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| *May 18, 2007* |

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**1.** **Smoking Joins guns and sex on Censor's hit List**Tim Hall
*Telegraph.co.uk*
May 11, 2007

Smoking will be placed on a par with violence and sex in determining the ratings of movies in the US, film censors have announced.

Films are now likely to receive an R rating - prohibiting children from seeing them in cinemas - if they feature "glamorised" or "pervasive" smoking by adults.

Previously, movies received heavy censure only if child characters smoked on screen, and even then the issue was considered alongside a range of other factors.

Now smoking will be considered a factor in its own right, the Motion Picture Association of America said.

The move follows a long battle by anti-smoking campaigners.

While some groups welcomed the change today, others said it does not go far enough and will continue to campaign for all movies featuring smoking to be prohibited to children.

MPAA Chairman and CEO Dan Glickman said: "The rating board will now consider smoking as a factor, among many other factors, including violence, sexual situations and language, in the rating of films.

"Clearly, smoking is increasingly an unacceptable behaviour in our society. There is broad awareness of smoking as a unique public health concern due to nicotine's highly addictive nature, and no parent wants their child to take up the habit.

"The appropriate response of the rating system is to give more information to parents on this issue."

Pro-liberty groups have branded the move disproportionate and said parents should instead have been given more information on the content of films.

But Barry Bloom, dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, welcomed the move.

He said: "By placing smoking on a par with considerations of violence and sex, the rating board has acknowledged the public health dangers to children associated with glamorised images of a toxic and lethal addiction to tobacco."

Others believe the MPAA did not go far enough. Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said he was "deeply disappointed," saying that all films with smoking in them should be rated R.

The MPAA said promotional material for films will carry specific warnings if movies are censored for containing glamorised or pervasive smoking.

The industry body also said that films would be likely to escape the tougher R rating if smoking was an integral part of the historical background.

As as example it cited recent George Clooney film Good Night and Good Luck, which depicted the life of chain-smoking journalist Edward R Murrow.

The MPAA said that under the new rules the film would have still been rated PG - meaning parents are advised to use their judgement before taking children to see it.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/05/11/wsmoking111.xml>

**2.** **Diageo Introduces Low-Alcohol Smirnoff Source: Spring Water + Alcohol***PRNewswire.com*May 11, 2007

Smirnoff Source(TM), the new premium malt beverage offering from Diageo North America that combines pure spring water with alcohol is now on beer retailers' shelves and high-end bars throughout the Northeast. At 3.5 percent alcohol by volume (ABV), this new premium malt beverage, with a hint of citrus, has fewer calories and lower alcohol by volume than most popular domestic beers.

 Smirnoff Source(TM) is the first malt beverage in the U.S. to contain pure spring water and a malt-based alcohol. The beverage is light, crisp and perfectly balanced to deliver the ultimate in refreshing taste. With a suggested retail price of almost $10 for a 4-pack, Smirnoff Source(TM) will provide adult consumers with a new choice - an ultra-premium alternative to domestic beer.

"This new lower-alcohol malt beverage delivers to consumers an ultra- premium product with the cache and provenance of the Smirnoff Brand," said Mark Breene, vice president, Diageo Progressive Adult Beverages. "We are creating a new experience for adult consumers with a lower-alcohol product that fits in with today's contemporary adult lifestyle." Available in a stylish, 16-ounce glass bottle and 16-ounce 4-packs, the packaging, labels and all marketing materials are clearly labeled 'Smirnoff Source(TM) contains spring water + alcohol,' as approved by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Tax and Trade Bureau, the federal agency that regulates the alcohol beverage industry and oversees and certifies all alcohol beverage labels in the U.S.

This new beer-based alternative is now available in 15 northeastern U.S. states including Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, DC, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Source will also begin appearing in nightclubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Miami.

"Smirnoff Source(TM) is a new way of thinking about the beer category,” said Guy L. Smith, Executive Vice President of Diageo.

"Smirnoff Source(TM) is the first lower-alcohol flavored malt beverage on the market that fits modern lifestyles and offers adult consumers sophisticated new drinking experiences," he said.

"It responds to consumer demand and answers alcohol policy groups' desires to bring a lower-alcohol beer product to the marketplace," Smith said, adding that non-government organizations in the U.S. and around the world have been suggesting that this type of lower alcohol beverage should be made available to consumers of legal purchase age.

"And it's all supported by a responsible marketing campaign that articulates precisely what Smirnoff Source(TM) is - and what it is not," he added.

As with all of Diageo's adult beverages, the marketing and promotion of Smirnoff Source(TM) is governed by Diageo's marketing code, which is one of the most stringent in the industry.

The launch of Smirnoff Source will be supported by an integrated marketing plan including a new TV and digital advertising campaign in early July and new point-of-sale displays and visuals in stores this month.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/05-11-2007/0004586703&EDATE>=

**3.** **Savor the Summer With the Crisp, Minty-Lime Taste of BACARDI Silver Mojito, New From Anheuser-Busch**
**Mojito-flavored alcohol beverage is convenient, portable - perfect for summer entertaining**

*PRNewswire.com*
May 14, 2007

It's sweltering outside. Friends will arrive soon for summer snacks and a dip in the pool. Serving made-from-scratch Mojito cocktails seems perfect -- but who wants to spend time mixing ingredients? Bacardi Silver Mojito, new from Anheuser-Busch, offers the classic, refreshing, mint-and-lime taste of a muddled Mojito cocktail in a convenient package -- perfect for entertaining friends on a hot summer day.

 Available today in select restaurants and grocery stores nationwide, Bacardi Silver Mojito is a high-quality, premium-flavored alcohol beverage modeled after the original muddled cocktail -- right down to its cloudy-white appearance. It is the first nationally-available, Mojito-flavored premium malt beverage to hit the market.

"Muddling is the process used to crush fresh mint and limes for a Mojito cocktail," said Cindy Trusler, brand manager, Anheuser-Busch, Inc. "Bartenders are experts at this, but many people aren't sure how to do it in their own homes. Bacardi Silver Mojito offers the best of both worlds -- the delicious, muddled taste of a Mojito cocktail in a time-saving, portable package."

Best enjoyed over ice in a tall glass, with a fresh mint garnish, Bacardi Silver Mojito pairs well with spicy Mexican and Cuban foods such as Arroz con pollo (rice with chicken), Bunuelos (fritters), Picadillo, Ajiaco and Tamales.

"It's also great with light hors d'oeuvres like chips and salsa," said Jill Vaughn, brewmaster, Anheuser-Busch, Inc. "The crisp, refreshing taste of Bacardi Silver Mojito cuts through the spicy flavors of the food and prepares the mouth for more. It's the perfect companion to summertime cuisine."

