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| *September 7, 2007* |

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

1. [Make Mine a 020001](#Makeminea)

2. [Alcohol use by kids at High Rate](#Alcoholusebykidsathighrate)

3. [Wet Towns Draw Binge Drinkers](#Wettownsdraw)

4. [Filtered Cigarettes Blamed for Huge Rise in Type of Lung Cancer](#filteredcigarettesblamed)

5. [Anheuser-Busch sees Headier Growth in 2007](#anheuser)

 **II.** [**INTERNATIONAL NEWS.**](#IV)

6. [Fine French wine Labels may Lie](#finefrenchwine)

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

7. [U of I hopes Books Replace Binges](#uofihopes)

8. [Iowa City bar Scene Revives](#iowacitybarscen)

9. [UI's Huntrods Arrested in Iowa City](#uishuntrodsarrested)

10. [Sheriff’s Office Partners with Iowa ABD to Fight Tobacco Use](#sheriffsoffice2222)

11. [Ban on some Outdoor Smoking Starts Tuesday](#banonsome)

12. [Beer Lovers Gather in Amana](#beerloversgather)

13. [Chronic Drunken Driver who Killed 2 dies in Prison](#chronic)

14. [Judge rules Filippo Assaulted State Trooper](#judge)

[**IV. OTHER STATE NEWS.**](#III)

15. [Councilman urges total Ban on Alcohol at San Diego Beaches (California)](#councilman)

16. [Woman, Lawyer Challenge Alcohol-Monitoring Device (Colorado)](#woman)

17. [Hawaii tops Nation in Alcohol Traffic Death Rate (Hawaii)](#hawaii)

18. [8th Guilty Plea ties Another Knot in a Complicated Web of Family and Fraud (Minnesota)](#guilty)

19. [Booze Crackdown in Full Swing (Mississippi)](#booze)

20. [Cherie Speller: Reality is, the Perception of Underage Drinking Has to Change (North Carolina)](#reality)

21. [24 Die on Ohio Roads over Weekend (Ohio)](#die)

22. [Invalid Petitions keep Liquor Options off Ballot (Ohio)](#invalid)

23. [Police nab Eight in DUI Checkpoints (Oklahoma)](#police)

24. [Personal Breathalyzers Are up for Sale (Texas)](#personal)

25. [Woman Arrested For Furnishing Minors With Alcohol (Texas)](#womanarrested)

26. [UT Targets Alcohol Trouble (Utah)](#uttargetsal)

27. [Washington Town Mulls Restricting Alcohol Sold at Minimarts (Washington)](#washington)

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

**1.** **Make Mine a 020001**

Eric Felten
*Wall Street Journal*
September 1, 2007

For vodka sellers, these are the best of times, in that sales of high-priced vodkas continue to grow. And they are the worst, too, in that just about anyone can -- and is -- getting into the vodka marketing game. "Go into a liquor store or a bar, and there are 20 vodkas on the shelf," says Vic Morrison, marketing veep at McCormick Distilling. The challenge is to come up with some clever gimmick to set one's vodka apart.

The salesman who thinks he can crack the market with claims of superior taste will be sorely disappointed: I went to a vodka tasting hosted by the head of a prominent luxury liquor house. It was an exercise meant to dispel the notion that the differences among vodkas are illusory. But after being walked through the vodkas on the table with elaborate descriptions of the characteristics of each, I found myself hard-pressed to discern much difference. So I asked the executive to demonstrate the differences by tasting the vodkas blind. He couldn't even identify ![[Vodka]]()his own flagship brand.

Eyeing the crowded premium vodka field, McCormick decided to market its new 360 Vodka as the choice for those who care about the planet. The bottle is made with a high proportion of recycled glass; the recycled paper label is printed with soy and water inks; the shipping boxes are designed to be reused; and the vodka itself is made on an exceptionally efficient column still that captures all the carbon dioxide that would otherwise escape into the atmosphere. This last claim is made possible because the contract distillery that makes 360 Vodka for McCormick, MGP Ingredients of Atchison, Kan., recently installed a new high-tech still.

While McCormick is pushing the green credentials of its energy-efficient vodka, other brands are selling "organic" vodkas. They also rely on the manufacturing skills of contract distilleries. Square One Organic Vodka is made by Idaho's Distilled Resources Inc., or DRinc, which does the manufacturing for more than a dozen brands. Among them is Ocean Vodka, a Hawaiian brand that takes DRinc's organic vodka in high-proof bulk and cuts it with desalinated seawater. Another organic, Vodka 14, positions itself as a Colorado vodka, but it, too, is a product of the Idaho still. An organic brand made from soy, 3 Vodka, also comes from that factory, as does a brand called Zygo.

Zygo is one of a handful of "energy vodkas," including P.I.N.K., that spike alcohol with fashionable stimulants, such as guarana and taurine. If there has been a drink of the decade, it is the clubbers' Red Bull and Vodka. Caffeinated vodkas obviate the need for stimulant-packed Red Bull (or amplify its hyperactive effect).

The clutter has left vodka marketers struggling to distinguish their products. One of the most reliable strategies -- the celebrity tie-in -- has proved problematic. Last spring, Svedka vodka was in talks with Lindsay Lohan's management to sponsor her 21st birthday party at Caesar's Palace. And then the not-quite-21 Ms. Lohan crashed her Mercedes while under the influence. The Swedish brand sagely decided to opt out of the Vegas festivities. It has since focused its marketing efforts on a more reliable spokesmodel, a naughty animatronic "fembot fatale" named "Svedka\_Grl." Their slogan: "The future of adult entertainment."

Nudity is the theme for Christiania's new campaign. The Norwegian brand hasn't abandoned its trademarked phrase "The World's Smoothest Vodka," but its emphasis on dishabille shows just how hard it is for a vodka to get any traction in the muddy and crowded field. Christiania is sponsoring a nude art contest, and invited fleshy submissions at its Web site. The winning entry will be flaunted on a downtown New York billboard a few days from now; no doubt the marketing execs are counting on the publicity that will come should Mrs. Grundy be sufficiently mortified to complain.

Christiania, it should be noted, equates nudity with a highfalutin philosophy the company calls "Purism." And what is that? It's not clear, though Christiana does offer a quote from Albert Camus: "With integrity there is no need for rules." The next page on the Web site, however, displays this bold heading: "RULES FOR SUBMISSION." Which I guess is as it should be, given that the Camus quote comes from an essay, "The Myth of Sisyphus," extolling life's inescapable absurdity.

For all the sexy come-ons, vodka isn't a very sexy product. Achieving the "purity" so essential to the spirit is almost impossible on an artisanal pot still. Making pure ethanol is what industrial stills do best, which is why two of the other major players producing vodka in the U.S. are Archer-Daniels-Midland and Grain Processing Corp. of Muscatine, Iowa. ADM sells its 190-proof beverage alcohol (product code 020001) packaged one of three ways: "Bulk Truck, Bulk Rail, Tank." Cut it with water -- preferably from a source that will lend itself to a pretty picture on the label -- bottle it, and you're in the vodka business.

Over at Grain Processing Corp., the "focus in producing ethyl alcohol is directed to the distilled spirits and beverage industries." But its Web site brags that "this same high-quality grain neutral spirit is used to produce a variety of 190 proof and benzene-free anhydrous industrial ethyl alcohol products." That is, industrial solvents, mouthwash, hairspray, astringents and such.

The serious cocktail crowd is turning away from vodka as too bland and too easy, but drink it if you like: It's up to you whether you choose from the essentially interchangeable products on the basis of a brand's boasts of superior quality, its organic spud goodness, its small carbon-footprint or the gyrations of its fembot. Or, if you can't decide, just order product code 020001.

<http://online.wsj.com/services/article/SB118859310163314946-search.html?KEYWORDS=make+mine+a+020001&COLLECTION=wsjie/6month>

**2.** **Alcohol use by kids at High Rate**
**Experts Surprised by Study of Drinking Among Children 9-12**

*San Jose Mercury News*
August 31, 2007

Children are experimenting with alcohol even earlier than many parents realize, with 7 percent of fourth-graders reporting that they have had a drink in the past year, a new study shows.

While the actual number of children drinking alcohol is small - as is the amount they imbibe - the percentage of children who report trying beer, wine or spirits doubles from grades four to six, according to the study published in the September issue of Prevention Science.

Boys were more likely to drink than girls.

"It's not the fact that children are drinking (small amounts) that's alarming," said study author John Donovan, a University of Pittsburg Medical Center social psychologist who for years has studied what he calls "really underage drinkers."

"It's that such an early onset of drinking places them at risk for future alcohol abuse, delinquency, problems in school and teen pregnancy."

Donovan analyzed national and statewide studies of children's experiences with alcohol over the past 15 years, unearthing some that had never been published. Thirty-nine of the 50 states have conducted surveys of sixth-graders and younger children that touch on alcohol use. Several surveys regularly conducted since 1990 show that the number of children who have used alcohol has decreased significantly, Donovan found.

Yet some of the statistics might startle parents of younger children: In a survey conducted in Arizona in 1999, 4.7 percent of third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders reported having drunk alcohol in the previous week. In a national study conducted in 2001, nearly 4 percent of 11-year-old boys said they consumed alcohol weekly, although the amount was not stated.

Ten-year-old Henry Lodestro, who just started fourth grade at Almond Elementary in Los Altos said his friends often pester their parents for sips of wine because they think it's cool.

"I was trying to get a lot of wine, because my friends were doing it. It just tastes like really bad grape juice," Henry said.

Donovan believes alcohol and drug prevention programs should start earlier, in fifth grade, to try to address the increase in children who try alcohol by sixth grade.

Yet he acknowledges that previous attempts at educating that age group haven't always been successful. Donovan also called for an annual national survey on underage drinking that targets children as well as adolescents.

Becky Beacom, manager of health education for the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, a large doctor's group, said the study's results aren't surprising. While she supported programs that encourage children not to drink, she believes that those prevention messages shouldn't be treated as simply a lesson to be studied.

"We need to really look at the environment for these kids in their homes, schools and communities," Beacom said. Information alone doesn't change behavior, she said.

"You can't start too young," said Leslie Lodestro, Henry's mother and the volunteer chairwoman of Community Hope and Sober Events, a Los Altos based effort to reduce underage drinking.

She has struggled with her 18-year-old son's addiction to drugs and alcohol.

