

ABL WEEKLY

POLICY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS NEWS FOR BEVERAGE RETAILERS

Friday, October 18, 2019

Issue 403

MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

[March 29-30 – 2020 ABL Annual Meeting](#)

[April 29 – ILBA Lobby Day | Springfield, IL](#)

[June 1 – ILBA Annual Golf Outing | Springfield, IL](#)

[September 13-15 – ILBA 135th Annual Convention | Effingham, IL](#)

ABL & PUBLIC POLICY NEWS:

[Alcohol Beverage Importers Want Second Round of CBMA](#)

A program that lowers the excise tax on qualified domestic producers and importers of beer, wine and spirits is winding down at the end of the year and the alcohol beverage industry is lobbying Congress to keep it going.

[U.S. Importers Likely to Stockpile Single Malts Ahead of New Tariffs](#)

The Trump administration's announcement on Oct. 2 that it will impose tariffs on billions of dollars in European imports starting this month could bode ill for single malt Scotch and Irish whiskies in the U.S., Whisky Advocate reports.

[Postal Service Shipping of Alcohol](#)

Beverages: There is a House of Representatives bill pending that if passed would allow shipment of alcohol beverages through the US Postal Service.

[How Lobbyists Broke the Logjam on Cash and Cannabis](#)

The 151-year-old Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. doesn't sell weed. It sells plant food and other gardening products, including its flagship Miracle-Gro brand fertilizer in iconic green and yellow packaging.

[Brewers Warn Supreme Court: Back the Clean Water Act or Beer Will Taste Like](#)

Medicine: Like craft breweries around the country, Lori White's business is all about being local. But an upcoming Supreme Court

[U.S. Senators Target Auto Tech Mandate to Block Drunk Driving](#)

Two U.S. senators on Wednesday plan to introduce legislation that would require automakers to install technology to prevent intoxicated drivers from starting a vehicle by the middle of the next decade.

Imposing Fees on Radio Airplay: For years, the big record labels have pushed Congress to impose a new tax on the songs performed on local radio stations.

[NHTSA Targets Drunk Driving with New](#)

Partnership Funding: Five new cooperative partnerships between non-governmental organizations and the NHTSA are aimed at providing critical support for highway safety projects.

[U.S. Retail Sales Unexpectedly Decline in a Sign That Consumer Economy Could Be](#)

Cracking: U.S. retail sales fell for the first time in seven months in September. The report could raise fears that manufacturing-led weakness was spreading to the broader economy.

[Senators Target Auto Tech Mandate to Block](#)

Drunk Driving: Two U.S. senators on Wednesday plan to introduce legislation that would require automakers to install technology to prevent intoxicated drivers from

case over water pollution in Maui has shifted her focus about 5,000 miles west.

[CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Database Expected to Tighten Driver Supply:](#)

After nearly two decades, the federal government is finally close to establishing the first national database of drug and alcohol-impaired truck drivers.

[New Wine, Cheese Tariffs Worry Small](#)

[Business Owners:](#) A new round of tariffs took effect on Friday, but they have nothing to do with China or North Korea. These duties imposed by the United States are on products that many Americans enjoy.

starting a vehicle by the middle of the next decade.

[Bill Regulating Online Sales of E-Cigarettes Advances to House Floor:](#)

The House Judiciary Committee Wednesday voted unanimously by voice to advance H.R. 3942, the Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act, to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB): [TTB Newsletter – Weekly News \(October 18\)](#)

Beer Institute: [Institute Names Senators Gardner and Shaheen, Representatives Kelly and Lawson the 2019 Beer Champions](#)

Brewbound: [Active Lifestyle Beers Offer Big Opportunity for Craft, IPAs Remain Dominant Style and Value Tops Volume](#)

SevenFiftyDaily: [Career & Salary Survey Report: Industry Leaders on the Policies and Trends Defining the Drinks Business](#)

Shanken News Daily: [Canopy Growth Details Plans for Legalization 2.0](#)

Wine & Spirits Daily: [SipSource: Wine Volume Trends Show Early Warning Signs](#)

Wine & Spirits Daily: [Winery Execs on DTC v. 3-Tier Sales Growth](#)

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America: [SipSource, Nielsen and Industry Executives Provide Insights on Wine and Spirits Trends](#)

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America: [Champions of Responsibility Awards Dinner Recognizes Individuals for Lifetime Work Fighting Underage Drinking](#)

AFFILIATE NEWS:

Montana Tavern Association

[City Bar Employee Earns High Praise](#)

The Montana Tavern Association recently selected the City Bar's Ron Ray as their Worker of the Year. Many of Ray's regulars turned up to City Bar on Thursday night to celebrate his success.

