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| *www.IowaABD.com* | *Lynn M. Walding, Administrator* |

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| *July 6, 2007* |

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**[I. NATIONAL NEWS.](#I)**

**1. Delaware ABC Commissioner Named President of National Group**

*Daily Times*
July 4, 2007

John H. Cordrey, commissioner of Delaware's Alcoholic Beverage Control board, was named president of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators Association and will serve in that position for one year.

Cordrey was elected president during the national conference held recently in Seattle.

He said he is excited to hold this position that's been held by just two other Delaware commissioners -- Edgar S. Slayer in 1949 and James C. Harkin in 1974 -- since its inception in 1934.

The group was organized following the repeal of prohibition.

Cordrey said members of the association share their experiences enforcing alcohol laws and programs.

At this year's conference, Cordrey said there was one class -- Booze, Blue hairs and Bingo -- that was very helpful. He said the program addressed the problems faced from aging Baby Boomers who have a slight case of dementia. He said they go to an event have one drink then forget they had one and have another.

"The next thing you know, they are toasted," he said.

Cordrey said preventing young people from drinking is somewhat academic. But Boomers with health issues and prescription medications is a whole new set of problems for him and other commissioners.

"It was just a very interesting and timely topic," Cordrey said. "It helps us to talk about problems and share solutions other jurisdictions find helpful and enables us to communicate with them and learn how they've addressed problems without having to reinvent the wheel."

In addition to sharing problems and solutions, Cordrey said he also plans to become a mentor, helping new Alcoholic Beverage Control commissioners from around the nation learn the laws.

"Alcohol regulations -- it's not like regulating bread. It's really difficult to understand," he said. "It's important to know what the laws were designed to do."

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner said Cordrey does an outstanding job working with law enforcement and the alcohol industry.

"His leadership has helped Delaware become a national model for how we administer our enforcement policies and work cooperatively with the private sector to keep Delaware safe," Minner said in a press release. "Jack is a great representative for Delaware, and I look forward to hearing about his future success as president of NCSLA."

Cordrey was appointed by Minner and confirmed by the Delaware State Senate in 2001. Prior to becoming commissioner of the Alcoholic Beverage Control, he was a Georgetown attorney who served as attorney to the Delaware Senate and chair of the Delaware Tax Appeal Board.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity and it's great for Delaware," Cordrey said. "I'm looking forward to working with this national group."

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070704/DW01/707040317/-1/DW>



**2. Drinks Industry Attacked for lack of Responsible Ads**

*Just-Drinks.com*
June 27, 2007

The alcohol industry has come under fire from a pressure group for its alleged failure to invest enough in responsible drinking advertising in the US.

In a report released today (27 June), the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) concluded that 'responsibility' adverts accounted for less than 3% of the 1.5m alcohol industry adverts aired from 2001 to 2005.

The report also claimed that, of the US$4.9bn spent on TV advertising by the industry in the four-year period, 2% - US$104m - was spent to air 41,333 'responsibility' ads.

Of the eight companies that ran responsibility ads, Diageo invested the most over the period, both in terms of dollars spent - nearly $66m - and percentage of advertising dollars - 18% over the five-year period. Over the same period, Anheuser-Busch spent the second largest dollar amount - almost $20m - on responsibility ads. This constituted about 1% of A-B's television advertising budget for the period, the group said.

"The primary messages kids get about alcohol on television are from alcohol product ads that not surprisingly promote their use and enjoyment," said David Jernigan, CAMY executive director. "To look just to the industry for messages on responsibility is clearly not smart public policy."

"Our findings clearly show that the alcohol industry's efforts to fight underage drinking through television advertising are never going to match its product advertising," said Jernigan. "We need a substantial national commitment if we expect our children to get a balanced message from television."

Based at Georgetown University, the CAMY "monitors the marketing practices of the alcohol industry to focus attention and action on industry practices that jeopardise the health and safety of America's youth". The body is supported by grants from The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

No-one was immediately available for comment at the US' Distilled Spirits Council when contacted by just-drinks today.

<http://www.just-drinks.com/article.aspx?ID=90718&lk=dm>

**3. Beer Prices Barrel Higher**

Barbara Hagenbaugh
*USA Today*
July 2, 2007

Americans hosting Fourth of July barbecues will pay more cold cash for the cold ones this year as beer joins the list of foods and beverages whose prices are jumping, in part because of the

booming ethanol market.

Retail prices for beer at supermarkets and other stores were up 3% in May from a year earlier, the biggest increase in 2½ years, according to the latest data from the Labor Department. That's higher than the inflation rate for the overall economy, and a bigger gain than in prices of liquor and wine bought to be consumed at home.

Those going out will also pay more for beer. Prices for beer poured away from home were up 3.8% in May from a year earlier.

The gains are in part a result of rising costs for malting barley, one of the main ingredients in beer. But a variety of other costs are increasing for brewers, including for other grains, glass, cardboard, energy, transportation, insurance and labor.

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| http://i.usatoday.net/money/_photos/2007/07/03/beerx-large.jpg |
| Beer sold at supermarkets and other stores in May was 3% more expensive than a year earlier. |

 "Across the board, we're facing significant price increases," says Martin Kelly, president and CEO of Magic Hat, a brewery in South Burlington, Vt., that produces beer sold in 17 states and Washington, D.C. Even the cost of the six-pack containers that hold the bottles have increased in price, he says.

 Kelly says a major price increase has come from malt made from barley. Malt costs have risen 9% in the past year, he says.

Nationwide, average barley prices have risen 17% since the beginning of the year to the highest in 11 years. The increase is partly because farmers are devoting less acreage to the grain in favor of more lucrative crops, especially corn.

 Prices for corn have jumped in response to strong demand for the grain to produce ethanol, a fuel alternative blended with gasoline.

For about 15 years, Louis Arnold, 71, planted 600 acres of barley on his farm in Esmond, N.D. But for the past two years, he has planted only 300 acres of the grain, devoting more land to corn and soybeans on his 3,500-acre farm. Not only are potential profits higher for corn and soybeans, but he has been plagued by a variety of barley diseases.

"Barley is fifth fiddle right now," says Arnold, who is chairman of the North Dakota Barley Council.

Farmers planted the third-smallest barley crop this year even though they increased acreage from 2006. Corn plantings, meanwhile, are up 19% this year to the highest since 1944, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Friday.

**Grain prices rising**

Barley has also become more expensive because now that more corn is being sold to make ethanol, there is less corn available to be fed to animals. That is leading to greater demand for other feed grains, including barley, for livestock.

Barley "prices are going up right along with corn and wheat," says Tom Jackson, agricultural economist at consulting firm Global Insight. Brewers use a variety of grains in beer production, including rice, wheat and corn. Prices for all those grains have risen.

Relief is unlikely to come soon as grain prices are anticipated to continue to rise in response to strong demand for corn to produce ethanol. "It's on an upward trend," Wells Fargo agricultural economist Michael Swanson says.

There also have been "dramatic increases in virtually every commodity and other (production costs) related to making beer in the past few years," Coors Brewing (TAP) spokeswoman Aimee Valdez says.

Coors contracts with farmers who grow a proprietary barley developed by the brewer, so it does not see as much swing in barley costs, Valdez says. But other costs, such as for aluminum, energy, paper, freight and labor, have all risen. Coors has raised prices less than 2% in 2006 and again in 2007.

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| Head brewer Matt Cohen unloads malted barley used to make beer at Magic Hat Brewing in South Burlington, Vt. |
| Head brewer Matt Cohen unloads malted barley used to make beer at Magic Hat Brewing in South Burlington, Vt. |

 Jean-François van Boxmeer, CEO of Amsterdam-based Heineken, told analysts in February that his company expects costs for inputs such as raw materials, energy, transportation and packaging to rise 7% to 8% in 2007.

The higher costs are coming as brewers are better able to raise prices to at least partially offset the increases. Heineken, for example, raised prices 2.5% on average in the USA in February after years "of a rather difficult pricing environment," van Boxmeer said.

**Fierce competition worldwide**

 For companies, the greater pricing power is a welcome relief after beer prices declined in the 1990s, JPMorgan beverage analyst John Faucher notes. Since then, there has been an increase in the population of eligible drinkers, and consumers have shown a growing appetite for microbrews and imports.

"You have had a massive shift up in what consumers are willing to pay for beer," Faucher says.

 But many companies, such as Coors, say higher prices aren't fully covering their increased costs. The competition is just too fierce to raise prices too much.

Magic Hat has raised prices on average less than 2% in the first five months of 2007 compared with the same period in 2006, helping to offset some of the higher costs. Higher sales have also helped to maintain profits - the brewer has seen sales rise 30% on average in the past three years, and sales are on track to see similar gains this year.

"For ourselves, and I would suspect for some of the other craft breweries, the biggest benefit we have is that sales are pretty good right now," Kelly says.

U.S. adults age 21 and older on average drank more than 30 gallons of beer in all of 2006, up slightly from 2005. Americans drink more beer on the Fourth of July than on any other day during the year, according to the Beer Institute.

American beer drinkers have plenty of company as beer prices are rising worldwide.

Organizers of Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, for example, warn that a liter, which is equivalent to nearly three 12-ounce cans of beer, will cost as much as $10.90 this year, up from $9.47 to $10.22.

"The whole industry has pressure," Heineken's van Boxmeer said.

<http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-07-02-beer-prices_N.htm>

**4. Brewers In Round Vs. Thieves As Kegs Are Stolen For Scrap**

*Dow Jones Newswires*July 2, 2007

Tap it, don't scrap it.

With metal prices rising, beer makers say they expect to lose hundreds of thousands of kegs and millions of dollars this year as those stainless steel holders of brew are stolen and sold for scrap.

The beer industry is joining with the scrap metal recycling industry to let metal buyers know they can't accept kegs unless they are sold by the breweries that own them. The industries are also pushing for legislation that would require scrap metal recyclers to ask for identification and proof of ownership from would-be sellers.