Brewed at Anheuser-Busch's Baldwinsville, N.Y., brewery, Bacardi Silver Mojito is available in five and four percent alcohol by volume (ABV) versions. It is produced under an alliance Anheuser-Busch formed with Bacardi USA in 2002 to develop, market, and distribute Bacardi Silver -- the original clear malt beverage made with natural citrus flavors and a crisp, refreshing taste. The family also includes Bacardi Silver 03, Bacardi Silver Raz, Bacardi Silver Watermelon, Bacardi Silver Big Apple, Bacardi Silver Strawberry and Bacardi Silver Peach.

Bacardi Silver Mojito is packaged in a clear, 12-ounce bottle with an applied plastic label. It will be available in 12- and 24-ounce bottles as well as 12-ounce slim cans.

"Bacardi Silver Mojito is ideal for contemporary men and women who lead highly social lifestyles and enjoy trying new flavored alcohol beverages, especially when out socializing with friends," Trusler said. "We want to meet their need for variety."

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/retail/20070514/AQM00514052007-1.html>

**4.** **Major-League Teams get Strict with Alcohol Policies**
**The alcohol-related death of Cardinals pitcher Josh Hancock has prompted teams to examine their rules regarding clubhouse drinking.**

Sarah Rothschild
*Miami Herald*
May 15, 2007

Dodgers outfielder Luis Gonzalez, a 17-year veteran, remembers the days when he and his teammates would stay in the clubhouse until 2 a.m. drinking beer and chatting.

Marlins first baseman Mike Jacobs, in his second full season in the major leagues, has no such memories because Florida banned alcohol in the clubhouse before he came to the team.

 Now, weeks after Cardinals pitcher Josh Hancock died in a drunk-driving wreck following a night of drinking at a St. Louis restaurant, many teams are clamping down on their alcohol policies. And although several teams have had rules banning alcohol for years, some players question their effectiveness.

Even Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said the alcohol ban for his team is largely symbolic. ''It's meaningful but it's not a significant factor because our guys don't stay in the clubhouse to drink,'' he told reporters.

For now, Major League Baseball says the decision is up to each team.

''Commissioner Selig has been canvassing the clubs, having discussions,'' MLB spokesman Pat Courtney said. “In terms of implementing anything, we're not at that stage.''

The history of baseball players drinking -- in the clubhouse and away from the ballpark -- is well documented. Yankees great Mickey Mantle, who was known to carouse after games, died in 1995 from liver damage related to his alcoholism.

In 1991, Texas Rangers manager Bobby Valentine banned beer from the clubhouse as a punishment for the team's play. He agreed to lift the ban if the Rangers won 10 consecutive games; they won 14 in a row. The Marlins stopped serving alcohol on team flights in 2002 and in the home clubhouse before last season. While on the road, the Marlins operate on a separate set of rules. If the home team allows drinking in the clubhouse, Marlins players can drink.

Some players say the rules have little bearing on postgame activities.

''We're all grown men,'' Jacobs said. “If people want to drink, they're going to drink whether they drink in here or leave here and drink.''

Catcher Matt Treanor, one of the few players on the Marlins when alcohol was allowed in the home clubhouse, characterized that period as one of social drinking.

''The clubhouse is not a place for keg stands and raging parties,'' Treanor said.

For Dolphins, Heat and Panthers players, it is not an issue, as their teams have banned alcohol in the locker room and on team charters.

**Unwind After Game**

Marlins broadcaster Cookie Rojas, who played in the majors for 16 years, said the postgame ritual was to have a couple of drinks with teammates and discuss the game.

Gonzalez, who came up in 1990 with the Houston Astros, said that ''old school'' culture largely has disappeared.

An hour after the game, the clubhouse usually is cleared out, but that isn't a sign that players have abandoned alcohol.

The Dodgers allow drinking in the clubhouse and on the outbound team charter; like many teams with similar rules, the Dodgers don't want players drinking on the home-bound flight before they get in their cars.

Several players said there typically is more drinking on the road, where they spend about 150 days of the year, including spring training. When teams travel, players take cabs to bars or often frequent the team hotel bar.

''After the game I like to have a couple drinks to relax,'' Marlins outfielder Cody Ross said. “On the road, they should not take it totally away from us because this type of [accident] happens all the time. People are at bars and they're not closing bars down because of it.

“It's a sad situation for the Hancock family, but I don't think Major League Baseball should take that right away from us.''

Since Hancock's death, the Cardinals no longer allow drinking in the home clubhouse (visiting teams can do as they wish), and other teams, including the Yankees, Nationals, Orioles, Cubs and Pirates, also have changed their policies. Roughly 12 of 32 teams do not allow alcohol in the home clubhouse.

Most recently, the San Diego Padres revised their policy, announcing Saturday they would limit availability of alcohol in their home clubhouse and prohibit players from drinking during the final two hours of charter flights; alcohol is banned on flights less than two hours.

**Liability Concerns**

Steve Phillips, now an ESPN analyst, said as general manager of the Mets he imposed a ban in the home clubhouse in 1998 because a few players were lingering long after games and having too many drinks.

Aside from concern about the players, he became wary about liability issues. That concern, he said, is one of the major forces driving teams to prohibit alcohol.

''In the end, we're looking at the likelihood that a minority will have it,'' Phillips said. “The minority will have to answer questions as to why they're not taking it away.''

<http://www.miamiherald.com/589/story/106828.html>

# [II. IOWA NEWS.](#II)5. Iowa City Residents File Petition to Restrict Underage Drinking

*Associated Press*

May 12, 2007

A group of Iowa City residents have filed a petition to enact an ordinance banning people under 21 years old from bars after 10 pm.

The current ordinance allows those 19 and older into bars.

The Committee for Healthy Choices says the petition is the first step to changing what they say is a bar-heavy, binge-drinking culture in Iowa City.

The committee pointed to cities like Ames that have enacted similar ordinances in bars and have worked to discourage underage alcohol consumption. It also cited statistics saying that while the percentage of underage drinkers nationally averaged 40%, it is 60% in Iowa City.

Critics of the ordinance say that there are better ways to curb underage and binge drinking. Mayor Ross Wilburn says he has not heard from bar owners who might lose business if the ordinance were enacted. But he says that he expects some to come forward as the issue progressed.

The Iowa City Council can either enact the measure, or send it to voters in a special election in November.

