

## **2009 News stories about illegal gambling device destruction**

State Getting Tough on “Quarter Push” Machines – KWCH Channel 12 – October 29, Wichita (video not included)

Agency smashes illegal slot machines – The Wichita Eagle – October 30, 2009

State destroys illegal gaming machines – KWCH Channel 12, Wichita (video not included)

Illegal gambling machines destroyed in Kansas – Hays Daily News – November 1, 2009

Unlawful gambling machines bite the dust – The Wichita Eagle – October 31, 2009

State destroying illegal gambling machines – KSN TV – October 30, 2009

Kansas Gaming Commission destroys illegal gaming machines – KAKE 10 – October 30, 2009

Gambling machine crackdown – KSNT 27 – October 30, 2009 (video not included)

Betting machines cash in – The Topeka Capital-Journal – October 30, 2009

Outlawed slots busted in Kansas – The Kansas City Star – October 30, 2009



## State Getting Tough on "Quarter Push" Machines



By Michael Schwanke

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission is cracking down on what it calls illegal gaming machines in gas stations and restaurants across the state.

Agents have seized more than two dozen "Quarter Push" or "Quarter Slider" machines and several "Cherry Masters" video machines.

With the quarter machines a player drops a quarter with the hope the machine pushes more over the edge.

"Cherry Masters" are similar to slot machines and have video poker options.

"These are illegal gambling devices, they've been illegal since 1969," says Assistant Attorney General Patrick Martin.

The state is giving businesses a chance to comply or face the consequences which could include losing their liquor license and license to sell Kansas Lottery.

"Most business owners say they don't know it was illegal. They have some copy of a law that doesn't apply here," says Martin referring to information supplied by distributors.

Eyewitness News visited 13 gas stations and restaurants along Broadway and found the machines in 10 businesses.

"I think it's going to be a big loss," says Justin Williams, owner of the Nifty Kitchen.

He says in these tough times, it's the only way some businesses are staying in business.

"I'm not going to get rich off of them. Every little bit helps. I'm afraid if they take them out bars restaurants



Slot machines like this one are found in several Wichita establishments.



Quarter pushers allow users to put in a quarter in hopes more will fall off the edge.

gas stations are going to fall," says Williams.

He says he will fight to keep them and wants others to join his effort.

"I hope the business owners get together. There will be a lot who give them up because they're scared they will lose everything they own. I hope they stick together."

The state wants businesses to work with investigators to help prosecute the distributors of the machines.

"You could end up chasing these machines all around Kansas only to have them disappear in one place and show up in another," says Martin.

That's why the state is giving businesses an amnesty period to either give the machines back to suppliers or turn them over to authorities.

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission will hold a public event Friday morning to destroy some of the seized machines. The destruction will take place at the Waste



Posted on Fri, Oct. 30, 2009

## Agency smashes illegal slot machines

BY FRED MANN  
The Wichita Eagle

WICHITA — A dozen illegal slot machines were smashed by a front-end loader this morning under the supervision of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission.

The machines, known as "Quarter Sliders" and "Cherry Masters," were confiscated recently from a Johnson County supplier who had placed them in businesses across Kansas.

The machines were destroyed at the Waste Connections Transfer Station, 4300 W. 37th St. North.

The machines are often found in convenience stores, truck stops, Laundromats, bars and taverns, said Stephen Martino, KRGC executive director.

The games are not fair and are operated only to benefit the owner, he said.

The agency will destroy a dozen more of the machines in Topeka this afternoon.

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## State Destroys Illegal Gaming Machines



Illegal gambling machines destroyed.

by Michael Schwanke (WICHITA, Kan.)

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission calls it an "educational period".

In a warning to businesses across the state Friday, it destroyed about a dozen illegal gaming machines pulled from businesses in northeast Kansas.

The media event took place at the Waste Connections transfer station in Wichita.



Machines destroyed.

About a dozen "Quarter Sliders" or "Quarter Push" machines were destroyed. The machines can be found in gas stations and restaurants across Kansas, but are illegal.

The state says it hopes businesses will voluntarily comply, but if they don't could face prosecution. Authorities say businesses could lose their liquor and lottery license. Criminal prosecution is also possible.



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## **k1019 BC-KS-GamblingMachinesD 1stLd-Writethru 11-01 0427**

### **Illegal gambling machines destroyed in Kansas**

**Eds: UPDATES with more details.**

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) -- A couple dozen illegal gambling machines have been destroyed after they were confiscated from a supplier who had placed them in businesses across Kansas.

This past week, a large earth-mover machine drove over a dozen of the machines in Topeka, while the giant bucket of a front-end loader fell heavily on a dozen others in Wichita.

A Johnson County supplier had placed them in businesses ranging from convenience stores to fraternal organizations. The businesses had turned in the machines to authorities after learning they weren't legal.

