



News Advisory

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OLCC discovers illegal winery claiming to be made in Applegate Valley

Jacksonville, Ore. – A Jacksonville man received four criminal citations for operating an illegal winery on February 3. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission issued tickets to Eric Hice, owner of Bella Leah Wine for the sale of alcohol without a license, importing liquor without a license, failure to pay privilege tax, and use of a misleading mark or label.

The OLCC's investigation was in conjunction with the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Hice also faces possible federal charges from the TTB.

Hice's California-made wine was sold under a false label claiming it was manufactured in the Applegate Valley. Several cases of the wine were retailed in Jacksonville.

"It only costs \$250 to get a winery license in Oregon," says Jeff Jett, Medford Regional Manager. "If only this individual had applied for a license, we might have been able to get him up and running legally. Unfortunately, now he's facing criminal charges."

"Oregonians feel good about buying local products," says Jett. "We have many great Southern Oregon wineries who sell their products legally."



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"Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service"

Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than \$343 million to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)