

ABL WEEKLY

POLICY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS NEWS FOR BEVERAGE RETAILERS

Issue 385: Friday, June 7, 2019

MEETINGS & EVENTS:

[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](#)

[August 9-11 | TWSRA 2019 Annual Meeting | Gatlinburg, 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:

[Congressional Report Raises Questions About Whether Marijuana Impairs Driving:](#)

Concerns expressed by lawmakers that marijuana legalization will make the roads more dangerous might not be totally founded, a congressional research body said in a recent report. In fact, the experts tasked by the House and Senate with looking into the issue found that evidence about cannabis's ability to impair driving is currently inconclusive.

[States Mull Lower Legal BAC Limit:](#) In an effort to curb drunk driving, some states are considering following a federal recommendation to reduce the legal blood alcohol concentration for drivers from .08 to .05 percent — a move that Highland County Sheriff Donnie Barrera said might reduce instances of drunk driving here, but could also result in more arrests.

[Justice Department to Review 1941 ASCAP, BMI Consent Decrees:](#) The U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday it would review two consent decrees reached with music licensing groups ASCAP and BMI in 1941, a decision that could upend the business of

[Three Years into Legal Cannabis and California Still Doesn't Have a Reliable Test for Driving While High:](#)

Nearly three years after California voters approved a cannabis legalization bill that promised, among other things, to clarify the issue of driving while high, researchers and law enforcement have few concrete answers about a potentially deadly problem.

[K Street Decries Trump's Mexico Tariffs:](#)

Washington trade groups are predictably unhappy with President Donald Trump's plan to impose tariffs on Mexican imports until the administration decides the country has done enough to help the U.S. stanch illegal immigration.

[The Lancet Won't Publish Data Challenging Its Puritanical Stance on Alcohol:](#)

There is a long history of medical research which finds substantial health benefits from drinking alcoholic beverages in moderate amounts. Many of these studies are longitudinal in nature and follow random samples of older cohorts of the population to see whether or how long they live is related to their alcohol consumption.

licensing music to online companies, movie companies, commercials, bars and restaurants.

Federal Judge to DOJ: Wire Act Only Applies to Sports Betting: On Monday, Federal District Court Judge for the District of New Hampshire, Paul Barbadoro, rejected the Justice Department's abandonment last year of a legal opinion that had paved the way for the growth of online gambling.

Congressional Funding Bill Protects Cannabis Banking and Lets D.C. Legalize Marijuana Sales: Federal officials would be blocked from punishing banks for working with marijuana businesses under an annual spending bill released by congressional Democratic leaders on Sunday. The legislation is set to be considered by a House subcommittee on Monday.

From Guacamole to Tequila, Trump's Mexico Tariffs Tax Partygoers: President Donald Trump has issued a new threat to slap tariffs of as much as 25% on goods from Mexico, an escalation in his trade war that would raise the prices Americans pay for avocados, beer and tequila.

Trump Administration Takes Step Toward Replacing NAFTA: The Trump administration on Thursday triggered the process for submitting a bill to Congress that would implement the president's new trade deal with Canada and Mexico. The notification sent to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other congressional leaders riled Democrats.

Marijuana Advocates Hit Unexpected

Roadblocks: Advocates of legalizing marijuana for recreational purposes scored their most significant legislative victory of the year Friday when the Illinois state House gave final approval to a measure allowing residents over the age of 21 to purchase and use cannabis products.

Two New Congressional Reports Address Marijuana, Hemp and CBD

A key congressional committee released two reports on Monday that discuss policies surrounding marijuana, hemp and cannabidiol (CBD). The documents published by the House Appropriations Committee are attached to annual spending bills that fund certain parts of the federal government.

Trump's Mexico Tariffs Could Hike Beer

Prices in These States: As tensions Opens a New Window. between the U.S. and Mexico simmer, a number of items Opens a New Window. – including alcohol – face potential price increases for U.S. consumers if tariffs are imposed on goods imported from Mexico.

