

**STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** March 25, 2013

**Contact:** Kimberly H. Chandler - (302) 632-7060

**Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Seizes Illegal Gambling Device in Wilmington Gas Station**

**Suspect and Charge Information:**

Charges: Jonathan Kidane, 28, Wilmington, DE  
Possession of a Gambling Device  
Released for future court appearance

Bail:

**Location:** BP Gas Station, 201 S. Heald Street, Wilmington, DE

**Date of Arrest: Friday, March 22, 2013**

A 28-year-old Wilmington man was charged in connection with the operation of an illegal gambling device at a Wilmington gas station.

The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE) had received information regarding the operation of an illegal gambling machine inside the BP Gas Station on Heald Street. When DATE Agents responded to the location, they discovered that the machine was identical in design to other machines recently seized in New Castle County by the DATE and the Division of Gaming Enforcement. Players insert quarters into the machines causing a push bar to move forward forcing quarters off the raised ledge into a winner's drop box. These machines are also equipped with additional ledges, not visible to the player, that illegally collect a portion of player's winnings to be shared with machine vendor. These additional ledges decrease the odds of winning money. Higher denomination dollar bills are often found lying on top of the quarters to entice someone to play.

DATE obtained a search warrant for this location and with the assistance of DGE and Wilmington Police, entered this location on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The machine was seized along with approximately \$188 in cash.

The owner of the business, Jonathan Kidane, was charged with Possession of a Gambling Device and released pending a future court appearance.

## **Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Arrests Vendor for Second Time for Supplying Illegal Gambling Devices**

### **Suspect and Charge Information:**

Michael J. Strickland, 38, of Berlin, Maryland

Charges: Being Concerned in Interest in Keeping a Gambling Device  
Carry On Occupation Without a License  
Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax  
Possession of Untaxed Cigarettes

Bail: \$6,500.00 unsecured

### **Date of Arrest: March 25, 2013**

A 28-year-old Maryland man accused of providing illegal machines to area businesses was arrested by the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE).

The Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement was contacted by the Delaware State Police reporting that a trooper had stopped the defendant for a traffic violation and the driver was in possession of several cartons of untaxed cigarettes and a possible gambling machine. The trooper arrested the defendant and turned him over to DATE agents. The defendant, Michael J. Strickland of Eastern Coin Machine Company in Maryland had been arrested by DATE in February for providing illegal machines to an area bar. DATE agents executed a search warrant on the defendant's vehicle and located a total of 66 packs of untaxed cigarettes inside. The machine inside the truck was determined to be a legal non-gambling game.

Also discovered inside of the vehicle were financial and business records indicating that Strickland and Eastern Coin Machine Company was continuing to operate in the state of Delaware and distributing illegal gambling machines to another Sussex County restaurant. Following up on the records found in Strickland's vehicle, agents located three additional illegal slot-type gambling machines in Charlie's Bayside Restaurant & Bar in Fenwick Island. A second search warrant was executed at that location and those machines were seized.

Although Eastern Coin Machine Company has been conducting business in Delaware for several years, they have never had a license to practice any kind of business in the state of Delaware. Possibly thousands of dollars in tax revenue has gone uncollected due to this company's illegal operations. The investigation is ongoing and any entity that has conducted business with Eastern Coin Machine Company, or has further information is urged to contact Lt. Kevin Jones of the Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement at (302) 741-2717.



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EXTRA  
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DAVID  
EXTRA  
DAVID  
EXTRA

AURORA  
PEACH RINGS

KING OF HEARTS  
Raw Almonds  
KING SIZE  
KING SIZE

