RAN
Retail Association of Nevada

JUNE 2014

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NEVADA NEWS

New Report Highlights Plans to Improve Care

By Liz MacMenamin

AS STATE AND FEDERAL LAWMAKERS STRUGGLE to find a solution to the growing number of insured citizens who are discovering a shortage of healthcare providers, there may be a new partner in the battle to ensure quality care for all Americans.

In a recently published report ("Exploring Pharmacists' Role in a Changing Healthcare Environment"), Avalere Health, an organization dedicated to finding solutions to pressing healthcare issues, found that by expanding the already important role pharmacists play in providing access to care, many patients can be better served and increase their current standard of care.

The report, in cooperation with pharmacist associations and organizations, included a structured assessment of five key services provided by pharmacists: medication management, medication reconciliation, preventive services (screening and immunization), education and behavioral counseling, and collaborative care models.

Policymakers can take many of the findings from the Avalere Health report and implement them at a state level, not just to increase a patient's broader health and wellness, but to also control efficiency and cost. For instance, the study found that when formal collaborative care models are created between pharmacists and physicians the patient experiences more positive clinical effects. These partnerships "can help alleviate some of the demand for physician-provided care, and can also facilitate access to primary care services, especially those related to medication management."

Avalere went on to explain that pharmacist-provided medication management, including medication reconciliation, is continuing to improve health outcomes across a number of settings: "Because they manage the entirety of care of a patient, Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) may look to integrate pharmacists-provided medication management to improve medication adherence and clinical outcomes, while potentially reducing costs."

Lawmakers should make these types of medical community integrations a priority.

Lastly, the report highlighted that pharmacists have been shown to improve vaccination rates, affirming, "Payers and policymakers should explore ways to leverage pharmacists' accessibility in the community to provide preventive care services."

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INSIDE

Governor's Council on Food Security

By Lea Tauchen

"ONE IN SIX NEVADANS OF ALL AGES ARE FOOD INSECURE AND DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ENOUGH FOOD TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE, HEALTHY LIFE."

Governor's Council on Food Security

IN FEBRUARY, GOVERNOR BRIAN SANDOVAL ISSUED EXECUTIVE ORDER 2014-03 Establishing the Governor's Council of Food Security. This action was the result of a yearlong strategic planning process to address food security issues. "Nevada's Plan for Action" was funded through the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Grants Management Unit (GMU). Their mission is to improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the state. More than 50 stakeholders representing various aspects of the public and private sector conducted workgroups, interviews, focus groups, and surveys to develop this plan. They compiled data and created goals and benchmarks for evaluating progress. Furthermore, an Office of Food Security was founded within DHHS.

The Governor's Council on Food Security is tasked with developing, coordinating, and implementing a food system that will link with economic development to increase access to improved food resource programs and increase capacity to produce, process, distribute, and purchase goods in an affordable and sustainable manner. Additionally, the Council is responsible for reviewing any proposed federal, state, or local legislation and regulations that would affect our food policy system.

The Council is chaired by the First Lady and comprised of 21 members; seven appointed by the Governor and 14 appointed by the Director. A representative of food retailers holds one seat on the council. The Council held their first meeting in March to examine Nevada's food system, their strategic plan, their organizational values, and national models. They also established four subcommittees: LEAD, FEED, GROW, and REACH. The LEAD Subcommittee will focus on systems and policy. The FEED Subcommittee will focus on access to food. The GROW Subcommittee will focus on producing nutritious food in Nevada. And the REACH Subcommittee will focus on food distribution and data collection. Each group has developed their own goals based on the priorities of the Council's strategic direction.

The next meeting of the Governor's Council on Food Security will be held on June 25, 2014 in Carson City. More information can be found on the DHHS GMU website at: **http://dhhs.nv.gov/Grants/Grants_GCFS-Meetings.htm.** ■

Plans to Improve Care

Continued from page 1

Though the healthcare landscape is always shifting, pharmacists must continue to play a pivotal role in providing the whole community, and individual patients, with professional and rapid access to care. Policymakers should make a significant commitment to increasing the impact of pharmacists and their services, as stakeholders explore innovative ways to solve the provider shortage in Nevada.

A link to the full report may be found on RAN's website: **www.rannv.org** ■

High Stakes in Medical Marijuana Licensing

By Amanda Schweisthal

MEDICAL MARIJUANA HAS BEEN LEGAL IN Nevada since 2000, but Senate Bill 374 from the 2013 Legislative Session was the first authorization for the creation of medical marijuana dispensaries.