Surgeon General Warns Marijuana Could Be More Dangerous Than a Decade Ago

The U.S. surgeon general warned in an interview that aired Wednesday on "Rising" that new strains of marijuana are more dangerous than those developed a decade ago. "The marijuana of even 10 years ago was less than 5 percent THC, which can cause addiction, which can cause problems," said Dr. Jerome Adams.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB): [TTB Newsletter – Weekly News \(June 7\)](#)

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB): [TTB's 2019 Satisfaction Survey Is Now Open!](#)

3x3 Insights: [Retail Untapped - Episode 29: Ryan Maloney on Mezcal, Tech, and Tips for Retailers](#)

Brewers Association: [BA Launches Political Action Committee Website](#)

ECR Software: [Retail Jeopardy: Retailers Can Win up to \\$10,000 at Ignite 2019!](#)

NACS: [Clearing Up Mobile Payment Confusion](#)

Nielsen: [What OTC Consumers Think About Cannabis](#)

Restaurant Hospitality: [7 Fast-Casual Concepts Worth Watching](#)

Alcohol Law Advisor: [USDA Issues Opinion on Several Hemp-Related Provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill](#)

Alcohol Law Advisor: [Mississippi Supreme Court Ruling Reinstates Claims Against Anheuser-Busch, Mitchell Distributing](#)

Alcoholic Beverage Law Blog: [The Mystery of the TTB packaging Regulations and Solving the Problem by Amending the Regulations](#)

Brewbound: [Texas Supreme Court Turns Down Craft Brewers' Constitutional Challenge on Distribution Rights Forfeiture](#)

Brewbound: [Many Top 50 Craft Breweries Struggling to Grow, Brewers Association Data Suggests](#)

SevenFiftyDaily: [What Do Producers Stand to Lose If the CBMA Isn't Made Permanent?](#)

SevenFiftyDaily: [How Distributors Prevent Warehouse Theft](#)

Shanken News Daily: [With Illinois Legalization, A Potentially Massive New Market Emerges](#)

VinePair: [How the Hotel Minibar Got Its Booze Back](#)

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America: [WSWA's 2019 Legislative Fly-In Promotes 85 Years of Successful State-based Alcohol Regulation](#)

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT:

DRAUGHT BEER QUALITY MANUAL

Perfect for professional and home draught systems

Put Your Best Beer Forward

Fourth edition now available

BREWERS PUBLICATIONS

The [Draught Beer Quality Manual](#) is an indispensable resource for brewers, wholesalers, retailers, and draught system installers. Prepared by the Brewers Association Technical Committee, this fourth edition includes updated best practices, detailed information about line cleaning, draught system components and design, gas dispense and balance, proper pouring, sanitation and growlers is organized with your needs in mind. The goal is simple – to improve draught beer quality and ensure that beer makes it into the consumer's glass as the brewer intends.

AFFILIATE NEWS:

Illinois Licensed Beverage Association

[Rockford Mayor Praises 'Tremendously Successful' Legislative Session](#)

It will likely be a few years before a casino opens its doors in Rockford, but Mayor Tom McNamara said a series of legislative wins in the Illinois General Assembly make it feel as if Rockford already has hit the jackpot. During a briefing with reporters on Monday, McNamara said Gov. JB Pritzker would travel to Rockford in the next couple of weeks to sign the gambling expansion bill that will bring a casino to the city, and with it millions in gaming revenue and hundreds of jobs.

Indiana Association of Beverage Retailers

[Sunday Alcohol Sales Net Little Revenue Impact](#)

Hoosiers who run dry on alcohol for weekend boating excursions or when gathering for a Colts game may be among those who appreciate the now yearlong availability of alcohol on Sundays. Since March 2018, Hoosiers have been able to buy carryout alcohol on Sundays under legislation that knocked down former blue laws that limited alcohol access in the state. As a compromise to avoid sales during regular church hours and as a way to help liquor store owners control overtime, the legislature agreed to limit sales from noon to 8 p.m. Cold beer, however, is allowed only at package liquor stores.

STATE & LOCAL NEWS:

[Alabama: Legislature Approves Sunday Alcohol Sales Bill, Says No to Home Delivery of Wine](#)

Alabamians won't be able to get wine delivered to their homes anytime soon, but wet counties and municipalities can now have Sunday sales without going through the Legislature. There were several alcohol-related bills in the 2019 legislative session that ended last month.

