Control State News

WVA: West Virginia wine distributors allege unfair competition

VA: McAuliffe Announces New U.K. Exports and Partnership for Virginia Craft Brewery

License State News

NE: Nebraska Supreme Court hears of Whiteclay 'epidemic' in state’s written arguments

CT: New Connecticut law allows farmers to become beer brewers

International News

Morocco: Morocco’s Alcohol Imports on the Rise

Indonesia: Indonesian retailers association urges government to review minimarket beer ban after 7-Eleven shuts down

United Kingdom: Majority of Europeans face risk of digestive cancers due to alcohol, report claims

Industry News

WSTA Joins Government Roundtable Promoting Industry Growth

Education News

University recognized for reduction in high risk drinking

Daily News

Use this app to see if your alcohol consumption is putting your health at risk
CONTROL STATE NEWS

WVA: West Virginia wine distributors allege unfair competition

KEYC News 12
July 10, 2017

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) - Six wine distributors in West Virginia have sued Minnesota-based Johnson Brothers Liquor Co. and the state operation it acquired last year, alleging they have tried to monopolize the state's wine distribution market.

The suit filed in state court claims Mountain State Beverage acquired more than half of the market over the past six years using anti-competitive practices, including operating at a loss to drive competitors out and paying fees to induce suppliers to cut off competitors.

The smaller distributors allege Johnson Brothers took majority control last year and pressed its remaining competitors to sell their businesses at low prices.

A call to Johnson Brothers was not immediately returned Monday.

VA: McAuliffe Announces New U.K. Exports and Partnership for Virginia Craft Brewery

Lancaster Farming
July 10, 2017

LONDON — Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe recently announced new export sales and a new distribution partnership for Hardywood Park Craft Brewery while on his trade and marketing mission to Europe.

The partnership is with American Craft Beer Co., a U.K.-based representative of craft breweries from the U.S. Hardywood Park beer is available for sale in the U.K. and the governor attended a launch event at a brewpub owned by Scottish-based brewery BrewDog.

“This is an exciting new growth opportunity for Hardywood Park, one of Virginia’s largest and most well-respected craft breweries, into the world’s second largest export market for U.S. craft beer,” McAuliffe said. “I am thrilled that our efforts to introduce Virginia companies to export opportunities continue to pay off. After meeting with American Craft Beer Co. in London last year and then hosting them in Virginia, it is a pleasure to be back in London to announce their new relationship with Hardywood Park. In order to build the new Virginia economy we need to keep working with companies like Hardywood to open new markets and sales opportunities outside of our borders.”

Hardywood Park Craft Brewery was first introduced to its new partner during a tour of Virginia breweries for European beer buyers in September 2016. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services organized the visit following a meeting between American Craft Beer Co. and McAuliffe during a trade mission to the U.K. last July.

The VDACS European representative office identified American Craft Beer Co. as a potential U.K. partner for Virginia breweries and made the initial introduction to VDACS staff in early 2016.

“This new partnership for Hardywood Park is a testament to the world-class quality of their craft beer, the entire craft beer industry in Virginia, and to the hard work of this brewery and the VDACS international team,” said Basil Gooden, secretary of agriculture and forestry. “The craft beer industry contributes over $1 billion to the commonwealth’s economy each year and breweries like Hardywood Park are important purchasers of Virginia agricultural products as inputs to their beer, including malted barley, hops, honey, ginger, blackberries and other fruits. Export sales like this one will ensure that this contribution continues for many years to come.”

Hardywood Park was started in 2011 by co-founders Eric McKay and Patrick Murtaugh, who were also in London for their launch. The brewery is also a participant in the Virginia Economic Development Partnership’s two-year Virginia Leaders in Export Trade (VALET) program.

