

Control State News

Montgomery Co., MD: Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control Launches Annual Lottery

PA: Jeff Pyle Tapped to Chair Liquor Control Committee

MS: Mississippi town to vote on sales of wine and beer

OR: Marijuana rule increases daily purchase limits for OMMP cardholders

MI: Michigan Governor Signs Law Enacting Requirements for Satellite Brewing Locations

License State News

TN: Mothers Against Drunk Driving name Tennessee Alcohol Commission 2018 Outstanding Department

CT: Feds: CT leads U.S. in alcohol-impaired-driver deaths

International News

United Kingdom: Drinkaware offers Asda shoppers alcohol education

Canada: This is how much fines are under Ontario's new distracted driving laws

Public Health News

Too High To Drive: States Grapple With Setting Limits On Weed Use Behind Wheel

Seniors with heart failure not harmed by moderate alcohol use

Industry News

Climate change and its impact on the wine industry

Daily News

2019 U.S. Alcohol Consumption To Increase While Population Growth Stagnates

Why 2019 Will Be the Year of Weed (Excerpt)

January 3, 2019

NABCA HIGHLIGHTS

The Public Health Considerations of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (White Paper)

Native American Nations & State Alcohol Policies: An Analysis (White Paper)

Alcohol Technology in the World of Tomorrow - (White Paper)

The Control State Agency Info Sheets. Please view website for more information.

NABCA Survey Database (members only)

Upcoming NABCA Meetings

Statistical Data Reports

www.NABCA.org



CONTROL STATE NEWS

Montgomery Co., MD: Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control Launches Annual Lottery That Will Allow Winners to Purchase Rare Pappy Van Winkle and Buffalo Trace Products

News Release

By the Department of Liquor Control
December 31, 2018

The Department of Liquor Control (DLC) is kicking off the new year with two lotteries in which customers can enter random drawings for the opportunity to purchase hard-to-find special liquors. As a control jurisdiction with large purchasing power, the DLC is given special access to bottles of Pappy Van Winkle and the Buffalo Trace Antique Collection, which makes these lotteries possible.

The online lotteries are free to enter, and will open at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Both lotteries will close on Sunday, Jan. 6.

Previous DLC lotteries have attracted great interest from consumers who are excited to have the opportunity to purchase the rare liquors. Last year, 5,355 residents participated in the Pappy Van Winkle lottery. The lotteries are open to Montgomery County, Maryland, residents only. For details on how to enter, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dlc/lottery.

In addition to the opportunity to purchase individual bottles, for the first time, special lottery winners will have the opportunity to purchase a five-bottle Pappy Van Winkle collection set or a three-bottle Buffalo Trace Antique Collection set. There is only one collection set available for each.

Individual Pappy Van Winkle bottles to be offered for purchase to lottery winners include:

- Pappy Van Winkle 23 Year - \$269.99
- Pappy Van Winkle 20 Year - \$169.99
- Pappy Van Winkle 15 Year - \$99.99
- Van Winkle Family Reserve Rye 13 Year - \$119.99
- Van Winkle Special Reserve 12 Year - \$69.99

Individual Buffalo Trace Antique Collection bottles to be offered for purchase to lottery winners include:

- William Larue Weller - \$99.99
- Thomas H. Handy Sazerac Rye - \$99.99
- Sazerac Rye 18-Year-Old - \$99.99

The five-bottle Pappy Van Winkle collection set is priced at \$1,199.99. The lottery winner who purchases the collection will receive the following:

- Pappy Van Winkle 23 Year
- Pappy Van Winkle 20 Year
- Pappy Van Winkle 15 Year
- Van Winkle Special Reserve 12 Year
- Old Rip Van Winkle 10 Year

The three-bottle Buffalo Trace Antique Collection set is priced at \$349.99. The lottery winner who purchases the collection will receive the following:

- George T. Stag
- William Larue Weller
- Thomas H. Handy Sazerac Rye

The Pappy Van Winkle and Buffalo Trace Antique Collection lotteries have become available because alcohol manufacturers reserve a higher rate of coveted items for alcohol control models, such as Montgomery County. The manufacturers know these rare products will be sold at a fair price, allowing for local consumer access.

"We strive to provide excellent service by offering access to hard-to-get, high-end products to residents," said Robert Dorfman director of the DLC. "The DLC provides items that neighboring jurisdictions can't get, or get very little of, and we are able to sell them to our residents at great prices."

Also, in January, the DLC will make available a number of hard to find items, including products that were part of previous Pappy Van Winkle and Buffalo Trace lotteries.

Among the rare liquors that also will be made available in January will be products that were part of the previous Pappy and Buffalo Trace lotteries, including Old Rip Van Winkle 10-Year and George T. Stagg.

These and other allocated items will not have a residency requirement to purchase and will be offered to anyone 21 years of age or older on either a first-come, first-served basis and/or during the "Whiskey Rocks" in-store promotions on Jan. 18 and Jan. 19.

