

Business

Alcohol compliance checks completed in Cass County

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Alcohol compliance checks were conducted the evenings of Jan. 15 and Feb. 12, on businesses that are licensed to sell alcohol beverages in Cass County.

The checks were coordinated by Working Together: A Coalition for Safe and Healthy Communities along with the Cass County Sheriff's Office, Leech Lake Tribal Police and the City Police Departments of Backus, Longville, Pine River and Walker.

Students from the Central Lakes College Law Enforcement Department assisted as underage buyers. The underage youth entered these businesses and attempted to illegally purchase alcoholic beverages. Six of the businesses that were checked refused to sell to our underage buyers. The efforts of the following businesses are commended for not selling to the underage buyers.

Walker BP

Super One Foods, Walker

Orton's Y Mart, Walker

Y Bottle Shop, Walker

Hoss All American Liquor, Walker

Hackensack Municipal Liquor Store

Longville Lakes Bottle Shop

Remer Municipal Liquor Store

Lone Wolf Trading Post, Remer

Village Inn, Outing

Jerry's Bar and Steakhouse, Boy River

Willard's Saloon & Eatery, Backus

Backus American Legion Post 368, Backus

DJ's Liquor Outlet, Backus

Harriet Club, Backus

Pine River American Legion, Pine River

Trail Break Bar & Grill, Pine River

Holiday, Pine River

Pine River Community Bowl Pine River

Mule Lake Corral, Longville

The six businesses that failed to comply with the law and sold to the underage buyer will be referred to the Cass County Attorney's offices for appropriate action.

Illegal alcohol use by underage people contributes to crime, car crashes, injuries and death. Law enforcement officers find that alcohol also has a role in many of the more frequent minor crimes and nuisances that degrade the quality of life in our community. Many noise complaints, vandalism, littering and similar nuisances involve young people who have been drinking.

Public health officials report that alcohol use and abuse is also connected with teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and other health problems.

Providing alcohol to an underage person is a gross misdemeanor offense punishable by fines up to \$3,000 and up to one year in jail. Typical offenders are fined several hundred dollars.

Those who would like to help with the mission of "keeping the next generation safe and keep alcohol out of the hands of our youth," can contact Kelly Felton, Substance Abuse Prevention coordinator or LeeAnn Sampson, Pine River-Backus ATOD Prevention coordinator, at (218) 587-4292.