NOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION IT IS IMPORTANT to know there are no serious proposals at this time to increase the minimum wage to $15 dollars per hour in Nevada.

Currently our minimum wage is tied to the national minimum wage plus $1 dollar. Nevada’s minimum wage, then, is $8.25 per hour.

However, it gets a bit more complicated. Restaurants are not allowed a tip credit making server wages really expensive, and employers are allowed to offset some of the minimum wage if they also offer health insurance. All said, minimum wage could be changed depending upon political motivation.

This points to the fact restaurateurs need a strong and respected advocate at the state Capitol if something might be proposed, and with the likelihood of dynamics changing at the Legislature in the coming 2019 session, it is imperative the industry speak in a unified, collective, and strong voice.

The minimum wage law is not the only issue restaurateurs need be concerned with when the legislature convenes in February 2019. Some will see the newly enacted commerce tax affect their operations, others will continue to grapple with overtime rules and scheduling, or health insurance issues.

Whatever a restaurateur’s challenges, it’s important to be part and parcel of a trusted and respected group. Without a concerned, amplified, and collective voice, it’s nearly impossible to have your single voice heard above the noise and clamor of other organized concerns at the legislature.

To this end, the Retail Association of Nevada has developed a restaurant council. We know restaurants are retail operations. Simply put, restaurants retail prepared food and drink.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2015 the average American household spent $3,008 dollars in restaurants and take out food — this in comparison to the average American household spending of $4,015 dollars on groceries.

Plain and simple restaurants are retail operations and their place in the everyday lives of Americans is growing.

Already the Retail Association of Nevada has over one hundred restaurants in our membership and we aim to speak on behalf of all Nevada restaurants in the coming 2019 Legislative Session.

Continued on page 8
Welcome to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature

When the 2019 Legislative Session doesn’t begin until February 4th, 2019, so why the concern? Simply put, we’re already there and we haven’t even completed our November elections.

As of this writing legislators have submitted 147 Bill Draft Requests (BDRs). Bill Draft Requests can take many forms as defined by the Legislative Council Bureau and can be changing or adding to the Nevada Revised Statutes; creating an amendment to the Nevada Constitution; or submitting a resolution of either house or even a special act.

When RAN posts the upcoming Bill Draft Requests members will be able to determine by the preceding letters what the intent is.

Many bills are pre-filed at the end of the preceding legislative session. This might be because they ran out of time to introduce the bill, the bill died, changes were needed to be incorporated or a myriad of reasons — including reserving the space for a low number to ensure better odds of the bill being introduced.

When you consider the Retail Association of Nevada legislative team reads all bills for pertinence to the industry—which in itself is multi-faceted—to continue looking out for business, coupled with the number of bills normally introduced, there is a lot of reading, negotiating and lobbying necessary.

During the 2017 Legislative Session there were 1251 BDR’s and the 2015 Legislative Session totaled a bit higher at 1297.

Legislators, agencies and some statutorily permitted concerns can request BDR’s. For a complete list of who, when and how many please go to: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/Factsheets/BDRChart/2019BDRChart.pdf

This is the Nevada Legislature’s website and explains the number of legislative measures that may be requested for drafting, by entity.

RAN has already identified bills of interest to discuss with the sponsors and see what the actual intent of the request is.

There are pay equity bills, marriage equality bills (of interest to RAN if there are employer mandates included) workers’ comp language, health care, privacy, education and at least six early filings on firearms.

There are bills regarding mental health, prescription drugs, and legislative affairs (such as a BDR on elected officials seeking other offices while serving out existing terms — one could assume that this is seeking to review the “free ride” concept where if the elected official loses the race they don’t give up a seat). Word of caution — be very careful on assumptions.

There are also bills filed on taxes, employment, transportation, fleet vehicles, real property, food safety, energy, and protective orders (again — RAN’s interest is in employer liability), judicial reforms, auto

“As of this writing legislators have submitted 147 Bill Draft Requests.”
Last month, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc. The decision overruled a 1992 case affirming that a seller must have a physical presence in a state to be subject to taxation by that state. Since 1992, states have tried a variety of approaches to capture sales tax from out of state sellers. Most of those approaches were either tied up with litigation, or of limited effect. Now, the Supreme Court has validated the legality of at least one approach to the imposition of a sales tax to an out of state seller.

The South Dakota approach requires out of state sellers to collect and remit sales tax on sales into South Dakota if the seller, on an annual basis, either delivers more than $100,000 of goods or services into the state or engages in 200 or more transactions for the delivery of goods or services into the state.