[Connecticut: Legislature Green Lights Pro-Craft Beer Bill](#)

The Connecticut House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (140-5) in favor of pro-jobs, pro-craft beer bill (S.B. 647), which increases the amount of craft beer that a brewery can sell directly to a consumer for off-premise consumption from nine liters to nine gallons.

[Connecticut: State Misses Legalization Opportunity as Legislative Session Ends](#)

Connecticut's legislative session ends June 5, and it will pass without the legalization of cannabis that many had anticipated. It wasn't simply a pie-in-the-sky attempt, either; Gov. Ned Lamont had urged a somewhat supportive General Assembly to get this done in time.

[Delaware: Marijuana Legalization Bill Clears First Legislative Hurdle](#)

A bill to legalize marijuana in Delaware cleared its first legislative hurdle Wednesday, with the House Revenue and Finance Committee voting after

[Massachusetts: State Inches Cautiously Toward 'Cannabis Cafes'](#)

If you're at least 21 in Massachusetts, you can legally buy recreational marijuana at more than a dozen stores that have opened over the past several months. But when it comes to using those products, the law says you can only do so discreetly and privately. That could change.

[New Hampshire: Senate Puts Marijuana Legalization on Hold](#)

The push to legalize recreational use of marijuana has suffered a setback in New Hampshire. The Senate voted Thursday to delay action on a legalization bill until late December or early next year. The bill had passed the House in April, but not with enough votes to override a promised veto by Governor Sununu.

[Oklahoma: New Law Challenged by Members of Alcohol Industry](#)

The Oklahoma State Supreme Court was asked Tuesday to block the implementation of a new alcohol distribution law. Fourteen petitioners from local and national alcohol businesses are challenging Senate Bill 608.

[Louisiana: Home Delivery of Liquor Close to Becoming Law](#)

Very soon adults can start receiving adult beverages delivered directly to their homes under legislation that is close to becoming law. Wine and beer could be

a two-hour hearing to release the measure for consideration by the full House.

Georgia: Franchise Reform Bill Introduced on Final Day of Session:

The Georgia legislative session wrapped up on April 2, but a bill aimed at instituting several reforms the state's franchise laws (H.B. 738) was introduced prior to adjournment. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Chuck Martin, would let small beer companies that account for less than 15 percent of a distributor's total sales terminate contracts by giving 30 days notice, providing the name of a successor wholesaler and paying fair market value.

Illinois: What You Need to Know About the State's Marijuana Legalization:

Illinois is poised to become the 11th state to legalize recreational marijuana for adult use. The Illinois General Assembly passed a marijuana legalization bill the week of May 26, and Gov. J.B. Pritzker has indicated he will sign it into law. Here are the answers to commonly asked questions about what the new law will mean for Illinoisans.

Illinois: Senate Approves Legalizing Sports Betting, Gambling Expansion:

The Illinois Senate is back in session Sunday afternoon in an attempt to wrap up the spring legislative session with lawmakers facing House-approved plans for higher fees for motorists for road construction and measures to authorize a casino for Chicago and legalize sports betting.

Illinois: Local Law Enforcement Concerned About Legal Recreational Marijuana Legislation:

Legal recreational marijuana could soon be a reality in Illinois. Law enforcement across the state have concerns about how the bill could impact their communities. Governor Pritzker is expected to sign the recreational marijuana bill, which would make it legal January 1st.

brought along with restaurant meals under legislation the state Senate approved Sunday night. It's one legislative step away from final approval.

Oregon: Awash in Marijuana, State Takes Steps to Curb Production:

Oregon is awash in pot, glutted with so much legal weed that if growing were to stop today, it could take more than six years by one estimate to smoke or eat it all. Now, the state is planning to curb production.

Pennsylvania: State Supreme Court Makes Ruling Affecting DUI Checkpoints:

They are called sobriety checkpoints. And many local police forces team up to set them up, like the West Hills DUI Task Force. "A group of municipalities band together and hold a checkpoint in one specific municipality and pull over all of the motorists, typically driving through the municipality that evening," Michael Sherman, a DUI defense attorney.

Texas: Governor Signs Bill Expanding Alcohol Home-Delivery:

Texans who like to order home delivery of prepared meals from grocery store cafes can have wine and ale brought to them as well under a bill signed by Gov. Greg Abbott. Currently, cafes at groceries such may deliver beer that is less than 5% alcohol by volume to people's homes.

