



News Release

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OLCC minor sales checks in Albany, Harrisburg, Independence & Monmouth

SALEM, ORE – The Oregon Liquor Control Commission performed minor sales checks in Albany, Harrisburg, Independence and Monmouth on July 26. Twenty three out of 25 businesses passed by refusing to sell alcohol to a minor volunteer.

In Albany, eight out of eight businesses passed with a 100% compliance rate. In Harrisburg, three out of four businesses passed with a 75% compliance rate. The sales check in Independence and Monmouth resulted in 92% compliance with twelve out of thirteen businesses refusing to sell to the minor volunteer. The combined compliance rate is 92%, which is well above the 2007 statewide average of 78%.

“We’re really happy with the results of these sales checks,” said James Lynch, OLCC Salem Regional Manager. “Studies show that teenage-binge drinking can cause long-term damage to their still developing brain. It’s so important to stop underage drinking before it starts.”

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)

ALBANY:

The following licensees passed the compliance check: **Abby's Legendary Pizza of Albany**, 3033 Santiam Hwy; **Denny's #7835**, 3430 Spicer Rd.; **Fastbreak Market**, 1203 Century Dr. NE; **In & Out Market**, 1737 Salem Ave. SE; **Jacks Truck Stop**, 4196 Santiam Hwy SE; **Pizzamore**, 2212 Santiam Hwy SE; **Tri Valley Food Mart**, 2703 Santiam Hwy SE and **Hickory Pit Barbeque**, 2200 SE Pacific Blvd.

HARRISBURG:

The following licensees passed the compliance check: **GS Market**, 103 S. 3rd St.; **EZ Stop Market & Deli**, 190 N. 3rd St. and **Outfitters Bar & Grill**, 203 Smith St.

The following licensee failed the compliance check: **Harrisburg Liquor**, 294 Smith St., Harrisburg.

INDEPENDENCE AND MONMOUTH:

The following licensees passed the compliance check: **Bi-Mart #646**, 444 S. Pacific Ave., Monmouth; **Circle K Store #873**, 1696 Monmouth St., Independence; **Circle S. Market**, 1082 Monmouth St., Independence; **Jimmyz Independence Gas & Mini Mart**, 178 Monmouth St., Independence; **Kwik Stop Market**, 810 Main St., Independence; **Moothart's Market**, 94 S. Main St., Independence; **Neighborhood Market**, 173 S. Pacific Hwy, Monmouth; **Roth IGA Foodliner**, 1401 Monmouth St., Independence, **Shell Monmouth**, 595 Main St. E., Monmouth; **Walmart #38**, 1737 Monmouth St., Independence; **Mi Casita Market**, 834 Main St., Independence and **Monmouth Market**, 417 E. Main St., Monmouth.

The following licensee failed the compliance check: **Rookies Sports Pub & Eatery**, 380 N. Pacific Ave., Monmouth.

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Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.