First-come, first-served items include O.F.C. 1993, Four Roses 130th Anniversary Bourbon, W.L. Weller CYPB, Old Fitzgerald Bottled in Bond, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. Single Barrel, Yellowstone 2018 Limited Edition Bourbon, Hakushu 12-Year-Old, Heaven Hill 27, and Orphan Barrel Rhetoric 25 Year.

"We are trying new things at the DLC and are aiming to win over customers through competitive pricing, high-end product availability and unique experiences," said Melissa Davis, senior marketing officer for the DLC.

The Whiskey Rocks two-day celebration kicks off on Friday, Jan. 18, at the Muddy Branch Liquor & Wine store at 866 Muddy Branch Road in Gaithersburg and continues Saturday, Jan. 19, at Westwood Liquor & Wine at 5432 Westbard Avenue in Bethesda.

For details about these Whiskey Rocks events, including product availability, complimentary tastings and seminars, visit the DLC events page at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dlc/events/.

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PA: Jeff Pyle Tapped to Chair Liquor Control Committee

The Kittanning Paper

January 3, 2019

Local State Representative Jeff Pyle (R-Armstrong/Butler/Indiana) was appointed to chair the Liquor Control committee in Harrisburg when Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) yesterday announced the appointments of majority committee chairmen for the 2019-20 Legislative Session.

House committees study each bill and determine which proposals will go to the full House. They conduct public hearings on key issues, allowing citizens and interested groups to have a say in the legislative process, and they serve as a resource for members and others.

"The men and women who chair the House committees are getting the work done to prepare legislation for the full House to consider," Turzai said. "Through public hearings and voting meetings, committee chairs lead the way by vetting proposed solutions to the serious issues and challenges facing Pennsylvania."

Pyle was diagnosed with stage-four cancer a year ago. At the Kittanning Revitalization Dedication last month, Pyle said he is pleased with the result of his treatment over the past year.

"I was just told by Bristol-Meyers-Squibb that I may be one of their top ten results in the country. My tumor is just about gone. I go in for regular maintenance doses every other Friday. I'm in good shape."

During the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival, Pyle made his diagnosis public.

"On a personal note, I would like to thank everybody in the crowd. I had a rough winter. I was diagnosed with stage four cancer. I am happy to tell you now that (my tumor) that once was 20 centimeters by 10 centimeters thick, is now down to one centimeter by one centimeter."

This isn't Pyle's first experience with the disease. Immediately after taking office in 2005, Pyle was diagnosed with kidney cancer and had one of his kidneys removed. He is quoted in his biography on his website talking about his first experience.

"Any cancer diagnosis strikes a serious blow to one's foundation, but through research, education and treatment, many can survive this horrible disease. Early detection is the most important step to survival."

Pyle was elected to his seat in the 60th Legislative District that serves parts of Armstrong, Indiana, and Butler counties in 2005. He is a 1982 graduate of Ford City High School and resides in Ford City with his family.

MS: Mississippi town to vote on sales of wine and beer

The Dispatch

The Associated Press

January 2, 2019

WESSON -- A Mississippi town of nearly 1,900 will vote Jan. 15 on whether to allow beer and wine sales.

Wesson has lost \$2,000 to \$3,000 a month in tax revenues since Brookhaven legalized beer and liquor sales in June 2013, officials told The Daily Leader of Brookhaven.

"It's not just liquor -- people would come up here and buy liquor, then they'd stop and get gas or go into a store," Mayor Alton Shaw told the newspaper earlier this year. "Anything you sell helps from a tax point of view."

The special election was made possible when the town annexed a highway right-of-way that brought its boundary exactly three miles from that of Brookhaven, and citizens then petitioned for the referendum.

Under state law, any municipality with at least 1,500 residents and within three miles of a city or county that already permits the sale of alcohol is allowed to vote on whether to legalize beer sales.

Wesson is in both Copiah and Lincoln counties. Since Copiah County is "wet," liquor sales already are legal in Wesson, and Lincoln County residents bought liquor there until Brookhaven's election.

After that vote, the larger of Wesson's two liquor stores moved to Brookhaven.

At least 20 percent of Wesson's 902 registered voters signed a petition asking for the election, and on Dec. 4 aldermen voted unanimously to hold the vote. If voters and then aldermen approve, it would become legal to sell light wine with up to 5 percent alcohol by weight, and beer with up to 8 percent alcohol by weight.

Ward 2 Aldermen Jarrad Ashley said another goal of the annexation is to let Wesson police patrol, set roadblocks and respond to traffic accidents on Highway 51 near Copiah-Lincoln Community College. They won't be using radar speed detectors -- state law allows only municipalities with at least 2,000 residents to use them.

OR: Marijuana rule increases daily purchase limits for OMMP cardholders

The Argus Observer

January 2, 2019

PORTLAND — The Oregon Liquor Control Commission at its Dec. 20, 2018, meeting adopted changes in rules regulating recreational marijuana with a focus on tightening licensing and compliance requirements, providing licensees flexibility to conduct business, and improving access to medical marijuana for patients.