<http://www.wqad.com/Global/story.asp?S=6506436>

**6.** **Carlisle Officer Charged with Underage Drinking**

Shawna Drish

*Indianola Record-Herald*

May 15, 2007

A Carlisle police officer is on the unfamiliar end of criminal charges filed recently.

Matthew Koch, 20, of Indianola is facing charges of being in possession of alcohol and being in a bar while under the legal drinking age.

Carlisle city officials said Monday they have decided to wait for the conclusion of an Indianola investigation before deciding what action, if any, to take against Koch.

Carlisle City Clerk Neil Ruddy said Koch is still serving as a police officer while the case proceeds.

"We are awaiting the outcome of the investigation from the city of Indianola and haven't taken any action at this point," Ruddy said.

The charges grow out of an incident on May 4 at Mojo's Bar in Indianola.

According to an Indianola police report, Koch was in Mojo's when he was asked to show proper identification. When he was unable to produce any, the bar's co-owner, Brian Monday, told him to leave.

Before leaving, however, Koch consumed one shot of alcohol, witnesses told police.

Tickets were issued to Koch on Sunday. He is scheduled to appear in court on May 29.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070515/NEWS01/705150410/1001/NEWS>

**7.** **Park Smoking Policy Returns to Urb. Park Board**

Elizabeth Owens

*Des Moines Register*

May 14, 2007

Extending Urbandale’s policy on smoking in city parks returns to the city's Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission last month forwarded a recommendation to

the Urbandale City Council that would have prohibited smoking in city parks except for the Walker Johnston softball complex and the immediate area around shelter rentals.

The council rejected that recommendation in a 3-2 vote, but asked the commission to look at extending the current policy, which prohibits smoking in areas where youths 17 and younger are participating in organized recreation activities, to include the Urbandale skateboard park. The council also wants the commission to further clarify the policy.

The commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall, 3600 86th St.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070514/NEWS/70514003/-1/NEWS04>

**8.** **Men who beat Editor Sentenced to 5 Years**

*Des Moines Register*
May 13, 2007

Two Centerville men who attacked a newspaper editor last fall were each sentenced to five years in prison Friday.

Wade Adams, 27, and Jeffery Horn, 26, pleaded guilty to willful injury in April.

They were convicted of punching, kicking and stomping on Daily Iowegian managing editor Dan Ehl outside a Centerville bar last September. Ehl's leg was broken and he suffered injuries to his face during the attack.

"I'm glad justice has been done because I don't think anyone should be ambushed and beaten, no matter what their profession is," Ehl said.

Ehl claimed the attack was retaliation for an article he wrote after a City Council meeting.

He had written three paragraphs, which were published on May 3, 2006, about Adams' request to renew his liquor license.

The newspaper later published a story about the council reinstating Adams' liquor license after he agreed to meet city requirements.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070513/NEWS/705130332/-1/SPORTS09>

**9.** **Bicyclist Hit By Car Identified**

*Des Moines Register*
May 14, 2007

A bicyclist hit by a car over the weekend has been identified. Des Moines police say the man is 41-year-old Carlos Hernandez. The crash happened at University Avenue and Illinois Street, just north of downtown Des Moines.

A witness says the car was going west on University, and hit Fernandez as he crossed the road. Police say he was collecting cans and his blood alcohol level was more than four times the legal limit.

Hernandez is currently in a coma at a Des Moines hospital.

Police also say the driver of the car didn't have a valid driver's license or insurance.

<http://www.whotv.com/global/story.asp?s=6514910>

**10.** **Students Challenged to Celebrate Without Liquor**

David Hottle
*The Journal*

May 15, 2007

The Washington County SAFE Coalition in conjunction with MECCA services and the Washington Community School District are challenging the community to celebrate graduation day without the use of alcohol. To that end, a sign and button campaign is launching this week to remind graduates that sober is the way to go.

"We are asking people to make a stand and say that they don't need alcohol to celebrate," Community Outreach coordinator Lynne Zoulek said. "We are challenging the tradition that people need alcohol to celebrate at every event."

Two separate initiatives are kicking off that promote sobriety during graduation time. The first will be yard signs reading " We support alcohol-free graduations," which are available at the schools. Zoulek said this starts to set the standard in the community that wants the focus of the celebration to be congratulating the academic accomplishments of the graduate, not on the alcohol. The second initiative is buttons saying, "Celebrate Alcohol-Free this graduation season" that will be available at many churches, convenience stores and at the schools. Zoulek said people are encouraged to wear the buttons on the weekend of May 26 and while attending graduation celebrations in the community.

<http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18344683&BRD=1142&PAG=461&dept_id=568956&rfi=6>



**11. CR School District Wants to Go 'Cold Turkey'**

Claire Kellett
*KCRG TV*May 15, 2007

The Cedar Rapids School District wants to go cold turkey. It's hoping to have a new "tobacco-free" policy in place this summer. Right now the district's buildings, cars, and some of its "outdoor seating areas" are "tobacco free." The goal is to add "all school grounds" to the rules. So basically, no smoking anywhere on any of the campuses. In its very early stages, parents and students at Jefferson High School like the idea.

Tuesday’s Jefferson High School boys soccer game drew a decent crowd for a cold, windy afternoon. Wrapped in winter coats, fans showed their dedication to the JayHawks. What wasn't so obvious was if any in the bunch are smokers. TV 9 News didn't see a soul light up. This is the type of setting the Cedar Rapids School District wants at all 33 of its school campuses.

“That's a policy the district can set to set an example for students to be healthy you need to be smoke free," says parent Tracy Petersen.

Expanding its “tobacco-free” policy to include all school grounds might not win over everyone, but the Dubuque, Linn-Mar, College Community, and Iowa City School Districts all have such policies in place.

“I don't think it's so much following everyone else, the district is doing what is best for its employees, students, and for our staff," says Petersen.

That means taking care of more than 20,000 people plus daily visitors to the schools. A few Jefferson seniors, old enough to smoke, say they support the idea, especially since it would help show younger students smoking can cause health problems.

“Hopefully they'll see hey when I'm at a sporting event, shouldn't do that because I'm an athlete or hey at a band concert, see someone outside smoking off school grounds for a reason because people don't want it," says Senior Katie Inghram.

The district doesn't want to upset smokers, it just wants to snuff out any safety hazards and keep its students in the winning circle.

The superintendent hopes to send out an official notice to staff very soon, and next month present a finalized plan to the school board. The goal is to have the policy in effect in July, but that is just a tentative deadline right now.

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/7524772.html>



**12.** **Wilton Council Member Allegedly part of bar Fight**

Pam Martz
*Muscatine Journal*
May 16, 2007

Wilton City Council member Keith “Doc” Stanley was arrested by an Iowa State Trooper Friday on simple assault charges after he allegedly got into a tussle at a Wilton tavern.