The bill set up a taxing, regulatory and distribution system for cultivating, testing, and processing medical marijuana establishments and dispensaries.

A constant undertone in the discussions surrounding the process is how marijuana is still classified by the federal government as an illegal substance. On March 22, the Gaming Control Board reaffirmed by a vote of 2–0 to stand behind a May 6 industry notice that restricts its license holders from participating in the state's medical marijuana business.

After approving regulations earlier this year, the Clark County Commission set the beginning of June to start the formal review process of the 81 applications for medical marijuana dispensaries. Their 18 recommendations were forwarded to the state.

The State Board of Public and Behavioral Health will make the final selection of license holders. ■

Tavern Licensing and Slot Parlors

By Amanda Schweisthal

THE GAMING CONTROL BOARD, THE CLARK County Commission, and a recently-formed interim committee is hoping to resolve the growing fight between major resorts, traditional taverns, and slot parlors.

The issue is gaining traction as the temporary moratorium on gambling licenses at taverns is set to expire next month. Both sides have expressed frustration, largely surrounding the need for clarification of non-restricted gaming establishment regulations, as well as what constitutes as "primary" or "incidental" to a business.

Solutions have been proposed at the county and city levels, including a reduced number of slot machines allotted at these slot parlors, a possible accountability infrastructure like random audits or a revenue test, and increased fees.

However, the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning the Impact of Technology on Gaming met on May 27, and was unable to move a motion forward to prepare a bill draft that would impose a higher tax rate on restricted gaming establishments known as "slot parlors."

Because a consensus has not been reached, we are likely to see this issue continue to surface in the near future at both the local government level and at the upcoming 2015 Legislative session. ■

National Retail Federation Recognizes "Heroes of Main Street"

AS PART OF NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK, the National Retail Federation(NRF) recognized a bipartisan group of 258 members of Congress as "Heroes of Main Street" for their support of small business and the U.S. retail industry, the nation's largest private sector employer.

"NRF salutes our retail advocates in Congress for their dedication and proven commitment to public policies that support prosperity on Main Street," NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. "Retailers are the heart and soul of our communities, and we are pleased to acknowledge lawmakers who have consistently supported a pro-economic growth policy agenda to ensure a thriving Main Street and a healthy and vibrant retail sector."

This year's recipients were recognized for their consistent support of the retail industry's top public policy priorities. Award eligibility was based on key votes, bill sponsorship and advocacy on a wide array of retail priorities including but not limited to patent reform, sales tax fairness, the federal minimum wage and reforming the Affordable Care Act.

Below is the Nevada award recipient:

REP. MARK AMODEI

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing $2.5 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy. NRF's This is Retail campaign highlights the industry's opportunities for life-long careers, how retailers strengthen communities, and the critical role that retail plays in driving innovation.

One-Year Transition Period to Implement Medicaid Reimbursement, Senators Tell HHS

NACDS EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR SENATE LETTER TO HHS REQUESTING MORE TIME FOR STATES TO FULLY IMPLEMENT AMP-BASED FULS

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA: CITING THE NEED FOR A one-year transition period for states to implement the July 2014 average manufacturer price (AMP)-based federal upper limits (FULs), nine U.S. Senators are urging U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to consider the challenges that states will face when the final Medicaid AMP-based FULs are published.

In July 2014, CMS will publish the final Medicaid AMP-based FULs. The agency has indicated that it expects the new FULs to be effective immediately.

"We believe that such a rapid implementation will pose problems for under-reimbursement of Medicaid prescriptions at the state level, which may pose problems for beneficiaries," the Senators wrote to the Administrator. "We encourage CMS to establish a one-year transition period for state implementation of the FULs as well as for implementing any necessary dispensing fee changes by the states once the new FULs have been published along with any corresponding and necessary regulatory guidance.

"Most states face numerous obstacles to immediate implementation, including current year legislative sessions that do not allow for Medicaid reimbursement changes, the need for legislative or regulatory

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August 23–26, 2014
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center Boston, MA

DECISION-MAKERS FROM DRUG, FOOD, MASS, and Specialty channels and their supplier counterparts will be converging in Boston, Massachusetts over August 23–26 for unmatched business, education and networking opportunities at the NACDS 2014 Total Store Expo.

