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|  | e - NEWS |
| April 2, 2004 | |

1. [Alcohol Issue Hits Home for Students](#first)

2. [Coalition Fights Alcohol Sales on Web](#second)

3. [Moonshine or Not, Bootlegging is a Crime, According to the Ames Police Department](#third)

4. [Union Reopens; License in Limbo](#fourth)

5. [Proposed Beer Excise Tax Could Raise Additional $13.8 Million in State Revenue](#fifth)

6. [Waterloo, Iowa, Bar Welcomes More Than Just the Camouflage-Clad](#sixth)

**1.** **Alcohol Issue Hits Home for Students**

# By Tim Johnson – *The Daily Nonpareil*

April 1, 2004

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA -- Student groups from Abraham Lincoln High School and Underwood High School are promoting the keg registration bill that has been introduced in the Iowa Legislature.



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The students will speak at the Alcohol Awareness Breakfast Friday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Lakeshore Country Club, 4500 Piute St. The dangers of underage drinking have hit too close to home, some Abraham Lincoln students said. "A couple kids recently have died from keg parties," said senior Chad Atherton.

"My cousin was a pretty big drinker, and he died in a crash," said senior Gary Hankins. "He had been drinking."

"A few years ago, my aunt was involved in an accident" that involved a drunk driver, said Megan Reimers. As a result, her aunt is now disabled.

The bill would require beer sellers to record information on any sale of a keg containing more than two gallons of beer, including the keg's ID number and the buyer's name, address and Social Security or driver's license number.

"A lot of students drink, and a lot drink and drive; so I think this might be a step towards a solution," said senior Stephanie Williams.

If effective, the law might also reduce peer pressure on students who do not want to drink, she said.

The Abraham Lincoln group started meeting Nov. 4 and has met nearly every week since.

It was formed after senior government teacher Rob Dittmer asked if anyone was interested. The students took their case to grocery stores, beer distributors and the Council Bluffs Police Department, Williams said.

They wrote letters to 15 state legislators, plus Rep. Doug Struyk, R-Council Bluffs; Rep. Paul Shomshor, D-Council Bluffs; and Sen. Mike Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs.

If keg registration were required, parents who rationalize providing beer when their teenagers have parties might reconsider, Hankins said.

"Some parents think if they supply the beer, that'll keep the kids at home; so at least they won't be out someplace doing stuff," he said. "Without the keg registration, parents, they can just go out and buy one without having to worry about having it on file and being able to be traced back to who bought it."

Many students don't see a need for the law, said junior Ryan Globe.

"I don't think teens really see it as a problem, either," he said. "When I talked to a few students about it, they got really mad. They said we had no right to do that, that we shouldn't get involved in it - and that just shows how much of a problem there is."

Teens shouldn't be judged as drinkers or party animals because of their looks, Globe said.

"We're all really unique, and we're different," he said.

The Abraham Lincoln and Underwood students will give a 20-minute presentation at the alcohol breakfast, Dittmer said.

"We're going to talk about what the keg registration bill is, why they got involved; and they'll tell about their experiences and what they learned from those experiences," he said.

The event is being sponsored by Alegent Health Mercy Hospital, the Loess Hills Area Education Agency, Children's Square U.S.A., the Council Bluffs Police Department, Family Service and Jennie Edmundson Hospital.

Tickets are $7 each. The public is invited.



**2.** **Coalition Fights Alcohol Sales on Web**

By Associated Press – *The Detroit Business News*

March, 26 2004

LANSING, MI -- A Michigan group on Wednesday launched a campaign against alcohol purchases by minors through the Internet and mail.



The Coalition for a Safe and Responsible Michigan includes groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association.

The coalition wants to prevent unregulated alcohol sales and underage drinking.

Jim Ballard of the principals association said he visited an Internet site to discover firsthand how alcohol could be ordered.

“I was distressed at how simple and quick it was to order a bottle of booze online,” Ballard said in a written statement. “Internet and mail sales of alcohol create a virtual bar for teens, but there is no bouncer at the door to check for I.D.”

Although the Internet sites ask buyers to certify that they’re legally old enough to drink, they have no way of knowing if the buyer is lying.

Earlier this month, attorneys asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider whether states can continue to ban direct shipments of alcohol from out-of-state vineyards to individual consumers.

The request came after a brief filed with the Supreme Court by 36 state attorneys general. The attorneys general want the court to overturn a 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that declared Michigan’s ban on direct shipments unconstitutional.



