



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For the Second Time in a Six-Month Period – A Newspaper Ad Leads Gaming Control Board Undercover Agents to Illegal Gaming Devices

CLOVIS – October 30, 2004 – Undercover Gaming Control Board Enforcement agents received a tip from a concerned citizen who reported that a full-page ad in the Clovis News Journal advertised "skill stop" gaming machines for purchase at a two-day public truckload sale to be held at the New Mexico National Guard Armory on Friday, October 29th and Saturday, October 30th. The advertisement listed the gaming machines at a sale price of \$159 and noted that the traveling truckload sale would be at a Hobbs location the following weekend.

Undercover agents responded to 601 South Norris in Clovis where the New Mexico National Guard Armory is located. Upon entering the warehouse, agents observed three "skill stop" type gaming devices being sold for a price of \$159.00. Agents were directed to the sales manager, identified as Luis Chacon III, of Atascosa, Texas. Chacon is employed by the Homier Distributing Company of Huntington, Indiana. He was advised that the sale, distribution and transfer of unlicensed gaming devices is a fourth degree felony under the New Mexico Gaming Control Act. Chacon stated the merchandise, including the gaming devices, had been provided by the company and had no knowledge that it was against the law to own or sell them in New Mexico.

Agents seized three illegal gaming devices and with the consent of Luis Chacon, searched five semi-trailers that were used for transporting the merchandise being sold. No other illegal gaming equipment was found. The case will be referred to the Ninth Judicial District Attorney's Office upon completion of the investigation.

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." Gaming Control Act section 60-2E-55 stipulates that "a person who manufactures, sells or distributes a device that is intended by him to be used to violate any provision of the Gaming Control Act is guilty of a fourth degree felony." Since 1999, more than 2000 illegal gaming machines and components have been destroyed. If anyone has information about the sale of illegal gaming devices, they are urged to contact the New Mexico Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division at 841-9700.

For more information contact:

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