

NOTES OF INTEREST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF CONCHO EDUCATORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



SAISD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



TEACHERS HONORED — Susan Staha (2nd from left) and Tara Byrd (3rd from left) were recognized May 18 as Secondary and Elementary Teachers of the Year, respectively. Staha of Glenn Middle School and Byrd of Belaire Elementary received certificates, engraved awards and \$100 gift cards provided by CEFCU. Gloria Baird (l), Executive Director of Schools, and Jerry Merrill (r), President and CEO of the credit union, were on hand for the presentations.

--Photo courtesy SAISD



CHAMBER LUNCHEON — San Angeloans gathered at ASU June 9 for the monthly Chamber Luncheon and an update on the university's progress by President Joseph C. Rallo. Concho Educators was well represented by CEFCU staff and management since the credit union was a primary sponsor of the event.

Some Things to Consider Should You Refinance Your Home Loan?

Rates are low now, and many people are refinancing their homes. Before you jump on the bandwagon, however, ask yourself if it really makes sense to refinance in your unique situation. By understanding the situations under which you should refinance, you'll know if refinancing is the right decision for you.

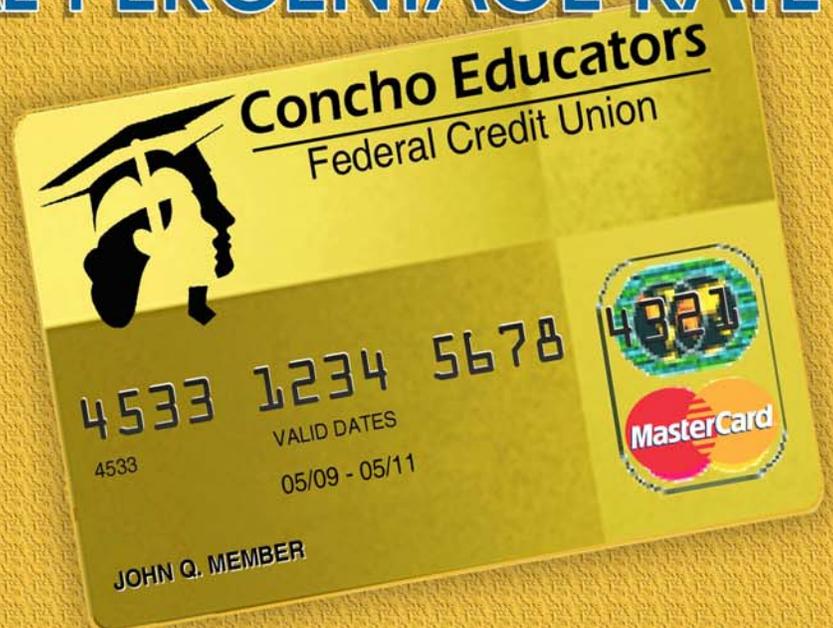
It's a good idea to refinance your home if:

- You plan on living in your current home at least long enough to make the refinance worthwhile. The amount of time that it would take depends on your current interest rate, as well as other factors. Your loan officer at the credit union can help you figure out if this applies to you, and can also discuss the possibility of refinance with you.
- You want to shorten the amount of time left on your mortgage. For example, you may have 25 years left on a 30-year loan. By refinancing to a 15-year loan, you cut 10 years off the loan, saving tens of thousands of dollars in interest, possibly more. This may mean a higher monthly payment, but it is overall a smart strategy.
- Your current mortgage has an adjustable rate, and you prefer the security of a fixed-rate loan instead.
- You can get a lower payment,
Please see Home Refinance, page 4

Concho Educators' Gold MasterCard®

9.9%

FIXED ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE



- **NO ANNUAL FEE**
- **\$0 LIABILITY ON UNAUTHORIZED CHARGES**
- **APPLY AT ANY CEFCU BRANCH**

See Account Disclosure for further details.

Notice to Members:

A CTR Reference Guide

Why is my financial institution asking me for identification and personal information?

Federal law requires financial institutions to report currency (cash or coin) transactions over \$10,000 conducted by, or on behalf of, one person, as well as multiple currency transactions that aggregate to be over \$10,000 in a single day. These transactions are reported on Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs). The federal law requiring these reports was passed to safeguard the financial industry from threats posed by money laundering and other financial crime. To comply with this law, financial institutions must obtain personal identification information about the individual conducting the transaction such as a Social Security number as well as a driver's license or other government issued document. This requirement applies whether the individual conducting the transaction has an account relationship with the institution or not.

There is no general prohibition against handling large amounts of currency and the filing of a CTR is required regardless of the reasons for the currency transaction. The financial institution collects this information in a manner consistent with a customer's right to financial privacy.

Can I break up my currency transactions into multiple, smaller amounts to avoid being reported to the government?

No. This is called "structuring." Federal law makes it a crime to break up transactions into smaller amounts for the purpose of evading the CTR reporting requirement and this may lead to a required disclosure from the financial institution to the government. Structuring transactions to prevent a CTR from being reported can result in imprisonment for not more than five years and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. If structuring involves more than \$100,000 in a twelve month period or is performed while violating another law of the United States, the penalty is doubled.

