

2019 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

By Mary Lau

THIS ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS THE BI-ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF

votes, which is chronicled following each legislative session and published for our members. As you, our members, know the 2019 Legislative Session was highly publicized as the most unfriendly session ever to Nevada's businesses.

RAN followed over 1200 bills and actively lobbied and participated in crafting many of those. The main problem with this past session was the results of the election which favored democrats in very large proportions. The Assembly had the needed two-thirds majority to override any veto and pass any tax increase, however, the Senate only lacked one vote to accomplish the same two-thirds.

It is said that whoever controls the gavel, controls the agenda and this is a harsh fact of state, local, and federal arenas. In 2015 the republicans were pressed by both their conservative wing and a governor who wanted his legacy to be education and pushed the largest tax increase ever through a republican majority. This past session the democrats had a similar issue in that the progressive wing of their party wanted to push their agenda without any constraints.

The major problem for

businesses in Nevada wasn't so much as the progressive agenda as it was the cumulative effect of this agenda. A small example would be minimum wage, compounded by workers' comp increases, paid sick leave etc. You also had a major judicial reform piece that tried to revamp the entire system and left employers without tools to vet future employees to ensure the safety of the workplace and public.

Interestingly enough, like so many government intrusions, the goal was to cut costs for public sector at the cost of the private sector. But then again, the reverse is also true in adding costs to the private sector. There will always be a tension between business and government until there is a more cooperative give and take between both.

This showed in the many union bills that codified in statute a large amount of collective bargaining issues into the matrix of small business operating difficulties. It was interesting to see the pontification of small business being the back-bone of the economy at the same time burdening these mom and pops with this "grab."

I would be remiss to leave out the continued tension on taxes. During the 2015 Legislative Session at least leadership knew the rules and respected the two-thirds voter approved constitutional requirement to

raise revenue.

The past session, Senate leadership, coupled with a compliant Legislative Council Bureau, decided they could ignore the constitution and passed a law that to increase the amount of budget that the Economic Forum declared and broke covenant with Nevada's businesses to continue a revenue stream in violation of our constitution. This action by the legislature is why RAN, after continually testifying opposed and cautioning against this violent breach, joined the Senate Republicans on their lawsuit.

The policy of RAN is that no one bill will ever become the dominant issue that legislators are judged on for future support. This policy has served RAN membership well over the years

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THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE MATRIX

By Bryan Wachter

RAN'S MATRIX, PUBLISHED AFTER EACH SESSION OF THE

Nevada Legislature, gives a detailed look at how state lawmakers voted on key legislation affecting the retail community.

The matrix, however, goes beyond vote tallying. It takes more than voting one way or another to be an effective supporter of the retail industry. From bill introductions to lending support during committee hearings, legislators have the ability to affect real change during the legislative process before a bill even comes up for a vote. RAN's matrix allows for those other legislative activities to play a role in a legislator's final score, giving our members a

more accurate reflection of which lawmakers support retail and those lawmakers who don't.

This year eight members of the senate scored above sixty-five percent; the requisite needed for us to support an incumbent in their next election. All eight members were republican. Thirteen members of the senate did not reach the sixty-five percent level. In 2017 fourteen senate members reached or exceeded sixty-five percent, five democrats and nine republicans.

In the assembly fifteen members of the 2019 legislature exceeded sixty-five percent. Assemblywoman Carlton and Speaker Frierson made the cut, the remainder



Bryan Wachter

of those exceeding sixty-five percent were republicans. In comparison Assemblywoman Dina Neal and fifteen republicans exceeded sixty-five percent in 2017.

2019 was different than 2017 as democrats seemingly concerned themselves with a plethora of social justice issues.

These included, but were not limited to, minimum wage, paid time off, and discrimination legislation.

This does not mean more legislators couldn't score higher. In 2021 those who didn't score the requisite sixty-five percent in 2019 have opportunities to increase their percentages by working closer with us on proposed legislation and helping us in the legislative process to assure outcomes are helpful to those in the retail sector.

We are always open to working with any legislator, regardless of party, to make sure their work results in good public policy.

