



## Seized vehicles put to good use



Kleberg County Parks and Recreation Director Susan Ivy, Precinct 1 Constable Arnold Arguijo, and Kleberg County Emergency Manager Tomas R. Sanchez Jr. sign titles for vehicles presented to them by Kleberg County Sheriff Ed Mata. The seized vehicles will be put to good use in operations under the three county departments. (Photos by Erika Hernandez)



Kleberg County Sheriff Ed Mata presents Kleberg County Emergency Manager Tomas R. Sanchez Jr. with keys to his office's new vehicle.



Kleberg County Sheriff Ed Mata presents Precinct 1 Constable Arnold Arguijo with keys to his new law enforcement vehicle.



Kleberg County Sheriff Ed Mata presents Kleberg County Parks and Recreation Director Susan Ivy with keys to new parks department vehicle.

## Comptroller says preserve refund policy for Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan contract-holders

### Combs cites need to be responsive to public, allow Legislature to adopt solution

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced she will recommend to the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board that it adopt the former refund rule for the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan (TGTP). The Board will meet on Nov. 5, 2009.

“My first obligation is to protect the state’s assets, especially in this economic climate. I commend the board for its hard work and focus on their efforts to fix a hard problem,” said Combs. “A recent decision to limit refunds for cancelled contracts was due to a grave concern over the solvency of the TGTP and my commitment to fiscal responsibility. At the same time, I have listened to the concerns of legislators and contract-holders, and I am recommending any changes to the program be postponed until the Legislature convenes in 2011.”

If the board adopts Combs’ recommendation, families will no longer need to decide by Nov. 30 whether to cancel

their contract in order to receive tuition-based earnings. Combs will also present recommendations to allow families who cancelled contracts during an ongoing opt-out period to resume their contracts if they choose to do so. “My concern over the solvency of the plan has not changed. As I have said since January 2007, we face a situation in which Texas taxpayers would have to fund a projected deficit in the guaranteed tuition plan,” Combs said. “Various legislators have expressed that this is a legislative issue. This decision would allow legislators concerned about the proposed refund rule change to formulate a solution that preserves the long-term stability of the fund. I believe in responding to legislators, and concur that this issue would be best addressed by the Legislature.”

On Jan. 31, 2007, the Comptroller’s testimony to the Senate Finance Committee included concerns about the TGTP.

On Feb. 15, 2007, Comptroller sent a letter to legislative leadership with an advisory board’s report on the looming deficit of the TGTP.

On June 28, 2007, the Comptroller and experts testified about the deficit before a House Select Committee on Higher and Public Education Finance.

On June 10, 2009, the Comptroller sent an updated analysis of the TGTP deficit to the legislative leadership.

“I am very pleased by the interest and attention shown by legislators and their willingness to address the financial stability of the guaranteed tuition plan,” said Combs. “I ask that the Legislature conduct an interim study of the projected \$1.7 billion – \$2.1 billion shortfall, which may start to appear as soon as 2015. This is an issue that should be addressed sooner than later, and I believe the Legislature needs to start funding the plan in 2011 to fix the projected plan deficit.”



The Mighty Brahma Marching Band recently accepted a donation from Walmart. Pictured, left to right, are King High School Principal Roel Gonzalez, Head Band Director Rolando Molina, Band President Daniel Castaneda, Drum Majors Samantha Cantu, Robert Guidangen, and Ariel Ramirez, Band Booster Secretary Sarah Lakers and Band Booster President John Castaneda.

## Gov. Perry urges federal government to stop illegal alien transport through Texas

### Plan would move illegal aliens apprehended in other states through city of Presidio

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano urging the federal government to stop its plans to transport illegal aliens from other states into Texas solely for the purpose of deportation.

The Alien Transfer and Exit Program (ATEP), which is scheduled to begin tomorrow, would transport more than 34,000 illegal aliens per year through Presidio. “Turning the Presidio area into a way station for the repatriation of illegal immigrants adds responsibility to local authorities and holds the potential of increasing the strain on local and state infrastructure and resources,” Gov. Perry said.

“This plan will increase the likelihood that these individuals will immediately cross back into Texas, which is already bearing an uneven burden in dealing with immigration and border security

issues along the Texas-Mexico border.”

Gov. Perry noted this program is a result of the federal government’s continued lack of an effective strategy for dealing with border security. “Texas is proud of its working relationship with the United States Border Patrol, and we have invested significant state resources to assist them in their worthy efforts,” he said.

“We will continue to request that the federal government send the adequate resources necessary to effectively secure the southern border,” Gov. Perry said.

Since January, Gov. Perry has repeatedly urged the federal government, through letters to President Barack Obama, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, to approve his request for 1,000 Title 32 National Guardsmen to support civilian law enforcement efforts to enhance

border security in Texas.

A porous border places Texas and the nation at risk from international terrorists, organized crime cartels and transnational gangs.

Until the federal government fulfills its responsibility of securing our border, Texas will continue filling in the gaps by putting more boots on the ground, providing increased law enforcement resources and leveraging technology along the border.

In the absence of adequate federal resources to secure the state’s southern border, Gov. Perry recently announced the state’s latest border highly-skilled Ranger Reconnaissance (Ranger Recon) Teams to address the ever evolving threat along the Texas-Mexico border.

Under the governor’s, and thanks to action taken by the Legislature, the state has dedicated more than \$110 million to border security efforts in each of the last two legislative sessions.