Virginia: Norfolk and Chesapeake Will Each Get a Craft Whiskey Distillery This Year:

Virginia is experiencing a boom time for craft liquor. But while Virginia Beach has two high-profile makers of spirits, and Portsmouth's Copper and Oak was founded last year, Norfolk and Chesapeake have mostly been left out of the party.

Wisconsin: La Crosse Rethinking Online Alcohol Sales Regulations:

The city of La Crosse is taking another look at regulating online sales of alcohol to be picked up at the store with an ordinance that lays out procedures and times when people could order and pick up alcohol.

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE NEWS:

Worldwide Alcohol Consumption Declines by -1.6% in 2018:

Beverage alcohol drinkers across the globe consumed a total of 27.6 billion nine-liter cases of alcohol in 2018, but

Boston Beer and Dogfish Head Are Merging. We Asked Jim Koch What That Means for Beer Drinkers:

The craft beer landscape has shifted. On May 9, Boston Beer Co., makers of

while that number represents a decrease of - 1.6 percent from the year prior, new data from the IWSR forecasts that total alcohol consumption will steadily increase over the next five years, to 28.5 billion cases in 2023.

Why Alcohol Companies Are Betting on Non-Alcoholic 'Booze': It's a Wednesday evening in Brooklyn, NY, and bars are dead. Tea-candle-dotted tables sit empty, waiting for a happy hour rush that isn't. But tucked away on a side street, hours before its midnight closing time, a bar called Getaway hums with activity.

Move Over Rosé: Hard seltzer Is Taking Over Summer: As Americans head into the summer season, there's a new beverage chilling next to the rosé. Hard seltzer is poised to assume a meaningful corner of the alcohol market, thanks to its light profile, convenient packaging and, perhaps most of all, the now established popularity of sparkling water.

Dollar Tree Adding Alcohol to 1,000 Struggling Family Dollar Stores: Dollar Tree is adding alcoholic drinks to about 1,000 Family Dollar stores in its latest effort to turn around the struggling chain. The Chesapeake, Virginia-based chain added that it will also expand freezers and coolers at about 400 Family Dollar stores.

Merlot v. Marijuana: Wine Country Feuds Over Measure to Grow Pot: The Napa Valley has become synonymous with wine, as grapevines cover the flatlands and creep up the hillsides. Now some entrepreneurs hope a new crop will take root: marijuana.

To Beer or Not to Beer? Colleges Weigh Pros, Cons of OK'ing Alcohol Sales: A big change could be coming to University of Kentucky sporting events after the Southeastern Conference this week changed its alcohol sales policy. Before the change, the SEC's 14 schools were not allowed to sell alcohol in public areas of stadiums and arenas. Now they will have that option.

Samuel Adams, announced a merger with Delaware brewery Dogfish Head, joining the two longtime craft beer pioneers together in a \$300 million deal.

Fewer Americans Are Drinking Alcohol - So Bars and Brewers Are Adapting: This summer when it comes time to celebrate with friends, it's more likely someone in the group will be raising a glass with a beverage that doesn't have alcohol. The trend coincides with changing consumer tastes, as more people try to eat and drink healthier and follow low-carb diets like keto.

Tequila's Mainstream Tier Sees Growing Influx of 100%-Blue Agave Entrants: While much of the excitement in Tequila is at the luxury end (above \$40), there's also plenty of growth at the more mainstream premium tier (\$15-\$25). Over the past several years, premium Tequilas have seen an influx of 100%-blue agave contenders, who've carved out a significant share in a space once reserved for mixtos.

Led by Prosecco, U.S. Sparkling Wine Sales Continue to Grow: Americans are buying more sparkling wine, with sales growing 3% in 2017, which marked the 10th consecutive year of growth, and the category growing 51% between 2008 to 2017, according to Impact Database, a Wine Spectator subsidiary.

Alcohol Brands Have Set Their Blurry Sights on the Slippery Concept of Wellness: Last year, Emily Suzanne Lever tweeted a succinct thesis of the millennial behavior: "everything I want to do is self-care and everything I don't want to do is emotional labor." Life is hard. We're burning out. It's easy to make the ethical and moral justification come after the desire.