We are grateful to leaders in both parties who took the time to hear our concerns. ■

2019 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW *Continued from page 1*

because the contributions and other support is carefully considered by having the RAN Team list their top 10 bills during the sessions and also refer to their notes regarding access, committee assistance and bill introductions (covered in the matrix explanation). These reports are then left to sit for the end-of-session break, catching up, and other events that take the team away from the mental exhaustion drop that always

occurs after the 120-day confinement in "the building".

September of each legislative year the RAN team then meets together and the bills (without voting record) are pared down for a complete overview of the session. Each team member has differing responsibilities so you really do get a cross section of the session. Once completed, the list goes into the matrix and scores become fact.

The matrix is a non-personal, non-political tool that helps determine support, prompts conversations with legislators who become concerned about how they did when it's time to garner support, and gives our members a clear understanding on how their particular legislation voted while representing their interests.

As always, should you have any questions or



Mary Lau, RAN CEO

concerns, the RAN team is ready to assist. ■



FORMULA FOR CALCULATING MATRIX SCORES

RAN HAS PUBLISHED A LEGISLATIVE VOTING

matrix every session since 2005. The matrix is a valuable tool we use to evaluate what happened this session as compared to previous sessions. The matrix also helps in the interim to prepare for the upcoming session.

Each legislative session we begin with a clean slate. Matrix scores are not carried forward from previous sessions. This allows legislators to become more familiar with business issues and to vote their conscience.

RAN does not select bills until after sine die. Only then does the RAN government affairs team identify the most impactful bills affecting the retail industry as compared to our original list of legislative priorities.

The matrix reflects a broad range of business issues that presented a clear choice for legislators. These bills, in our opinion, were clear choices to protect the business community.

INDUSTRY BILL VOTES:

This category accounts for eight-eight percent of a legislator's total matrix score. The bills which appear on the matrix score represent a cross section of our member's issues, with general business, general merchandise, and grocery and pharmacy issues all taken into account.

For each bill, the scores are based on the final floor vote in either chamber, and not votes taken in committee. A score of five indicates a pro-business position on a bill while a zero indicates an anti-business position on a bill.

A prefect pro-business voting record score is seventy-five points for the senate or a sixty-five points for the assembly.

PRIMARY SPONSOR BILL INTRODUCTIONS:

This category accounts for six percent of a legislator's total matrix score.

The bill introductions category scores legislators on the potential business impact of the bills that they requested as a primary sponsor, regardless

of whether those bills received a hearing or a vote.

Bill introduction scores range from the lowest possible score of negative five to the highest possible score of five, with zero being a neutral score.

ACCESSIBILITY:

This category accounts for the remaining six percent of a legislator's total matrix score. The accessibility category scores a legislator on the work that happens between committee hearings and floor sessions.

Having the opportunity to discuss business issues with legislators is crucial to the legislative process. Accessibility scores range from the lowest possible negative five to the highest possible score of five, with a zero being a neutral score.

COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE (EXTRA CREDIT):

This category provides an opportunity for legislators to earn extra credit.

The committee

assistance category scores a legislator on their ability to advance pro-business legislation by asking pertinent questions during committee hearings, speaking publicly in favor of such issues, lobbying their colleagues, or providing other assistance.

Committee assistance scores range from the lowest possible score of negative five to highest possible score of five.

Ran has determined that an individual legislator's total matrix score of sixty-five percent or greater is necessary for us to consider making a campaign contribution in the 2019–2020 election cycle.

Please note all legislative votes are public record and are available at

www.leg.state.nv.us

We encourage our members to research votes of particular interest to them, and to contact their legislators to thank them for their support or to urge them to do better next session. ■



UPDATE ON CLARK COUNTY RESTAURANT FEES

By Andy Peterson

LAST MONTH I PROVIDED AN UPDATE REGARDING THE

Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) proposal to significantly increase restaurant inspection fees.

