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Cost of smoking going up

Federal taxes on tobacco products will go up April 1 but some retailers raised prices this month to prevent stockpiling of cheaper cigarettes.

The Tulsa World reports the 62-cent per pack increase will generate an annual revenue of \$32.8 billion and will pay for an expansion of children's health care coverage. The cost of home rollers is going up dramatically, too.

Studies show tobacco use is price sensitive. For every 10 percent rise in price, four percent of smokers quit. For younger smokers, that figure rises to 7 percent.

Price is a great motivator but it takes a long-term commitment to personal health and quality of life to make smoking cessation work.

Meanwhile, on the weekend before the higher tax kicks in, local teenagers will pick up cigarette butts at Norman's Reaves Park. Sponsors are the Cleveland County Turning Point/Tobacco Free Cleveland County Coalition and Students Working Against Tobacco.