



**OMAHA COALITION MEETING**  
*Wednesday, September 13, 2023*  
*9 a.m.*

**A G E N D A**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of the August 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
*(please contact PEM staff with corrections)*
- III. The Importance of Community Involvement in the Regulatory & Legislative Processes  
*Diane Riibe, Founder of Project Extra Mile*
- IV. Focus Area Updates
  - a. Local
    - i. Throwback Arcade Lounge
    - ii. Rocco's Meeting at LCC
    - iii. Neighborhood Updates?
  - b. Policy
    - i. LCC Legislative Letter Timeline
    - ii. Prevention Letter
    - iii. LCC Rules Changes
  - c. Enforcement
    - i. No updates
  - d. Youth
    - i. Leadership Network meeting: September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7-8 p.m.
  - e. Awareness
    - i. September Research Summary available at [www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org)
- V. Additional Discussion/Announcements
- VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: **October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.**  
*Cody McGee with NSP will share lessons from the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association Conference*  
*UNO's Community Engagement Center, Room 231*

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS**

Youth Leadership Network Meeting – September 18, 2023 at 7-8 p.m.  
Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Hearings – October 3 & 4, 2023  
Law Enforcement Workgroup Meeting – October 6, 2023 at 1-2 p.m.

**6001 Dodge Street, CEC 228**  
**Omaha, Nebraska 68182-0600**  
**402.963.9047**  
**[www.projectextramile.org](http://www.projectextramile.org)**

## PROJECT EXTRA MILE

### OMAHA METRO AREA COALITION MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2023

- I. Call to Order: Dr. Tom Safranek called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.
- II. Welcome and Introductions: Coalition members and speakers in attendance: Palistene Gray-Moore, Carey Pomykata, Sharona Ernst, Ashley Pick, Maggie Ballard, Cole Williby, Ryan Wiesen, Trilety Wade, Sadie Hinkel, and Tom Safranek. Coalition members in attendance via Zoom: Jeanne Bietz, Jim Boucher, Lanette Richards, Hayden Romig, Jona Beck, and Michaela Perry. Staff members: Chris Wagner, Jenna Abbott, Beatha Kliewer, and Liene Topko.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were included in the coalition meeting packet. No additions or corrections were made.
- IV. Liquor Licensing in Nebraska: Staff reviewed the harms that come from excessive alcohol consumption and how the density of alcohol outlets in communities exacerbate those harms. Much discussion was devoted to how citizens can be involved in the liquor licensing process and that that process is not considered lobbying as it pertains to liquor license applications. Project Extra Mile monitors the Omaha City Council agendas and other local governing bodies and informs neighborhood associations of any applications in areas known to be prone to alcohol-related harms. The organization also attends council hearings when there is expected to be citizen protestors so that we can share more information about future opportunities for them to advocate for their neighborhoods.
- V. Focus Area Updates
  - a. Local
    - i. Chris Wagner shared that the organization was invited by the City of Omaha Law Department to provide testimony regarding alcohol-related harms during its hearing on Throwback Lounge in Downtown Omaha. The city council denied the long-form application for the new liquor license and the business will have its hearing at the Liquor Control Commission (LCC) on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Wagner discussed that the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved alcohol sales for the August 30<sup>th</sup> Volleyball Day which will be held at Memorial Stadium and will feature collegiate volleyball games and a concert. This is yet another step toward permanently approving alcohol sales at the stadium.
    - iii. Wagner also shared that the 2023 College World Series Jell-O Shot Challenge sold 95,030 jell-o shots equating to \$475,150. Approximately 30% of the total was donated to the participating schools' food banks. There was discussion about having an alternative fundraising idea in 2024 that would fund alcohol prevention and treatment efforts.