One aspect of the proposed smorgasbord of new fee increases included brand-new fees should a restaurant be downgraded from an A to B inspection

rating. Depending upon demerit level, these new fees could run between \$400 and \$600 hundred-dollars per location. More pointedly, I wrote last month that these new fees were tantamount to a small-town cop sitting behind a billboard waiting for an absent-minded driver to pass by traveling a few miles an hour above the speed limit.

In a SNHD meeting September 26, 2019 several stakeholders, including a multi-location restaurant owner, objected to the new fees indicating it might provide the department with an incentive to find things wrong in order to drive department revenue.

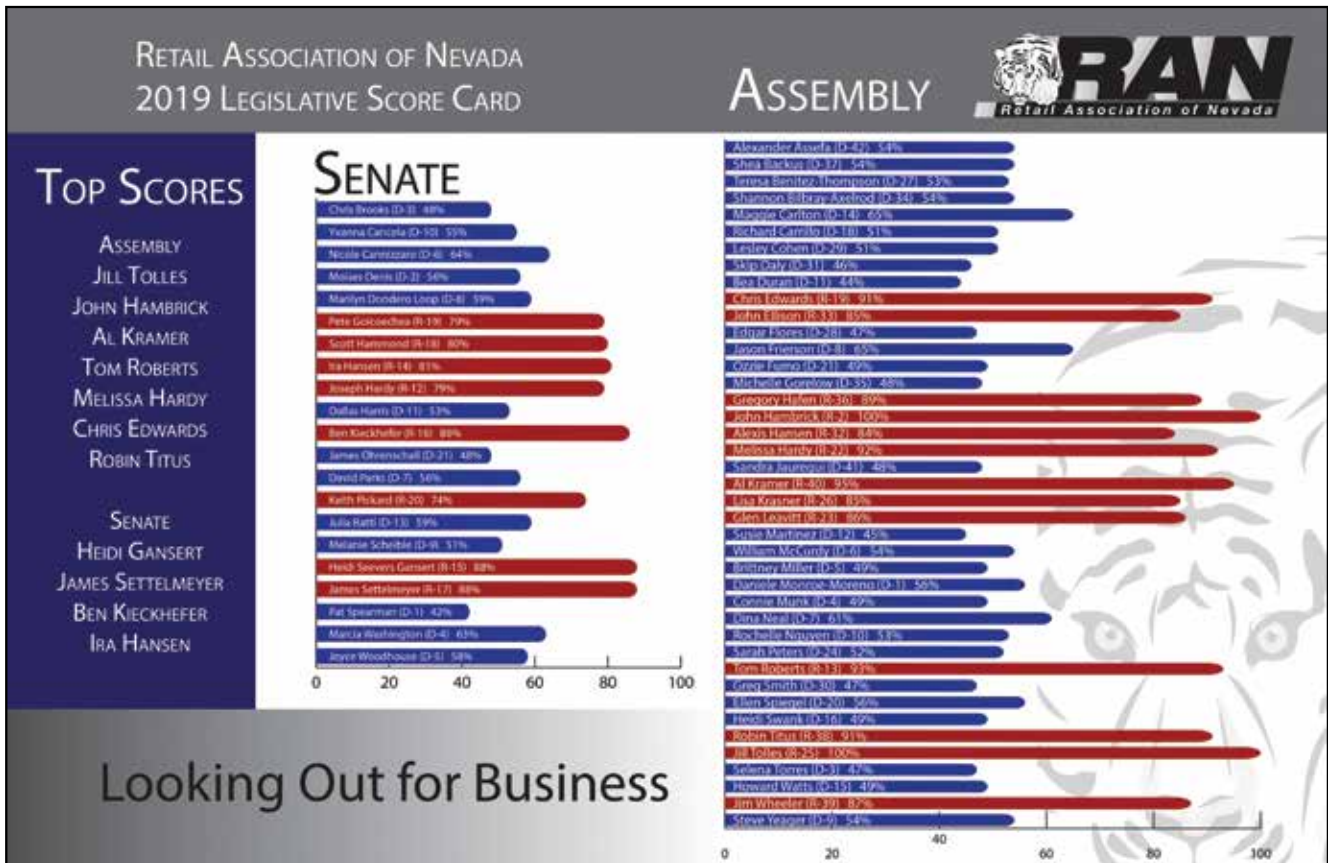
A long-time restaurant owner, in discussion