Twenty-one other states have similar laws on the books or are considering similar laws.

Nevada took a different approach than South Dakota. Nevada addressed e-commerce and out of state sellers in 2015 through Assembly Bill 380, a bill passed with bipartisan support.

That bill had three main components. First, an out of state seller is presumed to have nexus in Nevada if the seller has an affiliate with a physical presence in Nevada.

Second, an out of state seller is presumed to have nexus in Nevada if the seller has an agreement with a Nevada resident whereby the Nevada resident receives a commission or other consideration for referring customers to the seller.

Third, the Department of Taxation is required to notify the Legislature anytime the Department makes a finding or ruling, or otherwise enters into any agreement with an out of state seller providing that the seller or a seller’s affiliate with a physical presence in Nevada is not subject to Nevada sales tax. The provisions of AB 380 remain law in Nevada today.

With the Wayfair decision now in place, it’s safe to assume that every state with a sales tax is considering how to implement a rule similar to South Dakota. The faster such rules are in place, the faster state coffers will see additional revenue.

In Nevada, tax rules are codified in the state constitution, in statute and in regulation.

Amending the constitution is a time-intensive process, and regulations set forth rules “which effectuates or interprets law or policy ….” Since Nevada law pertaining to out of state sellers is currently set forth in statute via Assembly Bill 380 (2015), a statutory change seems to be the most appropriate method to make any changes to that law.

The Nevada Legislature convenes for its next regular session in February of 2019.

Should Nevada, and other states, begin the process of amending state laws to address out of state sellers similarly to South Dakota, a natural question is whether Wayfair will embolden states to go further than South Dakota.

For example, a state may seek to go lower than the annual $100,000 in sales or 200 transactions thresholds used in South Dakota.
TO SAY THAT THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS facing a cornucopia of challenges is an understatement. And, their latest hurdle seems to be self-inflicted.

In mid-July, the Board of Trustees for the Clark County School District held a workshop session in order to identify the district’s 2019 legislative priorities and come to an agreement on the subjects of the two bill draft requests allotted to the nation’s fifth largest school district and the 322,000 students who call the district home.

The Clark County School District Board of Trustees uses a workshop format when it seeks to open a dialogue with their staff and the community. This particular four-hour workshop ended with more questions than answers. Ultimately, they ended without a concrete consensus on what their legislative bill drafts should embrace.

Complicating matters is the fact the district has a limited government affairs staff and has yet to hire a lead lobbyist to help navigate the legislative minefield in 2019.

The proposals which were presented to the Board of Trustees run the gambit from fully funding the weighted funding formula, to funding all categorical grants three years in advance, and creating a billion-dollar revenue stream that could be dedicated to repair and maintenance of school facilities (separate from the capital improvement budget).

All totaled the 2019 legislative funding wish list for the district is well over two billion dollars and doesn’t include a biennial cost increase, potential salary increases, or any anticipated shortfalls.

Given the Christmas list of funding “needs”, the Trustees seemed frustrated. This was due in large part to the fact policy changes, presented by staff for approval, were items legislative leadership, or individual legislators, have already been working on for multiple sessions, and are likely to have bill requests in progress, leaving the district with the choice to duplicate efforts or go back to the drawing board.

That doesn’t mean, however, they must start back at square one. On March 9th of this year the district held a different type of workshop.

At the workshop on March 9th, Trustee Garvey facilitated a collaborative meeting that included over fifty participants including teachers, support staff, members of the public, principals, and central office staff which brainstormed a comprehensive list of changes that those in the trenches feel would make their jobs more efficient.

The total cost of the changes sought by those participating in the workshop was zero.

Trustees face a September bill draft deadline. By the looks of things, they have miles to go before any meaningful legislative priorities can be forwarded. It seems the March 9th workshop would be a better place to start.
THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SHOPPING season is in full swing, but many parents and college students say they are waiting for the best deals to complete their shopping lists, according to the annual survey released today by the National Retail Federation (NRF) and Prosper Insights and Analytics.

Total spending for K-12 schools and college combined is projected to reach $82.8 billion, nearly as high as last year’s $83.6 billion.

“With the economy thriving thanks to tax reform and growing consumer confidence, we expect to see a very strong season,” NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. “College spending is expected to be at its highest level ever, and back-to-school will be one of the three highest years on record. Whether shoppers buy now or wait until the last minute, retailers are ready with everything they need for a successful start of the school year.”