A complimentary invitation for store operators to meet with best in class manufacturers and service companies at the next generation of business conferences is extended below.

Why You Should Register Today

Be introduced to the latest innovative products, technology and services of interest to you at ***Meet the Market.***

Review which companies will be exhibiting to determine your strategy; check out the floor plan!

See the latest innovations in consumer packaged goods, store/pharmacy technology, and pharmaceutical products

Insight Sessions, offering CPE credits, covering the latest on state-of-the-art retail operations, practice and clinical issues, distribution and marketing

For more details or questions, please contact us: **registration@nacds.org**

Dedicated to Your Success, The NACDS Total Store Expo Team ■

USDA Issues SNAP Guidance for Retailers

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) has released the first in a series of questions and answers intended to address inquiries regarding retailer, issuance, and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The Farm Bill contained many changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and this document should provide help during the transition. USDA will continue to release information as changes take place. Please visit the USDA website Farm Bill Implementation page at: **http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/2014-farm-bill-implementation.** ■

One-Year Transition Period *Continued from page 4*

changes to achieve compliance, the need for cost-of-dispensing-fee studies for calculating fair pharmacy reimbursement, and/or the need to file a State Plan Amendment to implement the new reimbursement approach," the Senators stated in the letter.

The letter also cites the support for a one-year transition period by the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD). In a letter to CMS in September 2013, NAMD also recognized the above-mentioned obstacles for states, and requested from CMS the creation of a transition period up to one year for implementation.

NACDS President and CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE expressed appreciation to the Senators for sending this letter, "The bottom line is that patient access to pharmacy care should not be compromised. Implementation of these AMP-based FULs poses great concern for pharmacy patient care, and we appreciate the leadership of Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) Johnny Isakson (R-GA), and the support of their colleagues in recognizing how this immediate reimbursement change could impact access to pharmacy services for low-income Americans." ■

Information about the Margin Tax Initiative

NEVADA
2014
STATEWIDE
BALLOT INITIATIVE

The Margin Tax Initiative is a complex tax increase proposal that will appear on Nevada's 2014 statewide general election ballot.

The proposed initiative would impose a huge new tax on both Nevada's major employers and on thousands of small businesses throughout Nevada.

It's so poorly written that it would force many small businesses that are losing money to pay higher taxes, and it does nothing to guarantee that the Margin Tax revenues would actually be used to improve Nevada's educational system.

As a result, the Margin Tax Initiative would cause our state to lose many existing businesses and jobs, and make it harder to attract new ones – without ensuring better schools for our children.

"This tax is not based on the ability to pay. As a result many small businesses will find their profits wiped out. For any businesses hurt by this economy that have been struggling to keep their doors open, this tax may prove to be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back."

— Nevada Taxpayers Association

The Margin Tax Initiative is a giant tax increase that would hurt Nevada's large employers and thousands of small businesses

Would apply to both major employers and small businesses.
Under the Margin Tax Initiative, every business with total GROSS revenues exceeding $1 million per year would be subject to a new 2% Margin Tax – regardless of whether any of that revenue is actual profit.

Overall, it would dump a massive $750 million increase on the costs of doing business for Nevada employers. That would severely damage our state's already struggling economy and job market.

Deeply flawed and unfair tax system.
Proponents claim that the $1 million gross revenues threshold protects small businesses. But in reality, the Margin Tax Initiative would hurt thousands of small businesses in Nevada that have total annual gross revenues of over $1 million but also have high overhead and very small profit margins – such as family-owned restaurants, medical clinics, daycare centers, repair shops, veterinarians, janitorial services, ranches, and farms.

It would only allow businesses to deduct *some* of their actual costs from the revenues subject to the tax. For example, they could deduct their costs of goods or their payroll costs, but not both.

Another flaw in the measure is that it would create a "fiscal cliff." A business making one penny less than $1 million in gross revenues would pay no tax. A business that grossed one penny more than $1 million would pay the 2% Margin Tax based on the entire million. These small businesses would even have to pay the tax in years they make NO profit. The extra burden of the proposed Margin Tax would force these companies to cut jobs, and could even put many of them out of business.

Costly state bureaucracy and lawsuits.
The Margin Tax Initiative contains 84 sections of complicated legal and technical language that would create a logistical and legal nightmare for businesses to navigate.

The initiative language doesn't even match federal tax compliance definitions, so businesses would now be required to maintain two sets of books, one for federal law and one for the new Margin Tax.

