Talks Recycling

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Resigns Post

Marijuana Plantations
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515th Gets Warm Welcome

OBITUARY: Elaine
Georgina Romero

County Approves Hospital
Payment

EDITORIAL: Joys Of The
Internet

OPINION: A Celebration Of
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OPINION: Verizon, Google
Pledge Allegiance to Net
...

LETTER: Gubernatorial
Campaigns

LETTER: Feeling Sick

LETTER: Commissioner
Challenges Article

Warriors Hold On To Stay
Perfect (3-0)

Cross Country Teams Fare
Well at Home Meet

Lady Warriors Bounce
Back

Quemado: Pancake
Breakfast

News From Luna

Sylvia Rejoices In
Ridiculous Rotten
Rejection

Letters To Myscie: A

Western Love Story By
Suzanne...

EDITORIAL: What A Great
Weekend At The County
Fair...

It's Definitely Time To
Punt

OPINION: Not Much To
Celebrate For Workers
On This...

Horseman And The Lady
Make Stop In Socorro

Electric Co-op Votes For A
Forensic Audit

Detention Center Deals
With Overcrowding

OBITUARY: Clark B. Hust

OBITUARY: Carlos Griego

EDITORIAL: Let's Make An
Effort

OPINION: Now I'm
Verklempt

OPINION: (Some) Workers
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Nation ...

LETTER: San Agustin

Water Grab

Warriors (2-0) Face

Rematch With Raton

Socorro Soccer Teams Fall

Steers Drop Home Opener

Pygmies Win 1 Of 3 At

Santa Fe Tourney

Reserve: County

Discussing Solid Waste
Program

Supreme Court Orders

Secretary Of State To
Look In...

Sylvia Does Not Take

Rejection Very Lightly

Letters To Myscie: A

Western Love Story By
Suzanne...

Horse Clinically Diagnosed

With West Nile Virus

Stage Door Grill Closes Its

Doors

Wagner Accuses Co-op

President Of Coverup

Pilot Slightly Injured

OBITUARY: Anastacio

"Tacio" T. Torres

OBITUARY: Catherine B.

Lewellen

OBITUARY: Justo "Justy"

Martinez

OBITUARY: Cecelia F.

Vallejos

LETTER: Community

Kitchen

14 Computers Lost In

Small Fire At Tech

Magdalena Falls; Reserve

Hangs On To Win On

Road

Warriors Romp In Opener

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Lady Warriors Win Girls

Soccer Tourney In

Roswell

Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge

Looking At Expansion

Audit Presented To

Electric Co-op Board

Pygmies Open Season In

Santa Fe This Weekend

Sylvia Braves Perils Of
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More Twists In The
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Suzanne...

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[Alamo Navajo Chapter](#)

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[Breakdown by county of
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[Catron County](#)

[City of Socorro](#)

[Middle Rio Grande](#)

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New Mexico Attorney General's
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New Mexico courts
New Mexico Department of
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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

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[Hammel Museum](#)

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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

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