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Andy Peterson

RAN'S SCORE CARD





BILLS BECAME LAWS OCTOBER 1, 2019

By Liz MacMenamin

THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MAY BE OVER BUT

RAN team members have been busy preparing the follow up from session as well as following interim committees. We have also been tracking the new laws that were passed during the session along with the date they will become effective in Nevada. The following bills a just a few that became effective October 1st and may have an impact on your business:

Assembly Bill 54 –

This bill sponsored by the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure will prohibit certain “general service lamps” from being sold in Nevada.

Assembly Bill 239 –

This bill was sponsored by the Committee on Health

and Human Services and makes changes to the review and investigation of complaints regarding the prescribing of controlled substances in Nevada.

Assembly Bill 483 –

This bill affects everyone in Nevada. This was another bill sponsored by the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure. It allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to begin implementing odometer readings and reporting at the time of the initial registration, renewal of registration and at the time of sale. The law exempts motorcycles and mopeds from this requirement.

Assembly Bill 535 –

This new law establishes an annual license fee for certain businesses engaged in

sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Committee on Ways and Means sponsored this bill.

Senate Bill 143 –

Enacts laws regarding background checks for certain sales and transfer of firearms. The bill was sponsored by the Assembly and Senate Democrat Caucuses.

Senate Bill 323 –

This bill was sponsored by Senator Moise Denis. The new law in Nevada now will require a regulatory body that may be charging persons an administrative, investigative or disciplinary fee to submit an itemized statement to the persons subject to these fees.

These are not all the bills that will have an impact on your business in Nevada. For a complete look at all the new legislation that has been



Liz MacMenamin

enacted you may go to: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/80th2019/Reports/AllBillsThatBecameLaw.cfm>.

RAN wants to be certain that businesses in Nevada are following the new laws as they become effective and we are here to help you if you have any questions. ■

CLARK COUNTY RESTAURANT FEES

with Bryan Wachter and myself, confirmed this as a potential possibility. Specifically, this is due to differing standards between inspectors. What is proper and right for one inspector is not necessarily right to another.

Downgrades could

happen, then, as a result of subjective judgement. Restaurant owners, stakeholders, and the Retail Association of Nevada did not object to fee increases at the September 26th meeting.

Rather they objected to the arbitrary way in

which these fees were proposed. Some, on the SNHD Board of Health said the fees need to go up as the SNHD has already committed to over \$400 hundred thousand dollar increase in employee pay and benefits.

Others indicated

Continued from page 4

their support for the inspection process to be self-sustaining. What was less clear in the whole matter is how the fees are accounted for and if standard accounting methods are used to make sure the fees cover the

Continued on page 9



Nevada Notes

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Do you have an announcement about your retail, or retail related, business that you would like us to feature?

Send your news story, announcement, press release, picture, or story to **andy@rannv.org**. All announcements will be edited for style and space. Copywrite law will be respected and followed.

Placement within the RAN newsletter will be at the sole discretion of RAN. Only RAN members will be featured and no materials will be returned.

NEVADA TO RETURN TO STATE RUN INSURANCE WEBSITE

For five years Nevada relied upon the federal government's **HealthCare.gov** for those relying upon the national exchange for their healthcare insurance. Nevada is now preparing to switch back to state-run insurance website.

The exchange was a hallmark of the Affordable Healthcare Act, or ACA, which allowed those not covered by employer health insurance to find and buy their own insurance. Nevada previously tried to run its own site but failed to successfully implement

the site. Since this time Nevada relied upon the federal site for its citizens to buy insurance. Recently, however the state has been preparing to go it alone again, and as of October 3rd people can shop for insurance. They must, however, buy insurance by November 1st.

KTNV Las Vegas

SWITCH EARNS EPA EXCELLENCE IN GREEN POWER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Switch, a Las Vegas and Reno based company, which operates advanced data centers won the 2019 Green Power Leadership Award from the U.S> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award recognizes the voluntary contribution to advancing the nation's green power.