"It's really hard to modify behavior in high school students," Lodestro said, noting that the Los Altos program is now targeting middle school students.

Early education "would pull kids and parents together into this sphere of sobriety that's pretty easy to do in fourth grade. The group could move forward and continue to communicate," she said.

Prevention programs should focus on kids communicating with parents and having parents communicate with each other about what they will allow in their homes and what they won't, setting a uniform standard that children accept, Lodestro said.

"If you start early and stick together you've got a bunch of kids who think not doing drugs and alcohol is the social norm," Lodestro said. "It's easier to count the kids not doing drugs. We really need to shift our focus much younger."

Perhaps the most powerful lesson Lodestro's son Henry will learn about drugs and alcohol is from his oldest brother, who recently spent time in rehab.

"It changed my attitude a lot. It really had a big effect on me," Henry said. "I just want to finish school and not end up like Danny."

<http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_6767544>

**3.** **Wet Towns Draw Binge Drinkers**

Rachel D’oro
*Associated Press*
September 6, 2007

 Villagers from far-flung Eskimo communities where alcohol is banned regularly pour into this old Gold Rush town and its many bars and liquor stores - not just to drink, but to get plastered.

Day and night, drunks can be seen staggering along Front Street, slumped against buildings, and passed out near the tourist shops or along the seawall on the Bering Sea. Police cart off the worst of them to dry out at the hospital, where the emergency room often reeks of alcohol with as many as eight drunks at a time vying for beds.

Some never make it out of Nome alive. They drink themselves to death or pass out in the below-zero cold, where they can count themselves lucky if they merely lose some fingers or a limb to frostbite. Many simply vanish, presumably swallowed by the icy waters of Norton Sound. Over the past two decades, dozens have died of exposure or drowned.

"The level of alcoholism is intense," said Greg Smith, who runs the Norton Sound Health Corp.'s outpatient substance abuse program. "The most dangerous pattern of drinking is binge drinking and it is firmly entrenched here. It's been built into the drinking culture."

The U.S. has more than 500 dry communities, and it is not unusual for residents to flock to another town to do their drinking. But some of the worst binge drinking is associated with a few regional hubs like Nome that draw people from Native and American Indian communities across vast expanses of countryside.

One big reason is this: Many Indian reservations and Eskimo villages are in extremely remote areas and ban not only the sale of alcohol, but possession, too. In other parts of the country, many dry communities allow alcohol possession, and a bar is usually just a short drive away.

These regional drinking hubs include:

- Whiteclay, Neb. It has a population of 14, yet about 4 millions cans of beer are sold each year in four stores there, mostly to American Indians. It is just yards away from South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where alcoholism is rampant despite a ban on the sale and possession of alcohol.

- Gallup, N.M. It has long been branded Drunk Town, USA. It is surrounded by Navajo, Hopi and Zuni Pueblo lands where alcohol is prohibited. The town of 20,000 now bans Sunday alcohol sales and a county tax on liquor has been imposed.

- Flagstaff, Ariz. It is 72 miles from Tuba City on the Navajo Reservation, and the closest place to get a legal drink. Wanda MacDonald, director of the Navajo outpatient treatment center in Tuba City, said on the stretch of highway between the town of 8,000 and Flagstaff, she once counted 149 white crosses marking the sites of fatal car accidents - most of them because of drinking.

Experts and activists say the heavy drinking involves only a fraction of the nation's Native population but perpetuates one of the oldest and ugliest stereotypes.

"The most common perception among the general population is the firewater myth, that Indians physically can't hold alcohol. It's just not true," said Fred Beauvais, a researcher at Colorado State University at Fort Collins who has studied the issue for three decades. "A lot of genetic research has been done on that and there's no evidence for a specific genetic factor for Native populations."

Instead, experts link alcohol abuse among Natives to poverty, hopelessness, loss of culture, and perhaps habits learned generations ago from hard-drinking settlers, trappers, traders and miners.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have a 550 percent higher rate of alcohol-related deaths than nonnative Americans, a disparity blamed in part on inadequate health care.

Nome, population 4,000, is best known as the finish line of the 1,100-mile Iditarod sled dog race and is situated in a region the size of Louisiana, with 15 mostly dry Inupiat and Yupik villages, some as much as 200 miles away.

It has six bars, four liquor stores and two private clubs that sell booze, and annual alcohol sales total $5.5 million, which is equal to more than half of the city's annual budget.

The drinking crowd swells dramatically during the Iditarod and when Alaska's oil-royalty checks - last year's windfall was about $1,100 - are distributed to nearly every man, woman and child in the state each fall. But even on the slowest nights, it's not unusual to encounter someone who has passed out.

Newman Savetilik comes to Nome to quench his thirst for whiskey. Savetilik, 50, lives in the village of Shaktoolik, 130 miles from Nome, and feeds himself by fishing and hunting moose.

"When I come to Nome I got alcohol problems," he said with eyes half-shut. "I'm not like that in Shaktoolik."

Nome's boozing history was born with the town after gold was discovered in 1898, bringing thousands of hard-drinking fortune hunters. The gunslinger Wyatt Earp operated the Dexter, the most ornate of 50 saloons lining Front Street in the Gold Rush heyday, when the town's population swelled to 20,000.

Nowadays, Nome police officers estimate they spend a third of their time tending to intoxicated people - some repeatedly - and making arrests for drunken driving and such booze-fueled crimes as domestic violence and assault.

Alcohol is involved in 90 percent of the 1,000 or so criminal cases around the region that are prosecuted each year, said District Attorney John Earthman.

Three-day protective holds are the primary tool employed by police to deal with people so incapacitated they could fall victim to a crime. Police logged 326 holds in the first seven months this year and 632 in all of 2006, according to Police Chief Paul Burke, a former state trooper who began his new job a few months ago and has made it his mission to clean up Front Street.

He has asked his officers to conduct more bar checks and watch out for lawbreakers, such as businesses selling to already intoxicated people or to minors. But Front Street merchants generally do a good job of policing their workers for fear of losing their liquor licenses, he said. Overly intoxicated people get kicked out, but still manage to keep drinking.

"In the early '80s, when I first got here, the bars were open until 5 a.m.," City Manager Randy Romenesko said. "Obviously there are lots of things that can be done, but the question is does anyone want to do them. Bottom line, it's a community decision."
Some mental health experts say there will be no real progress until Nome gets an inpatient rehab center - one that incorporates Native sweat lodges, talking circles and songs and dances. Nome's only residential rehab center closed eight years ago, its managers citing dwindling state and federal support. The nearest facility is almost 200 miles away in Kotzebue.

Meanwhile, the regional Native corporation has launched an education program for high school students to discourage drinking and restore appreciation of their culture.

"I want them to be inspired and empowered and feel their self-worth, that they can accomplish something," said program coordinator Kirbi Fullwood.

A bar at the Nome Nugget Inn stopped serving alcohol two years ago, specializing instead in Vietnamese drip coffee, when Thuy Nguyen's family bought it.

"I think Nome can do without one more bar," she said. "We'd rather get people jacked up on caffeine."

<http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/D/DRINKING_HUBS?SITE=IADES&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>

**4.** **Filtered Cigarettes Blamed for Huge Rise in Type of Lung Cancer**

*HealthDay News*
September 6, 2007

The introduction of filtered and low-tar cigarettes in the 1950s coincided with a steady rise in the incidence of a once-rare type of lung cancer that's now the most common form of the disease, a new study finds.

Decades ago, squamous cell carcinoma was the most common form of lung cancer. But between 1950 and 2007, adenocarcinoma became the most frequently diagnosed lung malignancy, as the market share of filtered cigarettes soared from just 1 percent to almost 100 percent, the study authors said.

Described as a "correlation of evidence," the apparent link was uncovered by study author Dr. Gary M. Strauss, medical director of the lung cancer program at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. He presented the findings Wednesday at the 12th World Conference on Lung Cancer, in Seoul, South Korea.

Strauss and his colleagues suggest that the impact of filtered cigarettes on adenocarcinoma rates is due to the introduction of filter vents in filtered cigarettes, making it easier to draw in smoke. These vents allow smokers to take bigger and deeper puffs, thereby inhaling carcinogens further into the bronchial passages and lungs.

"The rise of adenocarcinoma is consistent with changes in cigarette design and composition -- which the cigarette industry indicated were safer -- that they introduced in response to mounting evidence that smoking causes other forms of lung cancer," Strauss said.

"And so the point is that the tobacco industry, through how they changed the cigarette over time and deceived the public for decades about its safety, has created an epidemic," he added.

Philip Morris USA's media affairs manager, David Sutton, said he could not comment on the findings. "We cannot comment on a study we have not had a chance to review. Smoking is addictive and causes serious diseases. There is no such thing as a safe cigarette," he said.

To explain the dramatic rise in diagnoses of adenocarcinoma, Strauss and his team of U.S, researchers first analyzed data concerning cancer rates that had been collected between 1975 and 2003 through the National Cancer Institute's "Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results" (SEER) program.

The study authors focused on information covering more than 307,000 black and white lung cancer patients, 75 percent of whom were 60 or older at the time of their diagnosis. And they focused on six time periods: 1975-1979, 1980-84, 1985-89, 1990-94, 1995-99 and 2000-03.

Statistics on four major types of lung cancer -- adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, large cell carcinoma, and small cell carcinoma -- were tallied to reveal how common each disease had been at the six different time periods. The first three cancers fall into the "non-small cell" category of lung disease that accounts for about 85 percent of all lung cancers in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society.

The SEER figures showed that by the years 2000 to 2003, 47 percent of all lung cancers were adenocarcinoma, Strauss and his team observed.

While American Cancer Society numbers currently place adenocarcinoma at 40 percent of all cases, both ACS and SEER data confirm that adenocarcinoma is by far the most prevalent form of lung cancer today --- regardless of race, age and gender.

In 1950, adenocarcinoma constituted just 5 percent of all lung cancer cases, and a diagnosis of the disease was not typically considered to be due to cigarette smoking. Back in the mid-20th century, most lung cancer cases were squamous cell, the researchers said.

But the SEER data illustrate a sharp rise in adenocarcinoma cases beginning in the 1960s. And from the 1975-79 period to the 1995-99 period, adenocarcinoma cases skyrocketed 62 percent. Adenocarcinoma surpassed squamous cell carcinoma as the most common form of lung cancer among women in the 1975-79 period and among men during the 1980-84 period.

