

ABL WEEKLY

Policy, Industry & Business News for Beverage Retailers

Friday, May 31, 2019

Issue 384

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[June 3 - ILBA Annual Golf Outing | Springfield, IL](#)

[June 10-12 - Beverage Alcohol Retailers Conference | Louisville, KY](#)

[June 12 - Connecticut Package Stores Association Annual Golf Tournament](#)

[July 9-10 - ABL Summer Board Meeting | Madison, WI](#)

[July 29-31 - ECRS Ignite 19 Retail Success Conference | Nashville, TN](#)

[September 9-11 - MTA Annual Convention & Tradeshow | Sidney, MT](#)

[September 12 - IABR Fall Golf Outing | Indianapolis, IN](#)

[September 15-17 - ILBA Annual Convention & Tradeshow | LaSalle, IL](#)

[October 10 - IABR Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting | Indianapolis, IN](#)

[October 14-17 - TLW 84th Annual Fall Convention | Green Bay, WI](#)

[October 21-23 - ABL Fall Board Meeting & Industry Meetings | Washington, DC](#)

ABL & PUBLIC POLICY News

Rep. Rice Proposes Mandate Requiring All New Cars to Have Blood-Alcohol Detection Capabilities:

Can deadly habits behind the wheel be changed by technology? That's the aim behind a package of bills before Congress that could stop drunk drivers before they can even start a car, CBS2's Carolyn Gusoff reported Thursday. As district attorney of Nassau County, she prosecuted drivers in avoidable tragedies.

Trump Says U.S. To Impose 5% Tariff on All Mexican Imports Beginning June 10:

President Trump on Thursday said he would impose a 5 percent tariff on all goods entering from Mexico unless it stopped the flow of illegal immigration to the United States, a dramatic escalation of his border threats that could have sweeping implications for both economies. The White House plans to begin levying the import penalties on June 10 and ratchet the penalties higher if the migrant flow isn't halted.

Police Field Tests Can't Distinguish Between Hemp and Marijuana:

The popularity of CBD products is on the rise, with an increasing number of state legislatures following a federal move to legalize marijuana's hemp cousin. But the News4 I-Team has learned the field tests commonly used by law enforcement to detect drugs haven't kept pace, resulting in legal headaches for some CBD users whose products test positive for pot.

Google Is Banning Apps That Sell Weed from the Play Store:

Google updated its Play Store guidelines on Wednesday to prohibit apps which facilitate the sale and delivery of marijuana. The policy change will stop apps from allowing users to order marijuana through an in-app shopping cart feature, assisting users in arranging the delivery or pick up of marijuana and facilitating the sale of products containing THC.

FDA Settles on 'Best if Used By' Label: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has rendered its decision on food expiration date labels on shelf-stable, packaged foods after a two-year effort by industry officials and advocacy groups. The agency favors a single designation to guide consumers: "Best if used by," the

Washington Post reports. Food product makers use a confusing array of more than 50 descriptions on grocery items: "use before," "sell by," "expires on."

[CDC and SAMHSA to Hold Summer Meetings for Public Health and Marijuana](#): The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced meetings to be held this summer related to public health and marijuana. The CDC's Board of Scientific Counselors will convene for a two-day meeting, July 16–17, 2019, to discuss a wide variety of topics, including the role of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control in "addressing public health concerns related to marijuana."

INDUSTRY News

American Beverage Licensees

[Alcohol Trade Groups Call on USTR to Remove Spirits & Wine from Retaliatory Tariffs List of EU Products](#)

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

[TTB Newsletter – Weekly News \(May 31\)](#)

3x3 Insights

[Retail Untapped - Episode 28: Ryan Maloney, Whiskey Expert & Owner of Julio's Liquors, on Trending Subcategories](#)

Beer Business Daily

[A-B's Match and Snatch Struck Down by Mississippi's Supreme Court](#)

[A-B Wins Big Brewer Craft Race](#)

Brewers Association

[Aluminum and Steel Tariffs Lifted on Canada and Mexico](#)

Law360

[House Dems Mull Estate Tax Changes To Pay For 'Extenders'](#)

Shanken News Daily

[Interview with Bill Silver, President of New Markets, CannaCraft](#)

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

[WSWA Issues Guidance for Summer Travelers on Spotting Fake Alcohol](#)

AFFILIATE News

Tavern League of Wisconsin

[Madison Looks to Restrict Entry to More Downtown Bars Late on Weekend Nights](#)

Over the objection of the state's Tavern League, Madison liquor regulators went ahead Thursday with the expansion of an initiative that prohibits people from entering certain Downtown taverns late on weekend nights. Should the City Council concur, beginning July 1, no additional patrons will be allowed to enter at least 14 bars after 1:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

[Proposal Would Allow Alcohol Delivery, Curbside Pickup](#)

In a day and age when you can order just about anything online, having alcohol delivered to your door might not sound too absurd. One lawmaker's ideas could make that a reality here in Wisconsin. State Representative Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel) hasn't formally introduced his two proposals but the ideas are attracting attention.

