



ORIGINALLY THE MAGDALENA MOUNTAIN MAIL, THE NEWSPAPER WAS FOUNDED IN 1888, AND SERVES MAGDALENA, AND SOCORRO AND CATRON COUNTIES.

GOT A NEWS TIP?

**E-mail**  
**[editor@mountainmailnews.com](mailto:editor@mountainmailnews.com)**

**Phone: 575-854-3500.**

**Address: 504 First St.,  
Magdalena, NM 87825**

CURRENT HEADLINES

- ▶ [2011](#) (6)
- ▼ [2010](#) (1311)
  - ▶ [December 26 - January 2](#) (18)
  - ▶ [December 19 - December 26](#) (27)
  - ▶ [December 12 - December 19](#) (20)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2010

## SEC Trustee Introduces Voting by Mail

*By Patrick Jason Rodriguez*

*Mountain Mail Editor*

If one trustee has his way, the Socorro Electric Cooperative will someday use mail-in ballots to elect new board members.

The idea was brought forth by trustee Charlie Wagner at the Board of Trustees' regular public meeting on Monday, Nov. 22.

In his proposal, Wagner presented materials used by other electric cooperatives from across the country, including samples of mail-in ballots produced by two separate companies – Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS), based out of Eden Prairie, Minn., and Automated Election Services, based out of Rio Rancho.

Wagner claimed that it isn't always feasible for cooperatives member owners who live in rural areas to travel to larger population centers to vote.

Currently one-third of electric cooperatives across the country have implemented a voting by mail system, according to Wagner.

Although a majority of the board members agreed with Wagner's argument that it isn't

- ▶ [December 5 - December 12 \(28\)](#)
- ▶ [November 28 - December 5 \(29\)](#)
- ▼ [November 21 - November 28 \(40\)](#)
- [Vallejos' Possessions Seized](#)
- [New Librarian Chosen for Magdalena Library](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Puerto Seguro A Relief For Socorrans](#)
- [Child Abuse Probe Results in Drug Bust](#)
- [Socorro Police Arrest man for Possession of Meth](#)
- [SEC Trustee Introduces Voting by Mail](#)
- [OBITUARY: Robert S. Merkel](#)
- [OBITUARY: Michael L. Gonzales](#)
- [OBITUARY: Samuel M. Rincon](#)

[OPINION: Turkey Daze](#)

always possible for cooperative member owners to travel to larger population centers to vote, some had problems with the wording of the term “voting by mail”. “Mail is a vague term,” said Trustee Donald Wolberg. “What does that mean? Email? The U.S. Postal Service? FedEx?”

Other board members said that they are concerned about possible voting fraud, and the monetary cost of conducting voting by mail.

Wagner agreed with Wolberg that the term “voting by mail” should be better defined, saying that there are ways to avoid such problems. He failed, however, to provide an answer to the question of voter fraud and the monetary costs of voting by mail addressed by his fellow board members.

Even if Wagner’s idea does come to fruition, there would be major hurdles still left to be dealt with.

A current New Mexico state law outlaws cooperatives from holding elections through mail.

Rep. Don L. Tripp (R-Socorro), who presented to the board at the Monday regular meeting, might have a solution. He said that he would introduce a bill to the House during the 2011 legislative session that would change state law so that voting would be allowed through mail.

In other Socorro Electric Cooperative news, member owner Richard Esptein presented a case for the removal of cooperative president Paul Bustamante. Esptein claimed to have the required signatures – ten percent of the cooperative’s member owners – to have Bustamante removed from his seat representing District 2.

Cooperative Attorney Dennis Francish argued that the signatures would need to be verified and that even in the event of Bustamante’s removal from the board, the seat would remain vacant until the next election and member owners in District 2 would not have board representation.



## OPINION: A Bathtub Full of Marbles

Socorro Falls at Albuquerque Academy

'Steerleaders' Hosts Cheer Tourney

Tech's Undefeated Squad

District Wide Declamation Winners - Humorous Pros...