The beer industry's main trade group, the Beer Institute, noticed the problem in the past few years as it saw more brewers reporting missing kegs, resulting in an industrywide loss of up to $50 million a year, said Jeff Becker, president of the Beer Institute.

"It really got people's attention because that's a significant flow of our kegs that we'll never see again," Becker said. "We know some of it's very innocent but some of it's not."

The theft problem is twofold, he said. Some average keg-buying customers opt to forgo their deposits, which can sometimes range from $10 to $30, because they can cover that expense, and then some, if they sell to scrap dealers.

He could not say how much kegs go for, because prices change locally. But given prices metal trading prices in the past year, a keg could fetch from $15 to $55 or more at scrap yards.

But he said thieves know metal prices are on the rise and are on the prowl for kegs. They often find empty kegs unsecured - in alleys and anywhere else restaurants, bars or distributors might store them - and sell them at scrap yards.

While only about 12% of the nation's beer is sold in kegs each year, it costs brewers as much as $150 to replace each keg, so the thefts have a big impact. In the past few years, breweries have collectively lost about 300,000 kegs a year, Becker said, out of an estimated 10.7 million in circulation.

The Fourth of July, when many Americans rent kegs for their parties, is the nation's biggest beer-drinking holiday, ahead of Memorial Day, Labor Day and Super Bowl Sunday, the Beer Institute reports.

Craft brewers are anxious to solve the theft problem because as much as 40% of their business is tied up in keg sales, triple the industry average, said Ken Grossman, founder and owner of Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

His company, based in Chico, Calif., expects to lose at least 3% of its kegs each year and often must wait months for replacements because it orders in smaller batches.

The thefts couldn't come at a worse time because the craft beer segment has outpaced growth in the domestic market, he said.

"If you can't meet the need, you're not going to grow much anymore," Grossman said.

Milwaukee-based Miller Brewing Co. said it has millions invested in kegs, which typically last 20 years. Wholesalers and distributors are being encouraged to let their customers know to keep their kegs in more secure areas, said spokesman Julian Green.

"We've heard there are people out there that will drive around just to look for kegs," he said.

Molson Coors Brewing Co. (TAP) is studying its thefts and working with distributors to keep better track of kegs, said Al Timothy, vice president for government affairs. The Denver-based brewer saw its keg losses double from 2005 to last year. The company has about 800,000 kegs in circulation at any time and did not want to say how many kegs it expects to lose this year.

"The bottom line is it's a big problem," Timothy said.

Metal prices are high across the world now, partially because of increased demand caused by a spike in construction in growing economies, said Chuck Carr, spokesman for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., a trade group whose members run about 3,000 facilities in the U.S.

The price scrap yards pay for stainless steel has steadily grown for a year, peaking at about $1.50 to $1.70 a pound last month, said Marty Forman, president of Forman Metal Co. in Milwaukee. But that has dropped to about 50 to 70 cents a pound recently, which could provide some relief to frustrated brewers, he said.

Most empty barrels weigh about 30 pounds.

Still, Forman has heard from upset brewers like Lakefront Brewing Co., asking what can be done to prevent disappearing kegs.

Russ Klisch, president of the Milwaukee-based craft brewer, said it sometimes takes years before brewers know that a keg has been lost.

"You never really know who has them or where they're going," he said. "But I heard a lot of them were ending up at different scrap yards."

The scrap industry's Carr said they're in the process of reminding dealers not to accept stolen goods, including kegs. Dealers have an easier time figuring out who owns kegs, he said, because brewers' named are stamped right on them. Buyers, he said, should know if something doesn't add up.

The Beer Institute supports legislation in states that require, for example, scrap metal buyers to ask for identification from would-be sellers of kegs, among other items. Ten states so far this year have passed such laws, including Colorado, Indiana, Kansas and Virginia.

Another option is to raise keg deposits, which are set by either states, brewers, or distributors and wholesalers. Brewers charge their own deposits when they sell kegs to distributors and wholesalers, sometimes as small as $10. Then customers pay their own deposit for kegs. Michigan recently tripled its keg deposit to $30 for the average keg-buyer after getting pressure from brewers upset by the thefts.

But Becker said raising deposits is a last resort, because it could deter drinkers. They hope to curb thefts through awareness.

"We don't want to point fingers. We want to make it reasonable for people but at the same time, we want it stop," he said.

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200707021613DOWJONESDJONLINE000506_FORTUNE5.htm>

**5. Underage Readers Miss Alcohol Warning Ads
A new eye-tracking study showed that, to most adolescents, alcohol advertisers' "responsible drinking" messages might as well be written in invisible ink. Youth spent only a fraction of a second looking at such messages in each magazine alcohol ad reviewed, and immediately afterward fewer than 20 percent recalled the general concept.**

*Newswise / BYU*July 2, 2007

A new Brigham Young University study using sophisticated eye-tracking technology showed that, to most adolescents, alcohol advertisers' "responsible drinking" messages might as well be written in invisible ink.

Researchers allowed adolescents to look at magazine alcohol ads for as long as they liked, which turned out to be about seven seconds each. But the young people spent only .35 seconds of that time looking at responsibility messages. Immediately after viewing the ads in the study, four out of five teens could not recall the general concept of these messages, such as "Stay on your game - drink responsibly" and "So, if you're underage, just don't drink" - even for ads where they were the primary themes.

"Alcohol advertisers are including these messages voluntarily, but they are not trying as hard as they should to make them visible enough to be seen by readers, especially underage readers," said Steven Thomsen, professor of communications and lead author on the study published in the July issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health. "It's almost as if they are playing a game of hide and seek with these warnings."

His proposed solution? "If these companies are really serious about these responsibility messages, they need to make some modifications to them to make them more prominent."

Thomsen and study coauthor Kristi Fulton, a BYU graduate student, showed magazine ads to 63 middle school students. The participants wore a headpiece with an eye-tracker that allowed a computer to map where they looked and measure how long they fixated on various points of interest in each ad (see a video of where one participant looked by following the link at the end). The youth saw ads for a variety of products and didn't know of the study's focus on alcohol.

"This technology allows us to scientifically show what we may have assumed based on previous studies," Thomsen said. "You can ask someone what they see in an ad, but this is more accurate because it's very difficult to deceive the eye tracker."

Computer analysis of the results showed that the young people spent most of their time looking at bottles, product names, models and headlines. In two of the ads, only 12 percent noticed the responsibility message at all.

"Across our study, 93 percent of their mental effort is spent outside the responsibility message," Thomsen said. "They are more likely to look at an open container, a face - they were looking all over the ad, but certainly not at the responsibility message."

Immediately after the computer-aided portion of the evaluation was complete, the adolescents were shown the ads again, this time with the responsibility messages blacked out. When asked to identify the general concept or exact wording of the missing sections, as many as 94 percent of the subjects could not do so.

"We wanted to see if perhaps they picked it up peripherally from the very short exposure to the responsibility message for those who did look at it, however briefly," Thomsen said. "They didn't. One ad showed a designated driver holding up bottled water at a bar. When we showed the young people the ad with the bottle blacked out, most remembered it as alcohol."

Thomsen acknowledges that these ads are not aimed at youth, but points out that young people see them regardless. He cites a study by Georgetown University's Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth that showed youth ages 12-20 in 2004 saw nearly 50 percent more beer advertisements and 32 percent more liquor ads per person than members of their parents' age group.

"Youth are exposed more than their parents might be, because some of these companies spend disproportionate amounts of money in publications that consistently have large underage audiences," Thomsen said.

The responsibility messages are also voluntary, but Thomsen believes the advertisers include them to hold at bay efforts to restrict alcohol advertising. To actually earn the goodwill they are seeking, the advertisers are obliged to effectively communicate these points, he said.

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/531153/>



**6. US Justice Department Links Alcohol and Violence**

Jim Kouri
*Conservative Voice*July 2, 2007

Although alcohol consumption and alcohol-related deaths are in decline, alcohol abuse is still linked to a large percentage of criminal offenses, according to the Justice Department&apos;s Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Almost four in 10 violent crimes involve alcohol, according to the crime victims, as do four in 10 fatal motor vehicle accidents. And about four in 10 criminal offenders report that they were using alcohol at the time of their offense.

About one in five victims of alcohol-related violence (about 500,000 victims annually) report financial losses totaling more than $400 million. When injured in alcohol-related violence, the average victim experienced a $1,500 out-of-pocket medical expense.

The rate of all alcohol-induced deaths fell 19 percent, noted the report on alcohol and crime, citing National Center for Health Statistics data. "We also have seen recent declines in violence between current and former spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends," commented BJS Director Jan M. Chaiken.

"This is the kind of violence most likely to involve alcohol abuse."

Two-thirds of the violent crime victims who were attacked by an intimate -- a current or former spouse or a boyfriend or girl friend--report that alcohol had been a factor.

Among spouse violence victims, three out of four incidents were reported to have involved alcohol use by the offender.

The arrest rate for driving under the influence of alcohol has fallen by 24 percent since 1990, and during the last decade the number of highway fatalities blamed

on alcohol has dropped by about 7,000 a year--from 24,000 such deaths in 1986 to 17,126 fatalities in 1996--a 29 percent decrease.

Local law enforcement agencies made an estimated 1,467,300 arrests nationwide for driving under the influence of alcohol, compared to 1.9 million such arrests during the peak year 1983, when 33 states had a minimum age for alcohol consumption less than 21 years old. Subsequently, all states changed the minimum legal drinking age to 21 years old, pursuant to federal highway funding legislation.

In 1980 men and women younger than 21 accounted for 10 percent of all licensed drivers, but 15 percent of those arrested for driving under the influence. In 1996 people younger than 21 accounted for 7 percent of the licensed drivers and 8 percent of those arrested for driving under the influence.

An estimated 80 percent of US residents 12 years old and older have used alcohol at least once, and 50 percent describe themselves as current drinkers.

National estimates of the annual per capita consumption of alcohol have declined 10 percent since 1990--from 40 gallons per person to 36 gallons.

