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groups, the most robust increase occurred among those 13-18, whose daily consumption rose to 37 percent in 2017 from 31 percent in 2016. The 40-59 group showed an 11-point uptick over last year—moving from 53 percent in 2016 to 64 percent in 2017. Those 60+ moved to 68 percent in 2017 from 64 percent last year, while the 25-39 year olds increased from 60 percent to 63 percent, and the 18-24 cohort edged up to 50 percent from 2016's 48 percent.

Electric Cars Could Hurt C-Stores

If drivers of electric cars aren't stopping at gas stations to fill their tanks, the opportunities for impulse purchases inside at the convenience store could dry up, reported the *Washington Post*. That's a real possibility, according to Morgan Stanley analysts who wrote that conven-



ience stores could see a hit to beverage sales as more electric cars hit the road. But experts on the convenience store industry say any substantial threat from electric cars is still decades away. While energy-efficient vehicles may catch on en masse with time, more immediate competition for convenience stores comes from the scores of retailers and online companies vying to sell convenience. "Beverages drive sales, and beverages drive profits at convenience stores, so any competition that could reduce those sales and those profits is a

concern," said Jeff Lenard of the National Association of Convenience Stores. "However, I think that stores will do what

they always do: They'll find a better way to compete."

Energy-Efficient Roller Grills

Creative Serving, a Union, NJ-based manufacturer of retail countertop food service equipment, recently unveiled a new roller grill that utilizes heating elements with significantly lower wattage requirements than the industry norm. Traditional roller grills run heating elements through about 8-15 hollow rollers. However, the heated air continuously escapes from both sides of the hollow rollers, requiring higher wattage heating elements, turned on more often, to maintain needed temperatures. In contrast, Creative Serving's efficient grills seal the ends of hollow rollers. The sealed roller ends prevent the heated air from escaping, and enable significantly lower wattage heating elements, saving up to 20 percent

in energy costs, the company said. **AV**



"Electric cars not stopping to get gas could hurt impulse purchases at c-stores, according to Morgan Stanley analysts."

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