b. Policy

- i. Liene Topko encouraged coalition members to attend the Omaha Vision Zero Task Force's open house on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 5-7 p.m. at the UNO Community Engagement Center to view and provide feedback on the City's recommendations to reduce traffic fatalities, particularly as it pertains to impaired driving.
- ii. Topko shared that the policy work group met in July and will send another prevention letter to policymakers with the alcohol-related harms and what works to reduce them. Those interested in signing the letter should contact PEM staff.
- iii. Next month's coalition meeting will feature former executive director Diane Riibe.

c. Youth

- i. Jenna Abbott provided a summary of the 2023 Youth Leadership Retreat.
- ii. The next Youth Leadership Network meeting is on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7-8 p.m. at the UNO Community Engagement Center.

d. Awareness

- i. The July & August Research Summaries are available at [www.projectextramile.org/ResearchSummary](http://www.projectextramile.org/ResearchSummary)

VI. Additional Discussion/Announcements: Maggie Ballard (Prevention Means Progress) invited attendees to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hands Across the Bridge on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge (Iowa side) at 10-11 am. Ashley Pick (NE Highway Safety Office) shared that 40 grants have been approved for law enforcement to execute the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over impaired driving campaign during August 16 to September 9.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. ADVOCACY. AWARENESS. ACTION

## READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Youth in grades 8-12 in the Omaha Metro Area are invited to join Project Extra Mile's Youth Leadership Network. Members will learn about the harms of excessive alcohol use in our community, develop the leadership skills needed to make real change, and put those skills into action!

## FOCUSING ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEAD



Project Extra Mile has been creating community change for over 25 years and we are passionate about reducing alcohol-related harms in our community. In the Youth Leadership Network, we focus on teaching and practicing the skills needed to create change. Youth will receive expert guidance on projects that will utilize media literacy, public speaking, advocacy, problem-solving, and community organizing skills that they'll develop from this initiative.

## A YOUTH-LED APPROACH



We're serious about youth leadership, which is why all projects are planned and developed by the youth themselves. Youth projects over the last couple years have included hosting a town hall, meeting with state senators, creating media campaigns to raise awareness, and more!

**MEET AND LEARN FROM LOCAL AND STATE POLICYMAKERS**

**CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA CAMPAIGNS**

**LEARN HOW TO USE YOUR INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP STYLE**

**MEET NEW FRIENDS AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME**

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR SPRING 2024!**







**GROW YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND MAKE FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME**

## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK FALL MEETING SCHEDULE**

**AUGUST 28, 2023  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2023  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC**

**OCTOBER 16, 2023  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2023  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC**

**DECEMBER 18, 2023  
7-8 P.M.  
UNO CEC**

**YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY  
AT THE STATE CAPITOL  
SPRING 2024**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING  
JUNE 2024**

## **HOW TO JOIN**

The Youth Leadership Network is open to all Omaha-area youth in grades 8 through 12 who want to grow as leaders and are interested in preventing alcohol-related harms in our community with the skills they develop. To indicate your interest in joining us for our next meeting, please fill out the form using the QR code below. YLN is completely free to join!



**Register here!**

## **WHERE WE MEET**

The Youth Leadership Network meetings are held once a month at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the University of Nebraska-Omaha campus at 6400 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE. Parking is free and food and drinks are provided at each meeting (must register for food).

## **LEARN MORE!**

To learn more about the Youth Leadership Network, please visit [projectextramile.org/youth](https://projectextramile.org/youth) or contact us at [youth@projectextramile.org](mailto:youth@projectextramile.org) or (402) 963-9047

