



News Release

Promoting
Responsible
Alcohol
Sales and
Service

9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd. - Portland, Oregon 97222-7355
www.oregon.gov/olcc

For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 1, 2008

For more information:
Christie Scott, 503-872-5002
Katie Hilton, 541-776-6192

Nine of 16 Lake and Klamath County businesses refused to sell alcohol to minors

MEDFORD, Ore. – Nine of 16 businesses in Lake and Klamath County passed an Oregon Liquor Control Commission minor sales check on March 27 by refusing to sell alcohol to a minor.

The 56 percent passing rate is well below the 2007 statewide average of 78 percent. 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.

"I really want to emphasize how important it is to check ID's and make sure you're checking them right," said Katie Hilton, OLCC Medford Regional Manager. "People who sell alcohol to minors could be held responsible for alcohol-related injuries, damages and fatalities."

The following licensees passed the compliance check: Eagles Nest Food & Spirits in Lakeview, Hunter's RV Park in Lakeview, Lakeview Shell in Lakeview, Safeway Store #4316 in Lakeview, Stewarts Marketeria in Lakeview, Blarney Brothers Smoke Emporium in Lakeview, Lakeview Lockers in Lakeview, Five Corners Store in Lakeview and Basso's Bighorn Bar & Grill in Beatty.

The following licensees failed the compliance check: Plush West in Lakeview, Lakeview Liquor Stores in Lakeview, Pit Stop Mini Mart in Bly, Sycan Store in Bly, A.M.A. Mini Mart in Klamath Falls, Madison's Mini Mart & Fuel in Klamath Falls and Albertson's in Klamath Falls.

During the 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 officers supervise the minor volunteers. The volunteers carry their own legal ID and do not disguise their age or encourage the sale of alcohol. The businesses involved in the checks are selected at random by computer or have been targeted due to prior alcohol sales to minors.

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.

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.