The most commonly used definition of intoxication is 0.10 grams of alcohol per deciliter of blood, known as the blood alcohol concentration or BAC. Among state prisoners who reported drinking at the time of the offense for which they were incarcerated, the BAC was estimated to be 0.28 for inmates convicted of violent crime, 0.30 for those convicted of property crimes, 0.23 for those convicted of public order offenses and 0.19 for those convicted of drug offenses.

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/26380.html>

**7.** **Carlsberg says eyeing parts of Vin & Sprit**

*Reuters*
July 5, 2007

Danish brewer Carlsberg (CARLb.CO: Quote, Profile, Research) is interested in buying parts of state-owned spirits group Vin & Sprit which the Swedish government plans to sell as part of the country's biggest ever privatisation, a newspaper reported on Thursday.

A senior executive at the world's fifth-largest brewer -- maker of Carlsberg, Tuborg, Holsten and Baltika beers -- was quoted as saying the firm was eyeing a purchase of two of Vin & Sprit's three divisions, though not the flagship manufacturing of Absolut Vodka.

"We have talked to the (Swedish government) ministry about us being interested. This would be an exciting cooperation for Carlsberg," Paul Bergqvist, chairman for Carlsberg's Swedish operations, was quoted as saying by daily Dagens Industri.

"We already have cooperation with Vin & Sprit which we could develop much more. That would be positive for the competitive power of both (firms)."

Carlsberg was eyeing Vin & Sprit's Wine and Distillers units, Bergqvist told the newspaper.

"Absolut does not fit our portfolio. We think Absolut can be developed even better by those who are specialists at spirits."

The Wine division, which distributes wine in Northern Europe, posted operating earnings of 112 million Swedish crowns ($16.7 million) on sales of 2.16 billion last year while Distillers, which makes and markets a range of local spirits brands, had profits of 284 million and sales of 1.95 billion.

The two units are eclipsed in size by Absolut Spirits with reported earnings of 1.91 billion and sales of 5.88 billion.

"It is sensible to split up Vin & Sprit in two parts. We want to acquire and develop the company in the Nordics," Bergqvist was quoted as saying.

"For one, you can get a better price while Wine and Distillers get a more natural home than when they are joined with Vodka (Absolut Spirits)."

A number of the world's top spirits makers, including Pernod Ricard (PERP.PA: Quote, Profile, Research) and Fortune Brands (FO.N: Quote, Profile, Research), have already voiced interest in buying Vin & Sprit which the Swedish centre-right government plans to sell alongside stakes in firms such as telecom operator TeliaSonera (TLSN.ST: Quote, Profile, Research) and bank Nordea (NDA.ST: Quote, Profile, Research).

Bergqvist declined to discuss a possible price for the two units eyed by Carlsberg, but added, "We understand that this costs a few billion (crowns)," the newspaper reported.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSL0532802120070705>

**8.** **Champps to be Acquired by Fox & Hounds' Parent**

*NRN*July 5, 2007

Champps Entertainment Inc., parent of the 61-restaurant casual-dining chain, has agreed to be acquired for $74.8 million by the private-equity consortium that bought 87-unit Fox & Hound Restaurant Group last year for about $150 million.

The buyout, for $5.60 per share, would expand the holdings of F&H Acquisition Corp. to three restaurant concepts that collectively operate 136 pubs or sports-themed outlets and franchise 12 more. Fox & Hounds operates its restaurants in 25 states under that and the Bailey's Pub & Grille names. Champps' restaurants are located in 21 states.

Dallas-based F&H is owned by management and the private-equity firms Newcastle Partners L.P. and Steel Partners II L.P. F&H had made an unsolicited bid for Champps, based here, on May 31, a couple of weeks after a previous management-led attempt to buy the company for $75 million fell through. The buyers had included Champps chairman and chief executive Michael O'Donnell, chief financial officer David Womack and a New York-based private-equity firm Kinderhook Industries LLC.

The sale is expected to close by the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2007. Champps' board of directors unanimously approved the merger and is recommending that shareholders vote in favor of the acquisition.

**II.** **INTERNATIONAL NEWS.**

**9. India cuts duty on Imported wines, Spirits (India)**

*Reuters*
July 3, 2007

India withdrew the additional customs duty on imported wines and spirits on Tuesday in an effort to resolve a dispute with the European Union and other leading trading partners over high duties on these items.

The EU and the United States had been pressing for a cut to wines and spirits duties which the European bloc said were as high as 550 percent on imported spirits and 264 percent on wines.

India's base import duties on wine and spirits are 100 percent and 150 percent, which are within WTO rules, but some federal and state-level taxes push the tariffs over 500 percent.

A finance ministry statement said the government had decided to withdraw the additional customs duty on imported wines, spirits and liquor after discussing the issue with state governments.

But the government raised the basic customs duty on wines from 100 percent to 150 percent, as permitted by the World Trade Organisation, a rate which will continue to apply to spirits and liquors.

A European Union Commission report issued last year found "clear violations of WTO provisions". Scotch whisky makers had asked the Commission to escalate the dispute after India left wine and spirit duties untouched in its annual budget in February, despite lowering duties on other imports.

EU spirits exports to India in 2005 amounted to 43 million euros ($56.4 million), while wine exports stood at just 7 million euros, according to a study by the Centre for European Policy Studies.

Demand for imported wines and spirits is rising in India as a fast-growing economy and higher wages boost the spending power of an expanding middle class.

<http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=comktNews&rpc=33&storyid=2007-07-03T173206Z_01_B835204_RTRIDST_0_INDIA-WINES.XML>

**10. Tax Authorities get Tough on Online Sales (Sweden)**

Gerard O'Dwyer
*Just-Drinks.com*
July 3, 2007

Skatteverket, Sweden's National Taxation Office, has signalled that it may ask the Government to provide it with new legal powers to force online alcohol sales companies to disclose the names of their Sweden-based customers.

Skatteverket claims that customers of online alcohol sales companies are engaged in "tax avoidance practices", and that it plans to close the loophole.

"The sale of alcohol products is subject to tax in Sweden, and we are prepared to seek new powers to ensure that such taxes are paid," said Skatteverket director Niclas Rönnberg. "It is important that online sales companies cooperate in providing details about the names and transaction of their clients. We are receiving a good deal of cooperation from authorities in Germany and Spain where these products originate."

However, online drinks firms say they will join forces to contest any attempt by Skatteverket to force companies to disclose the details of transactions or identity of their online customers.

"We will not freely disclose information pertaining to our customers to Skatteverket, and our legal position is that Skatteverket can not force us to do so. We will take this to court if we must," said Kari Sjöblom, the CEO of online company Vinboden.

<http://www.just-drinks.com/article.aspx?ID=90774&lk=fs>

[**III. IOWA NEWS.**](#II)

**11. Booze and Boating equals Danger**
**Despite bid for stricter blood-alcohol limit, Iowa's .10 is still more lax than most states'.
Drunken boating arrests have doubled, but Iowa ranks safest in 22-state region.**

Juli Probasco-Sowers
*Des Moines Register*July 1, 2007

Justin Nearman talks quietly, hands clasped, about the warm August night on West Okoboji Lake in 2005 when the boat he piloted under the influence of alcohol crashed into and vaulted over another vessel.

He recounts the moment when so many things changed, as Perry dentist Michael Brosnahan lost his life - and Nearman began a journey toward a prison sentence.

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| http://cmsimg.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D2&Date=20070701&Category=NEWS&ArtNo=707010335&Ref=AR&maxw=264 |
| Adam Arnold, an Iowa water patrol officer, performs a safety check of a boat he pulled over on West Okoboji Lake last month. |

Nearman, a 31-year-old husband and father of four from Sioux Falls, S.D., said he constantly thinks about the lives shattered because of one night on Iowa's waterways.

"Until something like this happens to you, you just don't know what it's like. I think about it every day, and I will think about it every day," Nearman said during an interview at the Iowa prison in Fort Dodge. "The laws are tough enough - they just need to decide to enforce them."

Iowa's boating laws and enforcement were on the agendas of lawmakers earlier this year and will be on the minds of revelers approaching the Fourth of July holiday and the peak of the boating season.

A Des Moines Register analysis of state records reveals Iowa has a mixed record on boating safety:

- There were nine fatal boating accidents involving alcohol from 2004 to 2006, although alcohol was not determined to be the direct cause of each incident.

- Drunken boating arrests have nearly doubled during that period.

- There were 179 boating accidents in Iowa from 2004 through 2006, with 37 - or 21 percent - involving alcohol.

- Iowa has one of the most lax blood-alcohol limits in the nation, at .10. The state is one of fewer than 10 with a limit higher than .08.

- The number of boats registered in the state has risen nearly 11 percent in 10 years - and Iowa remains the safest state for boating in a 22-state region.

"The question is not if another accident will happen again, it is a matter of when," said Jill Brosnahan, Michael Brosnahan's wife. "The potential is still out there. I think law enforcement people are doing the best they can to deal with what is going on in the summer.

"What people are doing on the lake scares me, and I see it more and more."

'Now, at least people are held accountable'

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| Gary Owen, an Iowa Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, patrols West Okoboji Lake. “We are a lot more visible on the lake this year,” he says. |

Iowa instituted a law on boating while intoxicated because of pressure put on the Legislature after a boating accident on Saylorville Lake in Polk County in 1999 that killed Donna Sanders. Her husband, Bill Sanders of Des Moines, advocated the law that went into effect in 2000.

"The law isn't about punishing people, it's about responsibility," Bill Sanders said. "Now, at least people are held accountable."

The Legislature last session considered changing the blood-alcohol limit for boating to .08. That would have put boating rules in line with the limit for operating a motor vehicle.

The bill passed the Senate on a unanimous vote, but it failed to move past the House.

Rod Slings, recreation safety supervisor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said that having inconsistent limits for driving boats and driving motor vehicles causes enforcement problems.

"If an officer stops a boater and the guy is at .09 and we kick him lose," he said, "who's to say he won't take his boat out of the water and drive away? And then he's illegal."