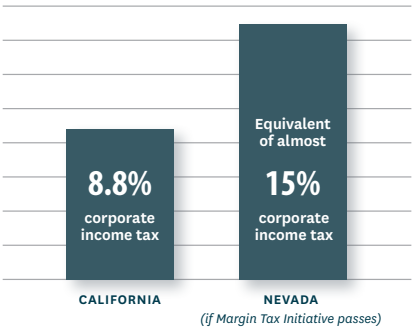
It would cost millions of taxpayer dollars for the state government to interpret and implement the Margin Tax Initiative, and it would tie the state up in lawsuits for years due to the legal complexities and drafting ambiguities.

The Margin Tax Initiative: Deeply flawed and very costly

The Margin Tax Initiative would make Nevada's business taxes among the highest in the US

Imposing the initiative's tax on top of the state's existing Modified Business Tax would create the equivalent of an almost 15% state corporate income tax – nearly twice as high as the corporate income tax rate in California.

In fact, for businesses, the Margin Tax Initiative would make Nevada one of the highest taxed states in which to operate. This would severely damage our state's struggling economy, cause the loss of thousands of existing jobs and make it nearly impossible to attract new businesses and jobs to Nevada.



If the Initiative passes, Nevada would have the equivalent of an almost 15% corporate income tax.

(Source: Study by Jeremy Aguero, Applied Analysis, Jan. 2014)

The Margin Tax Initiative has NO accountability or oversight provisions to make sure money goes to the classroom

No guarantee of more money for education.
We all want to help our schools, but the Margin Tax Initiative does nothing to guarantee more money for education.

Technically, the dollars generated from the measure would be put into the "Distributive School Account," which is used to fund K-12 education. However, under the initiative, the state legislature could simultaneously take money from the regular budget away from education to fund other things. The District Court held in October 2012 that "the initiative does not prevent the Legislature from supplanting existing educational funds with the margin tax."

No plan of action or accountability.
Even if the legislature decides that education should get more money through the Margin Tax, the initiative provides no plans or requirements to ensure that its revenues go to the classroom instead of into the hands of bureaucrats. How and where the new tax money is spent would be left up to elected officials and school administrators, without any oversight, reviews, or accountability.

State government could increase the tax rate – without a vote of the people.
There are no checks and balances in the Margin Tax Initiative. Although the initiative sets the initial tax rate at 2% and sets the threshold for liability at $1 million in gross revenue per year, the legislature would have unlimited authority, after three years, to: increase the tax rate, lower the revenue threshold at which it must be paid, or broaden the tax to apply to even more businesses – without any further vote of the people.

The Margin Tax Initiative would hurt all Nevadans by damaging our economy and increasing consumer costs

Would threaten jobs.
Nevada's unemployment rate is still one of the highest in the nation and the Margin Tax Initiative would only make it worse. Large employers like gaming companies, banks, hospitals, and manufacturing companies would be forced to lay off workers, and many small businesses would be forced to downsize or close altogether. This would damage Nevada's economy and drive unemployment even higher, hurting every business, employer and family in the state.

Higher consumer costs.
The Margin Tax Initiative would impose a new 2% tax on revenues generated by almost all types of goods and services sold in Nevada, including: food, clothing and other retail store products; gas, electricity and telephone services; prescription medicines sold by pharmacies; and, medical care provided by doctors and hospitals. Ultimately, the providers of these goods and services would pass on some or all of their tax increase to Nevada consumers.

> ***"The [Margin Tax] would wipe out the profits of some companies, and even struggling, money-losing businesses would have to pay the tax. To inflict such punishment on companies after five years of economic weakness and nation-leading unemployment would be unconscionable."***
>
> ***— Las Vegas Review - Journal Editorial, June 2013***

About the Coalition to Defeat the Margin Tax Initiative

A statewide coalition representing thousands of small and large employers, farmers, ranchers and other concerned Nevadans has been formed to mount a campaign urging a **NO** vote on the Margin Tax Initiative.

To join our coalition, make a donation or to get more information about the Margin Tax Initiative, please visit **StoptheMarginTax.com**, call us at **(877) 359-5099** or email us at **info@StoptheMarginTax.com.**

Paid for by the Coalition to Defeat the Margin Tax Initiative
StoptheMarginTax.com

Nevada Notes

CPAS' OPPOSE MARGIN TAX

The Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants ("NVCPA") opposes Ballot Question Number 3: The Education Initiative, also known as the "Margin Tax," which will be on the November 2014 statewide ballot in Nevada.