Squash, The Hard Case Vegetable For Cooking

Can Sylvia Find A Reality Show That Really Fits?

Quemado News: Toys for Tots, Giving Tree, Food Fai...

District Wide Declamation Winners - Serious Catego...

Folk Musician to Perform Locally

New Mexican Traditional Western Music Coming to Ma...



**NO COMMENTS:**

**POST A COMMENT**

Enter your comment...

**Comment as:**

**Publish**

Preview

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Sheriff's Deputy Involved  
in High Speed Pursuit

Arrest Warrant Issued in  
Title Company Fraud  
Case

Fire Does Damage to  
Unoccupied House

Socorroan Awarded  
Chartwell's Employee of  
the Mont...

Veterans Day, 2010

OBITUARY: Ezequiel  
Acosta Sr.

Trapping Rules Now In  
Effect; Cibola National  
Fore...

EDITORIAL: Happy  
Education Week

OPINION: Cinnamon And  
Honey Make Life  
Sweeter

LETTER: Socorro Animal  
Shelter

Elk Carcasses Found in  
Horse Springs

Game Commission to Seek

Increase in Hunting  
Allowa...

Parkview Declamation  
Finalists

Parkview Declamation  
Finalists

Christmas Tree Permits To  
Go On Sale

Detectives Sylvia and  
Gordo come to a  
Solution

Declamation Winners

Socorro County Sheriff's  
Blotter

School Bus Scholarships  
Take Flight at Bosque  
del ...

- ▶ November 7 - November  
14 (20)
- ▶ October 31 - November 7  
(26)
- ▶ October 24 - October 31  
(24)
- ▶ October 17 - October 24  
(19)
- ▶ October 10 - October 17

(22)

▶ October 3 - October 10

(32)

▶ September 26 - October 3

(21)

▶ September 19 -  
September 26 (80)

▶ August 22 - August 29

(26)

▶ August 15 - August 22

(20)

▶ August 8 - August 15 (23)

▶ August 1 - August 8 (31)

▶ July 25 - August 1 (27)

▶ July 18 - July 25 (21)

▶ July 11 - July 18 (27)

▶ July 4 - July 11 (19)

▶ June 27 - July 4 (25)

▶ June 20 - June 27 (28)

▶ June 13 - June 20 (27)

▶ June 6 - June 13 (29)

▶ May 30 - June 6 (33)

▶ May 23 - May 30 (25)

▶ May 16 - May 23 (22)

- ▶ [May 9 - May 16 \(29\)](#)
- ▶ [May 2 - May 9 \(37\)](#)
- ▶ [April 25 - May 2 \(27\)](#)
- ▶ [April 18 - April 25 \(32\)](#)
- ▶ [April 11 - April 18 \(32\)](#)
- ▶ [April 4 - April 11 \(29\)](#)
- ▶ [March 28 - April 4 \(29\)](#)
- ▶ [March 21 - March 28 \(24\)](#)
- ▶ [March 14 - March 21 \(26\)](#)
- ▶ [March 7 - March 14 \(28\)](#)
- ▶ [February 28 - March 7 \(24\)](#)
- ▶ [February 21 - February 28 \(25\)](#)
- ▶ [February 14 - February 21 \(26\)](#)
- ▶ [February 7 - February 14 \(27\)](#)
- ▶ [January 31 - February 7 \(24\)](#)
- ▶ [January 24 - January 31 \(28\)](#)
- ▶ [January 17 - January 24 \(26\)](#)

▶ [January 10 - January 17](#)  
(27)

▶ [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



.....

Get this widget!

.....

GOOGLE TRANSLATE



Spanish » En

---

SEARCH THIS BLOG

---

SUBSCRIBE TO

 Posts Comments

---

FOLLOWERS



Join this site

with Google Friend Connect

## Members (12)



Already a member? [Sign in](#)

---

