



News Release

Promoting
Responsible
Alcohol
Sales and
Service

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Fourteen out of 20 Coos Bay/North Bend businesses passed OLCC Minor Sales Check

COOS BAY, Ore. –The Oregon Liquor Control Commission conducted minor sales checks in North Bend on March 31 and in Coos Bay on April 1.

Ten businesses were checked each night resulting in an 80 percent passing rate in North Bend and 60 percent passing rate in Coos Bay. The 2007 statewide average is 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.

“Research shows that teens who binge drink are much more likely to develop alcohol dependency as adults,” said Katie Hilton, Medford Regional Manager. “We need to make it as difficult as possible for minors to get alcohol. Making sure they can’t get it in a licensed business is just one of the many strategies in place.”

North Bend:

The following North Bend licensees passed the compliance check: Albertson’s #526 at 2121 Newmark, BiMart at 2131 Newmark, Sherman Avenue Market at 2506 Sherman Ave., Coos Head Food Store at 1960 Sherman, Village Chevron at 1300 Virginia, Safeway Store #1557 at 1735 Virginia, Rite Aid #5379 at 2040 Broadway and NB-76 Foodmart at 1780 Sherman.

The following North Bend licensees failed the compliance check: Airport Heights Market at 2750 Virginia and 7-Eleven #2363-1723D at 1988 Virginia.

Coos Bay:

The following Coos Bay licensees passed the compliance check: Fred Meyer at 1020 S. First, Smith’s Bayway Market at 325 S. Broadway, McKay’s Market – Central at 149 S. Central St., Coos Bay Grocery Outlet at 1385 Newmark, Bassett-Hyland Energy Co. at 1059 Evans Blvd. and Wal-Mart Supercenter at 2051 Newmark.

The following Coos Bay licensees failed the compliance check: TNT Market at 899 D Street, Englewood Market at 1434 Southwest Blvd., Bayshore Chevron at 600 N. Bayshore Dr. and Lighthouse Grocery at 705 S. Empire.

The North Bend Police Department participated in the operation under the Partnership for International Research and Education and the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws grants, operating as part of the Coos County Underage Drinking Task Force.

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.