The NVCPA strongly supports improving public education in Nevada; however, we share the concerns of many community, civic, labor and business leaders regarding the Margin Tax. We are concerned about the structure of the proposed Margin Tax, its potential impact on the statewide economy, and the uncertainty regarding the actual use of funds raised.

Economic Impact

The Margin Tax would give Nevada one of the highest business tax burdens of any state in the union. A local economist estimates that the Margin Tax is equivalent to a corporate income tax rate of approximately 15%, and that it will increase the tax burden on Nevada's businesses by more than 60%. We are concerned that this tax increase will have a sustained, negative influence on employment and economic growth in Nevada.

The Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants was formed in 1947 to unite Certified Public Accountants within the state for the betterment both of the profession and of the public. The NVCPA currently has approximately 1,400 member CPAs in Nevada.

Press Release

SUMMER JOBS

School's winding down, and a lot of high-school students will try to get a summer job.

But there are some important things you should know before hiring:

- The rules apply to them. Minors are entitled to the same minimum wage, overtime, and safety and health protections as adults.
- Students 13 and younger have limited options when it comes to summer jobs. They're allowed to babysit and perform minor chores around a private home, and if you own a business, they're allowed to work for you.
- If they're 14 or 15, their prospects are better. Students in this age bracket are allowed to perform jobs such as bagging groceries, waiting tables and working in an office. They also aren't allowed to work more than 40 hours a week.
- If they're 16 or 17, they're allowed to work up a sweat and earn serious money. There's no limit to the number of hours 16- and 17-year-olds can work, and they're allowed to work basically any job that isn't declared hazardous, provided all other FLSA and state labor requirements are met.
- If they're 18 or older, legally, they're adults. It doesn't matter that they're still in school. In the eyes of the law, they're grown up.

Press Release

BUILDINGS FOR SALE IN, NEAR RENO'S MIDTOWN

Brokers are seeing increased traffic from buyers eager to invest in Reno's popular Midtown commercial corridor. A number of buildings are for sale in that district and others are for sale south of downtown and within six blocks east and west of South Virginia Street.

While a few properties are new construction, most of what's up for grabs is considerably older.

The brisk sales of Midtown commercial property are due, in part, to the changing face of retail.

People are buying their big or everyday stuff online. When they go out to shop, they're looking for neighborhood energy and small, specialized stores.

RGJ

SUIT OVER NEW CITY ORDINANCES

A liquor store that's been on Fremont Street for more than 20 years is suing the city of Las Vegas in federal court on the grounds that two new city ordinances are unconstitutional.

The lawsuit asks for an injunction to halt the ordinances.

The complaint argues the city is playing favorites with its "liquor regulatory scheme," and effectively violating the business's right to free speech, due process and equal protection.

The complaint alleges the liquor regulations are designed to crack down on package liquor licenses in favor of other booze businesses under the guise that the package liquor contributes to myriad problems downtown.

The new laws prevent new package liquor licenses while adding more restrictions on to current establishments. The complaint notes the city had to craft an ordinance to allow alcohol to be served at Container Park, which is anchored by a children's playground, despite opposition by law enforcement. It also points out that even though package liquor is allegedly the catalyst for an assortment of downtown ills, grocery stores and pharmacies were given an exception.

The tougher laws don't apply to resorts, hotel-casino gift shops or bars. The new laws forbid:

- Advertising signage in windows.
- The sale of malt liquor or beer in containers greater than 32 ounces.

Continued on page 11

National Notes

THE THREE GROUPS TO IMPRESS

For years, retailers have put most of their stock in Generation X, people in their mid-30s and mid-40s. But consumer demographics in America are changing rapidly, and major retailers are scrambling to catch up.

Baby Boomers, Hispanics, and Millennials are the three groups retailers should be—and are —targeting, according to a recent report.

Baby Boomers. This group, defined as age 55 and older, actually has money to spend—controlling 70% of disposable income in the U.S.

Hispanics. Hispanics will double retail spending in the next two years. Bloomberg reports that the demographic will spend $1.5 trillion on U.S. goods and services by 2015.

Millennials. This group will account for one-third of retail spending by 2020. Defined as 24- to 37-year-olds, they have proved to be tricky for retailers.

Millennials can hang out with their friends, sip lattes and shop online—all at the same time.