STATE & LOCAL News

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE News

Connecticut: Winery Receives Vegan Certification: Priam Vineyard in Connecticut was New England's first solar-powered winery, and now it is the first in the state to receive the BevVeg! label, a vegan-friendly certification. While winemakers often use animal-based products in their filtering processes, Priam instead uses nonanimal materials, like pea protein or uses cold stabilization processes.

Illinois: Alcohol Industry Insiders Say Consumers Will Pick Up Tab if Liquor Tax Rises: Distillers, brewers and retailers say they foresee a higher burden on consumers, and at least one business owner said he would experience buyer's remorse should a proposed liquor tax hike come to Illinois. State liquor taxes would see an increase under Gov. J.B. Pritzker's \$41.5 billion capital funding proposal.

Illinois: Senate Passes Bill That Would Legalize Recreational Marijuana: The Illinois Senate on Wednesday passed a bill that would legalize possession of recreational marijuana, giving the state's House of Representatives the power to join 10 other states in legalizing marijuana for adults.

Illinois: Lawmakers Propose Tax Hike on Alcohol to Balance Budget: Illinois lawmakers are proposing a plan that will have drinkers crying in their beer. A 21 percent tax hike on alcohol is now on the table. The state already has the highest beer tax rate in the region. Currently, half the cost of an alcoholic beverage in Illinois is taxes.

Illinois: Brewers Push Back Against Proposal for Higher Alcohol Taxes: Local craft beer could soon be more expensive in Illinois under the governor's proposal to increase alcohol taxes to help pay for infrastructure projects. As a way to increase revenue for new statewide construction projects, some at the statehouse are looking to increase taxes on a range of things.

Maine: Brewers Push Bill to Loosen Maine's Beer Distribution Laws: Maine brewers and wholesalers are pushing a bill to loosen the state's 40-year-old beer distribution laws that they say are stifling growth and forcing small breweries into rigid contracts. "The industry is changing; the time has come for us to look at these laws and see if they really allow this business to be regulated in a way that responds to all stakeholders," said Sean Sullivan, executive director of the Maine Brewers' Guild.

Nebraska: State Supreme Court Upholds Liquor License Restrictions on Omaha Convenience Store: The Nebraska Supreme Court decided Friday that an Omaha convenience store can be barred from selling mini wine and liquor bottles and single beer cans. The decision was issued in an appeal by Abay LLC, which sought a Class D liquor license to sell packaged alcohol at its new Blondo Convenient Food Mart in Omaha.

New Jersey: Issues New Brewery Rules — For Real This Time: The leash on craft breweries in New Jersey is not as short as first proposed late last year. More than six months after suspending a ruling that, among other things, limited breweries to 25 on-site events, the state's Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control announced changes on Tuesday that are far more palatable to the craft-brew industry.

New Mexico: City Eyes Banning Miniature Liquor Bottles: A northwestern New Mexico city is examining if it can ban the sale of miniature liquor bottles littering the grounds across town. Farmington Mayor Nate Duckett recently asked City Attorney Jennifer Breakell to investigate if the city could pass an ordinance banning the small liquor bottles. The Farmington Daily Times reports. Duckett made the request during the May 14 City Council meeting.

New York: Impaired Driving Repeat Offender Measure Introduced: Westchester County Executive George Latimer joined Congresswoman Nita Lowey on Friday afternoon, May 24 in front of the Westchester County Stop DWI Simulator to urge responsible and safe driving over the holiday week and throughout the summer. In addition to the warning to "drive sober

Ohio: State's Liquor Laws Won't Let This Restaurant Have Gender-Neutral Bathrooms: Since it opened in January, Good Company, a restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio, has had two bathrooms, and they haven't had gender markers on either. Still, when guests have to do their business, the appropriate option is pretty obvious, since each door has an illustration of what's inside: one has a toilet, and the other has a toilet and urinal.

Oregon: Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission Holding Listening Tour: The State of Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission is holding a statewide listening tour. A release from the commission, said it is meant as an opportunity for agencies to come together to improve response to substance misuse in Oregon. The release said Oregon has the fourth highest rate of substance use disorder in the nation.

Oregon: Lawmakers Discuss Bill to Drop State's Drinking Limit to .05: Sen. President Peter Courtney didn't expect to pass a bill to lower Oregon's legal drinking limit to .05 blood-alcohol content this legislative session, but the Salem leader wanted to start the conversation. On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee did just that. Courtney, the Salem Democrat, got his wish for an informational hearing on his proposal to lower Oregon's legal drunken driving limit from .08 to .05.

Pennsylvania: 19 Towns Vote to Go Wet: In Pennsylvania, voters in 19 out of 20 dry municipalities have approved referendums to allow alcohol sales, according to the state's Liquor Control Board. As of January, about 25% of Pennsylvania's 2,571 municipalities were dry or partially dry.

South Carolina: 'Dramatic' Change in State Liquor License Policies Could Affect Thousands of Bars: South Carolina bars, dance clubs and all other businesses that serve alcoholic drinks to customers will have to start proving they also serve a certain amount of food before their liquor licenses will be issued or renewed. An attorney for the Department of Revenue announced the change Thursday during a hearing on whether the license for a Five Points bar — Cover 3 — would be renewed.

