



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arrest Made for Trafficking, Forgery, and Issuance of Worthless Check

ALBUQUERQUE – March 19, 2004 – At approximately 6:00 p.m., on March 18, Gaming Control Board Enforcement Agents responded to The Downs of Albuquerque Racetrack and Casino, where an unidentified male patron was attempting to cash a stolen and forged check. Agents identified the man as 42-year-old Michael Gedra, of Albuquerque. Agents discovered Gedra was in possession of multiple bags containing a suspected narcotics substance, two hypodermic syringes, drug paraphernalia, a prescription bottle containing numerous unidentified pills, two false identifications, and a fictitious check. Agents arrested Gedra on felony charges of "trafficking a controlled substance, forgery, and issuance of a worthless check." Gedra was booked into the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center.

"This appears to be an isolated incident," said Greg Saunders, Deputy Executive Director. "However, investigation is continuing and additional charges are pending."

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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