**Find us on:**





**RESEARCH SUMMARY**  
Date Compiled: September 2023

**Key takeaways from included research:**

- Researchers examined the gender differences in the burden and trends of alcohol-related mortality in the US. Looking at data from 1999 to 2020, they found that there has been a significantly higher rate of increase in deaths among women. The age-adjusted mortality rate increased by 12.5% among males while among females it increased by 14.7% in the same timeframe.
- Research studies continue to be conducted to better understand the relationship between alcohol consumption and the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers wanted to assess positive screens for problem drinking during the pandemic as compared to pre-pandemic. They found an overall increase in patients screening positive for problem drinking, alcohol misuse, and acute intoxication. Although overall emergency department (ED) visits decreased, alcohol-related instances as a percentage of total visits increased during the early part of the pandemic.
- A new study examined the link between drinking motives, alcohol company alcohol-related content (ARC), celebrity ARC, and alcohol-related problems among college students. Results showed that celebrity ARC was linked to coping, enhancement, and conformity motives, and peak drinks among college students. They suggest interventions targeting alcohol recognition cognitions ought to assess engagement with and exposure to varying sources of ARC.
- Alcohol use and carrying a handgun is a prevalent occurrence which could lead to individual and community harm. Researchers looked at the association between alcohol use and handgun carrying in rural areas among adolescents and young adults. They found that adolescents (ages 12-18) who drank heavily were 1.43 times more likely to subsequently carry a handgun. Associations of alcohol use and handgun carrying in young adulthood (ages 19-26) were similar to adolescence in people in rural areas.

## States seek to let teens as young as 14 serve booze in restaurants

Written by Ariana Figueroa

WASHINGTON — As a former bartender and current tipped worker, Trupti Patel knows that customers tend to get grabby when there is alcohol involved.

After working in the food service industry for more than a decade, she is accustomed to dealing with drunk customers who get out of hand, especially if they become belligerent or make lewd comments. But the District of Columbia resident finds it disturbing to think of teens trying to handle the same situation.

“It’s one thing if a drunk patron wants to scream and yell at me and wants their way. I’m 45, you can scream at me all you want. I’m not scared of you,” she said in an interview with States Newsroom. “But you’re going to scream and yell at a 14-year-old, a 15-year-old, a 16-year-old? They’re not going to handle it the same way.”

Patel is not the only one concerned about a growing trend among states to propose and enact legislation allowing teens — as young as 14 — to serve alcohol in restaurants, among laws rolling back other child labor limits. She’s joined by labor organizers and legal experts, who worry that the easing of these restrictions can increase a teen’s risk of exposure to sexual harassment, especially in an industry where it’s pervasive.

It’s a development that has been lobbied for in the states by the restaurant industry, which argues the laws are needed to help fill a labor shortage. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data compiled by Federal Reserve Economic Data, there are more than 1.3 million openings in the hospitality and leisure industry.

And as the restaurant industry turns to state lawmakers to help fill the gap, teens are a target — there is no federal child labor law or regulation barring those under 18 from serving alcohol, even though they are years away from the legal drinking age of 21.

“The most concerning part of (this trend) is that it exposes women, young girls, at a very young age, to what appropriate behavior is and that follows you for the rest of your life,” Diana Ramírez, senior manager of policy and coalitions at the D.C.-based National Women’s Law Center, said in an interview with States Newsroom.

Since 2021, seven states have enacted laws lowering the age to serve alcohol.

In 2021, New Mexico and Ohio lowered the age to serve alcohol from 19 to 18 and West Virginia lowered the age from 18 to 16. Last year, Kentucky lowered the age to serve alcohol from 20 to 18; Alabama lowered the age from 19 to 18; and Michigan lowered the age from 18 to 17.

The most recent state to pass a law easing the restrictions for teens to handle alcohol is Iowa, where 16-year-olds are now allowed to serve and sell alcohol. Iowa’s state legislature lobbying records show that the Iowa Restaurant Association, the state affiliation of the NRA, was in favor of the bill.

“A lot of this change in state law was to, I believe, kind of (legalize) things that were already going on,” said Charlie Wishman, the president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

In two more states, legislators have introduced laws that would allow teenagers to serve, sell or handle alcohol while working in restaurants.

This year, Wisconsin state Republicans introduced a bill to allow 14-year-olds to serve alcohol, and last year, Idaho state Republicans passed a bill in the Senate to lower the age to serve alcohol from 19 to 17.

