

# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 104, NO. 329

 [indexjournal.com](http://indexjournal.com)

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

DAILY \$2

## Liquor *before* beer

### Study: Drinkers moved more by spirits than the brews

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky.

**P**roducers of spirits have new bragging rights in the age-old whiskey vs. beer barroom debate.

New figures show that spirits surpassed beer for U.S. market-share supremacy, based on supplier revenues, a spirit industry

group announced Thursday.

The rise to the top for spirit-makers was fueled in part by the resurgent cocktail culture — including the growing popularity of ready-to-drink concoctions — as well as strong growth in the tequila and American whiskey segments, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States said.

In 2022, spirits gained market share for the 13th straight year in the fiercely

competitive U.S. beverage alcohol market, as its supplier sales reached 42.1%, the council said.

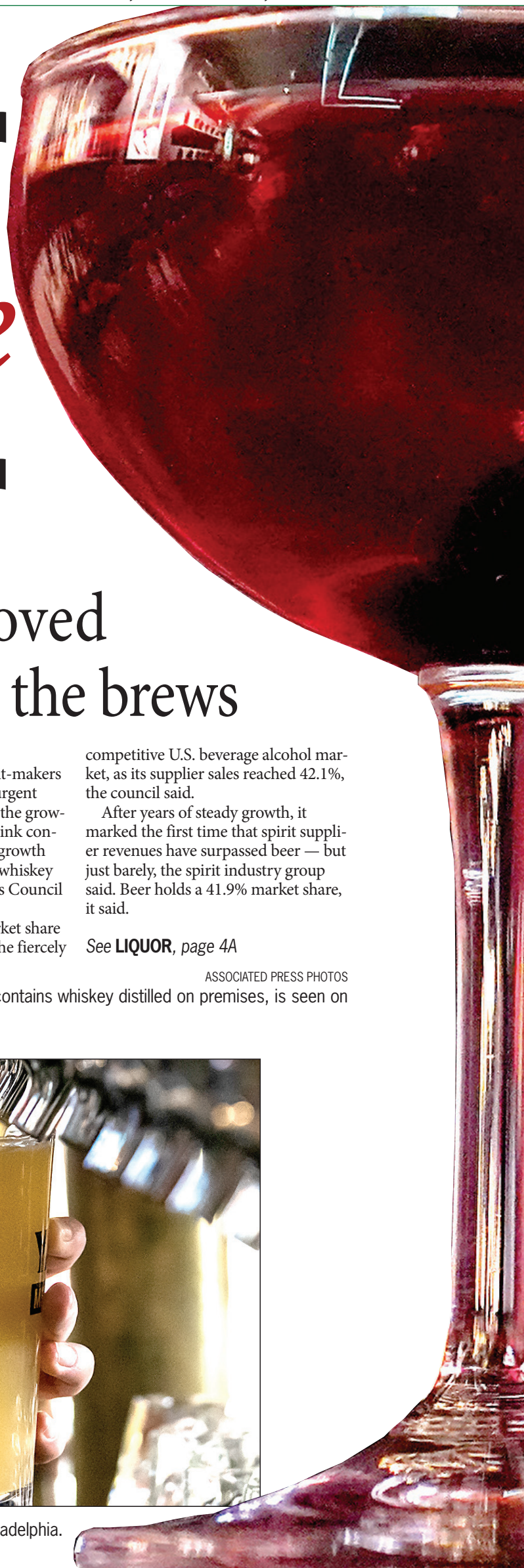
After years of steady growth, it marked the first time that spirit supplier revenues have surpassed beer — but just barely, the spirit industry group said. Beer holds a 41.9% market share, it said.

See **LIQUOR**, page 4A

A mixed drink named "Best Cup of Coffee in a Manhattan," which contains whiskey distilled on premises, is seen on the cocktail lounge at Baltimore Spirits Co. in Baltimore.



A bartender pours a beer Thursday at McMenamin's Tavern in Philadelphia.