"I think business owners have them out of ignorance, that's why we concentrate on going after the suppliers," said Stephen Martino, executive director of the commission.

He said the machines go by such names as "quarter slider," "quarter pusher" or "Cherry Master." They typically display a row of quarters on a ledge. The player attempts to place another quarter in position to cause a broom brushing across the top to knock down more quarters to be retrieved by the player.

Martino said the machines give users virtually no chance of winning and added that they are particularly troubling because they seem designed to appeal to children.

The commission assumed responsibility for controlling such gaming devices in 2008 as a result of an expanded gaming law. Since then, it has dealt with more than 500 complaints of such machines in 58 of the state's 105 counties.

He explained that three criteria define gambling -- prize, chance and consideration. If any element is missing, it isn't gambling.

If there is no prize, it is OK. If no chance is involved, no problem. And if the player doesn't have to put up any money to play, it is legal. That is why some games of chance offered by restaurants and other retailers are legal as long as the customers don't have to pay anything for a chance to play.

Posted on Sat, Oct. 31, 2009

## Unlawful gambling machines bite the dust

BY FRED MANN  
The Wichita Eagle

The giant bucket of a front-end loader fell heavily on a dozen gambling machines Friday, smashing them to bits before a row of television cameras.

Message delivered.

The state won't tolerate illegal devices known as Quarter Sliders and Cherry Masters at businesses around Kansas.

The machines are illegal under Kansas law and are rigged to allow virtually no chance of winning, said Stephen Martino, executive director of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, the state agency that regulates gambling.

The agency oversaw the machines' demolition at the Waste Connections Transfer Station, 4300 W. 37th St. North.

They had been confiscated from a Johnson County supplier who had placed them in businesses across Kansas, including some in south-central Kansas, Martino said.

The devices often are found in convenience stores, truck stops, Laundromats, bars and taverns, and fraternal organizations, he said.

Quarter Sliders, which have sliding trays of quarters with moving arms that go back and forth, are almost always put in locations where children and young people can play them, Martino said.

"There's nothing fair about these games, and they're really designed only to profit the person who owns them and not the person who's playing them," he said.

Illegal machines are different from slot machines that will be placed in the state-owned casinos that are in various stages of development around Kansas, including Sumner County, Martino said.

Slots in the casinos will be linked to a central computer system and highly regulated, he said.

"When you have illegal devices in convenience stores or truck stops, they're not responsible to anyone other than the person who's placed it there. The slot machines at casinos are going to be heavily scrutinized," Martino said.

"It's a losing bet. They pay out less than they take in. But that's fair," he said.

"These machines are promoted and seen by the public one way, but if you open them up and look at them, they're extremely unfair. There's almost no way you can win."

Businesses that have such devices often aren't aware the machines are illegal, he said.

"They're sold a bill of goods by the supplier. The supplier tells them they're legal machines and they can make a lot of money off them," Martino said.

Most businesses voluntarily turn them in once they know they aren't legal, Martino said. The dozen that were destroyed in Wichita, and 12 more that were destroyed in Topeka later Friday, had been turned in by businesses.

Business owners who learn their machines aren't legal should inform local police, or call the gaming agency at 785-296-5800.

Information on what is and is not legal in gambling in Kansas can be found on the agency's Web site, [www.krgc.ks.gov](http://www.krgc.ks.gov).

If businesses that have the machines don't inform authorities in "a timely manner," the agency can consider taking steps against them, Martino said.

Those steps could include pulling the lottery licenses of convenience stores and truck stops, and taking action against liquor licenses, he said.

The gaming agency has focused on identifying and removing illegal gambling machines since 2008, Martino said.

It has received 500 calls from law enforcement, county attorneys and the public in 58 counties.

"There are perhaps thousands of these machines out there," Martino said.

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## State destroying illegal gambling machines

Last Update: 10/30 6:19 pm

**WICHITA, Kansas** – The State of Kansas is trying to crush the illegal gambling industry by destroying gambling machines and warning businesses it's cracking down.

The state has a very clear message about those quarter sliders and quarter pusher games commonly found in laundromats, convenience stores and truck stops.

"This is not Ms. Pac Man, this is an illegal gambling device meant to deprive people of money," said Stephen Martino with the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission.



And getting caught with one of the machines could lead to a \$1,000 fine or a year behind bars.

"Unless that machine's hooked up with a central computer for one of the state-owned casinos, it's illegal," Martino said.

One law enforcement agent showed KSN tools like trap doors and knock-off switches that give the owner the unfair advantage.

"What the owner will do is just go over and hit the machine," he said.

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission says so far, it's received 500 complaints from across the state about the machines. But right now, it's giving business owners the benefit of the doubt and first educating them that the machines are illegal.

"We know that a lot of times they're sold a bill of goods by the supplier, the supplier tells them they're legal machines and they can make a lot of money off of them," the agent said.

