

Regional

State's cigarette tax hike into effect today in stores

SALEM (AP) — Oregon cigarette smokers will have to cough up an extra 8 cents per package at most stores today when an increase in the state's cigarette tax takes effect.

The tax hike, approved this year by the Oregon Legislature, pushes Oregon's cigarette tax to a total of 27 cents a pack.

Meanwhile, the federal government's 16-cent-a-pack cigarette tax was due to be cut to 8 cents as of midnight Monday. But Congress is leaning toward keeping it at 16 cents, though it may not act in time to prevent a short-time drop in the federal tax.

The 8-cent-a-pack state tax hike that takes effect today is the latest of four state or federal increases that have more than doubled smokers' tax bite since 1981.

Cigarette prices now are about \$1.25 a pack and \$8.50 per carton of 10 packs.

With the latest tax hike, the state expects to raise about \$60 million on 319 million packs of cigarettes this year, according to the Legislative Revenue Office. That amount should climb to \$80

million, despite an anticipated drop in sales of about 19 million packs.

Though use of cigarettes has fallen by a third since the first Oregon tax was imposed in 1966, state tax revenue

garnered from the tax are six times what they were then. The first state cigarette tax was 4 cents a pack.

Taxing cigarettes has become an easy and effective way to raise money to balance budgets.

"I think that it wouldn't hurt to keep raising the cigarette tax every session," said state Sen. Rod Monroe, a Portland Democrat who chairs the Senate Revenue Committee.

Monroe, who has a well-publicized distaste for smoking, said other legislators might want to wait a session or two before raising the tax again.

But he said the cigarette tax is the easiest source of increased tax revenue.

"It's politically acceptable, because it was the only tax the people have ever voted to raise," Monroe said, referring to a 1972 statewide vote in which Oregonians raised the tax by 5 cents a pack.

New state juvenile law frustrates area officials

EUGENE (AP) — Area police officials are concerned about a new state law they say is tying their hands and preventing them from detaining runaway children.

They say the law, which took effect Sept. 20, is effectively permitting such children to remain on the streets.

Eugene police, Springfield police and Oregon State Police now are not sending officers to investigate sightings of reported runaways because once they contact the runaway they have no power to detain the child, police officials said.

Causing the confusion among local law enforcement agencies is SB300, which spells out rules that police and juvenile authorities must follow in placing and keeping juveniles in detention.

The law prohibits detention centers from taking custody of runaways unless they have been charged with a crime, have fled state training schools or institutions or are from out of state.

Runaway juveniles, also can be taken into custody if their welfare or the welfare of others may be "im-

mediately endangered" by the child being released.

Beyond that, the law gives little power to authorities to handle the so-called "status offender," the runaway who has left home and is simply wandering around a community, local police and juvenile authorities said.

"The old law used to entitle law enforcement officials to detain a child who was a runaway. When they retooled the statute, they actually removed the status offender," said Lane County Circuit Judge Pierre Van Rysselberghe, who handles juvenile cases.

"Ultimately, my fear is it's going to make it very difficult for concerned parents to track down their runaway children," said Chuck Ryer, a supervisor at the Skipworth Juvenile Home in Eugene, which has admitted 258 runaways since Jan. 1 of this year.

Some runaways are fleeing bad home environments; others have less crucial reasons to run. But police agree that on the streets, runaways come into contact with an undesirable element.

emu Food Service

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8am-11pm Sat
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The Deli

Open: 10:30am - 7pm M - Sat.
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At the Deli you can make your own sandwiches from a wide selection of meats and cheeses. Also vegetarian sandwiches, BBQ sandwiches, pizzas and salads are available. Pastries, bagels, croissants, juices, soft drinks, ice cream, coffee, tea, yogurt, chips, fresh fruit and other snacks can be found at the beverage bar.



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for students on their way!
Breeze in - Take out!

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from 8am to 2pm

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from 8am to 2pm



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Grill Breakfast
7am - 11am
Grill Lunch
11am - 2pm

The grill features breakfast prepared just the way you like it. Also, fresh fruit, pastries and beverages. Our cafeteria features daily lunch specials with salad bar, BBQ, hamburgers, Mexican food, soups, chili, and desserts.

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Picnics, Bulk food orders, Buffets
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Open for Lunch: 10:30am to 2pm
Coffee & Pastries: 5-10pm

COME ON UP!