Under the rules change Oregon Medical Marijuana Program cardholders or a designated caregiver will be allowed to purchase a larger amount of marijuana during a single transaction. In August of 2018, after noticing suspicious

purchase activity in the state's Cannabis Tracking System, the OLCC reduced the daily purchase limit to one (1) ounce for OMMP cardholders.

The rule changes approved by the Commission took effect Dec. 28, 2018. Key elements of the rules changes include:

- Creating a denial basis for licensees who fail to complete the renewal process, and for license applicants found to have an unauthorized interest in a licensed business;
- Ending the issuance of new licenses to processors as alternating proprietors (shared kitchen) on the same licensed premises for applications received after Jan. 1, 2019, but grandfathering all current processors in alternating proprietorships;
- Clarifying camera coverage for waste material and amending the penalty structure for violations based on the amount of missing camera footage and the number of offenses;
- Redefining the allowable shape of canopy areas a producer may have and including an allowance for producers to obtain a professional survey in lieu of the quadrilateral shape requirement;
- Allowing wholesale licensees to provide retailers with samples from product lines originating from multiple licensees;
- Increasing trade sample amounts for cannabinoid products, and allowing licensees to share trade samples with employees as long as the transaction is tracked in the Cannabis Tracking System;
- Increasing medical patient purchase to eight (8) ounces of usable marijuana per day and no more than thirty-two (32) ounces per month;
- Clarifying that a retailer can only sell a customer five (5) grams of an inhalant per day; and
- Allowing retailers to apply for the ability to deliver to patients and primary caregivers throughout the state, even in opt-out jurisdictions.

The new rules can be found on the OLCC Recreational Marijuana website.

The Commission approved a temporary rule that enables industrial certificate holders (hemp producers and handlers [processors]) to continue to operate while the Commission completes its permanent hemp rule making.

- The OLCC issued industrial hemp certificates expire one year after issuance; some of the issued certificates were set to expire beginning in January of 2019. The Commission is set to complete permanent rule making for industrial hemp by the end of February.
- The temporary industrial hemp rule takes effect Jan. 7.

MI: Michigan Governor Signs Law Enacting Requirements for Satellite Brewing Locations

Brewbound

By Justin Kendall

January 2, 2019

Outgoing Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed a package of bills last month limiting how licensed microbreweries expand with additional locations.

The new law established production and equipment requirements for satellite facilities, and created a tasting room license for the state's alcoholic beverage makers.

Michigan didn't previously have minimum production requirements or equipment mandates for secondary locations. However, the state will now require licensed microbreweries to either install at least a 3-barrel brewhouse, or produce at least 50 percent of the beer sold on-site at the secondary location. The bills were backed by trade groups representing the state's wholesalers, winemakers and restaurants, but the Michigan Brewers Guild also supported the legislation.

"The Guild's basic position is that a brewery opening a tied house — a retail operation without a brewery with exclusive focus to them — has not proven to be a good model for small craft brewers," Michigan Brewers Guild executive director Scott Graham told Brewbound.

Graham added that the new laws give "some definition" to secondary locations licensed as microbreweries that are supposed to be producing beer in a "bonafide way."

The new law is aimed at preventing beer manufacturers from opening up satellite bars with little or no production occurring on-site, while still allowing nano-breweries and wineries to produce small amounts of beer without running afoul of the law.

Similar laws are already in place in California, where brewpubs with a Type 75 license are required to produce at least 200 barrels of beer annually and have at least a 7-barrel brewing system. In late November, the California ABC officials investigated 70 companies with Type 75 licenses and found that nearly 50 were in violation of the law.

LICENSE STATE NEWS

TN: Mothers Against Drunk Driving name Tennessee Alcohol Commission 2018 Outstanding Department

Nashville Tennessean

By Mariah Timms

January 2, 2019

The Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission has been named the 2018 Statewide Outstanding Department, in recognition for its work over the last year. The award was given by the Tennessee Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The commission, a MADD release said, has been "tirelessly preventing the sale, distribution and consumption of alcohol beverages to those who are under the age of 21."

The TABC is responsible for licensing, regulating and enforcing alcohol laws within the state.

The department's law enforcement agents reported conducting more than 2,300 minor decoy operations in 2018. The organization reportedly issued regulatory and criminal citations to over 300 establishments and individuals who sold alcohol to minors in that same time.

"They strongly believe that minor compliance checks are an integral part of protecting our youth against underage drinking by insuring that licensed establishments comply with the state laws that prohibit sales of alcohol to minors," the MADD release said about the organization.

TABC Chief Bond Tubbs said the department was "extremely honored" to receive the award in an emailed release.

"On behalf of the law enforcement division of TABC, we will continue to strive for the prevention of underage drinking in Tennessee and make a difference in DUI-related injuries and fatalities," Tubbs said.

MADD hands out several categories of awards annually, including ones to law enforcement agencies that report high numbers of DUIs, effective youth outreach programs and those that show "compassion" to victims of impaired drivers.

