

## Pocket contents put man in jail

Written by Staff Reports  
Friday, 06 March 2020 11:08

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What looked like possible illegal narcotic activity led to a traffic stop on a red Chevrolet Monte Carlo at Stagecoach Road and West Aztec Avenue Feb. 24 by Gallup police.

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In the driver's seat was Ernest Gantar, 50, of Gallup, who had previous encounters with public safety officers.

Gantar was seen accepting something from an unknown male at a known residence for illegal narcotic activity and then followed to another residence, also known for incidents of illegal drug activity.

Based on the encounters at both addresses, a decision was made to conduct a traffic stop. After Gantar exited the vehicle, he was handcuffed and transported to an interview room.

A search warrant was signed and executed for Gantar and the vehicle he was driving.

The contents of his pockets included 6.5 grams of a white crystal substance which tested positive for the presence of methamphetamines and a black tar substance weighing approximately 9.0 grams had a presumptive positive test result for the presence of heroin.

In the criminal complaint dated Feb. 25, Gantar was charged with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance which he knew or believed to be heroin or a substance regulated or prohibited by law. This is a second degree felony.

He was also charged with a second count of intent to distribute another controlled substance believed to be methamphetamines. This is a second degree felony.

A third charge, possession of drug paraphernalia, including black electronic digital scales, a glass pipe and 1 ½" square Ziploc bags, was charged as a misdemeanor.

A motion hearing is scheduled for McKinley County Magistrate Court at 11 am March 2 before the Honorable Virginia A. Yazzie.

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A preliminary examination has been set for 1:30 pm March 11 before Yazzie at McKinley County Magistrate Court.