Business Insider Inc.

A RISING TOLL OF SENIORS ON DRUGS

Hundreds of thousands of the nation's seniors are misusing prescription drugs, spurred by a medical community that often is quick to offer narcotic painkillers, anxiety medications and other pharmaceuticals for everything from joint pain to depression. And despite a push by health officials to slash dispensing rates, doctors are prescribing the highly addictive drugs at record levels.

By many measures—rising overdose deaths, a spike in emergency room visits, increasing admissions to treatment programs—the toll on the senior community is enormous, a USA TODAY review of government data finds.

Older brains and bodies are prone to drug complications, from falls and respiratory failure to cognitive problems and dementia. Yet studies project the number of seniors misusing pharmaceuticals will grow, fueled by Baby Boomers and the medicate-first approach many doctors take in treating them.

Key findings:

- More prescriptions: The medical community is increasingly giving older patients prescriptions for two especially addictive drug classes: opioid pain relievers and benzodiazepines, psychoactive medications such as Xanax and Valium often used for anxiety.
- More misuse: In 2012, the average number of seniors misusing or dependent on prescription pain relievers in the previous year grew to an estimated 336,000.
- More damage: Among people 55 and older seeking substance abuse treatment from 2007–11, there was a 46% jump in the share of cases involving prescription narcotics. Annual emergency room visits by people 65 and over for misuse of pharmaceuticals climbed more than 50% during that time, to more than 94,000 a year.

No other segment of the population is prescribed more drugs than seniors, and none faces higher risks of complications.

USA Today

I.R.S. BARS EMPLOYERS FROM DUMPING WORKERS INTO HEALTH EXCHANGES

Many employers had thought they could shift health costs to the government by sending their employees to a health insurance exchange with a tax-free contribution of cash to help pay premiums, but the Obama administration has squelched the idea in a new ruling.

Such arrangements do not satisfy the health care law, the administration said, and employers may be subject to a tax penalty of $100 a day—or $36,500 a year—for each employee who goes into the individual marketplace.

The ruling, by the Internal Revenue Service, blocks any wholesale move by employers to dump employees into the exchanges.

Under a central provision of the health care law, larger employers are required to offer health coverage to full-time workers, or else the employers may be subject to penalties. Many employers—some that now offer coverage and some that do not—had concluded that it would be cheaper to provide each employee with a lump sum of money to buy insurance on an exchange, instead of providing coverage directly.

But the Obama administration raised objections, contained in an authoritative question-and-answer document released by the Internal Revenue Service, in consultation with other agencies.

Under the law, insurers may not impose annual limits on the dollar amount of benefits for any individual, and they must provide certain preventive services, like mammograms and colon cancer screenings, without co-payments or other charges.

But the administration said employer payment plans do not meet those requirements.

WSJ

WALMART VET HIRES MORE THAN 40,000

Through its Veterans Welcome Home program, Walmart has hired more

Continued on page 11

Important Information for SIG Members

NRS requires all existing members of a self-insured group to be notified of all new members. NRNSIG new members are listed below.

Ark Las Vegas Restaurant Corporation dba Ark Las Vegas

Capital Tint LLC

Desert Gymcats Gymnastics LLC

El Dorado Cantina 55 LLC

Epic Creative Solutions

Ginger Easily

Global Marketing Solutions Group, Inc. dba Land Air & Sea Worldwide, LAS Worldwide

Island Pet Hospital Inc

Neon Brand LLC

Nevada Dirt Works Inc dba 1-Stop Ranch & Feed

Rainier Realty LLC

Runnel Ratz LLC dba Vegas Indoor Skydiving

Sierra Specialty Pharmacy LLC

The Range USA LLC dba The Range 702

Thomas and Lovett MDs dba Triangle Family Medicine

NRNSIG members who wish to register a negative vote on a new group member, please write NRNSIG at 575 S. Saliman Road, Carson City, NV 89701, indicating which member and the reason(s) for the negative vote.

NOTE FOR MEMBERS

If you would like us to profile your business in our newsletter, or have any questions about RAN or the NRF Partnership, please contact Piper at Piper@rannv.org or call the business office at 775-882-1700.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Find out more about RAN's self insured group. Call Mike Olson, **800-859-3177**, or the RAN office at **775-882-1700** (toll free in Nevada 800-690-5959). Don't forget to check out our website, **www.RANNV.org.**

Nevada Notes *Continued from page 8*

- The sale of hard-liquor minis.
- The sale of beer with alcohol content of 11 percent or more.
- Any new stores that sell liquor/wine/beer or coolers.