Barchart

NEVADA VAPE ASSOCIATION WARNS CONSUMERS REGARDING RISKS OF VAPING Products Not Intended for Vaping

Nevada's vaping association strongly cautioned consumers to not vape marijuana-based THC or cannabinoids. They cited the rising number of deaths related to this practice. "Consumers should be aware of

what they are vaping; there are many types of e-liquids, and homemade marijuana-based THC or Cannabinoids products can clearly be harmful to the user's health and even cause death," said Alex Mazzola, President of the Nevada Vaping Association.

"Consumers must know the difference between manufactured nicotine-based products intended to be vaporized that have not been link the recent fatalities which are very different from homemade marijuana-based THC or Cannabinoids products that have."

He further indicated that it can be deadly to buy e-liquid products on the street or to mix products not intended by the manufacturer for use in a vaporizer.

Carsonnow.org

DO "HAPPY DAYS" REMAIN FOR MARIJUANA MARKET?

Nevada seems to be on a marijuana hot streak. Legal sales as indicated by projected tax receipts indicate legal marijuana to be a hot.

But what about overall legal sales from the states which sell it? According to some recent analysis from *Before Its News*, we have

been in a bear market for some time. Accordingly, pot stocks have returned roughly the same as the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 over those 2 1/2 years. a dozen percentage points since March 2017 and show no real sign of letting up.

NEVADA HEALTH AUTHORITIES URGE PEOPLE TO STOP VAPING

Nevada public health authorities have recommended ceasing use of vaping products after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported three deaths and 450 cases of pulmonary illness potentially linked to vaping.

However, no cases have been reported in Nevada. Carson City Health and Human Services, Southern Nevada Health District, and Washoe County Health District all advised people to not use vaping products.

The Nevada Vaping Association, however, responded with an advisory to not use homemade vaping products, homemade marijuana-based THC, or cannabinoids in vaporizers Nevada Indy.

Before It's News

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National Notes

MILLENNIALS – WALMART WANTS THEM

Walmart wants the millennials as customers and they are investing to gain them in ecommerce.

Millennials are aged twenty-two to thirty-seven. Despite coming into their own later in life than Gen X or baby boomers, millennials are now worth more.

This according to Pew Research. Four ways Walmart is wooing younger shoppers are: digital brands, private labels, online groceries, and by recruiting young talent.

CBS Interactive

DALLAS WOOS KROGER WAREHOUSE

Dallas city council approved \$5.7 million in incentives to create hundreds of new jobs in Kroger’s new warehouse. These come in the form of property, business tax abatements and bond funds for a new Kroger warehouse in southern Dallas.

The warehouse is expected to come online in twenty-four months. The warehouse is expected to fulfill online orders and be able to eliminate some food deserts in the Dallas area. In fact, a key component

of the incentives is the elimination of food deserts within the city. The facility is planned on 55 acres south of Interstate 20 at the northwest corner of Telephone and Bonnie View roads.

Dallas Morning News

KROGER PHARMACIES EARN ACCREDITATION

Kroger Health, the Cincinnati-based grocer’s health services arm, said this week that all of its pharmacies have now achieved the CPPA Community Pharmacy Practice Accreditation through the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). Kroger has more than 2,000 pharmacies.

The voluntary CPPA recognizes pharmacies that meet standards in practice management, patient care services and quality improvement.

Super Market News

TARGET SAME DAY FULFILLMENT GROWING FAST

Target’s same day fulfillment services, which include in-store pickup, drive-up, and ship same-day delivery, now account for one third of all fulfillment and it continues to grow.

According to Brian Cornell, Target CEO, same

day fulfillment leverages store infrastructure and fulfillment now represents 1.5 percent of sales growth. In addition, store fulfillment has led to higher productivity.

According to COO John Mulligan, average productivity for store-fulfilled sales was \$300 dollars per square foot. Every additional \$1 billion of store fulfilled sales raises that productivity by \$4 per foot.