While child labor violations tracked by the U.S. Department of Labor do not specify those linked to alcohol, the agency has seen an uptick in child labor violations since 2015. A majority of citations have come from the food industry, from fast food chains to meatpacking facilities, according to DOL statistics.

During fiscal 2022, there were 835 companies that employed more than 3,800 children in violation of labor laws. That's an increase from fiscal 2015, when 542 companies employed more than 1,000 children in violation of labor laws.

"The (Fair Labor Standards Act) and its child labor protections apply in all states, and no state has the ability to limit these provisions," U.S. Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda said in a statement to States Newsroom. "The Department will vigorously enforce child labor protections in all states and is closely monitoring state action in this area."

However, many states have moved to weaken child labor laws, extending hours for children to work and allowing teens to work in hazardous industries.

But the Department of Labor can only do so much when it comes to states passing laws to allow teens to serve alcohol, with no applicable federal law other than general child labor laws.

Eric Edmonds, a professor of economics at Dartmouth College, said there are two distinct threads occurring in the U.S. regarding child labor.

"One is that the U.S. Department of Labor is trying to strengthen fines when it finds child labor violations in workplaces, so we sort of have that national level, this push to strengthen child labor laws," he said. "And then at the state level, we have a number of conservative states that are trying to roll back child labor laws."

He said one of the challenges of understanding the prevalence of child labor is the lack of data. Edmonds said under the Biden administration, the Department of Labor has conducted more inspections in certain areas where children are likely to be found working, such as in the food industry.

"You're seeing reports of increased child labor, but that's because we're doing more looking in places where there is child labor," he said.

Teenagers are typically the most vulnerable to sexual harassment in the restaurant industry, said Jennifer Drobac, a law professor at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law who specializes in sexual harassment law.

"The vulnerability combines with the inexperience to create a potentially toxic situation, in which those people who are already engaged in illegal conduct can then exploit younger workers," she said in an interview with States Newsroom.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission does not collect birthdate data, so it does not know how many sexual harassment complaints filed with the agency are from teens.



Overall, more than 11,000 sexual harassment complaints were filed at the agency in fiscal 2022.

More than 36% of teens ages 16 to 19 participate in the workforce, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data.

Drobac said that it's not that teens should be kept out of the workforce. But because the teen years are crucial in hard-wiring their brain development, a bad experience such as sexual harassment "can have a really detrimental effect on the development of their personalities."

"We do not want to prohibit teens from engaging in service and work opportunities that would be good for them, that would help them develop their skills and hone their work ethic," Drobac said. "But we need to protect them while they're engaging in these behaviors so that they don't get psychologically or physically injured while they're on the job."

In nearly all the state bills passed or introduced, the local chapters of the National Restaurant Association and local alcohol trade groups lobbied for the easing of restrictions, according to state legislature lobbying records.

The National Restaurant Association, or NRA, did not respond to multiple requests for comment from States Newsroom. The organization represents about 500,000 restaurant businesses.

Saru Jayaraman, the president of One Fair Wage, a labor organization that advocates for restaurant workers to be paid a full minimum wage, said the labor shortage is a reflection of workers' refusal to work jobs that pay a subminimum wage. The federal subminimum wage for tipped workers is currently \$2.13 per hour.

Jayaraman said the subminimum wage for tipped workers is "the source of the fact that our industry has the highest rates of sexual harassment of any industry."

"You've got a population that's actually over two-thirds women, and young women are forced to tolerate all kinds of inappropriate customer behavior in order to get their income in tips rather than an actual wage from their employer," she said.

Jayaraman said the push from state National Restaurant Association's is "an effort to address the worst staffing crisis the industry has ever faced in its history."

"It is insane and outrageous to have children who can't actually drink alcohol, serve alcohol, but it is because adults and even young adults are not willing to work for these wages right now," she said.

While a majority of those states moving to lower the age for teens to serve alcohol have Republican-dominated state legislatures, three laws were passed in state's with a Democratic governor.