In past years, the outstanding department award has been given to different agencies in each of the three regions of Tennessee. The recipient of the 2017 Middle Tennessee Outstanding Department Award was THP District 3 — Troop E — Robertson County. The 2017 West Tennessee Outstanding Department Award was given to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.

CT: Feds: CT leads U.S. in alcohol-impaired-driver deaths

Hartford Business

January 2, 2019

Connecticut recorded the highest rate of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in 2017 among all U.S. states, according to new federal statistics.

Of the state's 278 fatal crashes in 2017, a total of 120, or 43 percent, involved a driver with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or more, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) said. That's the highest rate of any state and was surpassed only by the District of Columbia, which reported 31 total fatal crashes, or 52 percent involving alcohol, in 2017, NHTSA said.

Nationally, fatal crashes involving an impaired driver decreased by 1.1 percent from 2016 to 2017, accounting for 29 percent of car crash deaths.

The 29 percent fatality mark is the nation's lowest percentage since NHTSA began tracking the data in 1982. In total, there were 112 less alcohol-related driving deaths in the U.S. in 2017.

Rhode Island narrowly trailed Connecticut's poor rate, coming in second with 41 percent of fatal crashes involving alcohol-impaired-driving in 2017. Trailing were Massachusetts (34 percent), Maine (29 percent) and New Hampshire and Vermont (26 percent).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

United Kingdom: Drinkaware offers Asda shoppers alcohol education

The Spirits Business

By Melita Kiely

January 3, 2019

Alcohol awareness charity Drinkaware has teamed up with UK supermarket Asda to offer customers free information and advice on alcohol this month.

Drinkaware ambassadors will be present in 100 Asda stores on Friday 11 and Friday 18 January to hand out thousands of alcohol assessment scratchcards, which use a "factual, non-judgemental approach" to encourage consumers to think about their drinking habits.

Ambassadors will also be on hand to talk to customers and discuss any concerns they may have about their own, or a friend or family member's alcohol intake.

Both groups hope the partnership, which is now in its third year, will help people make informed decisions by creating awareness around the harms of alcohol and the health benefits of cutting down.

Rommel Moseley, Drinkaware director of business development and partnerships, said: "The advice and information that Drinkaware provides is invaluable to the many people looking to make changes to their own or a family member's drinking habits in January, and we know that the Drinkaware ambassadors in Asda will help many customers to make positive changes and reduce their risk of alcohol harm."

This year's partnership will have a particular focus on drink-free days – especially for middle-aged men and women.

Shoppers will also be able to take away the charity's leaflet, Talking to your kids about alcohol, plus alcohol unit measuring cups and calorie wheels.

Drinkaware will be at stores including Aintree, Barnsley, Brighton, Dumbarton, Luton, Sheffield, Sunderland, Swansea, Tamworth, Westbrook and York on 11 January. The charity will visit venues including Ayr, Blackpool, Edinburgh, Elgin, Falmouth, Glenrothes, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Rotherham, Swanley, Trafford Park and Watford on 18 January.

Chris Lowe, senior director for public affairs at Asda, said: "Customer insight shows that more people think about their health in January, and look for ways to cut back on their alcohol consumption after the festive period, so this opportunity to receive accessible, friendly advice and support comes at just the right time."

Canada: This is how much fines are under Ontario's new distracted driving laws

Daily Hive

By DH Toronto Staff

January 2, 2019

Toronto Police say that in 2018, 1116 people were arrested for impaired driving related offences.

And now, impaired drivers will be impacted by new legislation that came into effect this week.

As of January 1, those who are caught using a hand-held device, such as a cell phone, while driving will be fined up to \$1,000.

Up to this year, the maximum fine for a contravention of the act was \$500.

Those caught will also receive a three-day licence suspension and three demerit points.

Fines will double if there's a second conviction within five years, and they'll triple if there's a third.

Those with a G1 or a G2 licence will have even stricter rules: They may face a 30-day licence suspension after their first offence and a 90-day suspension after their second. If there's a third offence, their licence could be cancelled.

There will also be increased fines for impaired driving and failing to yield for pedestrians at crosswalks and signalized intersections.

New regulations also allow law enforcement to demand a breathalyzer test from drivers, even without reasonable suspicion that they have consumed alcohol. Refusal to submit a breath sample could lead to a criminal offence and a mandatory minimum \$2,000 fine.