Because the SEER database did not collect information on smoking demographics, the researchers said they subsequently sifted through a wide range of additional data covering 50 years of U.S. cigarette production and consumer habits in search of an underlying explanation.

Strauss and his colleagues said they found that the wide-scale adoption of filtered and low-tar cigarettes closely tracked the jump in adenocarcinoma rates.

Filtered cigarettes went from 1 percent of the U.S. market in 1950 to 64 percent by 1964. By 1986, filtered cigarettes had captured 95 percent of the market; by 2007 that figure was 98 percent.

"And while adenocarcinoma of the lung has always existed, it is now the most common form of lung cancer, and probably the second most common cause of cancer death," said Strauss. "Probably more people die specifically of smoking-related adenocarcinoma today than die of colon cancer."

"So while nothing is really new here, we're putting it all together," he said. And what emerges, he added, is the story of a tobacco industry that years back actively changed its product to minimize its known connection to certain types of cancers, thereby giving birth to a whole new carcinogenic threat and an even bigger lung cancer killer.

"And so now I'm hoping that there will be a recognition that the tobacco industry actually created this deadly epidemic of smoking-related adenocarcinoma through decades of deception," Strauss said.

The results of several other international studies were also presented this week at the South Korea conference, including a Norwegian finding that hand-rolled cigarettes are more carcinogenic than pre-packaged cigarettes, resulting in a higher risk for lung cancer.

Another study, out of Japan, showed that people with a family history of lung cancer are more likely to develop the disease -- particularly squamous cell disease -- later in life. However, a general family history of cancer was not associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbeslife/health/feeds/hscout/2007/09/06/hscout607994.html>

**5.** **Anheuser-Busch sees Headier Growth in 2007**

William Spain *MarketWatch*September 6, 2007

Anheuser-Busch expects its 2007 earnings growth to surpass its long-term target rate, the brewing behemoth said Thursday, citing recovering beer industry volume, favorable pricing, an expanded portfolio of craft and imports and distribution opportunities in other beverage categories.

During afternoon trading, Anheuser-Busch (BUD) Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc said it continues to see accelerated sales and earnings growth in the second half of this year, with earnings per share growth for all of 2007 above its 7% to 10% long-term objective.

"U.S. beer industry volume in 2006 and year-to-date has grown at a healthy pace," the company said in a release ahead of an investor presentation in Boston. "Over this period, import and craft beers in particular have enjoyed strong growth and Anheuser-Busch has added considerably to its portfolio and presence in these growing segments through alliances, acquisitions and new product development."

With mass-market domestic suds in the doldrums -- and sprits companies steadily nibbling away at their share of the beverage alcohol business -- brewers have increasingly turned to craft, flavored or imported products to maintain growth.

Indeed, Anheuser-Busch noted that U.S. beer sales-to-retailers were below expectations in the first half of the year, although volume trends have shown some improvement in the second half. At the same time, pricing has been relatively favorable as a dearth of deep discounting -- and some new higher-end brands -- helped it push revenue per barrel up 2.7% in the first half. And it is planning to raise prices on most of its volume by early next year.

Anheuser-Busch added that is has "also been leveraging its superior distribution system to pursue high-margin growth opportunities in non-alcohol beverages, such as energy drinks and super-premium waters."

Shares of Anheuser-Busch were up almost 2% at $49.38 in afternoon action.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/anheuser-busch-sees-headier-growth-2007/story.aspx?guid=%7B4E4122E7-F118-4D6D-9472-754A849713A2%7D>

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

**6. Fine French wine Labels may Lie**

Henry Samuel
*Telegraph*
September 6, 2007

Wine sales in France have dwindled after nationwide anti-alcohol campaigns

Up to a third of wines sold under France's regional appellation system might be from an entirely different region, according to a French consumers' group.

The Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée, or AOC, once a gold stamp of origin and quality, is fast turning into a national joke, UFC-Que Choisir said.

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|  Fine French wine labels may lie |
| Wine sales in France have dwindled after nationwide anti-alcohol campaigns |

It claimed this was due in large part to AOC award panels made up of local wine professionals with vested interests.

Unscrupulous "judges" on local panels were accused of giving lesser wines the prestigious AOC label in the face of increasing competition from New World wines, whose world market share has risen sharply in recent years.

Slack controls saw 99 per cent of all candidate wines awarded their AOC label in 2005.

As a result, a third of AOC wines were "sub-standard" and of dubious geographical origin, UFC found.

Alain Bazot, the head of UFC, said: "For a number of years, we've seen a steady fall in quality in a number of AOCs, which has undermined consumer confidence."

The association called on the national appellation institute to take urgent steps to correct the situation, preferably by removing fraudulent or poor quality wines from AOC lists. It warned that it may be "the last chance" for the system to reform.

AOC wines, which come from 470 regions, account for 44 per cent of all French wine production, a share that has doubled since the 1970s.

This is not the first time the label system has been hit by controversy. Last year, the French wine producer credited with almost single-handedly transforming Beaujolais Nouveau into a global phenomenon was found guilty of mixing low grade wine with top vintages.

Georges Duboeuf, 72, the self-styled "King of Beaujolais," was convicted for "fraud and attempted fraud concerning the origin and quality of wines". He was fined 30,000 euros.

In 2005, British wine drinkers consumed around 1.7 billion bottles.

But between 2001 and 2005, the volume of French imports fell by eight per cent, while imports of Australian wines rose by 51 per cent, taking over from France at the top of the import list.

Imports from the USA more than doubled, while imports from South Africa rose by more than 50 per cent.

Such figures have plunged the French wine industry into crisis.

Sales in France - which still account for about two thirds of national wine production - have dwindled, hit by nationwide anti-alcohol campaigns and stricter drink-driving laws.

Chronic overproduction has exacerbated the problem, with the European Union being called in to pay for surplus wine to be distilled into pure alcohol.

Now the French wine industry is bracing itself for its smallest harvest in 20 years, hit by a summer of storms and plant diseases brought on by wet weather.

Many vineyards, particularly those growing organic grapes, have been wiped out by mildew.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/09/05/wfrawine105.xml>

**III. IOWA NEWS.**

**7. U of I hopes Books Replace Binges**
**Classes will shift to thwart 'Thirsty Thursdays'**

Erin Jordan
*Des Moines Register*
September 6, 2007

The University of Iowa - where nearly 70 percent of students report binge drinking - will shift more mandatory classes to Fridays next spring to curb the "Thirsty Thursday" phenomenon in which students kick off alcohol-fueled, three-day weekends.

"Thursdays are the new Friday," said Chelsea Moore, 19, an international studies and Spanish major from Highland Park, Ill.

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| http://cmsimg.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D2&Date=20070906&Category=NEWS02&ArtNo=709060411&Ref=AR&Profile=1001&maxw=264 |
| U of I senior Stephen Paxton met Samantha Saltzman and Chelsea Moore in Iowa City last Thursday. Moore said she arranges her schedule to avoid Friday classes so she can work at her internship that day and start the weekend Thursday night. |

Moore and her friends were waiting in a 30-deep line last week to get into Vito's, where the Thursday night drink special is $1 U-call-it. Nearby, more than 75 people waited to get into It's Brothers, where you can purchase a plastic mug for $5 and have it filled for $1, students said.

Not all students - or faculty - are happy about the U of I's plan to schedule more Friday classes.

But the U.S. Surgeon General recommends an emphasis on Friday classes, and a University of Missouri study shows that students with Friday classes drank just half as much as classmates who were starting the weekend a day early.

"The evidence there is pretty strong that having students in class on Fridays helps reduce binge drinking," said U of I Associate Provost Tom Rocklin.

The Missouri study surveyed 3,341 students at the Columbia campus on their drinking habits over four years and compared the data with class schedules and transcripts.

Students whose first Friday classes started at 8 a.m. or earlier drank an average of 1.24 drinks, compared with students whose Friday classes were noon or later who drank an average of 2.52 drinks, according to the study, which was funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

About two-thirds of the students who drank alcohol on Thursday consumed binge amounts if they had late or no classes on Friday.

Binge drinking was defined in the study as five or more drinks for men and four or more for women.

Students who had late or no Friday classes were more likely to be male and members of fraternities or sororities, the study showed. These students were also more likely to have reported pre-college drunken episodes.

In a similar report, the U.S. Surgeon General called on college officials to "reinstate Friday classes to shorten the elongated weekend." The surgeon general's list of recommendations to reduce binge drinking included eliminating alcohol advertising in college newspapers and working with the community to reduce the number of bars near campus.

**Years ago there were quizzes on Fridays**

The "Thirsty Thursday" phenomenon might surprise many older alumni, who remember the Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule of classes that often put quizzes and exams on Friday. But in recent years, Friday has become a virtual class-free day for many students.
For the semester that began last month, the U of I is offering 42.5 percent fewer classes - about 1,000 fewer course sections - on Friday than the average number offered Monday through Thursday.

The University of Northern Iowa has 38 percent fewer Friday classes, and Iowa State University's Friday offerings are 27 percent lower than the average for the other days of the week, according to data provided by the universities.

The U of I will start to reverse the trend by moving courses with large freshman contingents and attendance requirements to Fridays, Rocklin said. Targeted courses include college transition, a one-semester course for freshmen, and rhetoric, a freshman-level course that combines composition and public speaking.

While most freshmen are under age 21, the legal drinking age, these students are at greater risk for binge drinking, Rocklin said.

**The idea of reclaiming Fridays isn't new.**

In 2004, U of I faculty and administrators talked about bringing Fridays back for academics when they drafted a new strategic plan. But no changes were made to course schedules.

Today, the idea has support from top officials, including new president Sally Mason.

"We better take a look at that," Mason said in a June interview with The Des Moines Register a week after she was named U of I president. "Our students' health and well-being is so important."

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| http://cmsimg.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D2&Date=20070906&Category=NEWS02&ArtNo=709060411&Ref=V2&Profile=1001&maxw=250 |
| U of I sophomores Autumn Ingels, left, Kristen Hanneman, Ashley Rodriguez and Launey Pulliam join the crowd in downtown Iowa City last Thursday. |

Rhetoric Department chairwoman Mary Trachsel, whose faculty will be among those to teach more Friday course sections, said she thinks it's reasonable to expect students and faculty to be in class five days a week.