Examples of Structured Transactions

1. John has \$15,000 in cash he obtained from selling his truck. John knows that if he deposits \$15,000 in cash, his financial institution will be required to file a CTR. John instead deposits \$7,500 in cash in the morning with one financial institution employee and comes back to the financial institution later in the day to another employee to deposit the remaining \$7,500, hoping to evade the CTR reporting requirement.
2. Jane needs \$18,000 in cash to pay for supplies for her woodcarving business. Jane cashes a \$9,000 personal check at a financial institution on a Monday, then cashes another \$9,000 personal check at the financial institution the following day. Jane cashed the checks separately and structured the transactions in an attempt to evade the CTR reporting requirement.
3. A married couple, John and Jane, sell a vehicle for \$15,000 in cash. To evade the CTR reporting requirement, John and Jane structure their transactions using different accounts. John deposits \$8,000 of that money into his and Jane's joint account in the morning. Later that day, Jane deposits \$1,500 into the joint account, and then \$5,500 into her sister's account, which is later transferred to John and Jane's joint account.
4. Bob wants to place \$24,000 cash he earned from his illegal activities into the financial system by using a wire transfer. Bob knows his financial institution will file a CTR if he purchases a wire with over \$10,000 currency in one day. To evade the CTR reporting requirement, Bob wires the \$24,000 by purchasing wires with currency in \$6,000 increments over a short period of time, occasionally skipping days in an attempt to prevent the financial institution from filing a CTR.



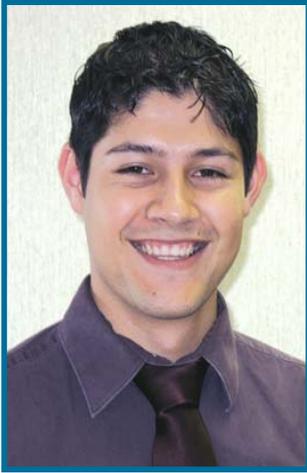
If you have further questions, please contact FinCEN's Regulatory Helpline at (800) 949-2732.

www.fincen.gov

Ciro Garcia Wins Employee Award

Ciro Garcia has been lauded by the CEFCU staff as Employee-of-the-Quarter for the second period of 2009.

A staff member since October, 2005, he serves as Electronic Services Coordinator for the credit union.



Garcia graduated from Christoval High School, where he was a member of the National Beta Club.

At Howard College, where he was consistently on the dean's list and the president's list, he graduated with an associate degree in computer science.

Garcia also achieved another goal in March, 2008, when he received his U.S citizenship in a Federal Court ceremony.

HOME REFINANCE, cont. from page 1

and low payments are a priority for you right now.

- You can get the cash you need to pay off high-interest rate credit cards or other debt.

- You need cash to use now and have a plan for repaying the loan.

On the other hand, refinancing is not a good idea when:

- You've already paid off most of the loan. The costs of refinancing may not be worthwhile in this case.

- You plan on selling the house within the next few years. However, be careful with this one. It's easy to talk about selling your home, but things don't always turn out as planned and you may miss out on an opportunity to refinance at a lower rate and save.

Overall, you will probably improve your finances by refinancing your home at today's low rates. For a personal consultation with a mortgage expert at the credit union, call Vicki Bell at 325 944-4551.



Three Grads Selected for \$1,000 Grants

The Education Exchange 2009 College Grant Program has honored three San Angelo high school graduates, sponsored by Concho Educators Federal Credit Union, for their achievements. Each graduate received a \$1,000 grant. Recipients are:

- **Joshua Smith** – graduated from Texas Tech University High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Photography Club, Art Club, Golf Team, and a participant in numerous UIL science and speaking events. He will attend Angelo State University studying engineering.

- **Sara Stout** – graduated from Central High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, and secretary of the Key Club. She will pursue studies in marketing and political science at Texas Tech University.

- **Andrew Taylor** – graduated from Central High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Key Club and Spanish Club. He was a member also of numerous UIL Academic Teams and is a certified personal fitness trainer. He will attend Angelo State University.

The Education Exchange is sponsored annually by the ACCEL/Exchange^a Network, an electronic funds transfer network owned and operated by Fiserv, Inc.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Notes of Interest is the quarterly newsletter for members of Concho Educators Federal Credit Union. All questions, comments and suggestions may be directed to Noel Johnson, Marketing Officer.
(n.johnson@cefcu.us).



We Do Business in Accordance with the Fair Housing Law and the Equal Opportunity Act.



CONCHO EDUCATORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Hours of operation: Lobby - Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Drive-Thru - Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Beauregard Office: 1976 W. Beauregard 76901
325.944.4552 325.947.7890 FAX

Hours of operation: Lobby: Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Drive-Thru: Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

ASU Office: Lobby, ASU University Center 76904
325.942.6591

Hours of operation: Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.conchoeducators.org