Families with children in elementary through high school plan to spend an average $684.79 each, compared with last year’s $687.72 for a total of $27.5 billion. That’s the third-highest total in the history of the survey following a peak of $30.3 billion in 2012 and last year’s $29.5 billion.

Those with young people heading to college as well as college and graduate students purchasing for themselves plan to spend an average $942.17 each, down from last year’s $969.88 for a total of $55.3 billion.

That’s an all-time high in the history of the survey, up from last year’s previous record of $54.1 billion. According to the survey, back-to-school shoppers plan to spend the most on clothing ($236.90). In addition to apparel, back-to-school shoppers also plan to spend:

- $187.10 on electronics such as computers, calculators or phones
- $138.66 on shoes
- $122.13 on supplies such as notebooks, pencils, backpacks, and lunchboxes

“The biggest change we are seeing in back-to-school spending this year is coming from electronics,” NRF Vice President for Research Mark Mathews said. “Items like laptops, tablets and smart-phones are now an everyday part of household life and aren’t necessarily a purchase parents save for the start of the school year, resulting in the slight decrease in spending for this category.”

Unlike back-to-schoolers, college shoppers will spend the most on electronics ($229.21). Besides electronics, they also plan to spend:

- $153.32 on clothing and accessories
- $109.29 on dorm or apartment furnishings
- $102.82 on food
- $83.41 on shoes
- $78.70 on personal care items such as skin and hair care
- $69.46 on school supplies such as notebooks and backpacks
- $62.61 on gift cards
- $53.34 on collegiate branded gear

“College shoppers are prioritizing and increasing their spending budgets in essential categories including clothing, furnishings and shoes,” Mathews said. “However, categories such as personal care items, gift cards and food saw a dip this year. Although consumers will still spend on these categories, they may plan to make purchases as needed throughout the school year rather than stocking up for the entire semester.”

The top destinations for consumers shopping for back-to-school items are:

- Department stores (57 percent)
- Online retailers (55 percent)
- Discount stores (52 percent)
- Clothing stores (51 percent)
- Office supply stores (35 percent)

Similarly, the most popular shopping destinations for back-to-college consumers are:

- Online retailers (49 percent)
- Department stores (40 percent)
- Discount stores (35 percent)
- Office supply stores (31 percent)
- College bookstores (30 percent)

The survey also found that more consumers are starting early.
WALMART REMODELS STORES IN NEVADA
Walmart expects to remodel four stores across Nevada this year by adding several in-store and online innovations to help busy customers save time and money.

“Walmart’s investment in improving local stores will continue to make a difference to Nevada customers,” said Liz MacMenamin, vice president of government affairs with the Retail Association of Nevada. “It underscores a commitment to the communities they serve and confidence in the future of retail in Nevada.”

WALMART: SOY MILK RANKS #1 IN NEVADA
Walmart has revealed the most popular two-day shipping items for every state.

Apparently, soy milk is the most popular item in Nevada. There are some items on the list that are popular everywhere, including televisions and toys.

The residents of California are fond of gaming consoles and New Yorkers really like paper towels. It is all about the peanut M&Ms in Kentucky and mosquito head nets in Maine.

Channel 13 LV

24 HOURS NO MORE
Las Vegas has always been considered a quintessential 24-hour city, a place where anything done at 3 p.m. can also be done at 3 a.m.

But in recent years, some round-the-clock discount stores, supermarkets and pharmacies have been cutting back their hours and closing overnight.

The reason, according to retailers and analysts:

- Fewer late-night customers, an increased threat of shoplifting and competition from online retailers such as Amazon.
- As recently as five years ago, more than a dozen Walmart Supercenters in the valley were open 24 hours a day. Now there are only three. The other dozen open at 6 a.m. and close at midnight.
- Smith’s, which operates 36 grocery stores in Clark County, has 15 stores that are still open 24 hours, down from 22 in January 2017.
- A Walmart spokesman said fewer people are shopping in the middle of the night and Smith’s spokeswoman also said light overnight volume at its Las Vegas stores has made it more costly to stay open around the clock.
- Some pharmacies in the Las Vegas area have also reduced their hours.
- All nine pharmacies on the Strip close before 10 p.m., so patients are referred to two 24-hour Walgreens’ pharmacies.

Walgreens’ spokesman said the decision to reduce hours at some stores on and off the Strip was a matter of efficiency.

CVS pharmacy spokeswoman said the company reduced hours at five valley stores last year to focus on business during times of peak customer demand.