"I don't think it's a good idea to let students' preferences determine when you schedule courses," she said.

However, some faculty who might lose research or meeting time to Friday teaching duties have misgivings, contending that students may also just skip more classes if they are forced to sign up on Fridays.

Michael O'Hara, a psychology professor and vice president of the U of I Faculty Senate, said of the changes: "I would be none too happy about it, but you just live with it."

Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa have not yet made plans to shift classes to Fridays as a way to curb Thursday night drinking, officials said.

But UNI registrar Phil Patton noted that, aside from the drinking issue, a more even distribution of classes allows students a greater ability to get the courses they need to graduate - even if they are involved in sports or hold down a job.

Thousands of U of I students poured into Iowa City's downtown Pedestrian Mall on the first Thursday night of the fall semester.

Buses from the dorms were full of college students, many dressed up and planning which bars to hit last week. A woman on the Ped Mall ran over to a cluster of friends near the doors of the Union bar and said, "Does anyone need an ID?" A gathering of young men smoked a hookah pipe while sitting on a park bench.

The word is out about the coming changes for Friday in the second semester.

Not everybody is sold on the idea. Jennifer Lickteig, 21, a senior from Storm Lake, noted the inevitability of student drinking, saying, "There's no way you're going to get students to stop drinking on any night of the week."

Some plan classes so they can go home

Several students said they avoid signing up for Friday classes so they can party on Thursday or just go home for a long weekend. But others said they would make it to their Friday classes - even if they do go out on Thursday.

"Whether I'm wasted or not, I'll be there," Ashley Rodriguez, a sophomore business major from Joliet, Ill., said about her 9:30 a.m. Spanish class.

Tom Pietrini, a U of I sophomore from Cary, Ill., said he had plans to go to both of his Friday classes: engineering physics II at 9:30 a.m. and thermodynamics at 12:30 p.m. "I'm an engineering major, so class is a big deal," he said.

One junior, Daniel Piersee, said freshmen should benefit from the changes.

"Freshman year is when people's college behavior is determined," said Piersee, who is from Keokuk.

But Wilkister Tangasi, 18, of Ottumwa said college students don't need the U of I to manage their social lives.

"There needs to be balance (between academics and partying)," Tangasi said. "But I don't think it's the university's job to make that balance."

Why the U of I is ready to change schedules

The U of I has incentive to change.

The university recently ranked 12th on the Princeton Review's list of top party schools. Even if the survey is unscientific, university administrators loathe such a distinction.

Almost 70 percent of U of I students surveyed by Student Health Services said they binge drank in the previous two weeks. Seventy-three percent of students had at least one hangover the previous six months, and 41 percent said they missed class after drinking.

Iowa City and U of I police charged about 1,500 minors with underage possession of alcohol in 2006.

Iowa City has licenses for more than 50 bars and nightclubs within walking distance of the campus.

The U of I has fought alcohol abuse in the recent past by hosting dry concerts and movies and creating Night Games, free late-night activities at the U of I Fieldhouse. A $10 million renovation of the Iowa Memorial Union created a place where students can hang out and study late at night. The U of I's Stepping Up group seeks to combat binge and underage drinking with programs and advertising campaigns.

"The university does need to address the issue comprehensively," said Regenia Bailey, an Iowa City council member.

Adding more Friday classes is a great idea, Bailey said. But the U of I should also increase enforcement of alcohol violations in the residence halls and teach dorm officials how to better watch for behaviors that come with problem drinking, such as hangovers and missed classes, so they can help students, she said.

Missouri researchers recommended colleges require students to enroll in classes before 10 a.m. on Fridays.

The Missouri study also offered a possible solution to combat weekend binge drinking that is even more radical.

That idea? Saturday classes.

The U of I currently offers 25 Saturday courses for fall, ISU has 50 and UNI has none.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070906/NEWS02/709060411/1001/NEWS>

**8. Iowa City bar Scene Revives
Underage drinkers keep police very busy**

Jennifer Hemmingsen
*Gazette Online*

As the 20-year-old man walked past Iowa City Police Officer Dennis Kelly at The Union Bar early last Sunday, Kelly saw the beer, saw the man wasn't wearing a wristband showing he was a legal drinker and asked to see the man's ID.

The man kept walking.

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| Photo |
| Iowa City Police Officers Travis Jelinek (left) and Dennis Kelly talk with a man who was arrested for public intoxication outside the Summit Bar in downtown Iowa City early Sunday. |

Kelly asked again. The man refused. As the man stepped on the bottom stair, Kelly put a hand on his shoulder. "Excuse me," the man said and tried to pull away before running toward the door, where Kelly's partner, Iowa City Police Officer Travis Jelinek, intercepted him. About a dozen people stood by, holding drinks and taking cell phone camera pictures of the scuffle.

"Pepper spray," Kelly yelled and sprayed the man's face. The man struggled before police handcuffed him and waited for a squad car. A passer-by shouted: "In three years, we'll defend you."

It's scenes like this that have several Iowa City police officers, including the chief, saying they think Iowa City should ban underage patrons from the city's bars. Chief Sam Hargadine said he understands the city allows 19-year-olds to go to bars to give them something to do: "But the reality is they're being served," he said.

Iowa City voters will decide Nov. 6 whether to ban people younger than 21 from being in alcohol-serving establishments after 10 p.m.

University of Iowa students, who get to vote in that election, have returned for the fall semester and the downtown Iowa City bar scene is back in session.

With only one exception, every person foot patrol officers Jelinek and Kelly dealt with from 11:30 p.m. last Saturday until 3 a.m. Sunday was underage. All but one had been drinking, and they were cited for breaking the law. There was the 20-year-old man who sneaked behind the bar at The Summit, the 18-year-old man at the same bar who swiped a drink off a waitress's tray, the 19- and 20-year-olds holding bottles of beer at The Union.

"Just walking down the street, you hear the chatter: 'Let's go to this bar. Let's go to that bar. What kind of ID do you have?'‚" Kelly said.

**Busy making arrests**

Iowa City is a destination town for the underage because other towns limit bar patronage to legal drinkers, said Iowa City Police Officer Gabe Cook, who spent last Saturday night shuttling downtown arrests to the Johnson County Jail. "It's

10 percent of the kids causing 90 percent of the problems down here," Cook said.

Last Saturday and Sunday police wrote 26 tickets for possession of alcohol under the legal age, commonly called a PAULA ticket, police records show. During that time, 11 more people under 21 were cited for other alcohol violations like drunken driving and public intoxication, the records show.

So far this year, Iowa City police have written nearly 500 PAULA citations, most of them in downtown bars. On late-night foot patrol, Jelinek and Kelly said they keep their eyes on large-capacity bars that allow 19-year-olds. They scan crowds for people with drinks but without wristbands that show they're of age, or for people who try to duck or hide drinks when they see police are coming.

"I call it the 'oh crap' face," Jelinek says.

**Never-ending battle**

Outside The Summit, 10 S. Clinton St., Clancy Quinn, 20, of Cedar Rapids, watched as police arrested a friend for public intoxication last weekend.

"We left him for five minutes, and all the sudden he's under arrest," said Quinn, a UI biochemistry student. "I'm going to have to go bail him out in the morning."

At The Union Bar, 121 E. College St., Jelinek cited four people for PAULA in less than an hour Saturday night. Police weaved through the crowd upstairs then positioned themselves by a stairway to watch incoming patrons.

Just after midnight, Jelinek saw a woman come up the stairs with a bottle of Bud Light in hand, but wearing no wristband. As she headed into the bar, he steered her in the other direction and checked her ID.

"Have you ever received a possession of alcohol under the legal age citation before?" he asked. She shook her head.

Holding a flashlight under his arm so he could see, he wrote the ticket: a $200 fine, $64 surcharge and $50 in court costs. If she wants to contest it, she can turn up to court. Or, she can pay the fine before the court date. If she doesn't do either, authorities issue a warrant for her arrest.

As Jelinek finished his paperwork, Kelly pulled a man aside to check his ID. The woman disappeared back into the crowded bar.

"Sometimes you can get 20 to 30 of these a night," Jelinek said. "You could have two officers in one bar and just keep pulling them."

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070830/NEWS/70830072/1006/NEWS>

**9. UI's Huntrods Arrested in Iowa City**

Randy Peterson
*Des Moines Register*
September 6, 2007

Iowa City police arrested Iowa football player Clint Huntrods at 2:25 a.m. today, according to online records.

Huntrods, 22, was charged with interference with official acts, public intoxication, and urination in public.

The arrest occurred at Prentiss and Dubuque streets, according to arrest records.

According to the police report, an officer spotted Huntrods urinating on a sidewalk. Huntrods ran after being told to stop, then was caught. The report says Huntrods had poor balance, red watery eyes, an odor of alcohol, and slurred speech.

Huntrods declined a breath analysis test, according to the report.

The senior, who is listed as a backup long snapper, played in Saturday’s 16-3 win against Northern Illinois.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070906/SPORTS020502/70906009/1003/SPORTS>

**10. Sheriff’s Office Partners with Iowa ABD to Fight Tobacco Use**

*Newton Daily News*
August 29, 2007

The Jasper County Sheriff’s Office has taken a pledge — the Iowa Pledge — to keep tobacco out of the hands of Jasper County youth.

The Iowa Pledge is a partnership with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division to educate local retailers and to enforce Iowa’s tobacco laws. The Iowa Pledge program has helped increase statewide tobacco compliance by 22 percent since it began in 2000. By partnering with the Iowa ABD, the sheriff’s office will look to do its part in continuing the upward trend.

Throughout the upcoming year, the sheriff’s office will be offering free monthly Iowa Pledge Retailer Certification Classes to local tobacco retailers where clerks will have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of Iowa’s tobacco laws, as well as how to calculate a customer’s age and effectively refuse illegal sales.

“The Iowa Pledge Retailer Certification Classes are a great way for clerks to prepare themselves to refuse illegal tobacco sales,” Jasper County Sheriff Mike Balmer said. “The classes will help retailers maintain a compliant and responsible establishment.”

Clerks who successfully complete an online exam will be Iowa Pledge certified, and the retail establishment will receive an affirmative defense against a civil penalty if the certified clerk makes an illegal sale.