Two of those bills were passed and introduced on a bipartisan basis in New Mexico and Kentucky before being signed into law by Democratic governors.

In Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a bipartisan bill last year to lower the age for teens allowed to serve alcohol from 18 to 17. While Michigan currently has a triple Democratic majority, last year at the state level, the House and Senate were controlled by Republicans.

The Michigan Licensed Beverage Association, an association that represents bar, restaurant and tavern owners, was supportive of the bill. Lobbying records show that the Michigan



Restaurant and Lodging Association, the state affiliate for the NRA, spent \$24,640 in lobbying last year.

Making it easier for teens to serve alcohol is part of a larger trend in which about 11 states have also moved to roll back child labor laws to allow children to work longer hours and in industries that are considered hazardous, such as mining and construction work.

Reid Maki, the director of child labor issues and coordinator at the Child Labor Coalition, said not only is he concerned with teens serving alcohol to adults, but how states are expanding hours for teens to work.

He pointed to New Hampshire, where 14-year-olds can clear off tables with alcohol and can work up to 35 hours a week during the school week. In the state, employees still need to be at least 18 years old to serve alcohol.

“When kids work more than 20 hours a week their grades go down, their school completion goes down, and that’s when it moves from child teen work to child labor when it has negative impacts,” he said.

Ramírez, with the National Women’s Law Center, made similar remarks, and said the push to allow teens to work more hours comes down to low wages.

“I know the restaurant industry likes to say we have a labor shortage, but it’s not a labor shortage, it’s a wage shortage,” Ramírez said. “You’re not paying people enough to make them want to put up with this.”

## **Douglas County District Court judge's DUI citation downgraded**

Written by Brian Mastre

OMAHA, Neb. (WOWT) - A Douglas County District Court judge ticketed for DUI last month has pleaded not guilty.

Tressa Alioth of Bennington was due in court Tuesday, but instead entered the written plea to the misdemeanor charge of reckless driving, a Class III misdemeanor. According to Nebraska law, it carries a penalty of 0-3 months in jail. In contrast, a first-offense DUI is a Class W misdemeanor that carries a penalty of 7-60 days in the county jail.

The judge was stopped by a Douglas County Sheriff's deputy at 2:26 a.m. Sunday July 2 near 166th and Whitmore streets.

According to the citation obtained by 6 News, the deputy ticketed her for four misdemeanors: first offense of driving under the influence of alcohol, transporting a child while intoxicated, refusing to submit to a pretest, and driving left of center.

6 News contacted Omaha attorney Randy Paragas, who has specialized in DUI cases for 30 years. He said a city prosecutor changing a first-offense DUI to reckless driving "...is standard practice given the test level in this case."

The ticket indicates her blood alcohol level was 0.088%. Nebraska DUI law considers anything at 0.08% or higher to be "driving while intoxicated."

6 News asked Omaha City Prosecutor Kevin Slimp, who had 30 days to review the evidence and decide the charges, about the reasons why the DUI allegation turned into a reckless driving charge.

He said it's not unusual based on the evidence in the case, adding that he's not able to discuss the particulars at this time.

Alioth was appointed as District Court Judge by then-Gov. Pete Ricketts in April 2021. She also spent 23 years as a deputy county attorney with the Douglas County Attorney's Office.

## **Expert: Anheuser-Busch partnership with Dylan Mulvaney impacted the drinking in underage kids**

Written by The National Desk

WASHINGTON (TND) — Senator Ted Cruz is blasting Anheuser-Busch for stonewalling a Senate probe into whether the company is trying to market to minors and those who cannot even legally drink alcohol.

Washington Insider Armstrong Williams joined The National Desk's Jan Jeffcoat Monday to discuss.

"You know, Mulvaney again, it's very appealing. Young people who are lost don't have a moral compass and they depend on social media for their ups and downs in life," he said. "And so valium was a strategic move for them."