LV Sun

RENO SAK 'N SAVE CLOSED

Scolari's announced the closure of an affiliate Sak 'n Save store, continuing a multiyear trend of store closures for the Sparks-based grocer.

The Sak 'N Save on Plumb Lane closed due to decreased business and the changing demographics and populations shift. The company offered the 40 to 50 current employees transfers to other Scolari's stores if available.

The company now operates a total of 10 stores throughout Northern Nevada. Other grocers, such as Safeway and Raley's have also closed stores.

Scolari's will also close pharmacy services in two Reno stores. The stores themselves will remain open, and the company hasn't decided what to do with the pharmacy employees.

RGJ

RISING TIDE OF LAUNDRY DETERGENT THEFTS

Retail thieves are snatching an increasingly hot item on the black market. The in-demand product: laundry detergent.

Metro Police say the household necessity is fetching between a third and two-thirds of its retail price on the streets, meaning quick cash for thieves and stolen-product peddlers.

Last year, the Retail Apprehension Prevention Partnership (RAPP) team made about 180 arrests for retail thefts, about half of which involved laundry detergent—Tide, in particular—and beauty items such as deodorant, razors and shampoo.

Police say there are two tiers of offenders: the low-level thieves and the "fences." The low-level thieves—mostly young men needing to fund a drug habit—steal the items from drugstores, supermarkets and big-box retailers, and sell them to fences. The fences, in turn, sell the items to consumers for about two-thirds of their retail price. Laundry detergent is a popular stolen item because everybody needs it.

Detectives now routinely work with the Southern Nevada Organized Retail Crime Association, which boasts several hundred members, including retailers and law enforcers, who share information.

The retailers pass along the cost of thefts by implementing a "hidden tax" and increasing prices. And if stores can't remain profitable, they close.

LV Sun

National Notes *Continued from page 9*

than 42,000 veterans in its first year of existence. The retailer projects it will hire more than 100,000 veterans in five years. The program, which began Memorial Day 2013, guarantees honorably discharged veterans a job within their first 12 months off active duty.

The Walmart Foundation also announced a pledge to provide $20 million through 2019 to support certain employment and transition programs, having already met its goal of giving $20 million for such assistance through 2015.

For more information, visit **www.walmartcareer-swithamission.com.**

Press Release

WALGREENS OFFERS TALKING PRESCRIPTION DEVICES

Walgreens, the nation's largest drugstore chain announced the launch of a nationwide program offering talking prescription devices to customers with visual impairments. The initiative introduces a new service that complements other accessible prescription information Walgreens currently provides.

Walgreens is the first in the industry to offer this exclusive talking prescription device, called the Talking Pill Reminder, at its retail locations chain-wide. The device attaches to prescription containers and will be provided free of charge with prescription medications that Walgreens dispenses to its pharmacy customers who are blind or who have visual impairments. The Talking Pill Reminder can be recorded to speak the information on the customer's prescription medication label, and also has an audible alarm to remind patients when to take a medication.

The Talking Pill Reminder is available to customers of Walgreens retail pharmacies across the country and through Walgreens prescription mail service. The devices also are available in Walgreens drugstores for purchase for a retail price of $9.99.

The initiative is the result of collaboration between Walgreens, The American Council of the Blind (ACB) and the ACB affiliates in California and Illinois. All partnering organizations praised the Walgreens announcement.

Press Release

Retail Association of Nevada
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NEVADA NEWS

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WASHINGTON RETAIL INSIGHT

Patent Troll Bill Withdrawn

THE NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION issued the following statement from Senior Vice President for Government Relations David French on the announcement that the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has shelved the patent reform bill:

"Withdrawing the patent reform bill is a victory for patent trolls.

"We are deeply disappointed that groups representing the status quo have continued to stall and stymie attempts at effective patent reform.

"Even though this is a loss for Main Street merchants, end-users will continue to work with those committed to strengthening and reforming our patent system. Small business owners, retailers, grocers, banks, coffee shops and restaurants need patent relief now, and without Senate action the problem will only grow worse.

"We will not rest until the bipartisan compromise ironed out by Senators Schumer and Cornyn is brought before the Judiciary Committee for consideration.

"Let's hope this setback marks the last victory for patent trolls." ■