Also as part of the Iowa Pledge program, deputies will conduct compliance checks on local establishments. Underage customers under the supervision of law enforcement officers will enter establishments and attempt to buy tobacco products. Clerks who make the illegal sales will be cited on the spot.

Criminal penalties for selling tobacco to a minor include a $100 fine for the first offense, a $250 fine for the second offense and a $500 fine for third and subsequent offenses. Handing out citations, however, is not the intent of the Iowa Pledge program, Balmer said.

“By partnering with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division, we hope to educate clerks and maintain a compliant retail environment in our community,” he said. “Moreover, we pledge to help keep tobacco out of the hands of Iowa’s youth.”

<http://www.newtondailynews.com/articles/2007/08/29/news/local4.txt>

**11.** **Ban on some Outdoor Smoking Starts Tuesday**

*Des Moines Register*August 31, 2007

The City of Des Moines' smoking ban within selected park and recreation venues will officially go into effect Tuesday. The Des Moines City Council passed the ordinance earlier this month. It prohibits smoking within 25 feet of entrances to park and recreation facilities including playgrounds, wading pools, park restrooms, community centers, enclosed park shelters, golf course clubhouses and during outdoor youth sponsored activities.

Additionally, smoking is prohibited within city swimming pools and aquatics center, Gray's Lake Beach, golf course clubhouses, James W. Cownie Baseball and Soccer parks, Western Gateway and Westchester Parks.

"This ordinance was passed by the Park and Recreation Board based on citizen concerns with cigarette butt debris and embers at limited seating venues and youth activity areas,” said Don Tripp, park and recreation director. “The ordinance does not ban smoking within the entire park system, but addresses specific areas of concerns raised by our citizens".

Signs will be installed within the designated areas where smoking is prohibited and the city anticipates voluntary compliance from park users.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070831/NEWS/70831046/1001/SPORTS020602>

**12.** **Beer Lovers Gather in Amana**

Hieu Pham
*Iowa City Press-Citizen*
September 3, 2007

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."

That is one of Nick Slater's favorites quotes, compliments of Ben Franklin, and one he said perfectly explains the appeal of Sunday's Beer Festival in Amana.

"It's amazing what you can do with three ingredients," the 26-year-old Iowa City resident said.

About 700 beer lovers came to the third annual Beer Festival hosted by Amana's Millstream Brewing Comp-any, the oldest brewery in Iowa. Eleven breweries and seven home brewing clubs in the state set up tents, offering more than 40 beer types.

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| http://cmsimg.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcsi.dll/bilde?Site=D5&Date=20070903&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=709030310&Ref=AR&Profile=1079&maxw=280&border=1 |
| Barbara Howarth, right, of New Jersey lifts a beer while Darcie Yamada of Iowa City talks to a friend Sunday during the third annual Festival of Iowa Beers at the Millstream Brewing Company in Amana. |

People enjoy the festival because the beer they drink is served by the brewer himself, said Teresa Albert, co-owner of Millstream Brewing.

"It gets bigger and bigger each year," she said. "I think this festival is unique because it's only Iowa-made beer. ... There are 11 breweries here out of the 14 in Iowa."

For $12 admission, tasters were able to try everything from the bitter malted beer to the smooth and sweet amber beer. To assure safety, designated drivers got in for half the price.

"Beer is a real social drink," said brewer Peter Ausenhus, the owner of Worth Brewing Company in Northwood. "With something like wine, people may feel that they don't know everything about it, but with beer, they can just relax and enjoy."

Ausenhus brewed his beer at home for 20 years until he decided to turn the hobby into a business. This was his first year at the festival.

"It's a great day with a ton of people," he said.

People sat in lawn chairs, drinking and listening to local musicians. They stood in line for samples and chatted on the side with brewers. The festival is a good learning opportunity for aspiring brewers, said Aaron Taubman, head brewer of Millstream Brewery.

"The most important thing is you're getting the beer from the guy who made it," Taubman said.

For Slater and his friends, the festival was an "informational vacation." They said that one day they would like to make their own beer.

"I'm a beer connoisseur," Slater said.

And what is the appeal of beer? Slater said there are many different types, and all of them are good.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070903/NEWS01/709030310/1079>

**13.** **Chronic Drunken Driver who Killed 2 dies in Prison
The father of a victim of Donald Corwin says prosecutors and judges should be tough on drunken drivers.**

William Petroski
*Des Moines Register*
September 6, 2007

Donald Corwin, a chronic drunken driver whose treatment in the courts sparked public outrage after he killed two young women in a 1996 Ankeny traffic crash, has died while serving a prison term, an official said Wednesday.

Corwin, 57, died Tuesday at University Hospitals in Iowa City after a lengthy battle with lung cancer, said Fred Scaletta, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Corrections. He had been an inmate at the Oakdale state prison near Iowa City.

 Corwin was serving a 15-year sentence as a habitual offender at the time of his death. His most recent prison term began May 13, 2004, Scaletta said.

Corwin, a former car salesman, had been convicted of drunken driving at least four times. He pleaded guilty of vehicular homicide in the deaths of Heather Hallengren, 19, of Adel, and Mercedes Heggen, 20, of New Virginia.

Both women died of injuries as a result of a March 30, 1996, crash on Southwest Irvinedale Drive in Ankeny when Corwin's Jeep Grand Cherokee crossed the center line and hit their car head-on. Heggen, who was driving, was dead at the scene; Hallengren survived less than a week.

The two women, who were roommates, had been students at Des Moines Area Community College.

John Hallengren, Heather's father, said Wednesday that Corwin's death brings some closure to his family. While his family is not rejoicing at the drunken driver's death, he said his wife, Jamie, told him "that we can all feel a lot safer knowing that someone like Donald Corwin is not out on the street to kill anymore."

Hallengren said he and his wife moved to New Hampshire after their daughter's death because of their difficulties in coming to grips with the tragedy they had experienced.

Hallengren said his family still strongly believes that Iowa's justice system didn't work in Corwin's case and that Iowa prosecutors and judges need to be tougher on drunken drivers.

"The system was broken. They let him off the hook too many times," Hallengren said.

Tests on Corwin about two hours after the Ankeny crash indicated a blood alcohol level nearly three times the legal limit. He later pleaded guilty to two counts of vehicular homicide and was sentenced to two consecutive 10-year terms in prison. John Hallengren excoriated Corwin at the time, calling him "one of the most dangerous vermin ever produced, a sociopath having no social conscience."

Corwin, who lived in Ankeny, pleaded for leniency from the court. Flush-faced and refusing to meet the eyes of his accusers, he said he could better pay back society by performing community service and going to prison for half the maximum sentence.

"I don't think the words will be heard," Corwin said as his children and grandchildren looked on. "But believe me, this is such a devastating accident, tragedy ... I feel that I've got something to give back to the community. It's something I can't do if I'm in for 20 years.

After Corwin was behind bars just three months, District Judge Gregory Hulse allowed Corwin to be released on appeal bond. That infuriated several Iowans, including Gov. Terry Branstad, who called on the Legislature to tighten the law that permitted Corwin to be released.

"We need to change the law to say no appeal bond for someone who pleads guilty to a crime that led to someone's death," Branstad said at the time.

Corwin agreed to stay away from alcohol, but he was caught drinking and returned to prison in September 1997 for breaking that promise.

Corwin's case prompted another public uproar in June 1998 when Polk County District Judge Ray Fenton slashed in half Corwin's 20-year prison term for killing the two women. Fenton defended his ruling, saying he believed Corwin did not intentionally cause the women's deaths.

Mercedes Heggen's family couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday, but John Hallengren said he believed Corwin's death might be a blessing in disguise.

"If you believe in God, it's his way of doing things," he said.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070906/NEWS/709060405/1001/NEWS>

**14.** **Judge rules Filippo Assaulted State Trooper**

Deb Nicklay
*WCF Courier*
September 1, 2007

The man accused of trying to drive over a state trooper is guilty of assaulting a peace officer with a weapon, eluding and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

William Filippo Jr., 30, of Cedar Falls, learned about the ruling late Friday after Floyd County District Judge John Mackey revealed his decision.

 Authorities convinced Judge Mackey that Filippo tried to run into trooper Mark Domino on Feb. 16. The incident happened two miles south of Charles City on U.S. Highway 218 after Domino attempted to stop Filippo for erratic driving.

In making the stop, Domino intentionally rammed his patrol car into Filippo's Dodge Durango. Domino later fired four shots at the vehicle when Filippo drove at the officer. One bullet hit Filippo in the head behind his right ear.

According to court documents, Filippo's blood and urine samples indicated he had a blood alcohol level of .207 and cocaine and TCH in his system at the time.

William Filippo Jr. was found guilty Friday of
three charges in connection with a chase
and shooting near Charles City in February.
Sentencing is set for October 16, 2007.

The prosecution and Filippo's defense attorney agreed Aug. 21 that a more serious charge of attempted murder would be dropped if Filippo agreed to forgo a jury trial. Judge Mackey assessed the information and decided the case under a legal procedure called a trial on the minutes.

Public defender Susan Flander during her closing argument raised questions about Domino's performance during the confrontation and revealed Domino had a blood alcohol level of .037. She argued the reading might have impaired Domino's judgment.

Mackey, though, ruled for the prosecution, saying Filippo defied trooper Domino's commands, which figured into his verdict.

Mackey added the "overwhelming amount of corroborative evidence from numerous motorist eyewitnesses and physical evidence secured from the scene heavily outweighs any question raised by the defendant regarding trooper Domino's credibility stemming from his blood alcohol level."

Beyond that, Mackey said the alcohol issue belongs to the Iowa State Patrol.

"It does call into question the trooper's judgment regarding the use of alcoholic beverages the evening prior to coming on duty, which is an administrative matter to be resolved by his employer, not the court," the judge said.

Floyd County Attorney Jesse Marzen said Mackey "made the right decision." He also wondered if alcohol swabs used to clean Domino's wounds contributed to the trooper's blood alcohol reading.

Flander previously said she agreed to a trial on the minutes to preserve issues for appeal. Those, she said, are whether the state fulfilled her client's right to a speedy trial and a problem with Filippo's first public defender, Judith O'Donohoe.

Judge Mackey recused O'Donohoe from the case after learning the attorney once represented Domino. The order disqualifying O'Donohoe came in June after Marzen notified the court of the situation.

Filippo will be sentenced at 2 p.m. Oct. 16 in Floyd County District Court in Charles City.