The investigation looks into whether Bud Light's partnership with transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney was marketing to minors. Cruz is demanding the brewing company hand over documents for his investigation.

"You have no idea how many underage kids watching Mulvaney actually went out and bought alcohol illegally and the impact that has had nationally on the drinking upon underage kids," Williams said. "This is why it's so important to get these documents to know exactly what the real detailed strategy was because these companies are savvy enough to know the fallout from these campaigns, especially when you look at what has happened to Target and other corporations that have done similar."

## **Biden's alcohol czar warns Americans could soon be told to limit themselves to just two beers per WEEK under strict new booze guidelines**

Written by Luke Andrews

Americans could be urged by officials to drink no more than two beers a week as part of strict new [alcohol](#) guidelines.

Biden's health czar told DailyMail.com the USDA could revise its alcohol advice to match [Canada](#)'s, where people are advised to have just two drinks per week.

Dr George Koob — who admits enjoying a couple of glasses of Chardonnay a week — said he was watching Canada's 'big experiment' with interest.

'If there's health benefits, I think people will start to re-evaluate where we're at [in the US],' he told DailyMail.com.

Current US recommendations say women can have up to one bottle of beer, small glass of wine or shot of spirit a day while men can have two.

But those guidelines are up for review in 2025.

Per the US guidelines, a drink is defined as containing 0.6 fluid ounces of alcohol, equivalent to one beer, one glass of wine at 12 percent alcohol or one shot.

Asked in what direction the guidelines could change, Dr George Koob, the director for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), said: 'I mean, they're not going to go up, I'm pretty sure.'

'So, if [alcohol consumption guidelines] go in any direction, it would be toward Canada.'

The guidelines are currently under review, although the updated versions may not be published until the end of 2025.

The debate about whether alcohol is good in low amounts has been around for decades, but increasingly studies show that even a small amount can harm your health.

A [major study](#) from this June warned that drinking any amount of alcohol raised the risk of someone suffering 60 diseases, including 33 that had never been linked to booze before.

Liver cirrhosis — scarring caused by continuous, long-term liver damage — strokes and cancer are already well-established risks of excess boozing.

But the Oxford University-led study, which analyzed data from half a million men living in China, also drew links to other conditions like gout and cataracts.

Dr Koob told DailyMail.com that there were 'no benefits' to drinking alcohol in terms of physical health.

He said: 'Most of the benefits people attribute to alcohol, we feel they really have more to do with what someone's eating rather than what they're drinking.'

'So it really has to do with the Mediterranean diet, socio-economic status, that makes you able to afford that kind of diet and make your own fresh food and so forth.

'With this in mind, most of the benefits kind of disappear on the health side.'

But he did give ground to social benefits, describing alcohol as a 'social lubricant'.

Dr Koob said he consumes around two glasses of white wine per week, usually a 'buttery Californian Chardonnay'.

Canadian health chiefs admitted their new rules may be a 'bit shocking' when they were announced earlier this year.

The review process for Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025 to 2030 has already begun — although the final version may not be published until the end of 2025.

America has been recommending a safe limit of up to two drinks per day for adult men and one for women since the 1990s.

In the past, studies suggested there may be some benefits to drinking — with resveratrol in red wine linked to a reduced risk of cancer and improved heart health.

In more recent years, the research has gone the other way, warning even consuming a small amount of alcohol is dangerous for health.

A [report released in 2020](#) from a federal committee of experts warned that drinking raised the risk of cancer, saying limits should be slashed to just one beverage a day.

And in [2021 a report](#) from the American Cancer Society warned alcohol was behind as many as one in 20 cancer cases in the US — or 25,000 annually.

It found alcohol raised the risk of both rarer cancers, like those of the throat, and more common ones such as breast cancer — the most common in women.

[More recent research](#) involving 370,000 people warned that drinking more led to a 1.4-fold rise in someone's risk of heart disease.

Top authorities including the World Health Organization have seized on the studies to warn that drinking even a small amount puts someone's health in danger.