Supply Chain Brief

TARGET TEAMS WITH DISNEY FOR IN-STORE EXPERIENCE

Target is aiming to partner with Disney for a new in-store experience in 25 stores. It will add another 40 stores and e-commerce site in short order.

In store shops will feature approximately four hundred fifty items. This is one hundred more items than previously available in Disney retail locations.

Disney brands available in the new locations will range from Pixar to Marvel to Star Wars along with classic Disney. Prices will range from \$2 to \$200 dollars. As the shops open new merchandise will be available.

Target and Disney will work together to co-develop the new spaces.

Each space is expected to be approximately 750 square feet. They will be located near Target’s toy and kid’s clothing departments.

Chain Store Age

MCDONALDS CONDUCTS ANTI-HARASSMENT TRAINING INITIATIVE

McDonalds USA will launch a wide-ranging training initiative for its U.S. employees to promote a professional, safe, and respectful workplace. The fast-food giant is undertaking the initiative with the National Franchisee Leadership Alliance which represents more than 2,000 McDonald’s U.S. franchisees.

The program will cover a wide range of topics, including mitigating workplace violence, unconscious bias, anti-bullying tactics and how to report a complaint in the workplace. It will also cover harassment, discrimination and retaliation prevention and how to appropriately engage as a bystander.

Restaurant supervisors and employees will receive training through interactive and computer-based training programs and in-person discussions.

Chain Store Age

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NATIONAL NOTES *Continued from page 7*

BEER TRAVEL A BIG DEAL

Forty two percent of Americans say they prefer beer to wine or liquor. It's no wonder, then, that beer travel is becoming a big thing amongst travelers.

According to Allen Wright, owner of Vacations and the Beer Marketing and Tourism conference, beer travel has become popular in the last five years or so. It starts at the airport and continues throughout the vacation.

Squatter's Pub in Salt Lake City, and popup Voodoo Brewery pub in Pittsburgh airports are examples where travelers stop to sample craft beer prior to flying to their actual destination. The swag these breweries sell adds to the destination charm for those flying into these airports.

Beer travel also means people will travel out of their way to sample beer whether they be traveling for personal or business reasons. Craft beer drinkers tend to be younger but older beer travelers tend to spend more time and money when traveling for beer.

Smart Brief

BEST BUY MISSES IN Q@ SALES BUT EARNINGS GO UP

Best buys results were mixed. Revenue was

up to \$9.54 billion from \$9.37 billion but results were short of analyst's expectations of \$9.6 billion.

Good news is adjusted earnings per share (EPS) were above expectations at \$1.08 per share verses expectations of \$0.99 per share.

CEO Corie Barry said the electronics retailer tried to factor in the negative effect of fifteen percent tariffs on Chinese imports starting in September 2019.

Another fifteen percent tariff is scheduled to take effect December 15, 2019. For the full year, Best Buy is forecasting revenue of \$43.1 billion to \$43.6 billion, which compares to prior guidance of \$42.9 billion to \$43.9 billion, and same-sales growth of 0.7 to 1.7 percent.

Chain Store Age

WALMART PILOTS HEALTHCARE STORE CONCEPT

Walmart will open a "Walmart Health center" in its Dallas, Georgia, store.

In a statement Walmart said it is committed to making healthcare more affordable and accessible for customers in they serve.

Additionally, Walmart indicates the new health center in the Dallas, Georgia store will provide low, transparent pricing

for key health services. Walmart already runs healthcare clinics in a few Southern states. However, the Georgia location will take appointments starting September 13, 2019.

According to a report from CNBC the clinic will add services like dental, mental health counseling, X-rays, and audiology.

Walmart has long been a healthcare provider. According to Walmart's website it provides primary care, treatment of illness and injury, management of ongoing conditions, physicals, wellness checks, and lab tests and immunizations.

Grocery Dive

WALMART TESTS NURSING PODS

Walmart is working to remove challenges for new moms. Soon Walmart will test nursing pods in select stores in Vermont, Arizona, and Arkansas. As well, they will install pods in six different distribution centers for new moms who work in those facilities.