Here's a full look at the penalties for impaired driving under the new laws:

Penalties			
Charge	1 st offence	2 nd offence	3 rd offence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol-impaired driving Having a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) at or over 80mg per 100ml of blood within 2 hours of driving 	Mandatory minimum: \$1000 fine Maximum: 10 years imprisonment	Mandatory minimum: 30 days imprisonment Maximum: 10 years imprisonment	Mandatory minimum: 120 days imprisonment Maximum: 10 years imprisonment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug-impaired driving Having 5ng or more of THC per ml of blood within 2 hours of driving Any detectable level of LSD, psilocybin, psilocin, ketamine, PCP, cocaine, methamphetamine, 6-mam within 2 hours of driving Having 5mg or more of GHB per 1 litre of blood within 2 hours of driving 			
Combination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a BAC of 50mg or more per 100ml of blood + 2.5ng or more of THC per 1ml of blood within 2 hours of driving 			
Refusal to comply with demand for sample	Minimum: \$2000 fine		
Drug-impaired driving - Summary conviction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having over 2ng but less than 5ng of THC per ml of blood within 2 hours of driving 	Maximum \$1000 fine		
Impaired driving causing bodily harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary conviction: Maximum 2 years imprisonment less a day Indictment: Maximum 14 years imprisonment 		
Impaired driving causing death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indictment: Maximum life imprisonment 		
First offence + BAC of 80-119mg	Mandatory minimum \$1000 fine		
First offence + BAC of 120-159mg	Mandatory minimum \$1500 fine		
First offence + BAC of 160mg or more	Mandatory minimum \$2000 fine		

According to the federal government, impaired driving is the leading criminal cause of death and injury in Canada.

In 2017, there were more than 69,000 impaired driving incidents reported by the police, including almost 3,500 drug-impaired driving incidents.

-Impaired driving laws/Department of Justice

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Too High To Drive: States Grapple With Setting Limits On Weed Use Behind Wheel

Kaiser Health News

By Shefali Luthra

January 3, 2019

It used to be the stuff of stoner comedies and “Just Say No” campaigns. Today, marijuana is becoming mainstream as voters across the country approve ballot questions for legalization or medical use.

In response, state governments are testing ways to ensure that the integration of this once-illicit substance into everyday life doesn’t create new public health risks. These efforts are sparking a difficult question: At what point is someone too high to get behind the wheel?

The answer is complicated. Brain scientists and pharmacologists don’t know how to measure if and to what extent marijuana causes impairment.

The reason: Existing blood and urine tests can detect marijuana use, but, because traces of the drug stay in the human body for a long time, those tests can’t specify whether the use occurred earlier that day or that month. They also don’t indicate the level at which a driver would be considered “under the influence.”

“It’s a really hard problem,” said Keith Humphreys, a psychiatry professor and drug policy expert at Stanford University in California, the first state to legalize medical marijuana and where recreational pot use among adults became legal in 2016. “We don’t really have good evidence — even if we know someone has been using — [to gauge] what their level of impairment is.”

Marijuana is now legal for recreational use in 10 states and the District of Columbia — including Michigan, where a ballot initiative passed in November took effect Dec. 6. In New York, the governor said Dec. 17 that legalization would be a top priority for 2019. And nearly three dozen states have cleared the use of medical cannabis.

For alcohol, there is a clear, national standard. If your blood alcohol content (BAC) is 0.08 percent or higher, you’re considered cognitively impaired at a level that is unsafe to drive. Extensive research supports this determination, and the clarity makes enforcement of drunken driving laws easier.

Setting a marijuana-related impairment level is a much murkier proposition. But states that have legalized pot have to figure it out, experts said.

“You can’t legalize a substance and not have a coherent policy for controlling driving under the influence of that substance,” said Steven Davenport, an assistant policy researcher at the nonprofit Rand Corp., who specializes in marijuana research.

Marijuana, after all, weakens a driver’s ability to maintain focus, and it slows reflexes. But regulators are “playing catch-up,” suggested Thomas Marcotte, a psychiatry professor at the University of California-San Diego and one of a number of academics around the country who is researching driving while high.

States have put forth a bevy of approaches. At least five have what’s called a “per se” law, which outlaws driving if someone’s blood level of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, exceeds a set amount. THC is marijuana’s main intoxicant.

Colorado, where voters approved legalization of recreational marijuana in 2012, has this type of driving law on the books. It took three years to pass amid fiery debate and deems “intoxicated” any driver who tests higher than 5 nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood.

Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Indiana are among states that forbid driving at any THC level. Still others say drivers should be penalized only if they are impaired by the chemical — a standard that sounds reasonable but quickly gets difficult to measure or even define.

None of these approaches offers an ideal solution, experts said.

“We’re still definitely evaluating which policies are the most effective,” said Ann Kitch, who tracks the marijuana and driving issue for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

States that set a THC-level standard confront weak technology and limited science. THC testing is imprecise at best, since the chemical can stay in someone’s bloodstream for weeks after it was ingested. Someone could legally smoke a joint and still have THC appear in blood or urine samples long after the high passes.

There’s general agreement that driving while high is bad, but there’s no linear relationship between THC levels and degree of impairment. States that have picked a number to reflect when THC in the bloodstream becomes a hazard have “made it up,” argued Humphreys.

“The ones who wrote [a number] into legislation felt they had to say something,” he said. But “we don’t know what would be the analogy. Is the legal amount [of THC] equal to a beer? Is that how impaired you are? Is it a six-pack?”

Roadside testing for THC is also logistically difficult.

Blood, for instance, needs to be analyzed in a lab, and collecting urine gets ... complicated.

