



# NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sports Gambling, Basketball and Football Pools, While Common, May Not Be Legal**

**ALBUQUERQUE** — On Friday, February 4, 2005, undercover agents of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division received an anonymous tip that a local retailer had a "betting pool" posted for the Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl game.

Undercover agents proceeded to 9615 Broadway Boulevard SE, CAL-MAINE Foods, Inc., also doing business as The Egg Store. Upon entering the premises, agents observed the "football pool board" posted next to the cash register, in plain view to the public. The "football pool board" consisted of 100 participants paying \$2 per square for a chance to win \$100 at the half-time and \$100 at the end of the Super Bowl. Agents identified themselves to Shirley F. Synder, 68 of Albuquerque, and advised her that sports betting pools and participation in betting pools were both illegal activities under New Mexico Criminal Offenses.

New Mexico Statutes 1978, Chapter 30, Criminal Offenses, section 30-19-2 Gambling stipulates "whoever commits gambling is guilty of a petty misdemeanor" and section 30-19-3 Commercial Gambling stipulates "whoever commits commercial gambling is guilty of a fourth degree felony." Agents seized all evidence related to the illegal sports betting football pool. Upon completion of their investigation, agents will refer their findings to the Second Judicial District Attorney's office for review and possible prosecution.

According to Interim Executive Director Greg Saunders, "It is the Board's practice to follow-up on all qualified tips."

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 60 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

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