



News Release

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OLCC checks for sales to minors in Deschutes, Gilliam, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman and Umatilla Counties

Bend, OR – The Oregon Liquor Control Commission performed minor sales checks in Madras, Redmond, Terrebonne, Arlington, Boardman, Condon, Heppner, Hermiston, Irrigon, Pendleton, Stanfield and Wasco.

The OLCC checked 13 businesses on Oct. 10 in Jefferson and Northern Deschutes counties with ten businesses passing. The 77 percent passing rate is consistent with the 2007 statewide average of 78 percent.

Six out of 13 businesses in Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman Counties passed the check for alcohol sales to minors. The compliance check was performed by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission as part of a targeted and random compliance check on September 18. The 46 percent passing rate is well below the 2007 state average.

“Some of the businesses in Eastern Oregon were targeted because we suspected they were selling to minors,” said Jason Evers, OLCC Bend Regional Manager. “Still, it’s disheartening to see so many sales in this group. Hopefully, now they know we’re watching and they’ll be more responsible about checking IDs.”

The commission performs the minor sales checks in an effort to reduce drinking by minors, which is a serious problem throughout the state. The OLCC tests about 1,300 licensed liquor businesses each year. Licensees or their employees can be held liable for alcohol-related damages and injuries if they serve or sell alcohol to a minor.

Servers, bartenders and licensees whose employees sell alcohol to the minor or do not verify the minor’s age, are subject to OLCC administrative penalties including fines or suspensions. Store clerks who sell can be cited with criminal charges and a minimum \$350 fine.

Under Oregon law, businesses in cities with a population of 20,000 or more have an equal chance of being randomly selected for a minor decoy compliance check. A business can also be selected for a compliance check if there is a documented complaint of sales to minors. Businesses in cities with a population under 20,000 and unincorporated areas in counties are not subject to these selection requirements.

The OLCC offers a free training course on how to check ID’s. Participants learn how to identify false identification and the laws regarding minors and alcohol. Additional training opportunities are available including classes for store clerks and service permit holders. Interested persons can call the local OLCC office to schedule a training session.

During the sales checks, a minor volunteer attempts to purchase alcohol from a licensed business to see if staff are checking ID’s correctly and refusing to sell alcohol to anyone under 21. Commission inspectors or other law enforcement officers supervise the minor volunteers. The volunteers carry their own legal ID and do not disguise their age or lie to encourage the sale of alcohol.

(more)

Madras/Redmond:

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Mi Casa**, 839 SW Hwy 97, Madras; **The Rainbow Market**, 5829 NW Hwy 26, Madras; **97 Mart**, 776 NE Hwy 97; **Bi-Mart #654**, 1575 SW Hwy 97, Madras; **Huang's Hunan Chinese Restaurant**, 16 NE A St., Madras; **Madras Liquor Store**, 129 SE Fifth St., Madras; **Terrebonne Depot**, 400 Smith Rock Way, Terrebonne; **The Store**, 501 1st St., Culver; **Bi-Mart #641**, 1727 Odem Medo Rd., Redmond and **Avery's**, 420 SW 8th St., Redmond.

The following licensees were tested and failed the compliance check: **Busy Bee Market**, 481 SW 4th St., Madras; **Terrebonne Thriftway**, 8431 11th St. Terrebonne and **Silverado Saloon & Eatery**, 1543 SW Hwy 97, Madras.

Eastern Oregon:

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Pilot Travel Center, #390**, 2115 W. Hwy. 395, Stanfield; **Bucknums**, 152 N. Main, Heppner; **La Serenata Family Mexican Restaurant**, 302 NE Olson Rd., Boardman; **Moose Lodge #2486**, 220 NE 3rd, Irrigon; **Arlington Shell Station**, 100 Beech St., Arlington and **Happy Canyon**, Beech Street, Arlington.

The following licensees were tested and failed the compliance check: **NYE Street Station**, 313 SE NYE St., Pendleton; **Eastside Market**, 582 E. Main St., Hermiston; **Two boys Meat & Groceries**, 301 South Main, Condon; **Wasco Market**, Clark Street, Wasco; **Lean to Goose Pit Saloon**, 13-A Clark Street, Wasco; **Grand Central**, 91558 Biggs-Rufus Hwy, Wasco and **Bakes Restaurant & Lounge**, W Hwy 730, Irrigon.

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Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.