But the opinions of two state lawmakers show why the tougher limit wasn't approved.

"There's a day-and-night difference between driving on the road and on the water," House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, D-Des Moines, said during the legislative session. "Accidents rarely, rarely, if ever, happen on the water due to alcohol consumption."

Rep. Rick Olson, D-Des Moines, said he is not against lowering the alcohol limit, with some protection for anglers operating a small boat and motor.

"I don't think everyone who drinks to the point of being under the influence is a criminal," Olson said. "We need to approach laws in a real-life fashion. I think fishing and alcohol go well together.

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| Iowa laws about alcohol and boating |
| - It is not illegal to consume alcohol on a boat, or while driving a boat, or to have open containers on the boat.- First offense for operating a boat with a blood-alcohol level of .10 or greater is a serious misdemeanor that requires no less than 48 hours in jail, a fine of $1,000, prohibition of motorboat or sailboat privileges for one year, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, and enrollment in a course for drunken drivers.- Second offense is an aggravated misdemeanor that requires no less than seven days in jail, a fine of no less than $1,500, suspension of boat operating privileges for two years, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, and a drunken driving course.- Third and each subsequent offense is a class D felony with a sentence of no less than 30 days but not more than a year in jail, a fine of no less than $2,500, suspension of boat operating privileges for six years, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, and a drunken driving course.- The fines and jail time are stiffer for boating while intoxicated and causing injury or death.- In Iowa, a conviction for boating while intoxicated does not affect the person's motor vehicle driver's license. There are some states, such as Minnesota and Indiana, where it is tied to that license.Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources |

"It seems that the litmus test for so many things is the tragic event," Olson said. "Would the (Brosnahan) tragedy been avoided with .08? I doubt it."

 Gary Owen, an Iowa Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, patrols the Iowa Great Lakes and oversees water patrol officers in the area. He believes one reason the bill died was an amendment that would have required a boat's front end to rise partly out of the water while in motion and gaining speed - or plane - for just cause to investigate.

Owen cited an example of a driver passed out in his boat in front of a West Okoboji lakeshore establishment on Memorial Day weekend. The boat was going around in circles, but was not planing.

"If the law was in effect with that amendment, technically we could not have arrested that man for boating while under the influence," Owen said.

**Booze, boating mix on Iowa's lakes**

Two of the state's most popular boating destinations are the Iowa Great Lakes, which includes East and West Okoboji lakes, and Saylorville Lake.

A warm weekend afternoon can draw hundreds of people via boat to waterfront bars and restaurants on East Okoboji and West Okoboji lakes. Finding a spot to park a boat at the docks can be

a challenge.

"It used to be that Okoboji was like the Wild, Wild West, but over the years things have begun to calm down," Owen said. "We are a lot more visible on the lake this year."

Still, people can be seen boarding boats with drinks in hand. Passengers and drivers are easily observed sipping beer and other alcoholic beverages while on and around the lakes.

"This isn't a busy Saturday," Joe Yarkosky, an enforcement officer, said while patrolling the area one afternoon in June. "This is nothing compared to the Fourth (of July)."

Boaters at Saylorville Lake lack the lakeside establishments found around Okoboji, but they can still live it up.

"It is not unusual on a hot summer Saturday afternoon to have 150 boats in Party Cove," said Jeff Swearngin, a DNR conservation officer who patrols Saylorville. "Eight, nine boats will be lashed together, and there will be one big party with people swimming, hopping from boat to boat, that kind of thing."

Saylorville had the highest number of recorded boating accidents and boating-while-intoxicated arrests of any lake in the state during the previous two years.

Accidents increased from 11 in 2004 to 13 in 2005 and 14 in 2006. Arrests went from three in 2004 to 11 in 2005 and 10 in 2006.

**Number of officers, arrests on the rise**

Iowa DNR officials have added water patrol officers and created a full-time boating safety position last October in response to the Brosnahan incident and other instances of unsafe boating.

The number of seasonal, water patrol officers in the state has increased from 22 in 2005 to 37 this year. Increased enforcement is one reason drunken boating arrests in Iowa have risen from 26 in 2004 to 45 in 2005 and 47 in 2006.

Still, Iowa had the lowest boating fatality ratios in a 22-state region that stretches from a line drawn from North Dakota to Kansas to the East Coast. Those figures are based on comparing accidents to the number of registered motorized boats, according to U.S. Coast Guard records from 2001 through 2005.

Statistics showed Iowa had 1.31 fatalities per 100,000 motorized boats, compared with 2.81 fatalities per 100,000 motorized boats for the region. Minnesota ranked seventh with 2.34 fatalities per 100,000 motorized boats.

"I don't pull a boat over to just pull one over," said Owen, the conservation officer who patrols the Iowa Great Lakes. "We look for things like not operating a boat safely, going too fast or too close to another boat, or lights that aren't on at night."

Conservation officers are spending weekend nights with Okoboji water patrol officers this year to ensure that boating-while-intoxicated arrests can be made effectively. Water patrol officers can write citations for infractions such as a failure to possess enough life jackets, but they lack the authority to make boating-while-intoxicated arrests.

To make an arrest for drunken boating, they have to call in conservation officers, state troopers, county deputies or police.

"Seeing the DNR boat sitting at the ramp gives me pause to think about what I'm doing," said Ryan Barthman, an Adel resident who was boating in the Okoboji area in June. "I'm sure it does (for) other people as well."

**Lives have changed - will behavior at lakes?**

Michael Brosnahan was killed in August 2005 when a boat operated by Nearman hit the back of the Brosnahan boat and was launched into the air.

Nearman left the scene and surrendered to authorities about two weeks later.

In January of this year, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison - with five years suspended - for boating while intoxicated causing death. Nearman started serving his sentence in January. He could be eligible for release in about two years.

"I think it's a no-brainer that Iowa should lower the blood-alcohol content to .08," Jill Brosnahan said. "I don't know why they didn't.

"Whether it would change behavior at the lakes, I don't know."

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070701/NEWS/707010335/-1/archive>



**12. Two Families feel Ripples of Boating Death**
**2005 boating accident that killed one father, sent another to prison is lesson in loss, forgiveness**

Juli Probasco-Sowers
*Des Moines Register*July 2, 2007

The need to forgive struck Jill Brosnahan in a courtroom.

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| http://cmsimg.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D2&Date=20070702&Category=NEWS&ArtNo=707020341&Ref=AR&Profile=1001&maxw=264 |
| “Mike was my soul mate. There were times I wished that I would have died with him on that night … but then I think about our children — and I’m grateful that they have at least one parent to guide, comfort and love them.” *- Jill Brosnahan, whose husband was killed in a boat crash in 2005, holds a photograph of herself and her children, including Jack, 10, who stands behind her above.* |

A married man and father to four children was accused of causing Michael Brosnahan's death in a 2005 boating accident that left Jill Brosnahan to finish raising four children by herself.

Jill Brosnahan took a glance at the man's spouse and children.

"I thought, 'My god, they are like me and my children,' " said Brosnahan, 52. "They were another family suffering as badly as we were."

Brosnahan and Nearman, who is now serving time in the state prison at Fort Dodge, talked to The Des Moines Register in separate interviews last month about the accident at West Okoboji Lake and their lives since.

Meanwhile, boating and alcohol will mix again this week during the Fourth of July holiday.

The Brosnahan accident drew statewide attention and sparked debate about Iowa's drunken-boating laws. The state Legislature debated last session whether to reduce the blood-alcohol limit for operating a boat, from 0.10 to 0.08. The bill unanimously passed the Senate but failed to make it out of the House.

Nine people have died in alcohol-related boating accidents in Iowa in the past three years.

"I will grieve for Mike the rest of my life," Brosnahan said from her home near Perry. "However, I will not spend the rest of my life hating Justin Nearman for taking Mike's life. The energy that would take is much better used trying to lead our little family forward."

Nearman originally faced three charges - operating a boat while intoxicated causing death, operating a boat while intoxicated causing injury, and failure to assist. A three-time offender of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, he faced a maximum sentence of 60 years in jail.

Against the feelings of family, friends and even the judge, Brosnahan advocated for a plea agreement that resulted in two charges being dropped. On Jan. 4, Nearman was sentenced to 10

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| “I will grieve for Mike the rest of my life. However, I will not spend the rest of my life hating Justin Nearman for taking Mike's life." - *Jill Brosnahan lost her husband in 2005 when a boat her family was riding in was struck by a vessel piloted by an intoxicated South Dakota man.* Above, Brosnahan, shown at her Perry-area home, speaks about her life. |

years in prison for operating a boat while intoxicated causing death. Five years were suspended.

"I had a good feeling about his remorse and how sorry he was," Brosnahan said. "I wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt that he is a changed person. I saw no value in his going away to prison for 10 to 15 years.

"I saw the effect the accident was having on his family. I didn't want them to continue to be victims. They have lives to continue, too."

Nearman, a 31-year-old electrician from Sioux Falls, S.D., piloted a craft that hit the boat containing the Brosnahans and four other people. Nearman's boat struck the Brosnahans' vessel from behind and launched over their boat. Nearman fled the scene. Jill Brosnahan was hospitalized for a week after the incident.

"It is amazing that Jill is the reason behind the lighter sentence," Nearman told the Register at the prison in Fort Dodge. "I can't defend my actions. ... It was my responsibility."

During plea negotiations, Brosnahan indicated she would like to meet with Nearman.

Nearman agreed to meet with Brosnahan. The two and their families were brought together in a room at the Dickinson County Courthouse in Spirit Lake after the sentencing.

Brosnahan and daughters Libby, 22, Alex, 20, and Hannah, 12, and son Jack, 10, met Nearman, his wife, Nikki, 31, and their children, Sierra, 15, Jacob, 13, Rachel, 12, and Carter, 5.

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| “I just wanted some measure of forgiveness, and I wanted Jill and the children to know how sorry I was.” - *Justin Nearman and his family met with Jill Brosnahan and her children on the day of his sentencing for operating a boat while intoxicated causing death.* Above, Nearman, in prison in Fort Dodge, thinks about the fallout from the fatal crash. |

"He took my hand and told me how sorry he was," Brosnahan said. "His family thanked me for advocating for the lighter sentence."