LV Sun

LAS VEGAS DRAWS PLENTY OF HIGH-END SHOPPERS
Wynn Resorts should have about 50 luxury retailers after Wynn Plaza, seen in June, opens on Las Vegas Boulevard South. Wynn announced the retail project in 2016 as a way to fill 300 or so feet on the Strip.

At the time, Wynn and Encore already were home to nearly 25 luxury retailers including Chanel and Dior.

Numbers on how much money people spend on luxury goods in Las Vegas are tough to come by. But the volume of wealthy domestic and international travelers and a concentration of businesses dealing with large quantities of cash attract the type of luxury brands Wynn Las Vegas wants to add.

Tourists spent an average of $142.67 per trip on shopping between 2013 and 2017, according to Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority data. That was more than double the money spent on shows and entertainment and more than six times the money spent on sightseeing during the same period.

With a population under 5 million, Las Vegas is unusual as a prime luxury goods market. Las Vegas had 42 million visitors in 2017.

LV Sun

NEED A SHOPPING BREAK?

We’ve all been there—you’re stranded at the mall. If only you had somewhere to nap. At the Fashion Show mall, now you do.

The mall is one of two locations in the world with Napin Pods—a futuristic vending machine for people who need a break.

Mall pods are located on the first floor near the guest services desk in front of Macy’s and are available in hour-long increments to anyone with a credit card. Inside, the climate-controlled mini-lounge features a seating area designed for one person, black out shades, an LED reading light, USB outlets, headphone ports, a touch-screen monitor and a fold-down work table.

LV Sun

STUDY ILLUSTRATES WHAT SELLS BEST FOR LAS VEGAS-BASED BUSINESSES
Volusion, a provider of e-commerce software based in Austin, Texas, has found that the best average revenue for online businesses based in Las Vegas came from health and beauty, apparel such as LAYOP, and sporting goods.

The least common categories for online Las Vegas businesses were pet products, furniture and computers.

The research reflects retail trends discussed this year at the RECon retail real estate convention at the Las

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National Notes

Kavanaugh Seen as Business-Friendly

Business groups and labor unions have lined up on opposing sides of the pitched battle shaping up over President Donald Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, whose approach to the law is widely seen as business-friendly.

Kavanaugh’s rulings and written dissents generally convey skepticism toward government regulatory and consumer protection efforts — positions that tend to enjoy broad support among business organizations. He has also usually sided with employers in labor law cases.

According to the Cato Institute, most of the court’s business cases are not 5-4 since it’s generally a pro-business court. AP

Supermarkets Deploy Dad Jokes to Lure Male Shoppers

Grocery stores are discovering what women have known for years: Men shop… different.

One chain in North and South Carolina, introduced gourmet sausage stations and “beer dens,” where customers can drink while they shop or get a half-gallon jug filled with a craft beer, in 14 locations four years ago. After they were launched, there was an immediate, noticeable increase in the number of men shopping in the stores. The male-focused amenities are now featured in 61 stores.

Grocery Stores are creating new design concepts, products and programs to appeal to men. Lower shelving heights and straight corridors give guys a clearer view to checkout.

New men’s sections near makeup aisles include beard salves and protein supplements. Forget the pink carnations: More-masculine floral designs include woods, barks and branches.

Fewer ads and promotional messages in food aisles, which men tend to ignore anyway. Programs such as butchery classes, beer refill stations and gas-discount programs aim to catch men’s attention.

Men are less price-sensitive and less health-conscious while shopping than women, the Hartman study found. They often conduct “search-and-retrieve missions,” getting in and out of the store as quickly as possible. They tend to load up on treats the household’s main shopper avoids and often buy too much or too little, or forget items. WSJ

A Pretty Smart Move: Home Depot is Getting into the Home Decor Space

Would you like a set of bath towels with that new toilet? It’s now possible as Home Depot moves squarely into home decor.

Home Depot is getting pretty.

Just months after buying high-end retailer The Company Store, Home Depot is making its big push into the home decor category.

In an email sent out to customers Home Depot is making it perfectly clear that it intends to be a big player in the decorative home furnishings business: “Your favorite home improvement retailer is about to become your new favorite décor destination.”

Locked in a head-to-head battle with arch-rival Lowe’s in a mature home improvement business, Home Depot has to look at home decor as a natural product extension, one it can exploit through its existing in-store and online base rather than going into a parallel retail operation.

Home Depot is the second largest retailer in America, second to Walmart, and with 2,200 stores worldwide—including just under 2,000 in the U.S.—the retailer can throw around its considerable merchandising weight nearly anyway it chooses.