“We are excited for this new partnership with American Craft Beer Co. and our first sales into the U.K. market,” McKay said. “As a Virginia company we are fortunate to have access to the top-notch resources and expertise of both the VDACS and VEDP international trade teams and are thankful to them and to Governor McAuliffe’s office for being such avid supporters of our international efforts. We look forward to utilizing their services to expand into additional markets in the coming years.”
Co-founders Mark Smith and Ed Firth started American Craft Beer Co., based in West Midlands, England, in 2012 and represent a small, targeted number of U.S. craft beer brands in the U.K. market. Speaking of the export deal, Firth said: “As we build our brand portfolio, we are being very selective about the breweries we bring into this quickly growing, competitive market. We were impressed by the quality of craft beer we experienced while in Virginia, and are particularly excited to have Hardywood Park on board with our program. Meeting them through VDACS’s efforts was a great benefit, as it certainly would have been more difficult and taken much longer to find them on our own.”

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

NE: Nebraska Supreme Court hears of Whiteclay 'epidemic' in state's written arguments

Omaha World-Herald
By Paul Hammel / World-Herald Bureau
July 11, 2017

LINCOLN — The lack of law enforcement in the unincorporated village of Whiteclay, Nebraska, has allowed “epidemic” liquor-related problems rivaling “Chicago in the Roaring Twenties,” the Nebraska Supreme Court was told Monday.

Attorneys for the State Liquor Control Commission submitted written legal arguments on Monday to support the commission’s decision in April to shut down the beer stores in the northwest Nebraska border town.

That decision was nullified April 27 by Lancaster County District Judge Andrew Jacobsen, which prompted an appeal the same day by the State Attorney General’s Office. That appeal superseded the judge’s order until a higher court could hear an appeal, leaving the stores without liquor licenses as of May 1, forcing them to close.

The four beer stores sold the equivalent of 3.5 million cans of beer a year, earning Whiteclay the nickname “Skid Row of the Plains.” Almost all the sales were to residents of the adjacent Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, across the state line in South Dakota. Alcohol is officially banned on the reservation, but liquor-related crime and health problems, such as alcoholism and fetal alcohol syndrome, are rampant.

Native American activists and advocates for children had been seeking for years to get the Whiteclay stores closed, though many local residents defended the businesses as legal and legitimate.

In a 28-page legal brief filed on Monday, lawyers with the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office outlined three arguments for upholding the beer store closings:

» The district judge lacked jurisdiction because not all of the parties involved in the case were formally notified of the appeal of the liquor commission’s order. This is an issue raised previously by Dave Domina, a prominent private attorney representing five citizens who sought the closings of the stores but were not notified of the appeal.

» The district judge failed to review the liquor commission’s official hearing record before voiding the decision to deny a renewal of the Whiteclay liquor licenses.

» The district judge erred in ruling that the commission had exceeded its legal authority. The liquor board, according to the attorney general’s brief, has the power to protect the “health, safety and welfare” of citizens by denying the sale of alcohol in areas that lack adequate law enforcement.

The liquor commission, in its April order, cited testimony by a Sheridan County commissioner that the rural county “absolutely” lacked adequate patrols in Whiteclay, and testimony from residents who complained about drunken people in the village who had sexually assaulted women and urinated and defecated on the streets.

An attorney who represents the Whiteclay stores, Andrew Snyder of Scottsbluff, was not available for comment on Monday afternoon.

He has argued that the issue of adequate law enforcement can be raised only when a liquor license is first issued, and, absent a major change, cannot be used to deny the renewal of the licenses.

Legal briefs on behalf of the beer stores are due July 31. The Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments in the appeal for Aug. 29.
CT: New Connecticut law allows farmers to become beer brewers

WTNH News 8
By Darren Kramer
July 10, 2017

HARTFORD, Conn. (WTNH) – Governor Dannel Malloy has signed a bill into law that lets Connecticut farmers get into the beer brewing business. The new law creates a “Farm Brewery” license, that lets farmers make, store, bottle, distribute and sell up to 75,000 gallons of beer a year and to advertise their product as “Connecticut Craft Beer.”

Under the new law, farmers who are permitted to run breweries can offer free tastings, and retail sales on and off premises.

To be certified as a “Connecticut Craft Beer” a certain amount of hops, barley or other ingredients in the beer must be grown or malted in Connecticut.

The new law is being cheered by the group, Campaign for Tomorrow’s Jobs, who says the craft brewing business already has a $569 million economic impact on Connecticut every year.

