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**NO. 201003**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday February 2, 2010**

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**TORNILLO RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR DECEPTIVE SALE OF HORSES**

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal today announced the sentencing of a resident of Tornillo accused of Deceptive Business Practices.

This morning 38-year-old Pedro Buentello pled guilty to 1 count of committing a Deceptive Business Practice, a crime of dishonesty punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine not to exceed \$4,000.

According to the police complaint, on September 11, 2008 Buentello offered to sell the victim 45 horses for \$2,850. A handwritten contract was signed and the victim paid Buentello \$1,400, but the horses were never delivered and the money was never returned.

After accepting the guilty plea, County Court at Law #1 visiting Judge John L. Fashing sentenced Buentello to 300 days in jail.

“The County Attorney’s Office is committed to protect consumers from unscrupulous salesmen who prey on unsuspecting and trusting citizens of this community,” said El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal.

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