In Canada, which legalized recreational pot just this year, law enforcement will test drivers with a saliva test called the Dräger DrugTest 5000, but that isn’t perfect, either.

Some private companies are trying to develop a sort of breathalyzer for marijuana. But Jonathan Caulkins, a drug policy researcher at Carnegie Mellon University, said, “There are fundamental issues with the chemistry and pharmacokinetics. It’s really hard to have an objective, easy-to-administer roadside test.”

Some states rely on law enforcement to assess whether someone’s driving appears impaired, and ascertain after the fact if marijuana was involved.

In California, every highway patrol member learns to administer “field sobriety tests” — undergoing an extra 16 hours of training to recognize the influence of different drugs, including marijuana. Because medical marijuana has been legal there since 1996, officers are “very used” to recognizing its influence, said Glenn Glazer, the state’s coordinator for its drug recognition expert training program.

That kind of training is taking off in other states, too, Kitch said. Lobbying groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving are pushing to bump up law enforcement training and rely on officers to assess whether a driver is impaired.

These tests, though, risk their own kind of error.

“They are subjective,” Rand Corp.’s Davenport warned.

For one thing, officer-administered tests can be influenced by racial bias. Someone who has previously had poor experiences with law enforcement may also perform worse, not because of greater impairment but nervousness.

Indeed, relying on more subjective testing is in some ways the direct opposite of conventional wisdom.

“A general pattern of the last ... 40 years is to try to take human judgment out of decision-making processes when possible. Because we fear exactly these issues,” Caulkins said. “The idea that you could come up with a completely objective test of performance ... is ambitious.”

Researchers like Marcotte are trying to devise some kind of test that can, in fact, gauge whether someone is showing signs of marijuana impairment. But that could take years.

In the meantime, the public health threat is real. States with legalized pot do appear to experience more car crashes, though the relationship is muddled. “This is going to be a headache of an issue for a decade,” Caulkins said.

Seniors with heart failure not harmed by moderate alcohol use

REUTERS

By Linda Carroll

January 2, 2019

(Reuters Health) - Older people with heart failure may be able to continue drinking moderately without harming their health, a new study suggests.

In fact, heart failure patients who consume up to seven drinks a week may actually live longer than those who completely avoid alcohol, researchers report in JAMA Network Open.

"If you're 65 and above and have had a diagnosis of heart failure and previously consumed mild to moderate amounts of alcohol, you can probably continue to do so without any harm," said senior study author Dr. David L. Brown, a professor of medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. "And it may actually be associated with some benefit in terms of longevity, although there is no way to show cause and effect from this study. We found that those who continued to consume moderate amounts of alcohol after diagnosis lived almost a year longer than those who never consumed alcohol."

But, Brown cautioned, "if you have never consumed alcohol, don't start on the basis of this study."

Brown got the idea for the study when a patient in the hospital with a new diagnosis of heart failure asked if he could continue to have a cocktail every night.

Heart failure is diagnosed when the organ can't pump enough blood to the body. There are a host of reasons why this can happen, Brown said, including "having a heart attack that results in loss of heart muscle function, longstanding high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and even drinking excessive amounts of alcohol."

To determine whether alcohol should be taken off the menu for heart failure patients, Brown and colleagues looked at health records for nearly 6,000 patients aged 65 and older who signed on to the Cardiovascular Health Study between 1989 and 1993 at four sites in the U.S. In that group were 393 individuals with a new diagnosis of heart failure in the first nine years of follow-up.

Participants with heart failure were followed through June 2013 with regular phone calls. Researchers found that 129 of the heart failure patients continued to drink after they were diagnosed, with most of them consuming the equivalent of one to seven drinks per week.

One drink was equal to 12 ounces of beer, a 6-ounce glass of wine or a 1.5-ounce shot of spirits. Just 17 heart failure patients consumed more than seven drinks a week. Of the 168 patients who abstained from alcohol, just over half were former drinkers and the rest had never been drinkers.

After accounting for factors that could influence heart failure progression, including age, sex, income, smoking history, diabetes and history of heart or kidney disease, researchers found that patients who continued to drink after their heart failure diagnosis lived longer.

On average, the non-drinkers lived 2,640 days after their diagnosis, compared with 3,046 days among those who consumed one to seven drinks a week and 2,806 days among those who consumed more than seven drinks a week.

Why would moderate drinking contribute to a longer life among heart failure patients? "That's the \$64,000 question. We don't have the answer for that," Brown said.

"And we still don't know if alcohol is the primary reason people lived longer," he added. "It may be that people who drink do it as part of a social network and that is the benefit rather than the alcohol."

The findings will help doctors counsel heart failure patients who want to know if they can continue to drink, said Dr. Erin Michos of the Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

But, Michos noted, the study doesn't apply to all heart failure patients. "Their study was limited to those who had already survived to at least 65 years . . . and the mean age of these heart failure patients was 79 years; thus their

findings cannot necessarily be extrapolated to younger individuals who might have longer life expectancies,” she said in an email.