The pods are from Mamava, and are designed to provide a comfortable and private space for moms to nurse their babies or pump breast milk. The pods have adjustable lighting and airflow. Access to the pods are through a

downloadable app which helps mothers identify empty pods and gain access.

Chain Store Age

MAJOR CHAIN GOES LOCAL IN NYC

A major chain store has rolled out its newest store concept in NYC. The store has no inventory, is service driven, and is small in size.

The first store is located on the Upper East Side and is 1,800 square feet.

A second location is planned for the West Village neighborhood.

Both locations will offer order pick up, fast returns and alterations. Additional services include consultations, shoe and leather repairs, gift wrapping and self-wrapping.

In addition, the locations will be a place to donate gently used fashions which will be donated to a local charity.

Chain Store Age

KROGER ASKS CUSTOMERS TO STOP CARRYING GUNS IN STORES

Kroger wants customers to leave their guns at home. This follows Walmart, who have asked their customers to not openly carry firearms in their stores. Open carry laws vary by state but

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CITY OF RENO PROPOSES NEW ENERGY BENCHMARKING FOR RETAILERS

By Andy Peterson

THE CITY OF RENO HAS PASSED A NEW BENCHMARKING

requirement that requires large commercial, institutional, and multifamily buildings to invest in energy efficiency to improve building performance that might improve building performance.

In 2020 certain buildings with at least 100,00 square feet will

have to keep track of their usage of energy and water. Starting in 2021 those with 50,000 square feet will have to begin tracking their usage, and in 2023 those with 30,000 square feet will also have to start the tracking process.

The first report from building owners to the city will be due sometime in 2022. According to a staff report, "The purpose of a benchmarking and transparency ordinance

is to establish a program that encourages large commercial, institutional and multifamily buildings to invest in energy efficiency to improve building performance, which will result in lower carbon emissions from the commercial building sector."

The details of complying are slowly emerging. However, the city promises it will provide training to building

owners.

More information is available at <https://www.reno.gov/community/sustainability/energy-and-water-efficiency>

Surely, every business wants to lower their energy usage and their cost of energy. What remains to be determined in the proposal is who is best to drive energy reduction, the city or the private business owner? ■

CLARK COUNTY RESTAURANT FEES

Continued from page 5

costs. One can reasonably argue some of these fees are simply a method to raise revenue and that they are assessed on the backs of restaurant owners and operators.

To be sure, governments do not use the same accounting practices that are required of business. Witness many government programs; Social Security, Medicare, or any number

of programs and you will soon see an opaqueness in government finance not familiar to the business community.

Yes, the State of Nevada is required to balance its books every year but one could still reasonably argue government and business operate differently.

Some of the reasoning and justification for the fees are at best

questionable. It is fair then to question where and how the fees are applied here, and if the newly proposed fee structures are just.

It is fortuitous the fee increases, as proposed, failed to gain momentum. Commissioners had various reactions to the recommended fee increases. Commissioner Kirkpatrick advocated for a "go back to the drawing

board" approach which involved all stakeholders before raising rates, while others advocated for an immediate solution which might cover the promised pay increases.

At the end of the day no action was taken which means for the time being fees will remain steady. You can bet the Retail Association will remain on top of this issue. ■



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.

Access Shot Tours LLC dba Shoot Las Vegas

Bajwaa Inc dba Port of Subs

Nevada Rural Electric Association

Pastro Advanced Chiropractic, Prof LLC dba Advanced Chiropractic & Wellness Center

Peccole Management & Consulting

Synergy Plus LLC

Thomas Gas 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**.



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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10 ♦ 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 6*

MARIJUANA SALES IN NV GENERATED MORE THAN \$100 MILLION IN TAXES LAST YEAR

Last year Nevada generated more than \$100 Million in marijuana taxes according to an industry group. The Nevada Dispensary Association said sales of cannabis were up from \$529 million in 2018 to \$639 million in 2019. This is an increase of \$110 million.

The association said this is due to people moving from the illegal to legal markets and complimented the state

for handling the transition in a reasonable manner.