**3.** **Moonshine or Not, Bootlegging is a Crime, According to the Ames Police Department**

By Beth Anderson – *The Ames Tribune*

March 30, 2004

**And the Incidences of Bootlegging are on the Rise in the Community.**

Moonshine or not, bootlegging is a crime, according to the Ames Police Department. And the incidences of bootlegging are on the rise in the community.

Three Ames residents were arrested early Sunday morning in separate bootlegging incidences and more arrests are expected as the weather warms and Veishea nears, said police Lt. Rollie Link. But if the term "bootlegging" brings images of Al Capone and backyard stills, think again. Bootlegging is selling alcohol without a license, which is common practice in college towns.

"When you invite 200 of your best friends to a party and charge at the door to pay for the beer, that's bootlegging," Link said. "Some people think they can get around that by saying the beer is free and you're just paying for the cup. But that doesn't fool the judges at all."

Neither do "cover charges" or "entertainment fees," Link said.

Bootlegging is a serious misdemeanor which leads to handcuffs, mug shots, three sets of fingerprints, fines and an arrest record.  "It's not your run-of-the-mill college alcohol misdemeanor," Link said.

Many big parties also fall under the city's "nuisance party" ordinance, which would mean added fines. If residents of a home are charged with a nuisance party three times in one year, an additional fine goes to the property owner, Link said. Then there are the added charges of providing alcohol to minors.

"We can throw quite a few (charges) on," Link said. "And a lot of times they are standing in the police station before they realize what they've gotten into."

There have been five bootlegging arrests so far this spring, Link said.

Arrested on bootlegging charges last weekend were Benjamin Barrett, 21, 4912 Mortensen Road, No. 512; Wesley Krenz, 21, 2625 Hunt St.; and Chelsie Verry, 21, 509 N. Hyland Ave., No. 1.

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Veishea 2004 nears Iowa State University's Veishea 2004 celebration will be Friday, April 16, through Sunday, April 18.   
Law enforcement officials reported fewer than usual Veishea incidents last year.

The tally was two arrests on bootlegging charges, 10 arrests on drunken driving charges, 23 arrests on public intoxication charges, 47 underage-drinking citations, two open container charges, three charges of drug possession, one charge of possession of paraphernalia and one public urination charge.



**4.** **Union Reopens; License in Limbo**

By Deanna Truman-Cook – *Iowa City Press Citizen*

April 2, 2004

After nearly a week of being closed for code violations, the Union Bar re-opened its doors Thursday night.

The bar at 121 College St. was closed at 2:30 p.m. March 26 for failing to comply with Iowa City’s fire, electrical and building codes, said Ryan Olson, Iowa City building inspector.

On Thursday, city officials allowed owner George Barlas to re-open the first and second floors; the middle lounge remains closed because it was built without a permit, Olson said.

All fire codes involving the electrical system and exits have now been met.

However, The Union’s liquor license renewal is pending with the state. The popular downtown bar has had for complaints for underage drinking: April 20, May 19, and June 30, 2002, as well as May 31, 2003.

Barlas is confident the license will be renewed. If it is not, he would have to wait for up to two years to apply again.

Meantime, Barlas said he hopes to finish getting the middle lounge up to code soon. He has owned The Union for two years.

The code inspections were made after a woman filed a complaint in early March. She described The Union as having unsanitary and unsafe conditions, said Jann Ream, code enforcement assistant for Iowa City.

The city performed its first inspection of the building on March 11. The city performed two more inspections on March 26 before deciding to close the bar, causing some to wonder if it would be open for Jordan Knight’s concert.

Hundreds have purchased tickets to see the former New Kids on the Block star. The show will run at 8 p.m. Sunday as scheduled, promoter Adam Flagg said.



# **5.** **Proposed Beer Excise Tax Could Raise Additional $13.8 Million in State Revenue**

By Alyssa Jackson – *Iowa State Daily*

March 30, 2004

A proposal to increase the beer excise tax may not become law, even though the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition of Iowa believes it would help curb underage drinking.

A recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota for the Iowa Department of Health found about half of Iowans would be "willing" or "quite willing" to increase alcohol taxes if the money raised by the increase would be used to aid the prevention of underage drinking.

In Story County, 56 percent of citizens were willing to raise the excise tax in exchange for money being directed to prevention services, said Gerri Bugg, member of the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition of Iowa -- the organization that pushed for the bill.