New York State Liquor Store Association

[Tariff Anxiety Looms Over Liquor Trade Show](#)

Tariffs against specialty foreign products — including single-malt scotch, Irish whiskey and French wines — were on the minds of some vendors at the NYSLA's holiday trade show on Tuesday.

Tavern League of Wisconsin

[Project Drive Sober: Tavern League Influence](#)

The Tavern League of Wisconsin is a powerful player in the state's alcohol business. In its most simple terms, the Tavern League is a group largely made up of bar and restaurant owners.

CANNABIS NEWS:

Why the Cannabis Industry Is Urging for a Regulated Market: News of unregulated THC and e-cigarette vapes suspected to be causing illnesses and deaths are sweeping the nation, with a CDC report claiming that up to 530 possible cases of severe lung disease, and eight fatalities, may have been caused by vaping in at least 33 states.

Efforts Intensify to Battle Corruption Involving Local Government Officials and Cannabis Industry : Law enforcement authorities across the country, including the FBI, have cast a wide net in their efforts to root out corruption among local government officials overseeing the marijuana industry.

Marijuana Breathalyzers Could Soon Be a Reality: A company in California called Hound Labs could have a marijuana breathalyzer in place by 2020. Some medicinal dispensaries feel this device may be beneficial.

A Blockbuster Cannabis Deal Goes Bust and More Could Fall Apart: Public cannabis companies are having a bear of a time. Stock prices are plunging, lofty valuations are deflating, regulatory landscapes remain in flux, and now deals are coming off the table.

Major Trucking Industry Group Urges Feds To Lift Marijuana Research Roadblocks: The American Trucking Associations (ATA) endorsed a set of marijuana-related policies on Tuesday, and that includes lifting federal restrictions on cannabis research.

Top Cannabis Companies Have Lost Almost \$10 Billion in Market Value Since Vaping Crisis Began: The vaping crisis has helped cool once white-hot cannabis companies—which may eventually offer legal vaping products—with a \$10 billion drop in market value.

'Weed Moms' Are the New 'Wine Moms': Though "wine mom" culture has long been the source of many a mommy meme and largely socially acceptable, marijuana-using moms are stepping out of the shadows and proudly extolling the virtues of cannabis.

ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT:



As the only national membership organization of wine and spirits distributors, [WSWA](#) advocates on federal, state, regulatory, and legal issues impacting distributors and the beverage alcohol industry.

We focus on many important policy areas such as taxation of family-owned businesses, state-based alcohol regulation, social responsibility and impaired driving prevention.

Among other things, WSWA offers programs that promote member careers and businesses to thrive in a diverse and dynamic industry.

STATE & LOCAL NEWS:

Alabama: Drugged Driving: State Looks for More Information, Prosecution: Throughout Alabama, hundreds of impaired drivers have taken prescription and illegal drugs, often with alcohol, according to information compiled by the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences.

Alaska: Residents Weigh-In on Polarizing Proposed Change to Breweries, Distilleries: People had a lot to say about a controversial definition change that could limit events held at breweries, wineries and distilleries in Alaska.

District of Columbia: Bar Fined \$90K for Serving Cleaning Fluid, Security Issues: D.C.'s Alcoholic Beverage Control Board ordered Heaven & Hell on 18th Street NW to pay a \$90,000 fine and suspended its liquor license for 90 days.

Illinois: State Proposes Lab Testing CBD Items: Representative Bob Morgan (D-Deerfield) has proposed a bill in his home state that would require all CBD products to be tested by the Department of Agriculture and certified as safe to use by consumers.

Maine: Many Restaurants and Bars Could Be Forced into 'Dry Sundays': At issue is a liquor licence, which the state says never should have been granted in the first place, and might have a widespread affect.

Mississippi: Liquor Distribution Under Review in the Magnolia State: A recent report from the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review committee has Mississippi's distribution of wine and liquor under review.

Mississippi: Voters Say 'Yes' to Alcohol Sales in Booneville: Tuesday, folks in Booneville voted on whether or not beer/wine and liquor could be sold in the city limits. Both measures passed.