SOURCE: bit.ly/2Tfd6cU JAMA Network Open, online December 28, 2018.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Climate change and its impact on the wine industry

Climate change could have a huge impact on the wine industry in the very near future

Palm Beach Illustrated

By Dallas Holland

January 2, 2019

Grapevines may not have political opinions, but they are deeply affected by climate change.

At first, global warming was a boon for wine production: Vines yielded more grapes, and those grapes ripened earlier, resulting in a crop that was richer and more pleasing. Most of the world's wine grapes are grown in a band between the thirtieth and fiftieth parallels, with a significant concentration at the forty-fifth parallel north, halfway between the equator and the North Pole (Oregon, Bordeaux, the Rhone Valley and Provence, Central Otago in New Zealand, etc.). By 2050, many researchers expect those regions to be inhospitable to wine grapes, or at least to the varieties currently grown there; Pinot Noir will be impossible in Oregon, and Bordeaux will be better suited to Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot. Some areas, such as mainland Australia, won't be able to make wine at all.

What's a vintner to do? Short of grabbing his or her violin and rushing to the deck of the Titanic to join the ensemble, there are some practical solutions available.

Move to higher ground. This is happening in Burgundy, which made its reputation on the fickle Pinot Noir grape. While Burgundian winemakers are only moving several hundred feet up the hillsides, it's not unusual to find vineyards at 4,500 to 5,000 feet in parts of Argentina's Uco Valley. Winemakers are discovering that increased heat and sunlight are melting more snow, which is leading to more water for irrigation.

Throw some shade. There are viticultural techniques that can help minimize the effects of rising temperatures. These include canopy management, night harvesting and quicker transport of grapes to winery facilities, the planting of cover crops, maximizing irrigation through treatment and recycling of water, and delaying the ripening process by increasing crop load. Some of these techniques are already being used in regions such as Spain, where the effects of heat are acute.

Vote with your feet. As temperatures grow warmer, wine production is thriving farther north and south—to Pennsylvania, northern Michigan, and the southern Australian island of Tasmania. The most famous example is the south of England, which is rapidly becoming famous for sparkling wine production. Even the French, who have long viewed the British wine industry with contempt, are changing their tune. Taittinger and Vranken Pommery have purchased land in Kent and Hampshire, respectively, and other major houses are rumored to be shopping around, too.

Plant different grapes. Scientists have engineered hybrid grapes and crosses designed to thrive in extreme cold and heat: Vidal Blanc and Vignoles in Michigan, and varieties such as Blanc du Bois here in Florida. Since the aroma and flavor profiles of these grapes are unfamiliar, and very different from Chardonnay or Cabernet Sauvignon, this may seem like a draconian scenario to many wine drinkers. By 2100, though, it may be the only option we have.

Switch crops. Forty years ago, the concept of legal marijuana was unthinkable; 20 years ago, the idea that pot could threaten wine sales would have been laughable. Recreational cannabis is now legal in nine states and the District of Columbia, and medical marijuana is permitted in 30 plus D.C. The wine industry is reacting to the threat by co-opting the competition. In late 2017, beverage giant Constellation bought a stake in the Canadian cannabis company Canopy Growth, and by mid-2018 Constellation reported it had already made \$1.3 billion on the deal. When life hands you lemons, you can make some tasty lemonade. «

2019 U.S. Alcohol Consumption To Increase While Population Growth Stagnates

Forbes

By Thomas Pellechia, Contributor

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In an abstract titled, “Alcohol Consumption in the United States: Past, Present, and Future Trends” published in the Journal of Wine Economics Volume 13, Number 2, James Fogerty and Derby Voon examined “...long-run changes in alcohol consumption patterns for the United States, at the state level, and presents forecasts for per capita consumption of beer, wine, and spirits...”

The research covered from the early 1970s into the first dozen years of the 21st century. It shows that until the early 2000s, the level of U.S. alcohol consumption for beer, wine and spirits had converged among the states; then, the direction began to change: “...since the early 1970s, within the United States, there was a clear trend towards increased convergence in both the level of consumption and the consumption mix...but this trend has not been present since the early 2000s...forecasts of state level per capita consumption suggest a further increase in dispersion rather than convergence.”

Using data derived from a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism from 1972 to 2002, the researchers claim total per capita U.S. alcohol consumption decreased. Since 2002, the report says, there has been an increase, especially in a few states. Forecasting spirits, North Dakota, Iowa, Delaware, Oregon and Idaho are on a per-capita consumption rise. Per capita wine consumption is expected to grow highest in Delaware, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Idaho and Tennessee. In the near future, beer per capita consumption growth should be highest in South Dakota, Kentucky, Ohio, Florida, Delaware and Tennessee.

The report says, “Delaware stands out as the only state where per capita consumption of all three beverage types is already above average, and where consumption is forecast to increase for all three beverages...the District of Columbia and Florida stand out as states where the consumption of both beer and spirits is currently above average and forecast to increase.”