WHAT MILLENNIALS WANT FROM RETAILERS

The generation is maturing, causing shifts in consumer preferences and priorities

What Millennials want, Millennials — should — get. The demographic is increasingly influential as it matures and gains more spending power. With the aging of the demographic come big life events like marriage and having children, which is shaping their shopping behavior.

According to a new report, “Building Loyalty with Dynamic Shoppers,” by Valassis, 47 percent of Millennials and 57 percent of Millennial parents have opted to visit a specific retailer for particular types of items.

To collect the insights, Valassis in conjunction with NPD polled 1,200 U.S. consumers earlier this year. As current brand loyalty becomes strengthened over time, it will be difficult for competitors to draw consumers away for their preferred shopping locations.

“Shoppers reported that to earn their loyalty, it’s critical for retailers to safeguard and protect personal information (76 percent); reward them with personalized discounts or special offers (73 percent); and interact with them through their preferred communication channel (55 percent),” said a Valassis spokesman.

Arguably less groundbreaking, Millennials will shop a good sale when they find one. Women’s Wear Daily

Kroger set to Roll out Dip Fashion Brand

The Kroger Co. has unveiled the apparel private brand it plans to launch in the fall. Called Dip, the exclusive

Continued on page 11
80th Session  Continued from page 2

reforms, auto insurance and a couple on state and local business licensing.

Assumption alert: When a legislator experiences the frustrations that businesses do in setting up a business, then the requirements really get attention.

One bill that was fascinating was another run at prohibiting any person from requiring another person to undergo implantation of a microchip or other permanent identification marker.

Senator Harris carried a BDR on that subject in the 2017 Session and there was a lot of ridicule.

The purpose was for identifications of victims of debilitating mental illnesses and those that can become lost as a result. It will be an interesting bill to follow and has multiple consequences for caregivers and families alike.

As the process moves along RAN members will be kept informed about the growing list of bills that will be followed on their behalf, and as the legislature gets going the actual bills with links will appear on the RAN website.

$15 Minimum Wage  Continued from page 1

Moving forward you can expect several things from the newly formed restaurant council.

First, we’ll convene four times per year—twice in the Reno area, and twice in the Las Vegas area. We’ll also use an interactive system in both locations so you can attend all four sessions without the hassle of travel.

We’ll also soon be employing professional and systemic polling or surveying system to understand what our members and non-members concerns might be. This information will be used as a starting point to enhance our understanding and drive the policy ambitions of the restaurant council forward.

The goal, of course, is to drive good policy forward and eliminate poor policies already on the books that drag down restaurant businesses.

To be successful, though, we need your help. This help can be in the form of poll/survey participation, pointing out your restaurant’s challenges, participating in the quarterly meetings and offering leadership to the council. After all, the restaurant council will only be successful if RAN represents all Nevada restaurants.

RAN will announce the first meeting date in early September. Watch this space and your email for announcements.

What’s Next for Nevada?  Continued from page 3

with Congress. Federal legislation has been discussed for years on this issue but has not been passed.

One of the biggest obstacles to a federal solution has been political. A member of Congress who voted for legislation such as the Marketplace Fairness Act would be branded by political opponents supportive of a tax on internet sales. Such attacks are politically effective but legally inaccurate — the sales were always subject to taxation, but collection from consumers was not realistic.

By affirming that states can in fact collect sales tax from out of state sellers, the Wayfair decision has eroded the political obstacle. Whether Congress will now take action, or leave the matter to the various states, remains to be seen.

4 To date, the Department has not made any such notifications.
5 NRS 233B.038(1)(a).
NACDS Touts Pharmacists’ Diabetes Management, Prevention Roles

MORNING CONSULT OP-ED HIGHLIGHTS CDC’S NEW DIABETES GUIDE FOR PHARMACISTS

NACDS’ CHAIN PHARMACY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT CITED AS EXAMPLE OF PHARMACY’S COMMITMENT TO DIABETES-FOCUSED INITIATIVES

ARLINGTON, VA.—A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHAIN Drug Stores (NACDS) op-ed published by Morning Consult describes the role of community pharmacy practice and of NACDS members’ philanthropic initiatives in helping to prevent and manage diabetes.

“Two of the central areas where pharmacies and pharmacists have the greatest impact in diabetes are medication management and behavior change programs to improve eating habits and increase physical activity.

Beyond these critical factors, pharmacists are also key in working with patients on the lifelong management of diabetes,” wrote NACDS President and CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE. Anderson described pharmacists’ extensive education, as well as the accessibility and trusted care that pharmacies bring to neighborhoods across the country. He also noted strong support among the public for enhancing patients’ access to pharmacist-provided services.