New York: NYC Sues Online e-Cigarette Sellers: The City of New York has sued more than a dozen online retailers for allegedly selling e-cigarettes to underage residents, Bloomberg reports.

New York: Bill Would Reduce Legal BAC Limit to .05: Drunk driving. All it takes is one second and everything can change. 'It's a bigger problem than people still realize...' said William Aiken, Vice President of Remove Intoxicated Driver

Oregon: Private Distilleries Legislation in the Works: Legislation is in the works to help private distilleries in Oregon sell their product locally. Right now, if a restaurant wants to offer a product from a nearby private distiller, the product has to be shipped to the OLCC warehouse in Milwaukie and be shipped back again.

Pennsylvania: 'Gold Standard' Bill to Legalize Recreational Weed Introduced in Harrisburg: Two Pennsylvania state senators introduced Senate Bill 350 in Harrisburg on Tuesday and it contains just about everything a cannabis advocate would love.

Texas: Analyzing Underage Alcohol Charges: Consuming alcohol underage is a dangerous game. For teens, it may be nothing more than an excuse to party and let loose from the stress of life.

Texas: TABC Catches 145 Retailers Selling Alcohol to Minors: A statewide effort by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to enforce Texas' underage drinking laws found that 8% of the more than 1,800 retailers visited in the operation sold alcohol to a minor.

Virginia: Woman Charged with Prohibited Alcohol Sales: A Virginia woman was charged with prohibited alcohol sales after being found drinking in a car with two men younger than 21, police said Monday.

Washington: State Adopts Emergency Rules Regarding Flavored Vapor Products: The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board adopted emergency rules Oct. 16 that are consistent with the directives of Executive Order 19-03, dated Sept. 27, 2019.

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE NEWS:

White Claw Cut Media Spending 30% As Brand's Popularity Surged, Study Says:

White Claw, the low-calorie spiked seltzer sold by Mark Anthony Brands, this year cut ad spending as word-of-mouth publicity and viral memes led to a product shortage. The brand slashed its ad spend by 30% to \$11.1 million during the first seven months of the year compared with a year earlier.

Why Wine Lovers Resist Marie Kondo-ing Their Cellars:

Some years ago, a wine collector friend in New Jersey received a call from his babysitter. She confessed that she'd taken a bottle of wine from his cellar while he was out of town.

Can Scientists Evolve the Next Great Beer?:

Few technologies have endured as long as alcohol. The process of fermenting beverages dates as far back as the Neolithic area, with documented examples found in prehistoric China going back to 500 BC.

Keeping Fake Bordeaux Out of a 6-Million-Bottle Wine Cellar:

Philip Moulin pries the lid off a wooden crate and removes a bottle of a 2000 Bordeaux that can fetch \$10,000 per case. But Moulin has neither corkscrew nor decanter in hand.

A-B Accuses MillerCoors of Trade Secret Meddling in CornGate Counterclaim:

The legal battle between the two largest beer makers in the U.S. escalated today, as Anheuser-Busch today accused MillerCoors of breaking state and federal laws by stealing trade secrets regarding beer recipes for its two top-selling brands, Bud Light and Michelob Ultra.

How a White Claw Hangover Is Different from a Beer or Wine Hangover:

It's happened to pretty much everyone. You have a few drinks and wake up the next day feeling like you've been hit by a bus. Hangovers are uniquely terrible, but are they all created equal?

Why Wine Country Isn't Attracting Millennials:

The tasting room at Ashes & Diamonds, a 2-year-old winery just off Highway 29, does not feel very Napa. For one, there is the decor, all midcentury modern, with brightly colored womb chairs and hip wood paneling.

BJ's Expands Same-Day Alcohol Delivery to 6 States:

BJ's Wholesale Club now offers same-day delivery service for beer, wine and spirits in Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

How 'Handmade' Is America's Most Popular Vodka?:

If you are an alcohol-drinking American, you've almost certainly had Tito's Handmade Vodka - mixed into the "signature cocktail" at a try-hard wedding, on a domestic flight with a decent airline, or at a bar where you just wanted a vodka that was a couple of steps above well.

How Technology Is Helping to Curtail Drunk Driving:

Drunk driving is a significant issue throughout the world. In the United States alone, individuals are killed like clockwork, for a total in excess of 10,000 lives every year.