

News Release

Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service

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Four of seven Bend businesses pass OLCC minor sales check

BEND, **Oregon** – During a recent minor sales check by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, four out of seven businesses checked in Bend passed by refusing to sell alcohol to a minor volunteer in a minor compliance check on Feb. 14.

The minor sales compliance checks are statutorily required and are performed statewide as part of the agency's effort to curtail drinking by minors, which is a serious problem throughout the state.

The 57 percent passing rate is below the 2007 statewide average of 78 percent. The OLCC tests about 1,300 licensed liquor businesses annually, in conjunction with a number of police agencies.

The following licensees passed the check by refusing to sell alcoholic beverages to the minor volunteer: Space Age Station in Sisters, The Gallimaufry in Sisters, 7-Eleven Store #2353-20375B in Bend and Quick Way Market in Bend.

The following licensees failed the compliance check: Sisters Mainline Station in Sisters, Juniper Golf Club in Redmond and Westside Texaco Foodmart in Bend.

During the compliance check, the minor volunteer attempts to purchase alcohol from licensees or their employees to determine if they are properly checking identification and obeying state law prohibiting alcohol sales to anyone under 21 years old. The minors are supervised by OLCC inspectors or other law officers, carry their own legal ID and are advised not to disguise their age or encourage the sale of alcohol. The businesses involved in the checks are selected at random through a scientific computer program or have been targeted due to prior alcohol sales to minors.

"Many times it is human error that is to blame," said Jeff Jett, Regional Enforcement Manager for OLCC. "We ask all businesses to please take the time to check ID properly to protect themselves and the public."

Servers and bartenders or licensees whose employees provide alcohol to the minor or fail to verify their age, are subject to OLCC administrative sanctions including fines or license suspensions. Store clerks who sell are subject to criminal charges and at least a \$350 fine.

The OLCC provides a free training course once a month on how to check ID's, identify false identification and the laws regarding minors and alcohol. Additional training opportunities include training for store clerks and service permit holders.