Nearman said he doesn't remember exactly what was said during the 20-minute meeting, but he remembers the emotion.

"I just wanted some measure of forgiveness, and I wanted Jill and the children to know how sorry I was," Nearman said. "It was easier for me to live with it after I met with them."

The Nearman family sold its house to help pay for attorney fees. Nikki Nearman and the children now live with her mother. They visit the prison when they can.

Justin Nearman said his bond with his wife remains strong.

"We started the relationship at 18 with split families," he said. "We've been through a lot together. She has just stayed with me. She loves me for some reason."

Nearman said that he hasn't consumed alcohol since the accident and that he started going to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings before his sentencing.

Jill Brosnahan, a former registered nurse, worked in her husband's dental office for nearly 25 years.

"Mike was my soul mate," she said. "There were times I wished that I would have died with him on that night ... but then I think about our children - and I'm grateful that they have at least one parent to guide, comfort and love them. Mike and I parted having no unsaid words, no pending apologies, no regrets and no unshared feelings."

Brosnahan knows, however, that Alex, who left for the University of Iowa on the afternoon of her father's funeral, could use Mike's advice in making college decisions, and that Jack is denied his father's instruction on things such as golfing or mowing the lawn.

"Children learn by example, and (youngest children) Hannah and Jack will not get to see for themselves how our relationship worked," she said.

But she also thinks about the effects and changes the accident caused Nearman's family.

"I have felt throughout this ordeal that the way I honor Mike the most ... is to help our kids find their way out of this dark time. That is where my time and energy are spent to this day."

Nearman is expected to be eligible for release from prison in about two years.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070702/NEWS/707020341/1001/NEWS>

**13. Boat Passenger drowns at East Lake Okoboji**

*Des Moines Register*
July 2, 2007

A passenger aboard a boat traveling on East Lake Okoboji fell overboard and drown late Saturday.

Cody Schubert, 21, of Holstein, was one of five passengers on a boat that was moving at a slow speed along the lake’s shoreline. He fell into about 12 feet of water around 11 p.m., according to an Iowa Department of Natural Resources report.

Schubert was not wearing a life jacket.

The boat’s driver, Brandon Osborne, 22, of North Mankato, Minn., was charged with operating a boat while intoxicated.

The incident remains under investigation. No additional information was available.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070702/NEWS/70701002/1001/NEWS>

**14. Send the Message: No Drunken Boating**
**Steering a car or boat, drunk is drunk.**

*Des Moines Register*
July 6, 2007

An Iowan gets in his truck. With a boat in tow, he drives toward the lake. With a blood alcohol level of 0.09 - the legal limit is 0.08 - he's breaking the law. He's legally drunk and driving.

At the water's edge, he hops in the boat. As he speeds off across the water, he still has a blood-alcohol level of 0.09, but he's no longer breaking the law. For drunken boating, the legal limit is 0.10.

It makes no sense.

Legally drunk should be legally drunk - whether a driver is behind the wheel of a boat or a car. At 0.10, Iowa has one of the most lax blood-alcohol limits for boaters in the nation. Fewer than 10 states have a limit higher than 0.08.

Next session, lawmakers should lower the legal blood-alcohol limit for operating a boat to 0.08, matching the limit to drive a car. Lawmakers considered such a measure last session, but were unable to reach consensus. A change in the law is overdue.

There were nine fatal boating accidents in Iowa involving alcohol from 2004 to 2006. Drunken-boating arrests nearly doubled during that period. More than 20 percent of accidents involved alcohol.

Those accidents changed families forever.

The Register's Juli Probasco-Sowers recently talked with two of these families.

In August 2005, Perry dentist Michael Brosnahan was killed in a boating accident by Justin Nearman - a man who drank too much and drove a boat. Nearman was a three-time offender of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

On Jan. 4, Nearman was sentenced to 10 years in prison for operating a boat while intoxicated and causing death. Five years were suspended.

Brosnahan left behind four children. So does Nearman.

Just last weekend, a man drowned at East Okoboji after falling overboard. The boat's driver was charged with operating a boat while intoxicated.

It should be noted that Iowa has a good record overall for boating safety. It's the safest state in a 22-state region. Lowering the legal limit to 0.08 certainly wouldn't prevent all boating tragedies and likely wouldn't produce a large number of additional arrests.

But it would send a message to Iowans that this state takes boating safety seriously. That Iowans expect other Iowans to be responsible on the water. That drinking too much, even with all that open water to swerve around in, is dangerous. It impairs judgment. It puts lives at risk.

And it should be illegal.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070706/OPINION03/707060354/1110>

**15. Keg law Appears to be Working Smoothly early On**

Darwin Danielson
*Radio Iowa*
July 5, 2007

The administrator who runs the state's liquor business says things appeared to go well in the first big holiday since the state's new law requiring kegs to be registered went into effect July 1st. Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division administrator, Lynn Walding, says they had things ready to go well before the law started.

Walding says they had everything out to the merchants one month ago so they could have the registration stickers purchased and ready to go. Retailers go on-line and purchase the stickers. Walding says the new law adds a small amount to the cost of a beer keg. The beverages division absorbed the staff costs, but Walding says retailers are charged for the registration stickers. A booklet of 25 stickers costs $25, or roughly 20 cents per keg, a cost Walding says retailers likely will pass on to consumers.

The new state law overrides any local ordinances. He says there were 27 counties that had keg registration laws, with Decatur, Marshall and Hamilton counties having laws that would have gone into effect on July 1st, and three cities that had keg registration ordinances. Walding says the statewide electronic system should make it easier for everyone.

Walding says the uniform state law allows wholesalers to operate more efficiently as they don't have to operate with several different laws. Walding says the new law only applies to kegs purchased for private use.

<http://www.radioiowa.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=981B1C66-E3A4-A490-8ADE23D448242985>

**16. State's keg-Registration era Arrives**

Ryan Gresavage
*Daily Iowan*
July 2, 2007

An Iowa law requiring alcohol vendors to register kegs holding five gallons or more went into effect Sunday, and that has some worried about a decline in sales.

The legislation mandates that vendors collect information such as names, addresses, and driver's license numbers from patrons purchasing kegs to keep in a log book for a period of no fewer than 90 days. Vendors are required to present that book to police officers upon request. Identification stickers are placed on the inside rims of all kegs.

"The rationale behind the law is to give law enforcement another tool to prevent adults from providing alcohol to minors," said Lynn Walding, the administrator of the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division.

If police break up a keg party at which underage drinkers are present, the law is meant to provide the name of the person who bought the keg. That person could then be charged with supplying alcohol to minors.

In 2003, the UI Prevention Research Center worked with the Community Health Action Partnership in Keokuk County to put keg registration in place there, and it has lobbied Iowa legislators to make it a statewide law, according to a news release dated June 29.

John's Grocery manager and "bier guy" Doug Alberhasky believes the intention to stop underage drinking is honorable, but he doesn't think the law is a solution to the problem.

"The people who crafted this law care a lot about underage drinking, but as far as really doing something, I don't think it's going to have much of an effect," he said.

He argued that now, instead of getting a keg for a party, underage drinkers will procure hard alcohol instead, which requires no registration and is more dangerous.

"It's really hard to drink yourself dead on beer alone; you're going to get so full and sick before you could possibly die," Alberhasky said.

The law requires vendors to purchase booklets of stickers from the Alcoholic Beverages Division, which cost $5 per 25-sticker book. And while the legislation states that stickers can be removed by common keg external cleaning procedures, any attempt to deface or remove the tag prior to returning the keg will result in a misdemeanor charge and forfeiture of deposit.

Liquor House President Jeremy Harrod predicted a decline in keg sales in response to the new law. "Keg sales will definitely decrease," he said. "We're going to run specials on cases [of beer]."

But Courtney Greene, Gov. Chet Culver's press secretary, believes legitimate sales won't decline.

"Business owners should not be affected as long as they are serving adults," she said.

<http://media.www.dailyiowan.com/media/storage/paper599/news/2007/07/02/Metro/States.KegRegistration.Era.Arrives-2920101.shtml?reffeature=htmlemailedition>

**17. Iowa wineries get Creative with Entertainment, Events**
**Iowa vineyards add live music and other diversions to weekend wine events as part of a growing 'agri-tainment' trend.**

Tom Perry
*Des Moines Register*
July 1, 2007

Swine has now become a place "where cork meets pork" in metro Des Moines.

 This wine/hog collision is scheduled for July 14 at the Des Moines Area Community College campus in Ankeny.

It's the first time bottles from multiple Iowa wineries will be paired with the gourmet creations of five Iowa chefs in a neutral setting, organizers say.

As an event, Swine shares a crowded field in a state where a relatively young wine industry is pushing the boundaries of agritourism beyond apple orchards, corn mazes and pumpkin patches.

More than 100 events are scheduled to take place across the state at wineries and breweries between now and the end of the year, according to listings at iowawineandbeer.com, a state Department of Economic Development Web site.

The majority are weekly or occasional entertainment programs at about a dozen of Iowa's 54 registered wineries and three breweries.

"What's good about this is that we seem to have really gained traction with the events as our wines are getting better," said Doug Bakker, co-owner of the Madison County Winery and president of the Iowa Wine Growers Association.

Bakker said he believes there's a future in the state for "agri-tainment," as he calls the entertaining of visitors in the midst of a working agricultural operation.

On a typical summer Sunday, five to six wineries across the state host events. Usually, guests sip an estate wine and listen to live music in a rural setting.

But some wineries are uncorking different types of events, such as elaborate gourmet meals, dinner theater and even grape stamps.

The expansion of Iowa's wine industry is no longer a secret - the New York Times gushed about the growth last November in a front-page article.

Still, the proliferation of wine-themed events is surprising even to vineyard owners.