Wilton business owner Todd Fusco filed a complaint with an Iowa State trooper stating that Stanley threw drinks at him and his wife shortly after the couple entered Fro’s bar around 10:30 p.m. Friday.

Fusco also alleges that Stanley punched him in the head. Fusco said that after he realized that the councilman wasn’t going to be asked to leave the establishment, he and his wife left.

Iowa State Trooper Craig Bixler confirms that Stanley was booked on simple assault charges and was released.

Fusco said he had planned to make a statement to the City Council about Stanley on Monday, but was celebrating his daughter’s birthday. He says he plans to make a statement at a future meeting. Stanley declined to comment.

This isn’t the councilmember’s first time in trouble. According to Iowa Courts On-line, Stanley was stopped in Cedar County on April 26 for driving with a suspended or revoked license. He was also charged three times with first-offense drunken driving. The multiple, first-offense charges were the result of plea agreements. And last June, Stanley spent four days behind bars and was ordered to pay $1,500 in fines as part of a plea agreement in connection with a Dec. 30, 2005, incident when he refused field sobriety and breath tests.

 He was also convicted of first-offense drunk driving in 1998, and had a deferred judgment for a prior case.

<http://www.muscatinejournal.com/articles/2007/05/16/news/doc464b3b9bc1a29925168266.txt>

1. **OTHER STATE NEWS.**

**13. Advisory Committee Proposes Alternatives to ABC Enforcement (Alabama)**

***Datelinealabama.com*
May 16, 2007**

**While the Strip Advisory Committee held off on recommending that the City Council take a firmer approach to underage drinking, it did make other alcohol-related recommendations for the Strip. Among them:**

**Requiring a licensed manager to be on duty all times at a bar or alcohol-serving restaurant, with the on-duty manager’s name posted.**

**Requiring bar staff to wear standardized T-shirts bearing the name of the bar, the person’s name and either “staff" or “security" clearly marked on the front and back.**

**Adopting a resolution “strongly encouraging" the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to revamp its Responsible Vendor program, which members of the committee called “a defunct program."**

**Alerting the ABC board to “objectionable businesses" and asking the board not to renew their alcohol licenses.**

**These recommendations, as well as those that are made by the committee at its next meeting on May 21, will be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration sometime in July, said Councilman Lee Garrison, who chairs the Strip Advisory Committee.**

**The City Council is expected to vote on these recommendations by the end of August and implement any new ordinances in time for the University of Alabama’s fall semester.**[http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20070516/NEWS/705160353/1007/dateline&cachetime=3&template=dateline](http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20070516/NEWS/705160353/1007/dateline%26cachetime%3D3%26template%3Ddateline)

******14. Liquor Retailers to Undergo Re-Education Course (Connecticut)**

**Susan Hunter
*Valley Gazette*
May 10, 2007**

**The academic year may be coming to an end in Ansonia's public schools, but the city's liquor retailers are just starting a re-education program after they received failing grades in an April 28 compliance check.**

**During the event, all 15 of the city's liquor-selling businesses sold alcohol to a minor with only one merchant asking for age verification identification.**

**The merchant went ahead and sold the young man alcohol anyway, said Ansonia Police Chief Kevin Hale, after seeing the 19-year-old boy's driver's license.**

**The compliance test, conducted by Ansonia Police, the Connecticut Liquor Control Division and the Connecticut Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking, involved sending the underage teenager into package stores, markets and supermarkets that operate with state liquor permits.**

**The establishments that sold alcohol to the minor under the age of 21 were referred to the Liquor Control division for violating the conditions of their permit. The people who sold the alcohol to the minor were charged with sale of alcohol to a minor.**

**The 100 percent non-compliance found in Ansonia is "appalling and unacceptable," Hale said, during a May 4 press conference.**

**Hale and state Consumer Protection Commissioner Jerry Farrell Jr. held the press conference to address the need for increased compliance with state liquor laws regarding sales to minors among Ansonia liquor retailers.**

**Police and the Department of Consumer Protection will conduct the first statewide workshop to improve efforts in preventing unlawful sales to minors at Ansonia City Hall on Monday, May 21 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

**Farrell said when he was appointed to his state position a few months ago, he had proposed starting the workshops in mid-June.**

**"Given last weekend's disappointing results, and recognizing that we are now entering a time of year marked by youth events, parties and celebrations, I have decided to step up that schedule," Farrell said. "What happened in Ansonia should serve as a 'wake-up call' throughout Connecticut.**

**In 2006, the Department of Consumer Protection's Liquor Control Division partnered with local and state police officers on 830 compliance checks statewide, he said, with an 80 percent retailer pass rate.**

**"As chairperson of the Liquor Control Commission and a father of a child, I want to do even better," Farrell said.**

**Among the topics that will be covered in the merchant education program are alcohol laws and regulations, false identification, criminal and civil liability for law breaking and the mechanics of a compliance check.**

**"Last weekend's compliance operation, in which 100 percent of [Ansonia] liquor retailers failed by selling alcohol to a minor, has provided us with a teachable moment that will be put to good use," Farrell said. "Chief Hale and I are looking forward to working with the Ansonia permittees to make sure they have all the information and skills they need in order to comply."**

**Hale said the compliance failure was even more serious, since it happened three days after the Ansonia Rescue Medical Service conducted a mock alcohol-related fatality at Ansonia High School to demonstrate the consequences of drinking and driving.**

**He said the last thing he wants is for juveniles from other communities coming into Ansonia because they think, "this is the place to buy alcohol. We're going to hold these businesses accountable," he said.**

**Advice for merchants**

**The educational workshops are intended to re-educate those selling liquor so they know it's important not to be selling to minors.**

**"If merchants would check ID's, you wouldn't have a situation like this," Farrell said.**

**"Mayor [James] Della Volpe has great concern for the youth Ansonia. He's offered us this building for the training sessions."**

**"We're going to encourage merchants to attend this training," Hale said.**

**The merchants who were targeted in the April 28 compliance check received misdemeanor summonses and will have to appear in court and may pay fines, Hale said.**

**The commissioner of consumer protection can revoke a license, Farrell said, and there is a hearing conducted by the liquor control commission.**

**Usually, merchants would have their licenses suspended for a specified number of days and pay fines that could amount to several thousands of dollars.**

**The merchants can negotiate with the commission in terms of the specific date and time of suspensions, Farrell said.**

**Through the upcoming education process, they will learn that if they are unsure about the validity of a customer's ID, they may take a statement.**

