



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sale of Illegal Gaming Devices Busted!

ALBUQUERQUE – March 8, 2004 – While on a routine visit to the State Fairgrounds flea market, on Saturday, March 6, Special Agents of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division observed two males attempting to sell illegal gaming devices at their assigned spot. Gilbert Davis, 49, and Robert L. Stieben, 50, both of Albuquerque, were arrested for possession of illegal gaming devices, illegal sale, distribution, and transfer of gaming devices. A total of 11 illegal slot machines and associated equipment were seized as evidence. Both of the alleged sellers were booked into the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center. Investigation is continuing in this case.

Property taken or detained under the provisions of the Gaming Control Act and the Criminal Code remains in the custody of the Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division, subject only to the orders and decrees of the district court having jurisdiction. Gaming Control Act section 60-2E-53 stipulates that “a person who knowingly possesses any gaming device that has been manufactured, sold or distributed in violation of the Gaming Control Act [Chapter 60, Article 2E NMSA 1978] is guilty of a fourth degree felony.” Since 1999, approximately 920 illegal gaming machines have been destroyed.

If anyone has questions concerning a gaming device, contact the Enforcement Division at 841-9700.

The New Mexico Gaming Control Board was established by statute in 1997 and funded during the 1998 legislative session. It began operations in June of 1998. The Board is responsible for regulating legalized gambling at licensed racetracks and qualified veteran's and fraternal organizations of New Mexico. The Board is also responsible for overseeing New Mexico's tribal gaming compacts through the appointment of the state gaming representative. The Board has 57 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

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