The report also points out a few contrary states: “Jurisdictions where consumption is currently low and consumption is forecast to fall for at least two beverage categories are: Arkansas (spirits, wine, and beer); Arizona (wine and beer); Kansas (spirits and beer), Nebraska (spirits and wine), and Oklahoma (spirits and beer). “ But what might be behind the forecasted consumption increases?

According to the research, “...no systematic correlations were found between alcohol taxes (or other alcohol policy settings) and forecast future consumption changes.” In fact, the research found that forecasted spirit consumption increases will take place in jurisdictions where alcohol taxes are highest, compared to jurisdictions with constant or decreasing consumption forecasts. With beer, “taxes tend to be lower in jurisdictions where consumption is forecast to increase...” Wine shows “no relationship between tax rates and the forecast consumption change...” The researchers caution, however: “...the associations identified here are correlations only, and do not identify causation.”

Still, in the aggregate, the report shows that state alcohol excise taxes have fallen since 1991 (beer by 30%, wine 27% and spirits 32%). Lower taxes means lower overall prices, and that could very well be an engine behind increased consumption.

Increased consumption certainly appears a good sign for U.S. beverage alcohol retailers, but according to an article by Pam Danzinger at Unity Marketing Online (UMO), “ The American population – the number of consumers – is growing less than 1% annually. ”

The UMO article points out that the U.S. population rose only 0.7% in 2016 and 2017; it's lowest level of growth since 1937. As the oldest generation fades out, the largest generation—nearly 80 million Millennials—are not producing many babies.

More scary for retailers, according to Pew Research, by 2015 the U.S. adult middle class—households with income from two-thirds to double the national median—had fallen over 44 years from 61% to 50% of the population. In addition, the middle class share of the nation's aggregate income fell from 62% in 1970 to 43% in 2014.

In the end, modest rising beverage alcohol consumption is likely to rely a lot on price. At the same time, because of a diminishing population, the market may be serviced by fewer retailers, which concentrates distribution to large chain outlets, making market access more difficult for small producers. The retail picture, at least for wine, may be framed by more direct-to-consumer sales.

DAILY NEWS

Why 2019 Will Be the Year of Weed (Excerpt)

From more states legalizing to a boom of new kinds of products, here's what to expect from the cannabis industry this year

RollingStone

By Amanda Chicago Lewis

January 2, 2019

In 2018, pot reached a tipping point. A clear majority of Americans now wants to see the drug made fully legal. California and Canada began selling marijuana to anyone over 21. Corporate behemoths like Altria (parent company of Marlboro cigarettes) and Constellation Brands (parent of Corona beer and Svedka vodka) made multi-billion dollar weed investments. And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) managed to include hemp legalization in the 2018 Farm Bill — de facto legalizing every part of the cannabis plant except THC.

But at the same time, pot prohibition is not over. Well over half a million folks are still arrested for possession every year. Smoking weed or working for a pot company can still threaten your housing, employment, immigration status, finances and freedom. Cannabis business models, regulatory environments and market valuations shift on a daily basis.

What happens in 2019 will undoubtedly affect each of these issues. To better understand where weed is headed in the next 12 months, I called more than a dozen of the most influential and savvy folks in marijuana: CEOs, scientists, political activists, financial analysts and of course, people who have been growing illegally for decades. Here are their predictions for 2019:

First up, the good news. “Within the next two years, a majority of the United States will have adult-use legal cannabis,” predicts Graham Boyd, a longtime bigwig in cannabis political fundraising who now runs the influential, pot-focused New Approach PAC. “And some of that, roughly half of that, could happen through state legislatures.” Though Vermont legalized the possession and use of cannabis through the legislature, all nine of the states that legalized adult-use sales and commercial production have done so via ballot initiative. But in 2019, politicians will finally catch up with their constituents, explains Boyd. States that could potentially legalize through the legislature include New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Illinois. Meanwhile, movements to get a legalization initiative on the ballot in 2020 are underway in states like Arizona and Ohio.

All this should mean that Congress is finally going to take federal marijuana legalization seriously in 2019, right? Well, maybe. Neal Levine, a Colorado-based cannabis lobbyist who has spent the past few years in Washington D.C. working on behalf of some of the country's biggest weed operators, is cautiously optimistic about the 2019 chances for the narrow and pragmatic bill, the STATES Act, that he helped put together. Co-sponsored by Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Cory Gardner (R-CO), the STATES Act would give anyone following state marijuana laws a reprieve from federal consequences — meaning weed businesses could, at long last, get bank accounts, take tax deductions and stop freaking out about potential criminal liability.

“Prohibition is a tangled web that took years to build, and it's going to take years to unwind. The STATES Act is not the whole loaf but is the essential first step,” says Levine, who this year founded the Cannabis Trade Federation. He's optimistic in part because he's gotten “an incredibly warm reception” in certain offices on Capitol Hill “that no one would have believed,” adding, “This is a non-partisan issue.”

But up on Wall Street, the analysts aren't so sure.

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