78% of Crook, Jefferson county licensees pass OLCC sales check

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Eleven of 14 licensed businesses tested in Crook and Jefferson counties refused to sell alcohol to a minor, passing a recent compliance check conducted by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

These liquor businesses said "no" to the OLCC minor who tried to buy alcohol:

Madras â€“ The Rainbow Market, Warm Springs Star Route;

Powell Butte -- Powell Butte Country Store, 13673 SW Hwy. 126;

Prineville â€“ Barneyâ€™s Vineyards, 386 N. Main St.; Club Pioneer, 1851 E. 3rd St.; Cross Street Station, 1717 NE 3rd St.; Eagles Lodge, 235 E. 4th St.; Ericksonâ€™s Thriftway, 315 W. 3rd St.; Main Station Express, 999 N. Main St.; Pizanno's, 1590 3rd St.; R & R Grocery and Sporting Goods, 940 SE Combs Flat Rd.; The Sandwich Factory, 277 N. Court St.

These businesses sold to the minor:

Prineville -- Pizza Hut, 1505 E. 3rd St.; Debbie Sueâ€™s CafÃ©, 1555 NE 3rd St.; Taco Morales, 1595 E. 3rd St. Store clerks who provide alcohol to the minor are cited into court and face at least a $350 fine. Waiters, servers, bartenders and other OLCC service permit holders face a $250 administrative fine. And business owners â€“ licensees â€“ will be fined up to $1,650 for a first violation, even if the sale is made by an employee.

Two OLCC inspectors and a minor volunteer did the compliance testing June 15 as part of the OLCCâ€™s priority effort to fight underage drinking.

In a compliance test, an underage volunteer attempts to buy 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. 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 OLCC tested about 1,600 licensed liquor businesses in 2006, and a number of police agencies also do compliance checks.

The OLCC offers training to store clerks, service permit holders and others on ID checking, identifying false identification and laws regarding minors and alcohol.

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