**"If someone looks as if he or she may be under 30 years old, the safe thing to do is ID them," Hale said. "Make sure you ID anyone within a questionable age range.**

**"No one has a right to purchase alcohol," he said. "The retailer is not obligated to sell. It's the right of the retailer to refuse to sell. Liquor merchants have responsibilities under the permit. They have to check ID to make sure the customer is at least 21 years old."**

**Farrell said, "We are going to be working with local police departments to make sure word gets out there."**

**Both men emphasized that parents play a large role in educating their underage children about the dangers of drinking alcohol.**

**"Parents have a huge impact," Hale said.**

**Under recently passed state legislation, homeowners will be arrested if police find they are serving alcohol to minors in their home.**

**"You can't serve a 17-year-old a beer anymore," Hale said.**

**Should a teenager sustain injuries or die in a motor vehicle accident after drinking alcohol in a private home, "the liability is tremendous," he said.**

**Farrell is urging officials and residents across the state to become partners in the state's "Don't Serve Teens" campaign.**

<http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18325398&BRD=1351&PAG=461&dept_id=432472&rfi=6>

******15. Prisoner Urges Teen Drinkers to Think Twice (Maine)**

**Mike Colbert
*Lincoln County News*
May 16, 2007**

**Decisions. Sometimes big, like what kind of car to buy. Sometimes small, like whether or not to put the key in the ignition after drinking. Adam Weymouth made the wrong choice.**

**Not about the car.**

**The 2002 Camaro convertible opened up nicely on the straightaway. It was a sunny May afternoon in 2004, perfect convertible weather. Weymouth had his girlfriend, Sarah, in the front seat, and his close friend, Dickie Gould, in the back, as he gunned the engine heading out of Liberty, toward Searsmont, on Route 173.**

**Gould had been an All Star high school football player, Weymouth a popular student who made friends easily. Weymouth befriended all kinds of kids at the high school in Belfast, not just those in his clique. He had been a Boy Scout, a Cub Scout, played piano flawlessly. He played soccer and joined the wrestling team. He went to church with his parents. He became a volunteer firefighter, took night classes at Husson College and earned a business degree. He was never late for work and he had impeccable credit.**

**Just before the Camaro rounded the curve that afternoon, a policeman clocked Weymouth at 76 mph. The posted speed limit was 45. Weymouth never saw the far end of the curve. The Camaro slid off the road, struck a rock, rolled onto its roof.**

**“It flipped all three of us out like a bunch of rag dolls,” Weymouth told parents and students at Medomak Valley High School on May 9. “I had blood all over my jeans. Sarah was on the ground, screaming hysterically.”**

**Talcum powder drifted into the afternoon light from the opened airbags, and the tires, facing the sky, were still spinning. “That’s when it hit me,” said Weymouth, “like a ton of bricks.” He screamed Dickie’s name, but there was no response. All he could see was Dickie’s leg from the knee down to the sandal.**

**It was not the first time Weymouth drank and drove.**

**On New Year’s Eve 2001, blue lights flashed in the rear view mirror, not long after he left a pub in downtown Belfast. “I knew I was too drunk to drive, but I put the key in the ignition,” Weymouth said. “I was so intoxicated I had to hand the policeman my license six times. I’m not proud of it.”**

**As a result of the New Year’s Eve arrest, Weymouth lost his license for 90 days, was forced into a driver’s education class, and served 72 hours of community service.**

**“Adam, I’m sorry,” said the nurse at the hospital. “But Dickie didn’t make it.”**

**Weymouth was arrested again. This time the charges included Class A Vehicular Manslaughter.**

**“This time,” said Weymouth, who usually dressed sharp for work, “I was wearing a suit and tie for a different reason.” He appeared before the judge for sentencing on the same August day as his mother’s birthday.**

**At 26 years old, Weymouth found himself living in a six by eight foot cell with a bunk bed, a toilet and a small window. The judge sentenced him to 11 years with seven suspended. So far, he has served 20 months at the Bolduc Correctional Facility in Warren.**

**Gould was 28 when he passed away. “There aren’t any amount of years,” said Weymouth, “that are going to bring him back.”**

**Weymouth has been speaking to high school audiences as part of a prevention program run by the Maine State Prison. He speaks at high schools around the state and has spoken to the student body at MVHS on three separate occasions.**

**With prom nights and graduation parties ahead, MVHS Resource Officer Dick LaHaye said the temptation for students to drink is high. “This is the time of year when you’re going to pick up a newspaper and see stories like we’ve seen here.”**

**But awareness among teens seems to be growing. In two days time, MVHS Substance Abuse Counselor Chuck Nguyen has gotten 180 pledges from students promising not to drink in the weeks and months ahead.**

**For parents who want to open up the dialogue with their kids on teen drinking, conversation starter kits and other resources are available through the state Office of Substance Abuse.**

**Studies suggest that children are less likely to drink when their parents get involved.**

**On his way to speak at the high school in Belfast, the prison car passed the accident scene. “There’s a cross there, with flowers,” said Weymouth, who swallowed hard. “I said ‘I did this.’ Be you. Do what’s right. And don’t give in to others.”**

**“This in no way lessens Adam’s guilt,” said David Boynton, the prison official who accompanies Weymouth on speaking expeditions, then escorts him back to jail. “But Dickie made a choice too. He got into a vehicle with a drunk driver.”**

**Looking around at the sparsely populated auditorium, Boynton said he believed someone in the audience in front of him would one day get drunk and drive. You may get away with drunk driving 20 or 30 times he said, “but you only have to lose that bet once. Don’t do it. That’s our message.”**

<http://www.mainelincolncountynews.com/index.cfm?ID=25219>

**16. Keg Deposits Up to $30 To Combat Keg Theft (Michigan)**

**Lauren Zakalik *WLIX*
May 13, 2007**

**On a Friday night, people are quick to pick up a half-barrel keg from the local party store.**

**Turns out, they're not so quick to return them.**

**"We've heard from our wholesalers, and certainly from the brewers, that a number of kegs are disappearing from the marketplace," says Michael Lashbrook, president of the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association.**

**Until Friday, kegs only required a $10 deposit, and many people were finding it more lucrative to sell the kegs to scrap metal yards than to return them.**

**Now, brewers are hoping a new $30 deposit law in Michigan will compel people to bring the expensive barrels back.**

**"The $10 we're charging just doesn't seem to match up," says Doug Barr, vice president of M&M Beer Distributors in Lansing.**

**"What we're discovering is we're missing anywhere from 100 to 300 barrels any given year, and at $85 a barrel, it's costing our distributors a lot of money," he says.**

