



VENTURA COUNTY



STAR

ALCOHOL SALES

Underage drinking

Re: your Oct. 21 article, "Ventura store loses license to sell alcohol":

I would like to commend those who revoked the alcohol license of the AM/PM; it is a step in the right direction. However, more needs to be done to prevent teens from drinking.

As a high school student, I know a lot about trends among my peers. Something I have noticed is underage drinking. I have heard many of my peers talk about drinking like it is not a big deal.

I think there needs to be more education in schools about how dangerous this trend really is.

It would be best to have teens talking to other teens about alcohol; it is a more powerful message to hear from your peers. That is why I volunteer with Straight Up in Ventura County, an alcohol prevention group. I really think it is more effective for Ventura's youth to teach other teens and their parents about this problem.

Although there is a lot being done to prevent teen drinking, like the social host ordinances and police officers cracking down on stores like AM/PM, there is a lot more that will need to be done if we want to change this culture among Ventura's youth.

— Cate Hurst,
Ventura

Alcohol permits

Re: your Oct. 21 article, "Ventura store loses license to sell alcohol":

The article about the Ventura City Council's action to revoke the alcohol permit of the AM/PM market on Mills Road near Pacific View Mall was positive encouraging news, but is only a small part of a much larger story.

For the last five years, the city has been slowly but steadily tightening up on lax alcohol practices by merchants, and this revocation of an alcohol permit for multiple sales to minors marks the first time in Ventura's history that a deemed approved permit (i.e., a longtime operator "grandfathered" in without a conditional-use permit) has been taken back by the city. I couldn't be more pleased with our council's decision!

Two things need to be said:
1. Congratulations to the police officials who have put teeth into local policy — protecting our kids and our community. 2. Retailers had better take note and play by the rules.

Revoking this permit set a powerful precedent that should be a clear warning that we're watching all operators, including bars and restaurants, to ensure they comply with state and local laws. Our community and our kids deserve nothing less.

— Suz Montgomery,
Ventura