



# The Columbus Dispatch

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TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009

## ComFest rules out outside alcohol

Organizers want to limit cleanup; fine, jail possible

By Dave Hendricks  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Last year, Jan Everett watched a group of young men lug several coolers of beer to ComFest's main stage at Goodale Park — breaking both city and state laws, not to mention the community festival's rules.

But it was mounting heaps of trash in the Victorian Village park that prompted Everett and other ComFest organizers to mount an aggressive campaign this year against outside alcohol. The upshot: People who bring in alcohol at this weekend's event could face a \$250 fine and 30 days in jail.

As in past years, organizers of this year's festival received a permit to sell alcohol from booths in the streets surrounding Goodale Park. Festivalgoers can drink the purchased beer in the park under the terms of the city permit.

The rules work like those in a bar, said Josh Cox, chief counsel for the city. Patrons can't bring their own.

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FILE PHOTO

A reveler grooves to the music at a past ComFest in Goodale Park.

### If you go

#### COMFEST

- **Where:** Goodale Park, Victorian Village
- **When:** noon to 11 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.
- **Cost:** Free
- **Information:** [www.comfest.com](http://www.comfest.com)



## Strickland puts slots on the FAST TRACK



DISPATCH PHOTOS, ISTOCKPHOTOS.COM

Governor thinks state could collect \$410 million in gaming revenue in fiscal year 2011

By Mark Niquette and Joe Hallett  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

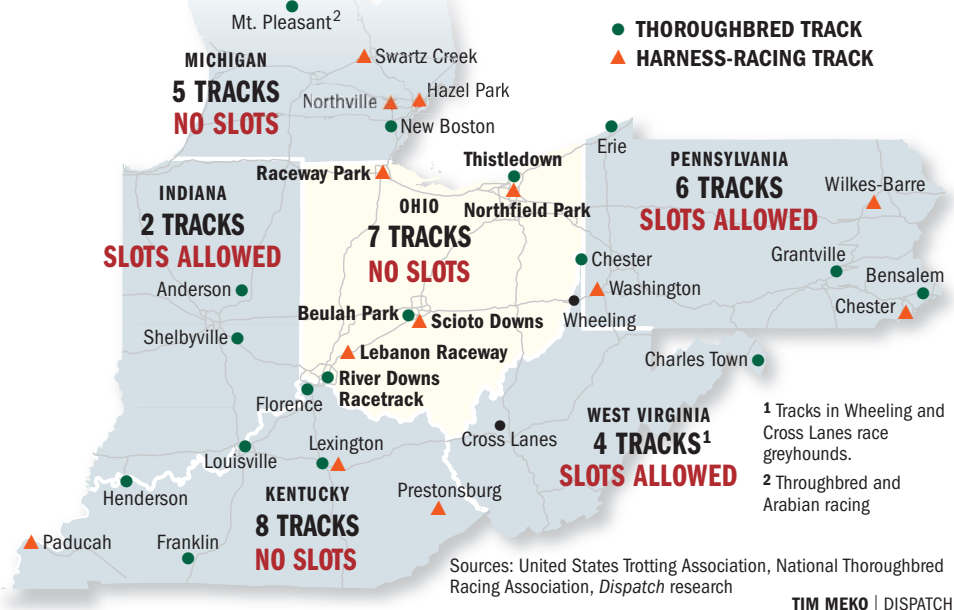
Gov. Ted Strickland wants slot machines chiming as soon as possible at Ohio's seven horse-racing tracks — music to the ears of thousands involved in the state's ailing horse industry.

New information unveiled yesterday shows that Strickland's proposal to install electronic slot machines at the tracks projects revenue flowing twice as fast as a plan advocated by the Ohio State Racing Commission and an Ohio Department of Taxation analysis. The governor is trying to help the state fill a gaping budget hole while rescussitating a nearly dead horse-racing industry.

Whichever projection is correct for getting the slots into full operation, the ma-

### Racing slots

Gov. Strickland recently proposed allowing slot machines at racetracks. A look at cities that have racetracks in the states surrounding Ohio:



chines can't come fast enough for Ohio's tracks, according to Sam Zonak, executive director of the racing commission, which regulates the tracks.

"It is my belief that in two years, if we didn't have something like this, we'd be down to two racetracks in

the state of Ohio and we'd lose all those jobs," Zonak said.

Under the governor's plan, the state would be reaping 80 percent of the projected annual revenue from the racetrack slots by July 1, 2011. But projections by the commission and the tax depart-

ment put the number at 40 percent by that time.

Strickland estimates the state will collect \$410 million in gaming revenue in fiscal year 2011, which begins June 1, 2010, while both the commission and Taxation pro-

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### POSSIBLE STATE CUTS

## Benefits for poor may take big hit

Advocates say Strickland's plan shreds safety net

By Catherine Candisky and Alan Johnson  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

About 14,400 low-income children enrolled in state-funded preschool learning programs would be dropped.

About 1,500 of Ohio's 8,000 workers who investigate child abuse and neglect would lose their jobs

— at least for now. Community health-care centers would be

forced to reduce hours, cut staff and eliminate services, while some county mental-health programs face shutting their doors because they would lose \$1 of every \$3 in state money.

Those are just a few examples of what advocates are calling a shredded safety net as a result of Gov. Ted Strickland's proposed budget cuts.

A fiery backlash has started. Advocates for nursing homes, who would see funding rolled back by hundreds of millions of dollars in Strickland's plan, will rally today at the Statehouse, where a prayer vigil for school funding also is scheduled. Backers of mental-health programs will demonstrate there Wednesday.

Others are bombarding Strickland and lawmakers with phone calls and e-mails.

Despite Strickland's claim that he is protecting Ohio's most vulnerable citizens, his blueprint for filling a \$3.2 billion budget hole would cripple services for the poor and needy, advocates say.

Strickland's proposal, unveiled late Friday, would cut out state aid to food pantries, slash funding to community health centers, abolish the state preschool program for poor youngsters and reduce eligibility for state-subsidized child care.

On paper, Strickland's plan also calls for more

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## D.C. Metro crash kills 6 during rush hour

By Lena H. Sun and Lindsey Layton  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — A train struck another on the same track at the height of the evening rush hour yesterday, killing at least six people and injuring at least 70 in the deadliest accident in Metrorail's 33-year history.

More deaths were possible. "We do know there are more bodies on the train," spokesman Alan Etter, of the D.C. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, said last night. "We don't know how many."

One of the dead was the operator of the train that rear-ended the train stopped just outside the



Fort Totten station on the Red Line in northeastern Washington, Metro officials said.

The impact was so powerful that the trailing train was left

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District of Columbia fire and emergency workers tend the site of the deadliest accident in Metrorail history.

## Special-ed pupils win, schools lose in court

Disabled need not try public classes before private aid

By Robert Barnes and Nelson Hernandez  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Parents of children with disabilities may seek reimbursement for private-school tuition even if they have never sent their children to public schools, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

By a 6-3 vote, the court settled an issue that has divided frustrated parents and financially strapped

school officials, often ending in legal battles. In writing the opinion, Justice John Paul Stevens said Congress intended for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide an appropriate education for all children, no matter whether they had ever received special-education services from a school system.

In their second major ruling yesterday, the justices reached a compromise on the Voting Rights Act that allowed them to sidestep whether a key part of the landmark civil-rights legislation remains constitutional

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