**Scrap metal yards often pay around $30 for a keg. But if a person has already paid a $30 deposit, selling the kegs will be fruitless.**

**"There needs to be the financial incentive for those to come back," Lashbrook says.**

**Not only are customers having to pay extra for the deposit on the kegs--because of the business changes, they may soon be paying more for the beer in the kegs, too.**

**"I'm sure there might be some price increases. If people have to tie up more resources, they'll pass that on to consumers," Barr says.**

**But he adds that as long as people return the barrels, keg beer should remain an inexpensive staple for Friday night festivities.**

<http://www.wilx.com/news/headlines/7471877.html>

******17. Grocery Liquor vote Stirs Emotions (New Jersey)**

Wilford S. Shamlin
*Courier-Post*
May 12, 2007

A former liquor-store owner said Friday that resourceful teens who want to engage in underage drinking are limited only by their imagination and that allowing supermarkets to sell alcoholic beverages won't make it easier for them to obtain alcohol illegally.

"Kids today, they're going to drink," said Scott Keagy, 39, pointing out that some teens can get their hands on liquor by using fake identification cards or recruiting an older friend to buy it.

Keagy said he wasn't disturbed that the township council voted 3-2 in support of an ordinance that allows grocers to obtain a liquor distribution license.

"It doesn't bother me because it happens in other states. Companies still have to abide by the law. They still can't sell alcohol to anyone under 21," he said.

There were many in attendance at Thursday's township council meeting who objected. Some felt that alcohol would be more accessible to teens and that the move would ultimately hurt small businesses.

"They should allow us to sell at least beer," said Jimmy Daniel, manager for Country Farms convenience store on Egg Harbor Road. "In New York state, they can sell beer in convenience stores and gas stations."

Still, others were upset over the council's vote because it went against the outcome of a 1995 referendum, which predates any of the sitting council members who cast votes.

One outspoken critic, Councilwoman Anita LaPierre, said it should have been left to the voters to decide the issue once again.

"(Mothers Against Drunk Driving) says alcohol is the No. 1 drug in the United States. I believe we're sending the wrong message to kids when we're coupling the purchase of food with alcohol. You're saying liquor is a staple just like food and they go hand in hand," LaPierre said.

She also added that small businesses would be hurt because they don't have the "constant foot traffic" of the larger grocery stores that would benefit from the impulse buyer who comes to their store for liquor.

Resident Anne Lightfoot said: "I'm opposed to it. They have package stores. It's not necessary. Liquor licenses bring in revenue. We don't need this."

Jolly Tomar, who has owned Crown Discount Liquors on Delsea Drive for 12 years, said money was the driving force behind the new ordinance.

"It's not about being fair. They look where they can make money. They don't care about anything else," Tomar said, referring to the council.

She said that supermarkets weren't part of the picture when others have bought their liquor license. "It's really putting other people's business in jeopardy," Tomar said.

But, she said, she isn't worried about increased competition. "Would it help," she asked.

Two liquor licenses, one distribution and one consumption, are available. The starting bid price for a liquor distribution license, which a grocery store would need, is $600,000. The consumption license, which a restaurant would need, is set at $550,000.

The Acme market in Washington Township won't be applying for a liquor license anytime soon. "Under New Jersey law, we can't hold more than two and we already have two," said Maxine Gesualdi, spokeswoman for the supermarket chain.

Acme stores in North Cape May and Cape May Court House have the two licenses.

The only other competing supermarket in town is Bottino's Family Market. A co-owner, Marie Bottino, did not immediately return a call for comment. Mayor Paul Moriarty could not be reached Friday.

# grapes<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070512/NEWS01/705120385>18. Teen Drinking's Last Call (New Jersey)

Rebecca Lerner *Home News Tribune*

May 11, 2007

The mood at prom parties may take on a more sober tone this spring, thanks to a new law targeting underage drinking on private property.

Under a borough ordinance passed unanimously by the council, any teenagers caught drinking will face a six-month driver's license suspension and fines of up to $350. Before, police relied on state laws regulating public property and motor vehicles.

Students interviewed at South River High School on Thursday said they were outraged at the new penalties.

"How can you tell someone not to do something in their own home?" said one 16-year-old girl who declined to be named for fear of police retaliation.

No members of the public spoke out against the measure before the vote Monday, said Borough Clerk Al Seaman, who records meeting minutes.

Police said the law will deter teenagers from getting into dangerous situations at prom and graduation parties.

"Motor-vehicle crashes are the Number 1 cause of death for people ages 18 to 20, both drivers and passengers. And 28 percent of those involve drinking," said Deputy Police Chief John Bouthillette.

Similar ordinances, based on a 2000 state law, have been adopted in East Brunswick, North Brunswick, Edison, Metuchen, New Brunswick, Old Bridge and Sayreville.

The ordinance does not apply to alcohol used for religious purposes, such as a glass of wine ritually sipped during Passover Seder.

"I don't think anybody really cares about that kind of thing. What we're trying to stop is groups of underage kids being served alcohol by adults," said Councilman Tony Razzano.

A 2005 study by the National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse showed that drinking occurs at half of all house parties attended by 17-year-old respondents. But some high schoolers interviewed said that doesn't mean teens are getting themselves into trouble.

"We're a lot more responsible than the cops think. We always have a designated driver," said another 16-year-old girl who declined to be named.

Police say South River has not had many problems with underage drinking.

Three teenagers were taken to the hospital due to intoxication after a big house party in December 2005. Another bash in May last year was filled with 27 underage drinkers, though no one was harmed.

Borough Police Chief Wes Bomba said the department expects up to six parties per weekend starting two weeks before graduation and continuing through the middle of summer.

The borough school district has a number of educational programs about the dangers of alcohol consumption by teenagers, said Superintendent Ronald Grygo.

For starters, there's the typical health-class fare. But students also don "drunk goggles" in physical education, where, under police supervision, they try to drive golf carts in a vertigo-riddled state of simulated intoxication.

A smashed-up car also makes a yearly appearance on school grounds as a somber warning about the fatal results of drinking and driving. Police talk to students at assemblies in the days before prom. And the district takes the extra step of busing teens to and from the prom to avoid drunken driving.

<http://www.thnt.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070511/NEWS/705110434/1001>



**19.** **Officials Call For More State Liquor Inspectors (New York)**

Liz Rhoades
*Queens Chronicle*
May 10, 2007

Citing numerous violations at 17 bars in East Flushing, two local elected officials Friday called for increased enforcement by the State Liquor Authority.

Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) and Councilman Tony Avella (D-Bayside) made the announcement outside Rulu & Rala, a club at 162-07 Depot Road. It has received nine violations for fire, building and other safety issues.

Lancman said the state has historically been remiss in cracking down on bars that break the law. There are nine inspectors who cover the entire downstate area, including Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties and the five boroughs. But recently, nine more inspectors have been added and the two Queens officials want them for the New York City area only.

"There has been a lack of adequate enforcement," Lancman said. "Bars that break the law are not being closed down."

Both men recently attended a meeting of the Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association, where quality of life issues were raised concerning the bars on and near Northern Boulevard. "The bars have to be good neighbors," Avella said.

Lancman noted that under the Pataki administration, funding for the State Liquor Authority dwindled. He is hoping that will change under the new administration of Gov. Eliot Spitzer.

Avella believes there needs to be more coordination between the state agency and the city Department of Buildings as well as the Fire Department in helping to close down bars that are unsafe and serving underage drinkers.

Arthur Viviani, former president of the Broadway-Flushing Homeowners Association, said the situation has gotten worse over the years as more bars open throughout the area. "I go to the milk barn on 162nd Street for breakfast around 6:30 or 7 a.m. and people are just getting out of the bar next door," he said. "They are bombed and drive off."

His wife, Sandy, is frightened that children walking to school will be hit by one of these drivers. "It's every day of the week, not just weekends," she said.

Viviani added that there have been several arrests of underage drinkers, but the bars remain open.

Some 157th Street residents complained that the proliferation of bars makes it difficult for them to find parking, and that bar patrons urinate and even have sex in front of their homes. The situation only worsens in the summer.

Marjorie Ferrigno, another past president of the civic organization, said the bars do not belong in a residential community. "The drunken patrons misbehave on lawns at 4 a.m. and when homeowners complain, they are cursed at," she said.

She believes a joint effort between the police, FDNY, city agencies and the liquor authority are needed to stop the violations and get the offending bars closed.

Before leaving the press conference, Avella and Lancman signed a letter to the chief executive officer, Josh Toas, of the State Liquor Authority requesting the additional manpower.

Bill Crowley, a spokesman for the liquor authority, said on Tuesday that New York City will remain a priority for the state agency. "The SLA continues to crack down on licensees who do not act responsibly. The addition of investigators will help to strengthen our efforts," he added.

<http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18325612&BRD=2731&PAG=461&dept_id=574902&rfi=6>



**20.** **Grocers float a new Bottle-bill Proposal (Oregon)**
**Their idea would include all drinks containers**

Beth Casper
*Statesman Journal*
May 10, 2007

The main opponents to expanding Oregon's bottle bill have changed tactics in the 11th hour of the legislative session.

Instead of opposing any expansion, the Northwest Grocery Association is proposing a major overhaul of the entire bottle-bill system.

The grocery association, which represents about 1,100 grocery outlets across the state, announced Wednesday that it would support expanding Oregon's bottle bill to include all beverage containers -- not just the water-bottles-only proposal as written in Senate Bill 707-A.

The caveat: Collection of the containers would be moved out of grocery stores -- and into separate, state-run redemption centers. Also, the funding mechanism would change.

"I am glad to see they have finally come to the table and are supporting a bottle bill, because they have been opposed all along," said Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland, who chairs the house committee that is discussing the bottle bill. "But it's very late in the session to be able to craft legislation given our short time frame left."

Dingfelder said SB 707-A, which already has passed the Senate, has amendments that would require a task force to address many of the grocers' issues.

Recycling advocates said they were wary of the grocers' proposal.

"Grocers have been unwilling to talk about any improvements to Oregon's bottle bill including redemption centers, including adding containers, so the question we have to ask is, 'What has changed now?' " said Jeremiah Baumann of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group. "Is this a workable proposal or does it make too many fundamental changes to a system that works?"

Baumann also said the proposed funding likely would not be enough to establish new redemption centers and run them. The current system eliminates a lot of overhead costs because collection is done in grocery stores. Empty containers are picked up by distributors already making trips to the grocery stores, he said.

Distributors currently charge grocery stores a nickel deposit. Grocery stores charge customers, and customers get five cents back when they return their containers. Distributors pay the grocery store a nickel for every returned container.

Under the new proposal, distributors are taken out of the five-cent-deposit loop and replaced with grocery stores.

"From a distributor's standpoint, they take us totally out of the system, which is fine," said Paul Romain, a lobbyist for the Oregon Beer & Wine Distributors Association. "But the question is, what kind of system are you setting up? The only thing we fear is if the system doesn't work, they are going to want us to come back in."

Romain added that the number of places to return containers would be reduced dramatically, potentially reducing recycling rates.

Wednesday's proposal calls for grocers to make payments in lieu of collecting the containers themselves. Under this funding plan, retailers would transfer the nickel (paid by the consumer), plus a 3-cent-per-container handling fee, to the state -- an estimated $60 million a year. In return, the state would run the redemption centers. The proposal calls for the centers to be established by Jan. 1, 2010.

Grocers for years have complained about sanitation and space issues and have pushed to get the collection of beverage containers out of their stores.

"We are trying to manage fresh produce, fresh meat and bakery goods while managing a recycling center in the same building," said Joe Gilliam of the Northwest Grocery Association during an interview in April.

In the announcement Wednesday, he said the current proposal to add water bottles and keep collection in grocery stores would be a "massive failure."

"If the legislature chooses to reject our alternative, we will take it to the ballot for voter approval," Gilliam said.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070510/LEGISLATURE/705100364/1042>

**21.** **Brewer Debuts first Organic Beer (Utah)**

Dawn House
*Salt Lake Tribune*
May 11, 2007

Now on tap is Squatters Organic Amber Ale, the state's first and only certified organic beer.

The ale is brewed from organic pale and caramel malted barley and aromatic hops. The taste, says brewmaster Jenny Talley, is a caramel-like maltiness with a hint of sweetness.

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| --- |
| http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site297/2007/0511/20070511__biz_beer_0512~1_Viewer.jpg |
| Jenny Talley, brewmaster at Squatters, shows off the... |

Organic certification requires high levels of cleanliness and sanitation that already were in place, said Talley. But it also requires strict segregation of ingredients "from grain to glass."

The barley is grown from organic seeds, using natural methods of pest control such as lady bugs and composting rather than chemical fertilizers. At the brewery, organic ingredients are stored separately and tanks must be scrupulously cleaned.

The step to organic was logical, given the earth-friendly philosophy of Salt Lake Brewing Co., which operates three restaurants in Utah: Squatters Pub Brewery at 147 W. Broadway St., Squatters Airport Pub at Salt Lake City International Airport and Squatters Roadhouse Grill in Park City.

