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GCSO busts suspected illegal gamblers in *Operation Rod and Reel*



GCSO Chief Deputy Jeff Manning (left) and GCSO Sgt. Keagon Weatherford are seen with some seized equipment.

Photo and Information Provided

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GILCHRIST COUNTY -- The Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of the Eighth and Third Judicial Circuits State Attorney's Office and the City of Trenton Public Safety Department conducted a two-month investigation into the complaint of alleged illegal gambling operations of two local businesses (FISH TALES and AMERICAN EAGLE) located in Gilchrist County within the city limits of Trenton.

During the investigation, probable cause was developed that both locations were conducting illegal activities such as illegal games of chance (FS.849.16).

On Wednesday (April 4), investigators conducted a search warrant of the two businesses resulting in the seizure of gaming equipment and alleged illegal proceeds.

Since these businesses were established, the law enforcement officers with the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office and the City of Trenton Public Safety Department have seen an increased number of calls for service in these immediate areas in regard to criminal activities that included burglaries, thefts, armed robbery, armed assaults, narcotic violations, and increase of vehicle-related infractions.

Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz and Trenton Chief Matt Rexroat stated that they support and encourage businesses to come to Gilchrist County and be part of a great community. However, they stated they must adhere and conduct business within the framework of Florida Statutes.