The association believes sales and tax collection numbers will continue to increase.

Fox 13 Salt Lake City

NEVADA REGULATORS INVESTIGATE TESTING FACILITIES

Nevada regulators are looking into marijuana testing laboratories after tainted cannabis batches have been detected.

The Nevada Department of Taxation is investigating potentially doctored levels of THC and

product with high levels of yeast and mold.

Products, by law, must be tested prior to sale in legal dispensaries. Products, from a single source, were discovered at two dispensaries.

RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL ATTORNEY GENERAL MOVES TO DISMISS TAX LAWSUIT

Attorney General Ford filed a motion to dismiss the tax lawsuit filed by the Senate Republicans Associations. (RAN is party to the lawsuit).

The law suit challenged

the constitutionality of SB551, which extended the modified business tax, and SB542, which extended the DMV technology fee.

Republicans argue the taxes are unconstitutional due to the requirement any bill raising revenue have a two-thirds vote in order to become law.

Revenue raised in SB551 are scheduled to benefit K-12 education and SB542 benefits the DMV. Both bills passed along party lines but fell one vote shy of a two-thirds majority.

Nevada Appeal

NATIONAL NOTES *Continued from page 7*

thirty-one states allow people to openly carry without license or permit. Both stores have called for legislation strengthening background checks and keeping guns out of the hands of people who might be a risk of waging violence.

Chain Store Age

MORE MAJOR CHAINS ASK CUSTOMERS TO LEAVE GUNS AT HOME

CVS and Walgreens are following the lead of Walmart and Kroger's, and have asked their

customers to leave their guns at home.

"We support the efforts of other individuals and groups working to prevent gun violence, and continually review our policies and procedures to ensure our stores remain a safe environment," CVS said in a statement on its Twitter account. "We join a growing chorus of businesses in requesting that our customers, other than authorized law enforcement personnel, do not bring firearms into our stores."

Walgreens' statement was similar. The retailer is requesting that its customers "no longer openly carry firearms into our stores other than authorized law enforcement officials."

Chain Store Age

KROGER ANNOUNCES PLANT BASED PRIVATE LABEL

Kroger announced a new private based label collection, Simple Truth Plant Based. Not only will the label include fresh based meatless burger

patties, it will also include plant-based cookie dough, pasta sauces, deli slices and more.

New introductions will roll out in 1,800 of 2,800 stores this fall. Simple Truth items already bring in \$2.3 billion in sales.

A report from UBS predicts plant based sales will grow by twenty-five percent annually, reaching \$85 billion by 2030. Kroger's Simple Truth brand is quickly becoming a name rival to the Kroger brand itself.

Grocery Dive



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NRF FORECASTS HOLIDAY SALES WILL GROW BETWEEN 3.8 AND 4.2 PERCENT

THE NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION TODAY SAID it expects holiday retail sales during November and December to increase between 3.8 percent and 4.2 percent over 2018 to a total of between \$727.9 billion and \$730.7 billion. The numbers, which exclude automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants, compare with an average holiday sales increase of 3.7 percent over the previous five years.

"The U.S. economy is continuing to grow and consumer spending is still the primary engine behind that growth," NRF President

and CEO Matthew Shay said. "Nonetheless, there has clearly been a slowdown brought on by considerable uncertainty around issues including trade, interest rates, global risk factors and political rhetoric. Consumers are in good financial shape and retailers expect a strong holiday season. However, confidence could be eroded by continued deterioration of these and other variables."

"There are probably very few precedents for this uncertain macroeconomic environment," NRF Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz said. "There are many moving parts and lots of distractions that make predictions

difficult. There is significant economic unease, but current economic data and the recent momentum of the economy show that we can expect a much stronger holiday season than last year. Job growth and higher wages mean there's more money in families' pockets, so we see both the willingness and ability to spend this holiday season."

NRF expects online and other non-store sales, which are included in the total, to increase between 11 percent and 14 percent to between \$162.6 billion and \$166.9 billion, up from \$146.5 billion last year. ■

**NRF 2020
 VISION:
 RETAIL'S
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