It was this growing body of evidence — and their own analysis of 6,000 studies — that convinced Canadian health chiefs to overturn their alcohol guidelines in favor of up to two drinks per week earlier this year.

Previously, they had suggested women could have up to ten drinks per week while men could have 15 — similar to the limits set in the US.

The move quickly came in for criticism from some quarters, however, who accused authorities of 'ignoring' the benefits of drinking — including how it can help in social situations and with combatting loneliness.



Dr Dan Malleck, a health sciences expert at Brock University in Canada, said: 'Alcohol infuses many lives in many positive ways.

'We celebrate accomplishments, mark occasions, bring wine to parties, meeting with friends, commiserate, relax, blow off steam... these are important activities, and part of the texture and tone of many lives.'

Experts have previously argued that studies into the risks of alcohol are flawed because they fail to examine these social benefits.

The NIAAA does not set alcohol policy, with this instead being done by the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Lincoln bar brought in almost 10 times more business on Volleyball Day in Nebraska**

Written by Jessica Blum

LINCOLN, Neb. (KLKN) – Wednesday was historic, not only for the women’s volleyball team, but also for business in Lincoln.

“Being a part of a world record is a big deal for us, too,” Kinkaid Brewing Company owner Cody Schmick said. “It made us pretty proud to be a part of Lincoln, Nebraska.”

Not everyone has cashed in on fans coming to town. The Group Therapy Bike Tours has seen less business through a string of midweek events.

“You would think today would be booked, but it’s kind of slow,” Group Therapy driver Treygan Rafert said on Thursday.

Normally, he said he’s booked on game day from 9 a.m. through 11:30 p.m.

But other businesses saw overwhelming support as fans made their way over after setting a new world record.

Even though they anticipated big crowds, demand was still more than the supply.

“Ran through just about everything yesterday,” Barry’s bar manager Jordan Nielsen said. “All of our food. Ran out of fries, even though we purchased at least four times more than we usually would. But everyone wanted food. It was such a great crowd, and they all wanted to have a day.”

That day led to about seven to 10 times more business for Barry’s than a normal Wednesday night, Nielsen said.

And with Nebraska football’s first game of the season on Thursday night, Barry’s ordered over five times more beer and liquor to restock from Wednesday night’s crowd.

“We just got 80 cases of liquor in today,” Nielsen said. “Two pallets. If you know how big a pallet is, that’s a lot of drinks.”

Kinkaid welcomed fans with its outdoor setup, wishing for more nights like this to come.

“I would love to see concerts and more events in Memorial Stadium,” Schmick said. “It’s such a beautiful facility. But Pinnacle Bank down here does a great job, too. We’re just trying to get more things out in the streets right down here in the Haymarket.”

## **Troopers arrest 94 impaired drivers during ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ campaign**

Written by KSNB Local4

LINCOLN, Neb. (KSNB) - Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol stayed busy over a three-week enforcement campaign that included the Labor Day holiday.

Troopers arrested 94 impaired drivers from Aug. 16 through Sept. 4 during the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign.

“As we move from the summer driving season into the fall months, drivers need to remain vigilant on the roads,” said Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol.

In addition, troopers issued 1,580 citations for speeding with 70 of them for people going at or above 100 miles per hour. Other citations issued include 120 for driving under suspension, 47 for no seat belt, 26 for improper child restraint, 31 for open alcohol container, and 15 for minor in possession. Troopers also performed 794 motorist assists and made 99 felony arrests.

Labor Day marks the traditional end of the summer travel season.

From Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend, troopers made 393 arrests for driving under the influence. Troopers also cited 357 drivers for speeding at or above 100 miles per hour and performed over 4,000 motorist assists throughout the state.

“With summer vacations in the rear view, now is the time to stay alert for changing weather conditions and keep an eye out for farm machinery moving from field to field,” said Colonel Bolduc. “When you’re driving, keep your focus on the road and help keep Nebraska roads safe.”