## SC Senate OKs new ban on abortion

By **JAMES POLLARD**  
Associated Press/Report for America

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Senate passed an abortion ban on Thursday in the Republican-led chamber's latest quest to craft a law that passes constitutional muster, but differences with a stricter proposal from the House could derail the effort once again.

Republicans have faced several setbacks in their efforts to further restrict abortion since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned federal protections this summer, allowing the conservative state's previous ban to take effect.



**SHANE MASSEY**

First, a special session spanning a dozen meetings throughout the summer and fall resulted in no new ban when neither chamber budged from their respective proposals. Then, just days before lawmakers convened this January, the state's highest court narrowly struck down a 2021 law banning abortion after cardiac activity is detected around six weeks of pregnancy.

With Thursday's 28-12 vote, Senate Republicans insist they have found their solution in a ban on abortions after cardiac activity is detected around six weeks of pregnancy. Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey emphasized that several clarifications of the bill's language and repeals of conflicting laws will satisfy a majority on the South Carolina Supreme Court.

The Senate measure includes exceptions for rape, incest, fatal fetal anomaly and the patient's life and health up to 12 weeks. Meanwhile, a full ban from conception has again advanced to the House floor in a development that threatens to prevent another abortion restriction from becoming law in South Carolina.

The vote indicates that Senate Republicans' position has not changed since this fall. The overall body appears uninterested in pursuing any alternative restrictions — lesser or greater. Republican Sen. Sandy Senn's amendment to instead bar abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy failed to pass. Sen. Richard Cash, one of the Legislature's most vocal abortion opponents, withdrew his amendment that would have matched the House proposal.

Senators moved quickly to advance the long-sought Republican priority. Republican leadership bypassed the traditional committee process to hold a vote this week

See **ABORTION**, page 4A

## Attorney: I trusted Alex Murdaugh despite odd fee payments

By **JEFFREY COLLINS**  
Associated Press

A lawyer testifying in Alex Murdaugh's double murder trial in South Carolina said he trusted Murdaugh even though the disgraced lawyer suggested an unusual way to split fees from a case the two had worked on together.

Attorney Chris Wilson said he had no reason to be suspicious when Murdaugh asked to have the \$792,000 fee deposited directly into his account,

rather than paying it directly to the Murdaugh family law firm. At the time, Murdaugh said his intention was to protect money because his son, Paul, was involved in a wrongful death lawsuit — even though the direct payment was a violation of the firm's rules.

"I'd known him for 30-plus years. I didn't have any reason not to trust him," Wilson told the jury.

Murdaugh, 54, faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted of murdering his wife, 52-year-old

Maggie, and their 22-year-old son Paul. Prosecutors are arguing that Murdaugh killed them to get sympathy and buy time to hide a string of thefts. The defense says it makes no sense to think there wouldn't be more scrutiny into Murdaugh's life and finances after his wife and shot were shot to death.

The judge in the murder trial is allowing prosecutors to present a wide range of evidence that Murdaugh was stealing money from clients and his law firm. Defense attorneys have con-



Alex Murdaugh walks out of the courtroom after his double murder trial concluded for the day Wednesday at the Colleton County Courthouse in Walterboro.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### INSIDE TODAY

- BUSINESS 10A
- CLASSIFIEDS 5B-8B
- COMICS 4B
- DAYBREAK 2A
- MARKETS 3B
- OBITUARIES 4A
- SPORTS 1B-2B
- TV LISTING 6A
- VIEWPOINTS 8A

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL



[facebook.com/indexjournal](https://facebook.com/indexjournal)  
[twitter.com/ijindexjournal](https://twitter.com/ijindexjournal)

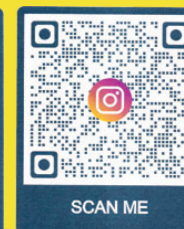
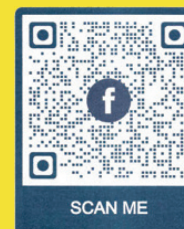


### C & C PULL-A-PART & AUTO SALVAGE

*New Inventory Added Daily*



Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to be the first to know about our weekly specials!



225 WINGERT RD Mon.-Sat. 8am-5pm 864-223-8900

