



# News Release

Promoting  
Responsible  
Alcohol  
Sales and  
Service

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## Nine of 12 Umatilla Co. businesses pass OLCC minor sales check

**HERMISTON, Oregon** – During a minor sales check by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, nine out of twelve Umatilla County businesses passed by refusing to sell alcohol to a minor volunteer on Feb. 23.

The 75 percent passing rate is slightly below the 2007 statewide average of 78 percent. The OLCC tests about 1,300 licensed liquor businesses per year, in conjunction with a number of police agencies.

The following licensees passed the check by refusing to sell alcoholic beverages to the minor volunteer: Stanfield's Main Street Market in Stanfield, Denny's Diner in Hermiston, Mercado Los Gavilanes in Hermiston, Safeway Store #444 in Hermiston, Wal-Mart Supercenter #1817 in Hermiston, Western Express in Hermiston, Desert River Restaurant in Umatilla and Pik A Pop #10 in Umatilla.

The following licensees failed the compliance check: Pilot Travel Center #390 in Stanfield, Eastside Market in Hermiston and Pizza Hut in Hermiston.

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

"We can't emphasize enough how important it is to correctly check IDs every time," says Jeff Jett, OLCC Bend Regional Manager. "Someone who sells alcohol to minors could be held responsible for liabilities, death or damages from alcohol-related accidents. This is why we work so hard to enforce the laws that keep minors, license agents and the general public safe."

During compliance checks, a minor volunteer attempts to purchase alcohol from a licensed business to see if the staff are properly checking identification and obeying state law that prohibits alcohol sales to anyone under 21. 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.

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

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