"I knew there were a lot more events around, but I didn't realize there were that many," said Ron Mark, owner and founder of the Summerset Winery in Indianola. "I guess we kind of stirred up the pot."

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| http://cmsimg.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D2&Date=20070701&Category=ENT02&ArtNo=707010317&Ref=H3&Profile=1046&maxw=250 |
| The Summerset Winery near Indianola not only has vines aplenty, but also a bed and breakfast. |

 In the summer of 1997, Summerset hosted its first vineyard entertainment event.

"About 40 people showed up," Mark recalled. "We hardly filled the parking lot."

At the time, wine was being made at the Amana Colonies, Mark said, but there were no regular vineyard events open to the public in Iowa.

Less than 10 years later, hundreds of people regularly attend Friday and Sunday events at Summerset. The same is happening elsewhere around the state.

Today, for example, six different wineries are hosting entertainment.

 "People just started jumping on this within the last few years," said LuAnn Reinders, a research manager at the Iowa Tourism Office and a member of the Iowa Wine and Beer Commission.

 Reinders, who said a state brochure listing wineries is likely to include up to nine new additions in 2008, expects more events and different types of events in the future.

"You already see wineries getting more creative," she said.

Sugar Clay Winery opened two years ago near Thurman in the Loess Hills of western Iowa. Owners Frank and Amy Faust have installed a 30-foot stage in an amphitheater setting.

"We have music, and people come and sit on lawn chairs and blankets," said Amy Faust, who estimates that their winery has attracted 5,000 to 7,000 visitors in the past year.

Paul Gospodarczyk, an oenology instructor at DMACC in Ankeny, has worked in vineyards in New Zealand and Oregon, where the wine industries are ancient compared to Iowa's.

Elsewhere, when visitors descend on a winery, "the focus is on the wine," he said.

"In the Midwest, when you go to a winery, wine is just part of the whole. There's food, friends and live music. That's a good thing."

 The value-added component makes sense in a state where the nascent industry is still searching for respect from wine connoisseurs, both at home and across the country.

"Right now, I think we need something other than just the wine to draw people," said Bakker of the Wine Growers Association.

With the progress being made in Iowa, the day is likely to come when the state's wines will be able to stand on their own, said Bob Wersen, owner of Tassel Ridge Winery in Leighton.

A native Californian, Wersen said he can remember when California wines didn't get much respect.

"Thirty-five years ago, if you wanted to celebrate something in California, you wouldn't have thought of opening a bottle of California wine," he said.

As Iowa's industry matures and the wine improves, the product will sell.

"It's only a matter of time," Wersen said.

The expansion in the number of wineries and events not only has provided more entertainment venues for Iowans but also has allowed Iowa to show a different side of itself to visitors, tourism professionals say.

Sharon Dixon owns and operates Inbound Iowa, a three-year-old company that specializes in packaging "travel experiences" for groups and corporations.

 In central Iowa alone, she said, she works with seven different wineries, arranging tours and entertainment packages.

"It's like we have a new little Napa Valley here," Dixon said.

While even wine growers agree that it will be awhile before Iowa grapes are in the same class as California grapes, the explosion of winery events catches many visitors off-guard.

"When I tell people about what we have here, they're very interested," Dixon said. "They go, 'We thought Iowa was just cornfields.' "

**Swine pairs wine, gourmet pork dishes**

It’s simply called Swine.

Not Swinefest or Swineapolooza. Posters feature the “S” in a different color than “wine.”

The subtitle: “Iowa’s premier pork and wine event.”

The event will take place from 4 to 9p.m. July 14 on Des Moines Area Community College’s Ankeny campus. Admission is $25.

Swine is also Iowa’s first event featuring a marriage of wine from 18 Iowa wineries and pork dishes by five local chefs.

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| http://cmsimg.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D2&Date=20070701&Category=ENT02&ArtNo=707010317&Ref=AR&Profile=1046&maxw=264 |
| Tourists are surprised to find Iowa is not all cornfields. The New York Times ran a story in November about Iowa's thriving vineyards. The fledgling industry is gaining respect. |

 Doug Bakker, co-owner of the Madison County Winery and president of the Iowa Wine Growers Association, believes this event will give a boost to state wines.

It makes sense, he said, “for us to tie into Iowa’s world-class reputation for pork.”

One dish, for example, created by chef Troy Trostel of Greenbriar Restaurant and Bar, will use pork with a port wine from Tassel Ridge Winery in Leighton.

This same weekend, DMACC’s Ankeny campus will also host the first Mid-American Wine Competition.

 The judging to be held over two days, July 14 and 15, will focus only on the wines of the Midwest.

The competition will be open to commercial wineries in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

The chief judge for the competition will be noted wine expert and veteran wine judge Doug Frost of Kansas City. Frost is one of only three people in the world to earn the titles of both master of wine and master sommelier.

Paul Gospodarczyk, oenology instructor at DMACC, said more than 200 wineries are eligible, but he doesn’t know how many will be competing in the first-time event.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070701/ENT02/707010317/1046/archive>

**18. City's police chief charged with OWI**

*Des Moines Register*
July 3, 2007

Ed Murray, Missouri Valley's police chief for the past two years, is facing charges of drunken driving and having an open container of alcohol in his car.

Murray was stopped by a Pottawattamie County deputy sheriff late Friday night on Interstate Highway 80 near Underwood. He admitted having had some beers, but he refused to submit to sobriety tests, officials said.

Murray was arrested and taken to the Pottawattamie County Jail in Council Bluffs. He was later released on bond.

Missouri Valley Mayor Randy McHugh said he and the City Council would meet this month to discuss how to deal with Murray's arrest.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070703/NEWS/707030401/1001/NEWS>

**19. Razamatazz Hearing Postponed**

*Des Moines Register*July 3, 2007

An administrative hearing to determine whether an Urbandale bar’s management knowingly violated the law has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. July 16.

The hearing over Razamatazz Grill & Bar, 2301 Rocklyn Drive, with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division was originally set for June 25 but was continued at the request of Razamatazz.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety first requested the hearing. The department’s complaint stated that in February the bar’s management knowingly allowed more people inside than the posted capacity.

Officials with the Urbandale Fire Department have said they were told by Razamatazz security personnel that security members were instructed by management to allow in more people than the bar’s capacity. Razamatazz representatives deny this happened.

Action taken as a result of the hearing could be dismissal of the complaint, a civil penalty, suspension of the liquor license or revocation of the license.

The hearing will be at the Alcoholic Beverages Division, 1918 S.E. Hulsizer Drive in Ankeny.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070703/NEWS/70703043/1001/NEWS>

**IV.** **OTHER STATE NEWS**

**20. Draft Beer Sales Hinge on Florence Ordinance OK (Alabama)**

*Associated Press*June 30, 2007

The Florence City Council votes Tuesday on an ordinance allowing draft beer sales by Sept. 1, with beer distributors already getting prepared.

The Alabama Legislature approved the draft beer proposal May 30, but it still requires the council's approval.

City officials chose Sept. 1 for sales to begin, giving distributors time to obtain equipment they need.

Mayor Bobby Irons said discussions with distributors led to an initial Oct. 1 date.

City Council member Angie Pickens, who introduced a resolution for the council to seek state legislation on the issue, said the Sept. 1 date is a compromise between her and the mayor.

Council President Leland Howard thought that once the Legislature passed the bill, draft beer sales would start immediately.

"I don't know why it was done this way," he said.

<http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-30/1183228186187890.xml&storylist=alabamanews>

**21. Tucson tally: 1,239 checkpoint stops of 1,415 total; 18 DUI arrests; 1 crash; 0 deaths (Arizona)**

David L. Teibel
Tucson Citizen
July 5, 2007

The Southern Arizona DUI Task Force stopped 1,415 motorists Wednesday night to Thursday morning, arresting 18 of them on suspicion of drunken driving, according to the multiagency group's president.

Most of the stops - 1,239 - were at a sobriety checkpoint set up for Independence Day by sheriff's deputies at West Valencia Road and South Westover Avenue, sheriff's Lt. Karl Woolridge said Thursday.

The task force was out from 8 p.m. Wednesday to 4 a.m. Thursday conducting roving DUI patrols and staffing the checkpoint.

Woolridge said sobriety checkpoints also will be set up Friday and Saturday nights as part of a post-holiday operation.

Three of the 18 arrested were under the legal drinking age of 21, Woolridge said, adding their average blood alcohol was 0.087 percent.

The average blood alcohol among the 15 adults arrested was 0.155 percent, skewed by two cases of extreme drunken driving.

Under Arizona law, a motorist is legally presumed impaired with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent and is presumed extremely impaired with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher.

There were no fatalites and just one alcohol-related collision reported in the metro area over the holiday, Woolridge said.

The task force also arrested 13 young people on suspicion of underage drinking.

<http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/daily/local/56661.php>



**22. Tobacco Program wins $57,000 Grant (Arkansas)**

*Baxter Bulletin*July 5, 2007

The Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services has awarded the Baxter County Tobacco Control Committee a grant of $57,053 to continue its work in local tobacco prevention and education. Now beginning its sixth year of funding, the committee works to educate both adults and young people about the dangers of tobacco addiction and secondhand smoke, encourage retailers to keep tobacco products out of reach of youth, reduce the amount of tobacco advertising locally, and promote smoking cessation programs offered by local groups.

Larry Nelson, chairman of the tobacco control committee, said "Tobacco has been called the deadliest legal substance sold in America. It kills more people in this country than alcohol, traffic accidents, AIDS, illegal drugs, murder, and suicide put together. We have worked hard to raise public awareness of just how deadly tobacco is and we are pleased that the Department of Health and Human Services has recognized that effort by continuing to fund our numerous community education projects."

According to Allen Hundley, program coordinator for the group, recent surveys indicate that a very large percentage of both adults and young people in Baxter County recognize both the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke. "A survey of adults we did this spring showed for example that more than four out of five respondents do not allow smoking in their home. DHHS data show that smoking in Baxter County has dropped by about one third from 32 percent in 2003 to 22.5 percent in 2005, the latest year for which we have official state figures."