“Connecticut’s growing craft beer industry continues to create good-paying jobs and bolsters local economies across the state,” said Brett Broesder, co-founder and vice president of The Campaign for Tomorrow’s Jobs. “When a farm and a brewery partner up, it supports local businesses, creates markets for homegrown products, and gives entrepreneurs an opportunity to create jobs. That’s a win-win for our state’s economy.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Morocco: Morocco’s Alcohol Imports on the Rise

Morocco World News
July 10, 2017

Rabat – Morocco’s imports of alcoholic beverages have increased during the first five months of 2017 to 5,151 tons compared to 4,246 in 2016, according to a report by the Foreign Exchange Office.

In its monthly external trade report for May 2017, the office reported that Morocco imported 5,151 tons of “beer, wine, vermouths and other alcoholic beverages,” amounting to more than MAD 239 million between January and May 2017.

Imports of alcohol in the first five months of 2017 recorded an increase of MAD 216 million compared to the same period of 2016, which saw the importation of 4,246 tons of these same products.

According to forecasts of the 2017 Finance Law, sales of alcohol are expected to generate more than MAD 1.25 billion of tax revenue in 2017.

Wine and spirits are predicted to generate MAD 521 million in taxes and customs duties, while the tax and par-fiscal revenues associated with the consumption of beer will generate about MAD 732 million by the end of 2017.

The same source also explained that tobacco imports declined from 6,499 tons between January and May 2016, which generated MAD 703 million, to 5,289 tons and MAD 640 million during the same period in 2017.

Indonesia: Indonesian retailers association urges government to review minimarket beer ban after 7-Eleven shuts down

Coconuts Jakarta
By Anand Mathai
July 11, 2017

The start of this month saw the closure of all 171 7-Eleven stores in Indonesia and the unemployment of around 1,000 of the convenience store chain’s workers. The reasons for the once popular chain’s demise are numerous, but many analysts noted that the national ban on selling beer at minimarkets, enacted in 2015, seriously hurt SeVeI’s sales and probably tipped the scales towards making them unprofitable.
The death of 7-Eleven has given the Association of Indonesian Retail Entrepreneurs (Aprindo) reason to renew their calls for the government to review the minimarket beer ban, arguing that it is not only hurting convenience store profits but also allowing the black market for dangerous illegal alcohol to flourish while at the same time taking revenue from the government.

“If the black market will take over, it’s better to sell [alcohol] openly in places that pay taxes,” said Aprindo Chairman Roy Mandey said as quoted by Kompas.

Deaths due to illegal black market alcohol are not uncommon in Indonesia and studies have shown that they are on the rise since the minimarket beer ban was enacted.

Roy argued that the ban was not in line with the global trade modernization being pushed by President Joko Widodo’s administration and was also hurting Indonesian beer producers.

He also made the point that the original reason for the ban, which was to prevent children from purchasing alcohol, could be met with better enforcement of the pre-existing regulations making it illegal for retailers to sell alcohol to anybody under 18.

The minimarket beer ban, formally known as “Trader Ministry Regulation No. 6 of 2015 on the Control and Supervision on Procurement, Distribution and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages” was enacted by former Trade Minister Rachmat Gobel in April of that year and banned small retailers from selling alcoholic beverages containing less than 5% alcohol by volume (they were already banned from selling anything stronger).

The government later loosened the regulation by saying that regional governments could choose whether or not to follow it. But since the government never actually overturned the regulation, no region, not even Jakarta, had the stomach to deal with the controversy that would come with explicitly reversing it.

We admit, we’re beer drinkers and we’d love to see beer return to minimarkets so that they could be purchased conveniently by law-abiding adults. But much more than that, we don’t ever want to have to write an article about somebody dying from drinking illegal liquor ever again.

United Kingdom: Majority of Europeans face risk of digestive cancers due to alcohol, report claims

EURACTIV.com
By Sarantis Michalopoulos
July 11, 2017

A new report has linked alcohol consumption in the EU to an increase in cases of digestive cancer and warned policymakers to take immediate action.