According to the Legislature bills, Senate File 2050 and House File 2107, which are being held in committee in both houses, the excise tax on a 31-gallon barrel of beer would double from $5.89 to $11.78. This amounts to an increase of approximately two cents per 12-ounce glass of beer.

Bugg said the proposed bill would raise an additional $13.8 million, which could be used to combat underage drinking, a major concern of the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition of Iowa.

Healthy Lifestyles Coalition of Iowa is a group of organizations that have banded together to address not only underage drinking, but several other issues such as underage tobacco use.

George Belitsos, director of Ames Youth and Shelter Services said a study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research found a 10-cent increase in the price of alcohol would cause minors to start drinking a year later.

"It would have a positive impact," Belitsos said. "The cheaper beer is, the more people drink."

Belitsos said the beer excise tax has not increased since 1968.

Bugg said the increased tax would be effective on teens.

"For the person who goes out and buys a beer or buys a six-pack, it's not going to matter, but for a young teenager with not a lot of money, that's the target audience we're looking at," she said.

Bugg said Iowa currently ranks 25th in the nation for the amount of its beer excise tax. She said beer taxes range from $.02 per gallon in Wyoming to $1.07 per gallon in Alaska.

Mike Adams, manager of Welch Avenue Station, 207 Welch Ave., said he was not in favor of the bill. If the object of the bill is to raise money, the state should find an alternate way to increase revenue, because raising the tax on beer might not offset the resulting decrease in consumption, as Bugg and Belitsos suggest, he said.

"The more and more states increase sin taxes, the less of those products are consumed," he said, which also results in less revenue for the state as less people are spending money on beer.

He said the price he pays to stock Welch Avenue Station with beer goes up each year even without a tax increase, and he anticipated the excise tax increase would be absorbed within that. He said, though, it would cause the bar to raise their prices.

"I don't think it would be different than the increase every year," he said.

Sen. Herman Quirmbach, D-Ames, said he did not anticipate the bill would pass, because the Republican majority in the Legislature has pledged not to raise taxes.

"I personally would be very surprised to see it come out of subcommittee," he said.

Bugg said she also does not think the bill will pass, but she said she hopes a similar bill will pass next year.



**6.** **Waterloo, Iowa, Bar Welcomes More Than Just the Camouflage-Clad**

By Charles Emerick – *Waterloo Courier*

March 31, 2004

WATERLOO, IA -**-** The inside of Buck's Broken Antler resembles that of a wildlife enthusiast's house.

Antlers, wildlife prints and mounted deer heads and fish hang on the walls. Six sets of rustic wooden tables and chairs gathered around a fireplace give the feel of a cabin. Even different types of wild game will be offered on the menu.

The northwoods-theme bar and restaurant, which opened at 6 a.m. today at 910 W. Fifth St., in Eveland-Jordan Plaza, was designed specifically with the outdoorsman in mind.

"It's a place for hunters and fishermen and camping enthusiasts," said owner Buck Clark, a Waterloo City Council member and retired police officer. "But I certainly don't want to discourage ladies from coming in, because this is very much a ladies' bar, too. It's not just a place for guys wearing a bunch of camouflage."

Clark acquired the building shortly after its former occupant, Johnny Poppers, closed due to bankruptcy. In one month he was able to transform it into Buck's Broken Antler. The lounge and restaurant is not Clark's first experience in the bar scene. He owned The Cellar in downtown Waterloo for two years. It now operates under new management.

Buck's, a nonsmoking establishment, features a full-service bar and restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. For lunch and dinner, the basics such as hamburgers, BLTs, pizzas, meatloaf, soups and sandwiches are served. But the dinner menu also features top sirloin, New York strip and rib-eye steaks.

Clark plans to add wild game to the menu on Friday and Saturday evenings. The variety of wild game can range from deer or moose to alligator or duck. A large selection of drinks are available as well. Twenty-four varieties of beer are on tap, and the bar also carries selections of wines, martinis and mixed drinks.

Buck's also features contests for ourdoorsmen.

"If there is a somebody who wants a sponsorship for a bass tournament, I will have, during the hunting seasons, things such as a big buck contest or a longest turkey beard contest," Clark said.

And as Clark opens Buck's Broken Antler, he also is preparing for the opening of another bar in downtown Cedar Falls. The Stuffed Olive, also a nonsmoking establishment, will open by June 1 in the lobby of the Black Hawk Hotel on the Parkade.

"It will be a martini bar," Clark said. "There will be no food there. It will be a little upscale, kind of a classy joint. It will definitely cater to business people and professional people. It's for an older crowd."