“Most Americans (89 percent) live within five miles of a community pharmacy. Ninety percent of Americans say that pharmacies are easy to access, and 82 percent of Americans have a favorable opinion of their pharmacists,” Anderson wrote.

“Pharmacists’ education empowers them to do more to improve patient health and quality of life, which is why voters support Medicare enrollees being able to receive newer services from their pharmacists. In fact, 81 percent of voters support pharmacists being able to help Medicare patients with managing illnesses like diabetes.”

The opinion research findings are from a January 2018 survey of registered voters conducted by Morning Consult and commissioned by NACDS.

In addition, he described NACDS’ 2017 Chain Pharmacy Community Engagement Report. In a survey and interviews that were the basis for the report, NACDS chain member companies identified diabetes prevention and healthy meals as one of the top three areas of focus for creative programs and philanthropic pursuits beyond their daily work in healthcare delivery.

Anderson also noted the new “Rx for the National Diabetes Prevention Program,” a road map for pharmacists developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help prevent new cases of type 2 diabetes.

“The prevention and management of diabetes require constant focus, and community pharmacists are ideal partners in that important work,” Anderson said. NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies.

Chains operate over 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS’ nearly 100 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 152,000 pharmacists.

They fill over 3 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability.

NACDS members also include more than 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 20 countries. Please visit www.NACDS.org.
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.

- Affectionate Hospice Care LLC
- Bonanza Pharms Inc
- DAG Enterprises LLC dba DG’s
- Las Vegas Sports Initiative
- Original Cocktail Club LLC
- Property Medics Cleaning Services LLC
- Ryan’s Saloon and Broiler LLC

Credit Card Payments

The Retail Association of Nevada is happy to announce that you can now pay your annual membership dues by credit card on our website: www.rannv.org.

Please contact Piper Brown if you have any questions, 775-882-1700.

Credit Card Payments

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.

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Vegas Convention Center and Westgate.

Apparel, cosmetics and housewares continue to dominate the U.S. retail sector.

The narrative about the death of department stores has been focused on online's sapping of sales. But the packaging of goods bought online and shipping them to customers is much more expensive than delivering goods to a store.

PET SHOP RULES
The Las Vegas City Council approved new regulations giving the city broader oversight of where local pet stores source the animals they sell, an attempt to crack down on the flow of animals from large-scale commercial breeding operations into Las Vegas.

The council in November repealed a ban on pet stores selling non-rescue animals, which stirred controversy. When it came time for the final approval on Wednesday, council chambers were comparatively quiet — the council passed the rules unanimously without discussion.

A single sign that read "Adopt Don't Shop" was placed facing the council.

LVRJ

RETAIL IMPORTS TO SET NEW RECORD IN JULY
Driven by increasing consumer demand and rising retail sales, imports at the nation's major retail container ports were expected to set a new record in July even though new tariffs on goods from China took effect, according to the monthly Global Port Tracker report released today by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates.

"Retailers cannot easily or quickly change their global supply chains, so imports from China and elsewhere are expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future," NRF Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy Jonathan Gold said.

Ports covered by Global Port Tracker handled 1.82 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units in May, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available. That was up 11.6 percent from April as the annual wave of summer merchandise began to arrive and up 4.3 percent year-over-year. A TEU is one 20-foot-long cargo container or its equivalent.

NRF

The survey found teenagers will spend $35.60 of their own money on average for back-to-school while pre-teens will spend $25.06.

The survey of 7,320 consumers asked about both back-to-school and back-to-college plans and was conducted June 29-July 8 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 1.2 percentage points.
THE NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION (NRF) ISSUED the following statement from Senior Vice President for Government Relations David French after the Department of Labor finalized regulations that would help expand retailers’ access to affordable health insurance through association health plans.

“We’ve been advocating for association health plans for almost 20 years, and we’re pleased to see the department moving aggressively forward. This is an important step toward expanding affordable health care options for small businesses and lowering costs for their employees. We will carefully review the final rules and stand ready to work with the department to help make association health plans a reality for small retailers nationwide.”

NRF has long supported efforts to establish national-level AHPs, and also supports the Small Business Health Fairness Act – AHP legislation that passed the House in March 2017 but has yet to see action in the Senate.

ABOUT NRF

The National Retail Federation is the world’s largest retail trade association. Based in Washington, D.C., NRF represents 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 $2.6 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation’s economy.