According to the World Health Organisation, some 3.3 million deaths around the world – 5.9% of all premature deaths – result from the harmful use of alcohol each year. Europe has the highest consumption rate of alcohol worldwide.

United European Gastroenterology (UEG) published a report last week, warning that the alarming alcohol consumption in Europe is linked to a rise in digestive cancers.

The report gathered the opinions of leading European digestive cancer specialists and focused on the impact of alcohol on this type of cancer.

UEG President Michael Manns stressed that despite the EU’s efforts to tackle the impact of alcohol on health, consumption remains higher than in the rest of the world and simultaneously, the incidence of alcohol-related digestive cancers is on the rise.

“We urgently require a focused multi-dimensional approach from policy and decision makers to dramatically increase public and healthcare professional awareness of the dangers of alcohol […] and strategies to reduce alcohol intake and the resulting incidence of digestive cancers,” Manns emphasised.

EU citizens consume an average of two alcoholic drinks per day. According to the report, drinkers face a 21% increased risk of developing colorectal cancer, in addition to other digestive cancers.

The survey found that all EU countries had a ‘moderate’ average daily intake of alcoholic drinks, meaning between one and four drinks per day. “This places these citizens at a heightened risk of both colorectal and oesophageal cancer,” the report stressed.

Regarding ‘heavy’ drinkers or those who consume four or more drinks per day, the report stressed they were found to be at an increased risk of pancreatic, liver and gastric cancer.
“These three cancers, coupled with colorectal and oesophageal cancer are the five most common digestive cancers worldwide, causing almost 3 million deaths per year and contributing to over a third of global cancer deaths,” the report pointed out, underlining that there is no EU country with an average daily alcohol consumption of less than one drink per capita.

**What is the most ‘dangerous’ drink?**

Asked what the most “dangerous” alcoholic drink for digestive cancer is, Professor Helena Cortez-Pinto said, “Research into which type of alcoholic beverage has the most significant role in cancer remains inconclusive.”

Cortez-Pinto, who is also an EU Policy Advisor for the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), explained that most studies do not report any variation in the risk of digestive cancers being increased by any particular type of drink.

“The issue is that some alcoholic beverages have a much higher alcoholic content that may increase the risk of higher amounts of alcohol intake. In fact, the main issue is the total amount of alcohol ingested and not the type of drink,” she said.

The report, though, claims that the greatest risks derive from wine and to a lesser extend from spirits and beer. This can be attributed, according to the survey, to the consumption of large quantities of cheap wine which can also contain other harmful ingredients.

But this theory contradicts the claim that moderate consumption of red wine is healthy.

“One challenge is the school of thought that moderate alcohol consumption, particularly red wine, is often considered to be healthy. According to animal experiments, there is some truth to this [...] however many regular drinkers have a certain level of addiction and there is then a very different and more serious risk profile,” Professor Matthias Löhr said.

**Lack of awareness and policy measures**

A worrying factor is the low public awareness of the link between alcohol and digestive cancers.

According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, one in ten EU citizens is not aware of the connection and one in five does not even believe that there is a link between cancer and alcoholic drinks.

“Urgent action is required to reduce heavy alcohol consumption and the cancer-related burden that it carries,” Mariann Skar, the secretary-general of the European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare) told EURACTIV.

Skar pointed out that member states should be supported by the EU by facilitating harmonised regulation and alcohol-related policies, such as a ban on TV-related advertising and sports sponsorship, improved labelling and minimum unit pricing.

As far as labelling is concerned, producers of alcoholic beverages are not obliged to indicate the list of ingredients or provide any nutrition information, which is not the case for other foods.

In March, after a two-year delay, the European Commission gave the industry an additional year to

Commenting on the Commission’s decision, Dr Cortez-Pinto said it had been a weak response and that a new “Alcohol Strategy” that deals with the different aspects of increased alcohol consumption was needed.

Regarding “self-regulation”, she said she was disappointed “since we consider it is not an appropriate mechanism of regulation. Definitions and rules should come from the European Commission.”

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**WSTA Joins Government Roundtable Promoting Industry Growth**

*European Supermarket Magazine*

*July 11, 2017*

Industry leaders from across the UK’s food and drink sector met with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs last week to discuss how best to encourage growth in the industry.

The Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA) briefed the department on what the drinks industry needs to maintain its global position and continue to grow.

The roundtable discussion, led by UK Secretary of State Michael Gove, was the first in a series of such meetings.

Trade Flows
The WSTA says that it is in everyone's interest to avoid disruption to historic trade flows as a result of Brexit, and that concluding a free trade agreement with the EU must be a priority.

"The food and drink roundtable has given us the opportunity to get together with the government and make them understand our concerns and highlight better ways of working together," said Miles Beale, chief executive of the WSTA.

"The UK drinks industry is incredibly important to the economy and we need to ensure government is listening to industry to ensure we maintain free flows of trade now Brexit negotiations are underway."

UK Trade Market

The WSTA notes that the UK is the largest exporter of spirits in the world and the industry can only grow if trade flows are secure. Over one billion litres of UK spirits are exported to foreign markets each year, including more than 200 million bottles of gin.

Meanwhile, over 99% of the wine consumed in the UK is imported, and in 2016 total sales amounted to more than £10 billion.

Last month the WSTA warned that a 'cliff-edge Brexit' would be bad for both the UK and the rest of Europe, and called on the UK government to 'pull out all the stops' at Brexit negotiations.

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EDUCATION NEWS

University recognized for reduction in high risk drinking

The Vermont Cynic
By Lauren Schnepf, Staff Writer
July 10, 2017

VERMONT - UVM was one of three universities to receive recognition for its efforts to reduce high risk drinking and substance abuse on campus.

The University was presented with the Prevention Excellence Award at the annual Campus Prevention Network Summit June 12 in Boston by EVERFI, an education technology company.

"While there is more work to do, the clear progress we've made in reducing high risk drinking at UVM, an issue that challenges all of higher education, is cause for celebration," President Tom Sullivan said.

According to its website, the Campus Prevention Network focuses on helping campuses make progress on health and safety issues impacting the lives of students, staff and faculty. This includes issues such as alcohol and substance misuse.

Villanova University and Endicott College were the other two recipients of the award, according to a release written by Jeffrey Wakefield, administrative services manager on June 13th, 2017.

A number of initiatives have been taken at UVM in the past five years, according to the article, including joining the National College Health Improvement Project and the formation of the President’s Committee on Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Drugs.

“We’ve seen that a combination of factors – including transparency in naming the impact of high risk drinking on the safety, health and successful engagement of our students; determination; and using interventions grounded in science – can result in real progress on this issue,” said Dr. Jon Porter, director of UVM’s Center for Health and Wellbeing.

In the past five years, groups that have been involved with the attempt to reduce high risk drinking and substance misuse on campus include parents, faculty, students and the wider Burlington community, stated the article.

Initiatives including alcohol-free programming on high risk weekends, the Wellness Environment and BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students) have all been cited as reasons for the reduction of high risk drinking and substance misuse on campus.

“It makes it easier for students to avoid the pressure to drink or do drugs when there are accepted healthy and fun alternatives like the 4/20 5K for Wellness or events put on by Campus Rec,” sophomore Caroline Schryver said.

UVM’s efforts have shown clear results, including the decline of binge drinking over one third and the number of students requiring medical attention due to excessive drinking declining by 50 percent in the past five years, the article stated.
The initiatives taken in the past five years have been made possible by President Sullivan’s concern about the impact of high risk drinking, the University’s approach to high risk drinking as a public health issue and UVM’s understanding that making progress requires a change in the prevailing culture, Porter said.

**DAILY NEWS**

**Use this app to see if your alcohol consumption is putting your health at risk**

Your Local Guardian  
Grainne Cuffe  
Reporter – Wandsworth  
July 11, 2017  

UNITED KINGDOM - We tend to drink more alcohol in the summer, so the council is asking Wandsworth residents to do the ‘drink checker test’.

The council’s health spokesman Councillor Paul Ellis said: “Many people enjoy a drink in the sunshine, but if you are not careful you can be increasing the risk to your health and well-being.

“Use our app to keep safe this summer.”

Check out the app here.