

ABL WEEKLY

POLICY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS NEWS FOR BEVERAGE RETAILERS

Friday, October 25, 2019

Issue 404

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[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:

[U.S. Highway Deaths Fall in 2018 for Second Straight Year:](#)

Traffic deaths in the U.S. fell slightly in 2018 for the second straight year, the government's road safety agency said Tuesday.

[Attorneys General Encourage Online Vendors to Take Proactive Steps to Prevent Illegal Alcohol Sales:](#)

The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) sent letters to leading U.S. online vendors, including Facebook and eBay, asking them to undertake certain steps to curtail illegal alcohol sales online.

[Bill Would Require Alcohol Detectors in New Cars:](#)

Federal legislation introduced this week would require all new cars to be equipped with "advanced alcohol detection technology" that would be able to detect whether a driver is drunk.

[A Push to Have Cars Say 'No' to Drunk Drivers:](#)

As cars become smarter and safer, some members of Congress want to require them to be built to prevent drunk driving.

[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.

[Experts Study Consumers for Signs of Recession:](#)

This week, the International Monetary Fund downgraded its outlook for world growth in 2019 to 3%, the slowest pace since the global financial crisis more than a decade ago, reports the New York Times.

[Retail Worry: Will Wine, Cheese Tariffs Hurt Holiday Sales?](#)

The tariffs the Trump administration is about to impose on wine, liquor and cheese from Europe couldn't come at a worse time for small retailers. "It's kind of scary in the sense that we're getting to the holiday season," says Joseph Kakos, owner of Kakos Fine Wine & Spirits in Birmingham, Michigan.

[Minors Can Buy Booze Via Facebook, Other Sites, Officials Say. States Want It to Stop:](#)

Minors are buying alcohol online through Facebook, Craigslist and eBay, according to a group of attorneys general around the country.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB): [TTB Newsletter – Weekly News \(October 25\)](#)

Alcohol Law Review
[9th Circuit Vacates Arbitration Award Relating to Monster Termination of Washington State Beer Distributor](#)

Beer Business Daily: [Seltzer Has Seen Steady Week-Over-Week Share Declines Since September](#)

Law360: [7th Circ. Orders Injunction Redo Over Bud Corn Syrup Ads](#)

NACS: [Online Star Ratings Boost In-Store Conversions](#)

NACS: [Workers Would Trust Robot Manager Over a Human](#)

Wine & Spirits Daily: [Wineries are Placing their Bets on These Trends](#)

AFFILIATE NEWS:

Illinois Licensed Beverage Association
[Worn Out Rockford Fire Kitchens Getting Upgrade](#)

Rockford Fire Department personnel at four stations are getting a quality of life boost thanks to a \$195,000 state grant.

Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma
[Package Store Owners Still Not Happy with State's Liquor Law Changes a Year Later](#)

Oklahoma's one-year anniversary of its modern liquor laws brought mixed reactions from business owners. Liquor store owners still don't appreciate the changes, which allow grocery and convenience stores to sell high-point beer and wine.

CANNABIS NEWS:

[Marijuana Businesses Increasingly Plan to Sue If Regulators Fail to Award Them a Business License](#): Cannabis companies, particularly multistate operators (MSOs), are increasingly incorporating lawsuits into their licensing application strategy in a bid to secure a permit in a highly sought-after market.

[More and More Alcohol Consumers Also Consuming Cannabis](#): The main question surrounding cannabis has been: how is it going to affect beverage alcohol consumption? So far, data shows that legal cannabis is not having a significant impact on the bev alc market.

[Northeastern Governors Look to Coordinate Cannabis Policy](#): The governors of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts have agreed to a core set of principles on taxation, regulation, public health and enforcement, and vaping best practices as more states in the region look to legalize recreational cannabis sales.

[Cannabis and Workplace Impairment: One Year on from Legalization](#): The sale and use of edible cannabis is legal in Canada as of October 17, 2019, but in the year since cannabis legalization, the issue of workplace impairment remains unresolved.