<http://www.wcfcourier.com/articles/2007/09/01/news/top_story/doc46da09cb1bf1f380609126.txt>

**IV.** **OTHER STATE NEWS****15. Councilman urges total Ban on Alcohol at San Diego Beaches (California)**

Chet Barfield
*San Diego Metro News*
September 4, 2007

A day after a melee between liquored-up beachgoers and police at Pacific Beach, Councilman Kevin Faulconer said Tuesday he will try to enact a total ban of alcohol on city beaches.

Such a ban already exists on beaches in La Jolla. Faulconer said he would introduce an ordinance before the City Council extending that would extend that ban to Mission Beach, Ocean Beach and Pacific Beach.

Faulconer announced his intentions at a news conference held near Reed Avenue and Ocean Boulevard in Pacific Beach, the site of Monday's drunken brawl, which ignited when officers tried to break up a large fight on the beach.

Sixteen people were arrested for fighting and public drunkenness.

He called the incident "an embarrassment and a disgrace" to the city.

"Never again should we have to have police in riot gear walking down the beaches - that is not San Diego," the councilman said. "For those who believe an all-out ban is too extreme, I invite you to convince me otherwise."

The issue of alcohol on city beaches is a sensitive one, and both supporters and opponents of a booze ban were on hand for Faulconer's announcement. A Beach Alcohol Task Force convened by the councilman a year ago failed to reach a consensus.
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20070904-1353-bn04ban.html>

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**16. Woman, Lawyer Challenge Alcohol-Monitoring Device (Colorado)**

*Denver Channel*
September 2, 2007

The latest use of wireless gear to monitor alcohol abuse is being challenged on grounds that it convicts defendants before their trials.

Authorities are using the device on people released on bond on charges that may be alcohol related, The Coloradoan reported Sunday.

It is called the Secure Continuous Alcohol Monitoring Device or SCRAM, and is an ankle bracelet that monitors sweat for alcohol. If it is detected, a message is sent to the person's case manager.

Cathryn Windham, 28, arrested on suspicion of assault and domestic violence following a late June argument with her boyfriend, admitted having had a few drinks that night. She was initially ordered to undergo periodic sobriety monitoring, and told that if she missed a test or failed one she would have to wear the bracelet.

She says she never failed a test but was ordered to wear the bracelet, and pay $11 daily for its use.

"I wasn't going to drink anyway," she said. "I came here to stop drinking."

Windham said she took it off because she suffering from severe bruising, blistering and pain related to the device. She now takes random breath tests.

Sharon Winfree, who heads pretrial services, said she could not comment on specific cases but said that unless a client has a positive or missed breath test or requests being put into the device, it is not used. She said sobriety monitoring of one kind or another has long been a condition of bail.

Magistrate Matt Zehe said he will require sobriety monitoring if alcohol or drugs are believed to have contributed to the crime for the safety of the public.

Erik Fischer, Windham's lawyer, said forced use of the device effectively convicts a person before their trial.

"The victim in this case is not the public," he said. "Who are we protecting by putting her through the huge expense of SCRAM?"

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/14031356/detail.html?rss=den&psp=news>

**17.** **Hawaii tops Nation in Alcohol Traffic Death Rate (Hawaii)**

*Boston Globe*
September 3, 2007

Deathly traffic accidents in Hawaii were more likely to involve alcohol than in any other state, according to federal government data.

Hawaii tops the nation in the percentage of traffic deaths involving alcohol at 52 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Out of 161 people who died on Hawaii roads in 2006, 84 of them involved at least one driver, pedestrian or cyclists who had alcohol in his blood.

Alcohol was a factor in more than half of traffic deaths in only three other states -- Rhode Island, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

In 2005, there were 140 traffic fatalities in Hawaii, with alcohol present in 72 of them, for 51 percent.

"We don't have an exact answer as to why there's an increase," said Leah marks, executive director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving-Hawaii.

More than half of all traffic fatalities in the state -- 90 -- were in Oahu last year, but only 31 of them involved alcohol, said Honolulu Assistant Police Chief Bryan Wauke.

Honolulu police have also stepped up enforcement against people who drive under the influence of alcohol, with 2,264 DUI arrests as of July 7 compared to 1,936 for the same period last year.

The state spends $1.1 million per year on education campaigns and grants to county police departments for enforcement, said Scott Ishikawa, spokesman for the state Department of Transportation.

Hawaii fared slightly better in the number of drunken driving fatalities, which are defined as those involving at least one person with a blood alcohol level higher than 0.08 percent.

There were 63 drunken driving fatalities in Hawaii in 2006, or 39 percent of traffic fatalities, according to the NHTSA. Only Wisconsin, South Carolina and Montana had higher percentages.

Hawaii had the same rate of drunken driving deaths in 2005.

"We think it continues to happen because people are allowed to drive impaired," Marks said.

Nationwide, the number of traffic fatalities dropped from 43,510 in 2005 to 42,642 in 2006. The percentage of those accidents involving alcohol changed only slightly.

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2007/09/03/hawaii_tops_nation_in_alcohol_traffic_death_rate/>

**18.** **8th Guilty Plea ties Another Knot in a Complicated Web of Family and Fraud (Minnesota)**
**Four groups of brothers were accused in a tax-fraud conspiracy involving cigarette sales taxes. A ninth defendant is expected to plead next week.**

Dan Browning
*Star Tribune*
August 29, 2007

Taleb Mohamed Wazwaz appeared in federal court Wednesday on his 41st birthday to plead guilty to conspiring with a dozen other men to cheat the state out of more than $2.5 million in sales taxes by concealing revenues from some Twin Cities tobacco stores.

He still may face charges in a mortgage fraud investigation that implicated him and at least seven of his co-defendants.

Wazwaz was the eighth defendant to plead guilty thus far in the tax-fraud conspiracy, and another is expected to plead guilty next week.

Most of the defendants belong to four groups of brothers identified by their names: Othman, Mohamed, Yassin and Mahmoud. They owned tobacco stores in the Twin Cities and concealed the revenue and expenses of those stores or the identities of the people deriving economic benefit from their operation, according to the indictment.

Plea agreements made public thus far reveal that federal agents are also investigating the defendants for crimes related to mortgage fraud. In exchange for pleading guilty in the tax-fraud case, the government agreed not to bring mortgage fraud charges against most of the men.

One exception was Sabry Mohammed Wazwaz, 30. He pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiracy in the tax-fraud case, and also to a new charge of conspiring to commit mortgage fraud. He admitted to buying two duplexes in St. Paul in 2005, then fraudulently reselling them as condominiums to straw buyers with the use of inflated appraisals and other falsified documents.

The plea agreement puts the loss from Sabry Wazwaz's crimes between $1 million and $1.3 million. It calls for a sentence of 37 to 46 months in prison, a fine up to $75,000, restitution and up to three years of supervised release.

On Wednesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney David MacLaughlin told Taleb Wazwaz that he could settle pending mortgage fraud charges. But he refused the government's offer without comment. He faces from 12 to 21 months in prison, a fine of up to $30,000 and restitution in the tax-fraud conspiracy.

**Case will probably wind down**

MacLaughlin told U.S. District Judge Ann Montgomery Tuesday that the tax-fraud case would probably wind down with the expected guilty plea of Kennedy Mohamed Wazwaz, which is scheduled for next Wednesday. He said three other defendants -- Fares Othman Wazwaz, Anthony Stallone and Othman Majed Wazwaz -- remain at-large overseas. "And I don't think any of those three guys are coming back."

The last remaining defendant, Kamil Madfoun Al-Esawi, was the "most minor player by far" in the alleged tax-fraud conspiracy, and the government expects to go to trial on a simpler charge stemming from lies he allegedly told authorities, MacLaughlin said.
The other defendants who have pleaded guilty in the tax fraud case are Houd Othman Wazwaz, Ziad Mahmoud Wazwaz, Raed Yassin Wazwaz, Tawfiq Othman Wazwaz, Yousef Mahmoud Wazwaz and Adel Salem.

**Previous convictions**

Some of the defendants had previously pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with cigarette sales. Stallone, also known as Zuhair Wazwaz, pleaded guilty in 2004 to mail and wire fraud. Salem pleaded guilty that same year to mail fraud. They pleaded guilty to ordering nearly $1 million in cigarettes with no intention of paying for them.

MacLaughlin, who heads the U.S. Attorney's Office's white-collar crime division in Minneapolis, declined to discuss the origin of the mortgage fraud investigation. But it likely started from an investigation into another Wazwaz family member.

Court records show that the government charged Fawaz Mahmoud Wazwaz, also known as Mike Wazwaz, in a December complaint with scheming to defraud Countrywide Home Loans out of $367,533.

Investigators allege that Fawaz Wazwaz colluded with appraisers, straw buyers and deal closers in "dozens of transactions."

His cousin Tawfiq Wazwaz, a brother of Houd Othman Wazwaz, was charged in February 2006 with aiding and abetting mortgage fraud related to that investigation while out on bond in a separate case. In that case, he had pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit mail fraud to cheat R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. out of more than $600,000. The government agreed to drop the mortgage fraud complaint to get him to pay restitution in the tobacco case.

<http://www.startribune.com/467/story/1391137.html>

**19.** **Booze Crackdown in Full Swing (Mississippi)**

*Clarion Ledger*September 5, 2007

Less than a year after the University of Mississippi enacted a two-strikes drug and alcohol policy, 135 students are halfway to being suspended.

The number was released Tuesday during an Alcohol Task Force meeting in Oxford at which university officials, local officials and others on the task force gathered to discuss the results of their efforts to reduce alcohol misuse and abuse among students, said university spokesman Mitchell Diggs.

As part of the reduction effort, the university adopted a two-strikes policy in November, although the school didn't officially enact the policy until the spring. After a student gets a drug or alcohol offense, he or she is put on probation. A second offense during the probation period results in suspension.

Five students already have been suspended.

The school also has enacted an online alcohol-education program that incoming students must complete to register for the spring semester. University attorney Lee Tyner said 3,116 have started the training; of those, 2,284 have finished.

The meeting Tuesday comes a few days before the first home football game since the adoption of the two-strikes policy.

As part of the effort, the school also is encouraging campus visitors to obey local laws and school policies regarding beer and other alcoholic drinks.