Hundley attributed at least part of that awareness to the numerous media campaigns the group has conducted. "We are also pleased to see more and more retailers adopt restricted access policies with respect to tobacco products," he added.

The local group is one of about 40 coalitions in Arkansas funded by the state health department with funds from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with the major tobacco companies. The program was approved by the voters in the 2000 election through Initiated Act One. Arkansas is one of only a handful of states nationally that still spends its MSA dollars on health related services.

<http://www.baxterbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070703/NEWS01/707030331/1002>



**23. Joe Biden: Delaware Receives Federal Support To Help Curb Underage Drinking (Delaware)**

*All American Patriots*
July 4, 2007

U.S. Senator Joe Biden (D-DE) announced today that the state of Delaware will receive a $350,000 grant to bolster their efforts to prevent underage drinking. The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program, the beneficiary of the grant, is dedicated to helping state and local authorities reduce underage alcohol consumption.

Senator Biden praised the EUDL Program’s history in Delaware and its progressive approach to prevent underage drinking.

“As a society, our highest priority has to be the protection of our children in all walks of life,” said Senator Biden. “This program has proven to be a vital asset for our local law enforcement for the past decade – keeping alcohol out of our kids’ hands and punishing those who supply it. I’m glad they will have the ability to continue their proactive efforts for the foreseeable future.”

The EUDL Program has been utilized for the past decade in Delaware, enforcing laws that prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. This year’s plan includes initiatives like Spanish-language materials; outreach programs at proms and homecomings; and funding that enables local officers to conduct “Hot Spot Patrols” and “Cops in Shops” programs to prevent sales to minors.

<http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/48726466_joe_biden_joe_biden_delaware_receives_federal_support_help_curb_underage_drinking>

******24. Mayor Nominates New ABC Board Chair (District of Columbia)**

*City Paper*
July 3, 2007

Mayor Adrian Fenty has nominated Peter B. Feather to become the next chair of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the agency that oversees the city’s alcohol administration.

The board is an adjudicatory body charged with approving, suspending, and revoking alcohol licenses. Of late, it has conducted high-profile hearings on violence at area clubs such as H2O Restaurant & Lounge and Smarta/Broadway. It must also approve most changes to liquor licenses, including any expansion of licensed establishments and even the introduction of entertainment there.

If approved, Feather’s term would be slated to last until May 7, 2011.

“Peter will be a welcome addition to the ABC Board as chair,” Delaney says. “He would be able to implement a lot of ideas that would…help ABRA meet some of the agency’s mission and the mayor’s objectives.”

According to his résumé, Feather has spent 10 years in nonprofit governance and 25 years in the corporate sector, including working with Adams Morgan Main Street. Feather, a four-year board member, would succeed Chairman Charles Burger, who joined the board in 2000, Delaney says.

In March, Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham, who conducts oversight of the board as chairman of the Committee on Public Works and the Environment, called the Burger board “duds, initially,” stating that they were “slow to act” on violence at Club U and Kili’s Kafe & Lounge.

But, he said, the board changed over the years. “Today the board is much more aggressive. Prudent, but aggressive.” Burger could not be reached for comment, but Delaney says that “Chuck was a dedicated a chair who never missed a meeting and always greeted staff with a smile.”

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/citydesk/index.php/2007/07/03/mayor-nominates-new-abc-board-chair/>

******25. New law aims to help beer Distributors Retrieve Kegs (Indiana)**

*Indy Star*
July 4, 2007

A law enacted this week aims to help Indiana beer distributors whose margins are being squeezed by a loss of beer kegs to the scrap market.

Thieves can sell the kegs to scrap dealers for five times the loss of a $10 to $20 per keg deposit they pay a retailer. They can make even more profit if they steal the kegs outright.

Liquor retailers pay a $10 to $15 per keg deposit to their distributors, the same amount they usually charge their customers. But distributors may be asked to pay brewers up to nine times that amount to replace missing kegs, said John Kiernan, president of Hammond-based Calumet Brewers, which distributes Anheuser Busch products.

To curtail the problem, the Indiana Legislature passed a law that took effect Monday that makes it illegal for scrap dealers to buy kegs marked with the name of a brewery.

"If someone brings a scrap dealer a keg, they stole it," said Marc Carmichael, president of the Indianapolis-based Indiana Beverage Alliance, which lobbied for the legislation. "There's a deposit all along the line, from brewery to distributor to retailer, designed to get the keg back to the brewery."

Indianapolis-based Monarch Beverage lost 2,804 kegs last year, said Fred Dufour, the company's vice president of operations. He estimates Monarch is losing $400,000 a year because retailers, restaurants and bars are not returning all of their kegs.

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070704/LOCAL/70704017>

******26. 2 Liquor and wine Distributors to Merge (Michigan)**

Brent Snavely
*Crain's*July 3, 2007

Two of Michigan's largest liquor and wine distributors said Tuesday that they have decided to merge their companies.

Dearborn-based J. Lewis Cooper Co. and Highland Park-based General Wine & Liquor said they are joining forces to create Great Lakes Wine & Spirits.

"By merging with General Wine & Liquor to create this new company, Great Lakes Wine & Spirits, we are poised to solidify our position as the premier wine and spirit wholesalers and distributors in the Midwest," Lewis Cooper, president of J. Lewis Cooper said in a statement.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"This is an exciting time for General Wine & Liquor as we merge with J. Lewis Cooper Co.," Sydney Ross, president of General Wine & Liquor said in a statement. "The formation of Great Lakes Wine & Spirits will further position our combined companies as leaders and top competitors in the wine and spirits wholesale distribution industry."

J. Lewis Cooper Co. was founded in 1946 and General Wine & Liquor was founded in 1967 and was acquired by Ross in 1978.

<http://www.crainsdetroit.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070703/REG/70703003/1039/FREE&Profile=1039>

******27. Montana Expands Beer, Wine Licenses for Restaurants (Montana)**

*Beverage News Daily*July 2, 2007

Another new law will increase beer and wine licenses available to Montana restaurants.

The number of licenses allowing the full sale of liquor and other beverages has been capped at 1,600, creating big demand for existing permits. In some places, licenses can trade hands for as much as $1 million, said Jason Wood, the unit manager for liquor licensing at the Department of Revenue.

Lawmakers decided to expand a separate category of restaurant-only beer and wine licenses, which come with restrictions including a ban on onsite gambling. A total of 165 such licenses will be granted on top of the 135 that already exist.

They will be given under a lottery system to the restaurants, with the restriction that most of the business is selling food and that alcohol will only be served between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., Wood said.

He said the option will give restaurants that can't afford to buy an existing liquor license the chance to serve a beer or glass of wine with meals they sell.**28.** Microbrewery Launches beer Based on Larry the Cable Guy (Nebraska)

*Sioux City Journal*
July 3, 2007

This marketing strategy does little to fight stereotypes: A local microbrewery has launched a beer for one of America's most recognizable rednecks, Larry the Cable Guy.

Git-R-Done beer, named for the comedian's famous catch phrase, was launched Saturday by SchillingBridge Winery & MicroBrewery, from the small town where the 44-year-old comedian grew up.

The owners of the small family winery say this light beer is made from high-quality ingredients with more "flavor and body" than popular corporate beers.

"We wanted something that's very flavorful and easy to drink," said Mike Schilling, who runs the winery with his wife.

Schilling is confident the beer made for connoisseurs will appeal to the fan base of a man who's made millions on bathroom humor and a country accent.

"Rednecks love quality, too," Schilling said.

Schilling and his wife, Sharon Schilling, proposed the new beer to the comedian, whose real name is Dan Whitney, in 2005.

Sharon Schilling said Whitney came to the winery in July 2005 to accept the offer, wearing a pair of shorts and a sleeveless camouflage shirt.

He said he was dressed up because it was his wedding day, which was confirmed by his bride, Sharon Schilling said.

"He said, 'Let's git-r-done,"' she said. "He made it sound so simple."

The beer will be brewed from an Omaha brewery about 100 miles north of Pawnee City while SchillingBridge expands to add new brewing equipment.

This Schillings said they and Whitney made the deal hoping the new brew will bring more people to the town of 1,000 residents.

"I know it sounds sappy, but that's the truth," Sharon Schilling said. "We love living in a small town, and we want it to continue to exist."

Larry the Cable Guy has become popular through films, cable television and a standup tour. His latest movie, "Delta Farce," was released in May.

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2007/07/02/news/nebraska/a953fc598f655fe18625730c000f7fa1.txt>

******29. OU Says Drinking Cases Down Amid Tough New Alcohol Policy (Ohio)**

*Associated Press*
July 5, 2007

Ohio University's new get-tough policy on student drinking resulted in 32 percent fewer alcohol violations last school year, compared to the same period a year before, school officials said.

"We not only saw a downward trend, we saw a significant downward trend," said Terry Hogan, the university's dean of students.

But the number of drug cases - mostly marijuana offenses - rose 24 percent to 331 during the same period, a trend that university officials said will result in a new marijuana policy for the 2007-2008 school year.

The university toughened its alcohol policies last fall to include harsher penalties for drinking violations, with a mandatory $100 fee for each offense.

Students are also required to attend an alcohol-education class and can be put on probation for up to a year. Students who commit a second violation are often suspended, a university statement said.

OU also contacts parents when students younger than the legal drinking age are cited.

"It's a harsh, unfair policy," said Howard Bob-Manuel, a 21-year-old senior from Westerville. "Everyone wants to be a little wild when they first go to college. Students hate being treated like they're still in high school."

Fines for fall and winter quarter during the last year totaled $109,000, the statement said. The money helped fund counseling and education programs on campus. Figures for the spring quarter were not available.

Athens police Capt. Tom Pyle said that as more students are punished for drinking, the annual Halloween bash in Athens will likely lose its attraction for partygoers.

The holiday party typically attracts more than 20,000 people to downtown streets, but last fall city police and the university stepped up surveillance and tougher penalties on students for alcohol violations.