'Game-Changer' Breathalyzer Test for Marijuana: New marijuana breathalyzer tests that are billion times more sensitive than one for testing alcohol levels have been dubbed a 'game-changer' by researchers.

Surgeon General Warns Senate About Perils Of Legalizing Pot: U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams alerted senators on Wednesday that the state-by-state legalization of marijuana has resulted in an "enormous and poorly informed national public health experiment," with young people and pregnant mothers put at particular risk by the growing acceptance of cannabis.

ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT:



The **Beer Institute** represents the \$328 billion beer industry – an industry that includes 7,000 brewers and more than 2.1 million American jobs. The Beer Institute is a national trade association for the American brewing industry, representing both large and small brewers, as well as importers and industry suppliers.

Our organization represents the beer industry before Congress, state legislatures and public forums across the country. We're committed to developing sound public policy, focusing on community involvement and personal responsibility.

STATE & LOCAL NEWS:

California: Fast-Moving Wildfire Ignites in Wine Country, Prompting Evacuations: A fast-moving wildfire aided by powerful winds in Northern California's wine country has prompted mandatory evacuation orders in Geyserville, an area of Sonoma County 75 miles north of San Francisco.

Delaware: Specialized DUI Court Needed in Sussex, DOJ Says: Felony DUI arrests statewide are headed towards a four-year high. That's motorists charged with at least their third drunken driving offense, perhaps more.

Illinois: Liquor Distributor to Pay \$950K to Settle EEOC Probe: An Illinois liquor distributor has agreed to pay nearly \$1 million to resolve a U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission investigation that found the company discriminated against sales employees based on race or national origin, the agency said Wednesday.

Maryland: Harford Liquor Board Proposes License Fee Increases, Eliminating Residency Requirement for Licensees: The Harford County Liquor Control Board is proposing again this year to increase the cost of liquor licenses.

New Jersey: State Seeks to Revoke Trump Golf Club's Liquor License: The state of New Jersey is seeking to revoke the liquor license for one of President Trump's golf clubs — a rare and potentially damaging punishment, triggered by a 2015 case in which state officials said the Trump club overserved alcohol to a man who then caused a fatal wreck.

New York: Wine Consultant Accused of Cheating Wall Streeters Hit by More Claims: Two high-end French wine estates are trying to claw back \$115,000 from a New York businessman who's been accused of running a "Ponzi-like" scheme that defrauded Wall Street bigwigs out of millions of dollars.

Maryland: Almost All of Montgomery County's Liquor Stores Are Losing Money:

Almost all of Montgomery County's liquor stores are losing money, according to a new analysis of financial data by county council staff.

Wyoming: More Training, Less Punishment for Liquor Servers:

The town's new liquor laws will drastically reduce penalties for selling alcohol to minors, but they'll also require all alcohol servers to take classes that will, hypothetically, prevent underage sales in the first place.

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE NEWS:

How Spirits Brands Are Trying to Help Protect Endangered Species:

Due to climate change, pollution and other human causes, many animal species across the world are on the brink of collapse. And while it's not uncommon for a liquor brand to sponsor an odd fundraiser, there are some brands that go above that to help in animal conservation.

Smithsonian Set to Showcase Brewing

History: The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will explore the history and industry of brewing in the United States in a new showcase located within the "FOOD: Transforming the American Table" exhibition beginning Oct. 25.

Mastercard Pushes Real-Time Payments:

Mastercard is expanding its real-time payments (RTP) and Bill Pay Exchange programs, Business Insider reports. Two years ago, the company acquired Vocalink, and this year it grabbed Transfast.

The Best Scotches for Less Than \$50:

You know who knows best which bottles to buy? The people who pour and sell drinks—that's who. We asked dozens of top bartending and spirits industry professionals to tell us which bottles they love and why.

Tequila in 60 Seconds: All about tequila—in under a minute: Do you know all of the rules for making tequila? What's the difference between blanco, reposado, añejo and extra añejo tequila?

Drinks Trends for Fall: Cognac and Tequila are on the rise, while rosé and sparkling wine keep seeing upticks in sales. This year has been full of sales surprises, as the wine and spirits sales market continues to evolve.