The “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign was made possible in part to grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Transportation - Highway Safety Office.

## **Sexual assault, fake IDs, alcohol incidents underline recent campus crime**

Written by Ryan Luetkemeyer

Following a quiet week of campus crime, the past week saw more notable incidents being reported.

Yesterday, Sept. 5, someone reported a sexual assault at the University Suites according to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department Sergeant Agustin Champion. Champion could not provide further information as the investigation is ongoing.

University police found two wallets containing fake IDs and cited the students who the wallets belonged to, according to Champion

On Sept. 2, an intoxicated student was cited near 16th and R St. for violating a stop sign, refusing a chemical test and possession of a fake ID, according to Champion. The student was not taken into custody and instead was taken to a detox center.

Two more alcohol-related incidents were reported on campus. One occurred at Harper Hall on Saturday night, leading to officers addressing the involved students about campus alcohol policies. The other incident, on Friday, involved a student aided by university police in a “Good Samaritan” situation. Neither incident resulted in an arrest or citation.

Minor incidents over the past week included a stolen bike being reported, an unruly patient at the College of Dentistry and two cases of trespassing that were resolved without incident, according to Champion.

Here’s what UNLPD collected in the lost and found in the past week.

- 4 wallets
- A pair of AirPod Pros and normal AirPods
- 5 sets of keys
- 1 Apple Watch
- 2 Android cellphones
- Apple iPhone
- Reading glasses
- A silver necklace
- Tablet pen
- Calculator
- Tile tracking card
- Cash
- Fossil Watch
- 7 credit/debit cards
- Nebraska driver’s license

## **Liquor license for downtown Omaha bar approved by state officials with long list of conditions**

Written by Jake Anderson

OMAHA, Neb. — The liquor license for a downtown Omaha bar was approved — with a long list of conditions.

The Nebraska Liquor Control Commission approved the license for Throwback Arcade Lounge on Thursday, after it was denied by the Omaha City Council in June.

The council cited complaints outlining disturbances and fights, but club managers said they faced a learning curve since opening in 2020.

State officials, who were concerned about police responding to large crowds exiting the bar, gave approval based on a series of additions to the license.

- No drinks after 1 a.m.
- No third-party promotions or events
- Screening of any DJs who are "attracting the wrong crowds"
- Security to follow the patrons outside the building and stay with them until the crowd has left
- Continuing to help neighborhood with patrolling and clean-up
- Commission will make every effort to make reports available to the bar so they know what the issues are
- Continue current policy as to limit the "type, nature and size of promotions," including, but not limited to, third-party promoters
- Conditions by the city of Omaha previously issued

The owner of the Throwback Arcade Lounge said he's still actively trying to sell the nightclub.



## **Dodge County Sheriff identifies victim, arrests Fremont man in relation to deadly crash**

Written by Jake Anderson

DODGE COUNTY, Neb – A Fremont man was arrested after an 18-year-old man died after a crash Saturday morning, according to the Dodge County Sheriff's Office.

Around 5 a.m., the driver of a gray Hyundai SUV just south of Fremont lost control of the car and crashed into a wooden fence, according to authorities.

The passenger, identified as 18-year-old Ryan Littrell, was taken to a local hospital where he later died, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office said.

Investigators said that the driver, identified as 18-year-old Doltyn Garule, left the scene after the crash, but was later located by deputies.

Garule was taken into custody for motor vehicle homicide, driving under the influence, minor in possession of alcohol, failure to stop and render aid, obstruction, tampering with physical evidence and willful reckless driving.

Littrell was a senior at the Fremont Learning Center, the district said in a statement.

Alcohol and speed are believed to be factors in the crash and the airbags didn't deploy, according to the Dodge County Sheriff's Office.

"This is a tragic loss for our community and school district. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones of Ryan and his family," Mark Shepard, superintendent of Fremont Public Schools, said in a statement.

The crash is still under investigation.