<http://www.diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article_8030.shtml>

******30. Local Stores all Refuse Alcohol Sales to Minors in OLCC Check (Oregon)**

*News-Review*
July 4, 2007

All seven local businesses tested in an Oregon Liquor Control Commission compliance check last week refused to sell alcohol to a minor.

The June 27 operation had a volunteer minor attempting to buy alcohol from businesses licensed to sell it.

The most recent compliance is a contrast to a similar check in April, when eight of 19 local businesses did sell alcohol to a minor.

The average sales rate during such OLCC tests in the state is 24 percent.

The OLCC uses the compliance checks as part of its effort to prevent underage drinking, according to an agency release. The participating minors, supervised by OLCC inspectors or other law officers, carry their own legal identification and are advised not to disguise their age or encourage the sale of alcohol.

Servers and bartenders or licensees whose employees provide alcohol to the minor or fail to verify his or her age are subject to fines or license suspensions. Store clerks who sell are cited into court and face at least a $350 fine.

The OLCC tests about 1,600 licensed liquor business annually. The agency also offers training on identifying false identification and laws regarding minors and alcohol.

The local licensees that refused to sell to the minor were: The main store at Diamond Lake; The Glide Store and Peel Country Store in Glide; North Umpqua Store at Dry Creek and Idleyld Trading Post in Idleyld Park; Dixonville Store and Whistler’s Park Mercantile in Roseburg.

<http://www.oregonnews.com/article/20070704/NEWS/70704011>

******21. Could Liquor store Pricing Policy Change Boost Utahns' costs for Booze? (Utah)**

Dawn House
*Salt Lake Tribune*
June 2, 2007

New pricing for wine and spirits at state-controlled liquor outlets seems simple enough - but that may not mean the transition is going to be smooth.

While the changes are deemed "revenue neutral" - meaning customers won't actually pay more - the way prices and taxes are calculated will differ from what has been done before, said liquor-control director Dennis R. Kellen.

Starting today, price tags on shelves will no longer include an average state sales tax of 6.6 percent.

That will now be added at the cash register, using calculations from each individual county, which range from 5.75 percent in Millard County to 8.1 percent in Alta.

For most other cities and towns in Salt Lake County, however, the sales tax will remain at 6.6 percent.

And with the new pricing, be sure to have some pennies on hand. Right now, the price of liquor is rounded to the nearest nickel. Now it will be charged to the penny.

"The only pennies we've had are the ones customers gave us," said Jim Montoya, who manages the Sandy Liquor and Wine Store. "Now our cashiers will be dealing in pennies."

There's a fear that liquor distributors will raise prices, which could go unnoticed when shelf prices no longer reflect the sales tax. But at least for the month of July, the Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has frozen all prices for wine, spirits and heavy beer.

What happens next month is anyone's guess.

**There's more.**

The current 13 percent school lunch tax will be added to the state markup on booze, which will increase from 64.5 percent to 86 percent. Those charges will continue to be figured into the shelf price of a bottle.

The changes came after restaurant owners complained about confusion surrounding liquor prices. Because restaurants and taverns had already paid the sales tax, servers were required to separately charge customers for drinks without charging a second sales tax at the point of sale.

Now, restaurant and tavern owners are not required to pay sales taxes on liquor until the alcoholic beverages are served. Diners will be paying sales tax for both alcoholic beverages and food.

**Make sense?**

Not to Mary Ann Mantes, a member of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, who voted against the changes in February. Hers was the only "no" vote among the five commissioners.

"It's confusing," Mantes predicted. "We're going to get a lot of bad publicity over this."

And this week, don't forget that the state's 38 liquor outlets and 100 package agencies in small towns and resorts will be closed on July Fourth.

<http://origin.sltrib.com/ci_6279755?IADID=Search-origin.sltrib.com-origin.sltrib.com>

******32. Deputies still on 'Party Patrol' (Washington)**

*White Center News*
June 26, 2007

The King County Sheriff's Office annual Party Patrol continues for at least the next several weeks.

Since the inception of Party Patrol in 1998, there have been no deaths or serious injury accidents involving juveniles and alcohol in the area where the patrol was in operation.

Party Patrol is a multi-jurisdictional effort by local police agencies, coordinated by the Sheriff's office. Past participants have included King County Sheriff's deputies and municipal police agencies around the county. Agents from the Liquor Control Board and troopers from the Washington State Patrol are also involved.

The Party Patrol plans to target parties where minors consume alcohol, either in private residences or in more rural areas. Deputies are geared up to obtain search warrants for residences, if necessary, and have done so several times in the past. Persons under the age of 18 found drinking will be arrested, then released only to their parents, or booked into the Youth Center.

Those between 18 and 21, as well as parents or other adults providing the premise for the party will get a misdemeanor citation and could be booked into jail.

“My goal here is to keep kids alive," says Sheriff Sue Rahr. "There are times, like now, where we have to have a firm hand in law enforcement to avoid senseless tragedies."

<http://www.westseattleherald.com/articles/2007/06/26/news/local_news/news05.txt>

******33. Wisconsin Bill Forces Wineries to Use Distributors (Wisconsin)**

*Beverage News Daily*
July 2, 2007

A budget amendment Wisconsin lawmakers quietly approved last week would eliminate Wisconsin wineries' ability to sell their products directly to retailers. Instead, they would have to hire distributors to do that. If they want to ship directly to consumers, they would have to buy $1,000 permit and fill out extensive paperwork.

The move brought howls of outrage from winery owners and lobbyists.

The amendment was backed by Sen. Russ Decker (D) and beverage distributors. It was made public as part of hundreds of pages of changes to the budget shortly before the Democratic-controlled Senate approved the document Tuesday.

Tim Lawrie, owner of Simon Creek Vineyard & Winery in Door County, called the legislation "probably the most anti-competition, anti-small business, political payback piece of politics that I've ever seen."

The regulations would hurt his ability to expand and stop him from selling directly to two local stores, he said. "Something like this is going to start driving wineries out of business," Lawrie said. "If this was in existence when I started the winery five years ago, I probably wouldn't have done it."

Bill Nelson, president of WineAmerica, a trade group that represents wineries in 48 states, called the plan "bad government at its worst." He said the rules would stunt the growth of the state's wineries, which have tripled in number to 41 since 2000.

"Putting something like that in the budget with no scrutiny and no evaluation of the effects on Wisconsin wineries is outrageous," he said.

Mike Wittenwyler, a lawyer for the Wisconsin Wine & Spirit Institute, said he helped provide lawmakers with the "legal framework" for the changes.

The rules would benefit Wisconsin consumers by allowing them to order wines from all over the country, he said. Right now, Wisconsin consumers can only buy directly from wineries in California and Oregon under reciprocal agreements and not from other states.

"There was always this frustration among Wisconsin consumers that they were not able to make these purchases," he said.

But Nelson, whose group represents 850 wineries, said the permits costing $1,000 and other regulations would mean that most wineries would not ship to Wisconsin.

"They set up a system that's unworkable and is prohibitively expensive," he said. "Nobody in their right mind is going to pay that kind of money."

Rep. Garey Bies (R), who represents wineries in Door County, has vowed to try to remove the language in the Assembly's version of the budget. His chamber is expected to consider the budget next month.



**34. Proposed law alarms Wisconsin Vintners (Wisconsin)**

Jason Stein *Wisconsin State Journal*
June 29, 2007

A little-noticed piece of legislation would make it tougher to get your favorite local wine, the state's vintners say, and could drive some of them out of business.

The provisions, slipped into the version of the budget that passed the state Senate on Tuesday, would prevent all wineries from shipping directly to stores in the state and effectively end direct mailing of wine to state consumers from Wisconsin's fast-growing network of vineyards, owners said.

The proposal could "legislate the wineries right out of business in the state," said Peter Botham, owner of Botham Vineyards & Winery in Barneveld.

Many state wineries sell their products directly to retail outlets and ship directly to consumers. The measure would force them to use a distributor to sell their product to stores, which inserts another layer in the process and potentially another cost for consumers or less money for the winery, according to owners and a Republican lawmaker.

The proposal also sets up requirements for shipping wine directly to consumers that include a rule that the shipper ensure the recipient is of legal drinking age and is not drunk when the order arrives.

The state wine and liquor distributors association pushing the change dismisses the vintners' concerns, saying the proposal will benefit state consumers by allowing them to receive mail-order wine from a number of other states for the first time. Currently, state residents can only get direct-mail wine from California and Oregon, the group said.

"This law has the best of intentions," said Mike Wittenwyler, attorney for the Wisconsin Wine & Spirits Institute. "It does what Wisconsin consumers have been asking for."

<http://www.madison.com/wsj/mad/top/index.php?ntid=199460&ntpid=1>



**35. Stricter open container rule now in effect in Wyoming (Wyoming)**

*Landline*
July 2, 2007

A new Wyoming law that took effect Sunday, July 1, toughens the state’s open container law.

The new rule bans consumption of alcohol and possession of open containers of alcohol in vehicles traveling highways in the state. Until now, many communities in the state already banned open containers, but they remained legal on state highways.

To this point, state law barred drivers from having an open container of alcohol, but passengers 21 years of age or older were not. Supporters say those rules were difficult to enforce because drivers could just hand a container to passengers if they were pulled over.

The new law also requires open containers in RVs to be locked up in cabinets or compartments. Exceptions are included for passengers in buses and limousines.

Other than the anticipated benefits to safety on roadways, the law is not strict enough as written to free up millions in federal dollars for improving Wyoming roads.

The state is being forced to spend millions of its federal highway money on traffic safety because the state doesn’t have a ban on open containers of alcohol in vehicles. In 2006, the state was forced to divert $5.6 million from roads.

The federal government mandated in 2001 that states either pass open container laws or spend a percentage of federal highway dollars on public safety projects such as drunken driving checkpoints and installing cables in medians to prevent crossover accidents. Wyoming is one of six states that don’t meet federal compliance.

<http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2007/Jul07/070207/070207-08.htm>