Texas: Legislature Green-Lights Bigger Liquor Chains, but Still Excludes the Biggest Retailer, Walmart: Texas likes to boast about its free market attitudes, except when it comes to one topic: liquor. State lawmakers last week sent a bill to Gov. Greg Abbott that changes some loopholes concerning liquor store ownership that favored blood connections. But a big exclusion remains. Publicly traded companies like Walmart, Costco, Walgreens and Kroger still won't be permitted to sell liquor in Texas.

Wisconsin: Lawmaker's 'Lonely Ship' Filling Up as Support for Legal Marijuana Grows: Elected as state representative for the 48th Assembly District, Rep. Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, has been "legislating through listening" to her 60,000 constituents since 2012. The stories and concerns she heard from voters in her district have launched Sargent on an unexpected journey, sending her on a mission that she never anticipated when she first ran for office. Sargent, who says she has never used marijuana, has concluded that prohibition of the drug is ruining the lives of a large number of Wisconsin residents.

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE News

Leaning into Cannabis Retail with Lessons from Liquor (Op-Ed): After 38 years in liquor retail in B.C., we're breaking into the cannabis industry. And it's all possible because of the lessons we've learned from liquor. At first we thought marijuana might be a substitute for alcohol, but now we see the two products in a more complementary light, even though they can't be purchased together. In other words, we had to create a separate business plan and concept to get into cannabis.

Beer Companies Are Getting Serious About Water Conservation: It takes approximately 20 gallons of water, or more, to produce a single pint of beer. Though beer is deeply ingrained into American culture and a vital part of the national economy, the beer industry is extremely dependent upon the availability of one of the planet's most endangered resources.

Alcohol to Be Sold at 1,000 Family Dollar locations: About 1,000 stores in the Dollar Tree chain will begin selling alcohol, the company announced today. It will also expand freezers and coolers at 400 of its Family Dollar stores, the Virginia-based chain said. Dollar Tree bought Family Dollar in 2015.

Activist Investor Tells Craft Brew Alliance It's Time to Sell: The deadline for Anheuser-Busch InBev to make a qualifying offer to Craft Brew Alliance is fast approaching, but Midwood Capital Management says it's time the craft brewer starts planning to sell itself regardless. The activist investor says the market is discounting the possibility the megabrewer will actually make an offer, but the acquisition of Dogfish Head Craft Brewery by Boston Beer shows that Craft Brew Alliance has a lot of value that can be realized through a sale.

NFL Relaxes Policy on Alcohol Sponsorships: The NFL is rolling out new guidelines for its alcohol sponsorship policy, easing restrictions on the use of team and player likeness in ads for beer, distilled spirits and wine, according to a league email distributed Tuesday to team presidents, marketing and sponsorship executives and counsel.

Are Electrolyte Beers the New Recovery Drink?: While drinking beer and watching a sporting event is as ubiquitous and American as apple pie, the same can practically be said about enjoying the cool taste of a brew after hiking a 14er, going uber hard on a long run or completing a full-day ride on your bike. Hike, bike, swim, run, rock climb - whatever your activity of choice, we can get behind enjoying fermented refreshment after a life-affirming sweat session.

Remember the Wine Cooler? It's Back: Today's wine spritzer, which enjoys a global market, is yesterday's wine cooler -or at least the two are closely related. In 1976, a group of friends and family introduced the brand California Cooler, a new addition to the long tradition of adding spritz and fruit to wine. It was a new product in that it was produced and distributed nationally from California instead of in consumer's backyards, and it was named "Wine Cooler."

How an Ax Throwing Business Got a License to Sell Beer by Putting in a Pool Table: A Salt Lake ax throwing business obtained a state license to sell beer because it put in a pool table. While that might not make sense, it was enough for Utah alcohol commissioners to grant Social Axe a license under a state law that specifically lists "recreational amenities" where beer can be sold. Ax throwing venues are not on the list. Pool or billiard parlors are.

Beer Bucks: How Much Moola Suds Bring to Every American Community: Every year, Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of summer, which means beer season. Beer, though, isn't just satisfying for the soul; it's a local economy driver. And a new study by the Beer Institute and National Beer Wholesalers Association shows just how beneficial it is to communities across the country.

As Craft Beer Market Grows, So Do Wild Flavors: Brewers have always experimented, but today's beer makers have kicked it up a notch as they try to distinguish themselves from the other 7,346 craft brewers trying to do the same. As a result, consumers like those at the Strange Brew Festival in Reno, Nevada, are left sorting through peanut butter and pickle pilsner, a tamale lager and a smoked carrot stout.

Study: Red-Wine Drinkers Spend More Per Bottle Than White-Wine Drinkers: White wine imbibers tend to be more frugal and extroverted than red-wine drinkers, a new survey suggests. White-wine drinkers tend to spend around \$3 less per bottle than red-wine drinkers, who spend an average of \$40 per bottle versus the \$37 that white-wine drinkers spend, according to a survey by OnePoll.