

KUDOS

ESPAÑOLA MARIACHI BAND IN INAUGURATION PARADE: Española Valley High School's Mariachi Sol del Valle represented New Mexico in President Barack Obama's inauguration parade. The band's members are seniors **Ben Lovato, Vanessa Gonzalez, Megan Martinez and Cassandra Olivas**; junior **Shaynae Vasquez**; sophomores **Santiago Espinoza, Walter Trujillo and Max Villa**; and freshmen **Madalene Trujillo and Miriah Martinez**. The group was accompanied to Washington, D.C., by the band's director, **Alfonso Trujillo**.

SIBLINGS TO REPRESENT NEW MEXICO IN REGIONAL SPELLING BEE: **Jacob Howell**, a sixth-grader

at Albuquerque Christian School, won the Association of Christian Schools International District Spelling Bee, held Feb. 6 in Albuquerque.

His sister **Rachel Howell**, an eighth-grader at the school, was runner-up.

Rachel, who was the school's 2007 spelling champion, went on to represent New Mexico at the ACSI national competition in Washington, D.C., that year.

The siblings will represent New Mexico at the ACSI Regional Spelling Bee to be held in Littleton, Colo., on Feb. 28.

Parents of the two spelling champions are **James and Jodi Howell** of Albuquerque.



J. HOWELL



R. HOWELL