Much of the campus is in Lafayette County, where beer is illegal, Tyner said. It is legal for those over 21 to have liquor on the campus. However, if it's not clear that the alcohol belongs to one person, an officer may ask that it be poured out.

"We want to encourage responsible behavior and discourage distribution," Tyner said. "If it's out on the table and accessible to anyone, we can't distinguish between you having it for your own use and it being out for other consumption. Then we have to treat it as distribution."

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070905/NEWS/709050365/1001/news>



**20.** **Reality is, the Perception of Underage Drinking Has to Change (North Carolina)**

Cherry Speller *Daily Reflector - Editorial*September 3, 2007

This time of year, it's hard to compete with headlines about students going back to school and athletes getting back on the fields and courts, but underage drinking is doing it.

In the last two weeks, The Daily Reflector has reported on an East Carolina University fraternity that has been suspended indefinitely because of a party where 77 people were cited for underage drinking.

The paper's headlines also have included stories about a 20-year-old ECU football player who was suspended from Saturday's game against Virginia Tech because of a DWI charge. That arrest was the result of the Greenville Police Department's "Party Patrol" and "Booze It and Loose It" efforts to curb underage drinking and traffic and nuisance violations.

These incidents are a backdrop for "A Call to Action: The Next Steps," a strategic planning session hosted by the Pitt County Substance Abuse Coalition. The meeting is scheduled from 8:30-12:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation building, 4561 County Home Road.

"Our goal is to look at the type of changes we can make in the community that would lower the rate of underage drinking," said Margaret Blackmon, executive director of the coalition.

There are five outcomes that the coalition will look for ways to address over the next 18 months to five years, including how much alcohol is consumed in 30 days and the perception of risk and harm, parental disapproval and peer disapproval, she said. The age that youth begin using alcohol also will be evaluated.

According to the 2007 Middle School and High School Youth Risk Behavior survey conducted by the coalition, alcohol is the "drug of choice" for middle school and high school students in Pitt County, Blackmon said.

The age of alcohol use among sixth-graders begins around 10.2 years old, according to the survey. Twelfth-graders surveyed said their use began around 12.8 years old. Overall, the beginning age for alcohol use for students in grades six through 12 averages around 12 years old. The age youth begin using tobacco and marijuana also is around 12 years of age, Blackmon said. "So 12 is a crucial age for our youth."

The coalition's goal is for youth to delay using any of these substances over the long term, she said. It is focusing on alcohol because its use in 30 days is higher and the perception of risk is lower than for tobacco, the perception of parental disapproval is lower and the perception of peer disapproval is lower for alcohol than for other substances.

"They think it's riskier to smoke cigarettes than to drink alcohol," Blackmon said. "We have to increase that perception of harm."

The harm that can be caused by underage drinking is not just perceived but real.

According to the 2004 report "Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility," underage drinking can lead to a list of problems. The report was released by The National Academies, which is comprised of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.

"Acute consequences of underage drinking include unintentional death and injury associated with driving or engaging in other risky tasks after drinking, homicide and violence, suicide attempts, sexual assault, risky sexual behavior, and vandalism and property damage," the report says. "In addition, these consequences appear to be more severe for those who start drinking at a young age."

And research on adolescent brain development suggests that early heavy alcohol use may also have negative effects on the physical development of brain structure and on brain function. Negative effects include decreased ability in planning and executive functioning, memory, spatial operations and attention, the report says.

Blackmon said the coalition, which includes those who work with various community groups, especially needs more help and input from parents. And, so do our youth.

<http://www.reflector.com/local/content/news/stories/2007/09/03/cheriecolumn.html>



**21.** **24 Die on Ohio Roads over Weekend (Ohio)**
*Beacon Journal*September 4, 2007

Twenty-four motorists died in traffic accidents on Ohio roads over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the most since the 2002 four-day period.

This year's deaths number 10 more than that for the same holiday weekend last year -- a 71 percent increase, according to the Ohio Highway Patrol .

 Eight of the fatalities this year were motorcycle drivers or passengers.

At least five of the deaths involved vehicles in which the driver was impaired by drugs or alcohol, State Highway Patrol Lt. Toby Smith said this morning. Ten of the fatal crashes remain under investigation.

Last Labor Day holiday in Ohio, seven of the 14 people killed in crashes were involved in alcohol-related crashes.

The patrol reported that OVI-related crashes -- operating a vehicle while impaired -- totaled 59. A total of 734 drivers were issued tickets for operating a motor vehicle while impaired from 12:01 a.m Friday through 11:59 Monday.

The OVI-related crash statistics involve only those accidents handled by the Ohio Highway Patrol.

Last Labor Day holiday in Ohio, seven of the 14 people killed in crashes were involved in alcohol-related crashes.

Law-enforcement agencies across the state participated in a national crackdown on impaired driving called ''Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.'' The program combined enforcement and a public awareness campaign.

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<http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/9561122.html>



**22. Invalid Petitions keep Liquor Options off Ballot (Ohio)
Business owner says information provided to him was not clear**

Kurt Moore
*Marion Star*
September 6, 2007

A lack of valid petition signatures will keep three local liquor options off of the Nov. 6 general election ballot, according to Marion County Board of Elections Director Chris Smith.

Smith said the board denied requests by The Athenian owner Kyle Fulwider, Michael's Steak House owner Alma Inc. and Meijer store after they lacked the number of valid signatures required to place the liquor options on the ballot.

Four other liquor options will appear on the ballot.

"We don't want to keep anybody off the ballot," said Smith.

The owner of one of the affected restaurants is faulting the board's staff, saying employees should have given him more information when he picked up petitions to circulate.

"They know people don't do petitions everyday," said Fulwider, who attended the Aug. 27 board of elections meeting held to certify election issues.

Voters within the establishment's precinct must pass a liquor option in order for the establishment to obtain a liquor permit. Submitted petitions must include a number of valid signatures equal to 35 percent of the total number of votes cast in the precinct for the office of governor at the preceding gubernatorial election.

Fulwider sought a D5 permit, which under Ohio Revised Code would allow the 1116 Mount Vernon Ave. restaurant to sell "spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only, beer and wine for on premises, or off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m." He fell seven signatures short of the 110 required for Marion precinct 6-F.

Smith said signatures are considered invalid for a number of reasons including not having the same residential address as the board has on file. She urges voters to update their addresses with the board if they move.

She said the signature must also match what the board has on file, which means if people sign their voter registration forms they cannot print their names on the petitions.

"We suggest very strongly to get three times the amount they are supposed to get," Smith said. "He absolutely did not."

Fulwider said he did not hear that advice until after results were certified. He said when he first picked up petitions he was just told how many valid signatures he needed and not given information on what was considered a "valid signature."

Smith said she cannot guarantee the staff advised him to get three times the amount of required signatures but said it is part of the "speech" that staff members regularly give petitioners.

Fulwider called Smith rude, said he disagrees that all the signatures were invalid and said that he is discussing it with an attorney.

"They just have to realize they do a service," he said. "They need to explain that a little better."

Smith said she tried to tell Fulwider the day before the Aug. 23 filing deadline he should have plenty more signatures,

but she said he "walked off" while she was talking.

Alma Inc. requested a permit for Sunday liquor sales at the 1221 Delaware Ave. restaurant. Meijer, located at 2153 Marion-Mount Gilead Road, sought a permit to sell liquor on Sundays.

The board certified four requests:

Local option, precinct Marion 4-G, FKG Oil Co. dba Motomart, Sunday sale of Beer, 1297 S Prospect St (C-1 Permit);

Local option, precinct Marion Township-A, J & R BBQ dba Conway's BBQ, Sunday sales, 1692 Marion-Mount Gilead Road (D6 liquor permit);

Local option, precinct Marion Township-A, Legacy Grill - at (or near) northeast corner of Marion-Mount Gilead Road and McMahan Boulevard, Sunday sales (D-6 liquor permit);

Local option, precinct Marion Township-A, Marion Plaza Entertainment Center, dba Bluefusion Entertainment, 1340 Mount Vernon Ave., Sunday Sales (D-6 liquor permit).

The Athenian restaurant currently has a permit to sell beer only. When asked whether he will try again in the March primary election Fulwider said it depends on "whether I keep the restaurant in the city" of Marion.

He said both closing and selling the Marion restaurant are possible options and said the decision is unrelated to the liquor permit dispute.

<http://www.marionstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070906/NEWS01/709060335/1002/rss01>



**23. Police nab Eight in DUI Checkpoints (Oklahoma)**

*Norman Transcript*
September 4, 2007

Norman police arrested eight drunk drivers while conducting two sobriety checkpoints over the Labor Day weekend in support of the national mobilization effort, “Drunk Driving: Over the Limit, Under Arrest.”

Police conducted a sobriety checkpoint from 12:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, in the 300 block of 12th Avenue Northeast. Officers reported 332 vehicles passing through the checkpoint. Five drivers were arrested for driving under the influence including a 17-year-old and a 19-year-old. In addition, one driver was arrested for two outstanding arrest warrants and another was ticketed for transporting an open container of alcohol, police said.

The second sobriety checkpoint was conducted from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday at 156th Avenue Northeast and Little Axe Drive. Officers said 436 vehicles passed through the checkpoint. Three drivers were arrested for driving under the influence. Five drivers were ticketed for transporting an open container of alcohol. One person was ticketed for possession of alcohol by a person under 21. And, one person was arrested for driving on a revoked driver's license. That person's license was revoked for several prior DUI arrests, police said.

The national “Drunk Driving: Over the Limit, Under Arrest” crackdown on impaired driving is a prevention program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The program combines high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

Last year in Oklahoma, alcohol was involved in 148 fatal vehicle crashes, 2,692 injury crashes, and 5, 442 total crashes, police said.

<http://www.normantranscript.com/localnews/local_story_247153947.html>

**24.** **Personal Breathalyzers Are up for Sale (Texas)**

Gordon Dickson *Star-Telegram*
September 5, 2007

Amy LeJune didn't feel tipsy when she blew into a personal breathalyzer.

But in just a few seconds, the sleek, cell phone-size device beeped and displayed her blood-alcohol level, which was 0.06 - perilously close to Texas' 0.08 limit, which would mean certain arrest if she were stopped by police while driving home.

"I don't feel like I'm drunk at all," said LeJune, who on a recent evening took the breath test in the stairwell of downtown Fort Worth's Pour House, where she had consumed three beers. "I would think I could drive right now. I wouldn't have any hesitation getting in the car, which is kind of scary."