At the restaurants, bread is cooked with spent grain from the brewing process. All paper products have recycled content, light bulbs are energy efficient, napkins are cloth and a portion of the power is wind generated.

The pubs also serve locally grown and organic food.

Talley's own personality leans toward what she calls "inner hippie." The company's flagship beer, Full Suspension Pale Ale, is her recipe and makes up half of all sales. The name also was hers - she had just gotten her first mountain bike.

She also put together the recipe for Chasing Tail Golden Ale. Its name comes from a habit of her Golden Lab that chased its own tail. Talley says founding partners Jeff Polychronis and Peter Cole had reservations about the name - until she reminded them about the full-busted Provo Girl label image. She, too, created the slogan for Chasing Tail: "Please don't make me beg. It's not just for men anymore."

This summer, Talley's organic beer will be available in bottles and draft, in time for barbecues. The ale, she says, will pair well with grilled meats, fillets and burgers.

Talley, the daughter of a sportswriter, moved from Southern California to Utah in 1988 to attend the University of Utah. It was here that she was introduced to home brewing. By 1991 she had settled on becoming a brewer's apprentice at Squatters. But it took three months to convince the owners to hire her. Typically, an apprentice does the heavy lifting and Talley is a slight woman.

"I proved them wrong," she says."Brewing is in my bones and in my spirit."

A look at her footwear proves the point. Talley walks in worn, oversized, yellow rubber boots as if they are sneakers. A Squatters hat adorns her head and her T-shirt announces the name of her new, organic ale.

She also collects winners' medals. Among them is Squatters India Pale Ale, which won a gold medal at the 2006 World Beer Cup, and Provo Girl Pilsner, which took the gold at the 2004 Great American Beer Festival.

Squatters received organic certification from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food in August. Like other brews, it was test marketed at its restaurants.

Organic certification of food and drink is up 40 percent over the past two years, even though the transition from conventional processes to organic standards can be costly, said Seth Winterton, deputy director of the department's Division of Marketing and Development. Eighty-five companies have received certification, but so far, Squatters is the only applicant for organic beer.

Joe Lambert, operating partner of Salt Lake Brewing Co., says the firm's brewing production was up 18 percent for 2006 from the previous year and he expects this year's growth to be from 5 percent to 10 percent higher. Those numbers mirror growth in the craft-brew market nationwide.

"People want quality, premium products," he added, "so they're willing to pay more."

<http://www.sltrib.com/ci_5878597>



**22.** **America's Beer Distributors Applaud the Supreme Court of the United States (Virginia)
High Court Affirms State's Right to Regulate Alcohol**

Rebecca Spicer *NBWA*May 15, 2007

The National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA) applauds today's decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to deny certiorari on the appeal of Brooks v. Vassar, 06-1111 from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. That action demonstrates the U.S. Supreme Court affirms the importance of the 21st Amendment and the value of state-based regulation for alcohol beverages.

"America's beer distributors are encouraged by the Supreme Court's decision today, which confirms states' rights under the 21st Amendment to regulate the distribution and sale of alcohol beverages," said NBWA President Craig Purser. "America has a very effective system in place. People in Utah do not feel the same way about alcohol as people in New York, and the regulatory system allows states the flexibility to deal with local circumstances."

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal is the highest court to rule on a post-Granholm challenge to state alcohol law, and it represents a rejection of the argument that state-based regulation is not relevant in a post-Granholm world. This litigation has been ongoing since November 1999.

"The Supreme Court of the United States recognizes that the Fourth Circuit got it right in this matter," added Purser. "Virginia is to be commended for its commitment to effective state-based alcohol regulation. NBWA will continue to work to support sound state based alcohol regulations and strongly oppose efforts to gut these laws."

Alcohol is not like other consumer goods. Alcohol beverages are unique, and effective state regulations work to collect taxes, maintain a fair marketplace, prevent abuse and ensure the product is distributed and sold in a responsible way to those of legal drinking age. As society addresses problems like underage drinking and drunk driving, the importance of maintaining effective state alcohol regulation is critical.

<http://www.nbwa.org/Nbwa/NewsRoom/Press_Releases/pr_05_14_07.htm>

**23.** **Beer tax Proposal Rises Next Week (Wisconsin)**

Judith Davidoff
*Capital Times*
May 10, 2007

Downing a few brewskis could get more expensive in Wisconsin if a new proposal to raise the beer tax gains traction.

Rep. Terese Berceau, D-Madison, and State Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison, announced today they would introduce legislation next week to raise the beer tax for the first time since 1969.

Under their proposal, the tax on a 12-ounce bottle of beer would increase from 2.4 to 3 cents a bottle, generating approximately $40 million a year for alcohol abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement.

"While Wisconsin's beer has remained static for 37 years, the cost to our state in terms of lives and property lost to alcohol abuse, as well as the costs of lost productivity, unemployment, rehabilitation, prisons, criminal courts, academic failure, and the many related costs, have increased dramatically," Berceau said in a news release.

Scott Stenger, lobbyist for the Wisconsin Tavern League, said he did not think the proposal would generate a lot of support in the legislature.

"Part of the reason we have a low beer tax is because of the jobs generated by the beer wholesalers and retailers," he said. "Wisconsin is unique compared to most other states in that our economy is really intertwined with the brewing industry. More bars per capita generate jobs, income and taxes."

"To think that raising the tax fivefold won't negatively impact that just isn't accurate," he added.

Bob Delaporte, aide to Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch, R-West Salem, was also not receptive to the idea.

"We're not going to support tax increases in the budget, so I don't think it's going to go very far in our house," he said.

Republicans have a slight majority in the state Assembly, while the Senate is controlled by Democrats.

Berceau and Risser argue that Wisconsin is long overdue for a beer tax increase. They say the state's tax is the third lowest in the nation and that Wisconsin's beer producers receive two major tax breaks, including an exemption for beer that is exported outside the state.

Sixty-nine percent of all beer produced is exported and therefore exempt from the sales tax, according to Berceau and Risser.

Risser said the beer tax increase would help pay for expenses generated by alcohol abuse.

"We cannot stand idly by while Wisconsin leads the nation in adult and college student binge-drinking, in underage drinking, and in alcohol consumption by pregnant women," he said. "Rep. Berceau and I are asking for an extremely modest beer tax increase that would directly improve the lives of thousands of Wisconsin residents, and reduce the needless deaths on our roads."

<http://www.madison.com/tct/news/index.php?ntid=133501>