If businesses don't comply, the commission can take administrative steps like revoking their liquor license or criminal enforcement. But the state says most of the time businesses do comply and voluntarily surrender the machines.

The state will investigate the use of the machines after being alerted by local law enforcement of the public. You can do that by calling 785-296-5800 or by going to <http://www.krgc.ks.gov/>





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## Kansas Gaming Commission Destroys Illegal Gaming Machines

Some Kansas businesses were operating illegal gambling machines after being told they were legal. This morning, the Kansas Gaming and Racing Commission put a stop to it by destroying the illegal machines.

**Reporter:** Chris Frank

**Email Address:** [chris.frank@kake.com](mailto:chris.frank@kake.com)

[Illegal Gaming Machines Destroyed](#)



**Friday, October 30, 2009**

Some Kansas businesses were operating illegal gambling machines after being told they were legal. This morning, the Kansas Gaming and Racing Commission put a stop to it by destroying the illegal machines.

The machines are commonly known as “Quarter Pushers,” “Quarter Sliders” and “Cherry Master Slot Machines.” They’re sometimes found in convenience stores, bars, truck stops, Laundromats and fraternal organizations. □

“These machines are almost always placed in locations that entice children and young people to play them,” Stephen Martino, Executive Director of the KGRC, said. “Under the law of the state of Kansas, you have all the elements of gambling which are prize, chance and consideration. These games are not fair. They’re not monitored.”

Martino says businesses are often duped into believing they’re state-sanctioned.

The Racing and Gaming Commission is increasing enforcement over illegal gaming machines.

If your business has any of these machines or if you have any questions about their legality, visit <http://krgc.ks.gov> for more information.

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.kake.com/home/headlines/67760587.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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## Gambling Machine Crackdown

Last Update: 10/30 9:39 pm

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission destroyed several illegal gaming machines at a disposal facility north of Topeka Friday morning.

These machines were recently seized by the commission because they've either been manufactured or altered to have less than the state's legally required 87 percent payout.

The commission coordinates the effort state-wide for find them.

Click on the video link to find out about the effort to find the machines.

Crushing illegal machines is easy compared to the process of seeking them out.



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## Betting machines cash in



SUBMITTED

Workers unload illegal gambling machines at Rolling Meadows Recycling and Disposal north of Topeka Friday afternoon in preparation for destroying them, under an order from the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission.

### Confiscated illegal machines destroyed in Topeka, Wichita

BY [MIKE HALL](#)

Created October 30, 2009 at 5:23pm

Updated October 30, 2009 at 5:25pm

Agents of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission on Friday destroyed a dozen illegal gaming machines in Topeka and a similar number in Wichita.

The machines were confiscated from a supplier who had placed them in businesses across Kansas.

Stephen Martino, executive director of the commission, said the machines go by such names as "quarter slider," "quarter pusher" or "Cherry

Master." They typically display a row of quarters on a ledge. The player attempts to place another quarter in position to cause a broom brushing across the top to knock down more quarters to be retrieved by the player.

But Martino said the odds of a player winning more than risked is "extremely low."

They commonly are placed in convenience stores and truck stops, whose owners and managers may not realize they are illegal in Kansas. But the suppliers of the machines know, he said.

"I think business owners have them out of ignorance, that's why we concentrate on going after the suppliers."

He said the designs of the machines are particularly troubling because they seem designed to appeal to children.

The commission assumed responsibility for controlling such gaming devices in 2008 as a result of an expanded gaming law. Since then, it has dealt with more than 500 complaints of such machines in 58 of the state's 105 counties.

The dozen destroyed in Topeka were taken to the Rolling Meadows Recycling and Disposal site at 7351 N.W. US-75 highway, where a large earth-mover machine was driven over them.

He said there is no question that the machines are in violation of state law governing gambling. Three criteria define gambling, he said -- prize, chance and consideration. If any element is missing, it isn't gambling.

If there is no prize, it is OK. If no chance is involved, no problem. And if the player doesn't have to put up any money to play, it is legal. That is why some games of chance offered by restaurants and other retailers are legal as long as the customers don't have to pay anything for a chance to play.

*Mike Hall can be reached at (785) 295-1209 or [mike.halll@cjonline.com](mailto:mike.halll@cjonline.com)*

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## Outlawed slots busted in Kansas

By FRED MANN  
The Wichita Eagle

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The devices often are found in convenience stores, truck stops, laundrettes, taverns and fraternal organizations, he said.

Most businesses voluntarily turn them in once they know they aren't legal, Martino said. The dozen that were destroyed in Wichita, and 12 more that were destroyed in Topeka later Friday, had been turned in by businesses.



MATT HUTMACHER

A dozen illegal coin-operated gaming machines get smashed by a front-end loader under the supervision of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission.

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