Alcohol breath-test machines, the tools of police and probation officers, are becoming a hit with social drinkers. Consumer versions of the same technology used by officers for decades to measure blood-alcohol concentration are now small enough to fit into a pocket or purse. The price has dropped because high-tech improvements since 2004 have made them cheaper to manufacture.

**Critics cite product faults**

But critics warn that making it easier for people to check their own sobriety doesn't necessarily make the streets safer. "It gives people a false sense of security," said Misty Moyse, spokeswoman for Mothers Against Drunk Driving's national headquarters in Irving, Texas. "Alcohol affects people differently, and impairment begins with the first drink."

And just because the gadgets are now easy to carry around doesn't mean they're easy to use. A Fort Worth Star-Telegram test of one model showed that the instrument, while technically accurate, was tricky to operate and sometimes gave misleading results.

"I think if they can afford it, and they will use it correctly, it will be a very valuable tool," said Steven Kleypas, who oversees the breath-alcohol training program at the Tarrant County College Northwest Campus. "The problem is, they tend to use it as a play toy, and it's very easy to damage one."

In many cities, police oppose the personal breath-test gadgets. They suspect that many drivers wouldn't know how to interpret the results.

"It's easy to fool yourself. You could be impaired even if you're not over or at the legal limit," said Christy Gilfour, an Arlington, Texas, police spokeswoman. "If 0.08 is the legal limit, does that mean 0.07 is OK to drive? It's good for people to be educated about the effects of alcohol, but it would not be wise for them to try to educate themselves while in an inebriated state."

**Staying out of trouble**

Advocates of the gadgets say people ought to be able to test themselves before they get into trouble. They note that plenty of agencies use essentially the same technology to test suspected alcohol abusers after the fact:

Drunken-driving offenders in Texas and elsewhere often must install interlocking devices on their ignition, requiring them to blow into a machine before their car will start.

Some shelters require the homeless to blow into a device before entry.

Employers use the instruments to test workers in safety-sensitive jobs - a forklift driver, for example.

While police typically can't use the results of handheld machines in court, they can use the devices to get probable cause of intoxication and make an arrest - then take the suspect for a more formal, court-enforceable test later at the police station.

Despite MADD's official position against the personal machines, at least one MADD chapter in Arizona uses such a device to monitor drunken-driving offenders attending a court-mandated meeting with victims. One of the requirements of the sessions is that the offenders should not show up with booze on their breath.

Restaurateurs and others who serve drinks say the breath testers could ultimately reduce alcohol-related fatalities. Giving people as much information as possible about the effects of alcohol logically would make for a more educated and responsible society, said Sarah Longwell, spokeswoman for the Washington-based American Beverage Institute. The institute represents restaurants and other businesses that serve drinks, and it generally believes that moderate drinkers aren't a safety threat behind the wheel.

”It allows people to clearly understand the law, and the distinction between responsible drinking and driving, and drunk driving," she said. "What's wrong with people understanding what 0.08 means? Right now, a 120-pound woman who has two glasses of wine can be 0.08, and she's punished at the same level as a big guy who's had 15 beers and is driving with a BAC of 0.15."

<http://www.star-telegram.com/metro_news/story/218108.html>



**25.** **Woman Arrested For Furnishing Minors With Alcohol (Texas)**

*KGBT TV*
September 4, 2007

It was a busy Labor Day weekend in Brownsville. On the jail logs, a total of 18 public intoxication arrests and 18 cases of DWI, but even more alarming for police, the night of September 1st a woman gets arrested at her home on Artemisa Ave, accused of purchasing and furnishing alcoholic beverages to nearly ten minors.

That woman was 41 year old Beatriz Patricia Ruvalcaba, who we found at home Monday afternoon, moments after posting bail.

The police report indicates Ruvalcaba had several teens over, between the ages of 15 and 17. Some ended up in a bedroom, some in the garage, even a teenage girl passed out in her bathroom.

The report also states there were beer cans everywhere.

Ruvalcaba opened up to Action 4 News and was very honest about the whole incident.

"I told them it was ok for them to have the party so I went and I bought them some drinks," says Ruvalcaba.

Ruvalcaba claims she never intended to allow things to get out of control...

She says she was supervising the teenagers and their parents were aware of the alcohol-filled party.

"I went and I bought them like two bottles. I never went to sleep I was with them inside."

We asked if she felt at any point that the minors were getting drunk. She replied, "They were getting drunk they were having fun."

Police say this is unacceptable.

Ruvalcaba says it's a lesson learned

"I did wrong I understand, I'm never gonna do it again, please forgive me."

In all, she received 8 counts of providing and furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. She was fined 125 dollars for each charge.

Meanwhile, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is holding a series of workshops to inform parents on the law when it comes to underage drinking.

The first will be held in Cameron County on September 26th from 10 am until 2 pm. at the Southmost Community Network Center located on 2900 Southmost Road in Brownsville.

The other will be in Hidalgo County on Thursday September 27th from 9 am ‘til 1 pm at the TxDot Conference Center on 600 West US 83 in McAllen.

<http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=7020333&nav=0w0v>

**26.** **UT Targets Alcohol Trouble (Utah)**

**A new course requirement strives to change the school's "culture of drinking."**

Justin George
*Tampa Bay*
September 3, 2007

University of Tampa freshmen arrived on campus this semester to a new course requirement aimed at curbing underage and binge drinking.

From 2000 to 2005, the university reported 2,191 alcohol-related incidents. That outnumbered those at the University of Florida, which has eight times as many students. UT's numbers were the highest among all Florida universities, according to a 2006 Florida Senate report on college campus underage drinking and alcohol abuse.

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| --- |
| photo |
| From 2000 to 2005, University of Tampa reported 2,191 alcohol-related incidents. The school's drinking reputation pales in comparison with the University of Florida, which the Princeton Review ranked the nation's fourth-best party school. |

Gina Firth, associate dean of students, speculated that the university reports violations more thoroughly than other schools.

"But is there a culture of drinking? Yes," Firth said.

"But is it as large as it was three years ago? No."

Last year, she said, UT saw a 32 percent decrease in alcohol violations compared with the previous year, down from 607 to 415. In 2005 and 2006, police cited five minors for possessing alcohol and one adult for selling alcohol to a minor, spokeswoman Andrea Davis said.

Many new programs and policies are behind the decrease, she said, and she expects the trend to continue since the school bolstered its antidrinking programs and regulations this fall.

At UT, a downtown school minutes from bar-laden Ybor City and Hyde Park, four of the school's nine dormitories allow alcohol for students of legal age. It's also permitted during private parties at the Rathskeller, a campus cafe, a university spokesman said.

The school's drinking reputation pales in comparison with the University of Florida, which the Princeton Review ranked the nation's fourth-best party school. At the Gainesville campus, administrators cracked down in 2005, after five students died within 18 months in alcohol-related incidents.

The last UT alcohol-related death came in 1998 when a student attempted to swim the Hillsborough River at 2 a.m. after drinking, officials said.

In the Senate report, UT ranked second behind UF in the number of alcohol-related hospitalizations over the past five years: 51 to UF's 186.

This year, all 1,400 first-year students will be required to go through AlcoholEdu, a four-hour, multiphase course now required of freshmen at about 200 universities, including UF.

The course teaches students about health risks and dangers associated with alcohol use and tailors its messages by gender and experience. Nondrinkers take a course different from the one offered to those who admit to drinking, Firth said.

**Failed tests require retakes.**

Freshmen who refuse to participate are docked grades in their Gateways class, a UT program that helps first-year students acclimate to college. Students who don't take the class and are cited for alcohol violations will face stiffer university penalties, Firth said.

"If you don't take the course and it's not on record the first time you get an alcohol violation, it's counted as your second offense," said Shanine Albino, 18, a freshman from Land O'Lakes.

Students have until early September to complete the first phase of the program. Some said they didn't mind, but others found the requirement stiff.

"I'm not looking forward to it," said Brittany Carlson, 18, of Massachusetts on Aug. 24. "It's four hours long and classes start Monday."

Students say they don't know whether the program will work, but administrators are convinced.

An independent analysis in 2003-04 showed students who completed AlcoholEdu reported 50 percent fewer negative health, social and academic consequences related to drinking than other students, according to Outside the Classroom, the Needham, Mass., company that administers the program.

"It's an innovative course," said Firth, who ran the University of Notre Dame's alcohol and drug education programs for 14 years before joining UT last year.

Sophomores and upperclassmen who commit their first alcohol violations this year will also be required to take the course. A new policy also allows campus security to cite intoxicated students. Previously, only students in possession of alcohol could be cited. All students who violate the alcohol policy will be assessed by a substance abuse counselor to see if treatment should be recommended.

"We are no different than any other college campus," Firth said. "We are struggling with high-risk drinking, but we're going to continue to make progress."

Justin George can be reached at 813 226-3368 or jgeorge@sptimes.com.

**College drinking nationwide**

43.4 Percent of college freshmen who drank beer occasionally in 2005.

1,700 Approximate annual number of college students between the ages of 18 and 24 who die from alcohol-related injuries including vehicle crashes.

599,000 Approximate number of students ages 18 to 24 who are injured while under the influence of alcohol each year.

696,000 Approximate number of students ages 18 to 24 who are assaulted by another student who has been drinking each year.

97,000+ Number of students ages 18 to 24 who are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape each year.

400,000 Approximate number of students ages 18 to 24 who had unprotected sex each year; more than 100,000 students the same age were too intoxicated to know if they consented to sex.

2.1-million Approximate number of students ages 18 to 24 who drove under the influence of alcohol in 2005.

<http://www.sptimes.com/2007/09/03/Hillsborough/UT_targets_alcohol_tr.shtml>



**27.** **Washington Town Mulls Restricting Alcohol Sold at Minimarts (Washington)**

*Beverage News Daily*September 6, 2007

Wash., city officials are considering a proposal to ban some high-alcohol beverages from minimarts and other retailers in an what city officials say is an effort to curb public drunkenness. Only three cities in Washington have adopted restrictions on alcohol sales in some neighborhoods: Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. The city of Wapato, about 15 miles southeast of Yakima on the Yakima Indian Reservation, would be the smallest and only the second in Eastern Washington to adopt such restrictions.

