

This is a pdf document!

Different font size

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Finding it an adequate **substitute** for the alcohol she used to consume during an evening of social drinking, local woman Candice Cooper told reporters **Thursday** that an \$18 mocktail helped her satisfy the craving she still had to waste money. “It’s nice to have a drink that gives me that same experience of draining my bank account without having to get drunk,” said Cooper, 39, who sat at a bar in Denver’s South Broadway neighborhood sipping a 6-ounce nonalcoholic apéritif that consisted almost entirely of fruit juice but still allowed her to partake in the ritual of squandering, with tax and tip, well over \$20 on a beverage. “I can’t drink booze the way I could when I was younger, and it’s such a drag to stop in at a bar and only be able to spend \$2.50 on a Diet Coke. Now I don’t have to settle when I go out for drinks with friends—I can blow my paycheck just like everyone else!” At press time, Cooper had declined to give money to a panhandler outside the bar, saying the man would probably just spend it all on artisanal ginger beer or virgin cucumber gimlets.

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1. One
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Numbered list:

- One
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Winning each time the loud, unnerving cackle echoed throughout the room, every patron at local bar Red Finch was heard to breathe a simultaneous sigh of relief Friday after a drunk guy with an obnoxious laugh got interested in his phone. “Oh, thank God, he’s finally distracted—maybe now we

can have a conversation without being interrupted,” said customer Rick Franz, adding that the tension had quickly built up since the loud, oblivious man and his friends entered the bar and proceeded to continually interrupt every conversation in the establishment with his piercing shrieks.

“Look, he just stuck his hand into his pocket, took out his phone, and started typing furiously. Wow, I can finally hear myself think now that I’m not hearing his laugh bounce off the walls every 30 seconds. Oh, this looks serious. Hopefully that shuts him up for the next 10 to 15 minutes.” At press time, patrons had let out a collective groan and begun filing out of the establishment after the man opened his phone, cued up a YouTube video at full volume, and began laughing even louder.