

NEWS RELEASE

June 27, 2016

For immediate release.

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92% Tobacco Check Compliance Rate in the Panhandle is a Positive for Youth

The Nebraska State Patrol conducted checks of underage tobacco retail compliance as part of the Tobacco Free in the Panhandles comprehensive plan to keep youth from starting to use tobacco products. Officers with the assistance of youth under the age of 18 checked 50 convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the Counties of Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes and Sheridan. Of the 50 establishments, 46 did not sell tobacco to the underage person. However, four businesses did sell them tobacco.

The businesses that failed were:

- Two J's Liquor, 1500 Illinois Street, Sidney. Third, fail in the past 24 months.
- Fresh Start Convenience Store, 610 East 3rd St, Alliance.
- Western Convenience Store, 440 East Illinois, Sidney.
- Mc Carter's Self Services, 105 S 1st St, Hay Springs.

The Panhandle Prevention Coalition congratulates the following businesses and employees for not selling tobacco to the underage person and encourages you to support these businesses.

- Cheyenne County: BP Amoco, Family Dollar, Git 'N Spit, Loves Travel Stop, Safeway, Sapp Brothers, Sonny's Super Foods, Smoker Friendly, the Post, Walmart, Wilkinson Conoco Travel Plaza.
- Box Butte County: Dollar General, J & J Pit Stop, Martha's Westco, Maverick's, Nick's Gas and Liquor, Safeway, Westco Video.
- Dawes County: Big Bat's, D & S Market, Dollar General, Common Cents Store, Cheema's, Pine Ridge Service Center, Pump & Pantry, Saddlerock One Stop, Walmart, Westco.
- Sheridan County: Arrowhead Foods, Arrowhead Inn, Barrel House Liquor, Bosselman Pump and Pantry, Dollar General, Grocery Mart, Highway Express, Ideal Market, Jumping Eagle Inn, Sanford Holding, State Line Liquor.

"National research shows that when communities consistently conduct compliance checks and keep failure rates below 10%, children in those communities are less likely to use tobacco products," stated Tabi Prochazka, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator with Panhandle Public Health District.

Training for alcohol and tobacco retailers is available quarterly at locations throughout the Panhandle. This training, sponsored by Panhandle Prevention Coalition and Nebraska State Patrol, provides individuals entrusted with the responsibility of serving alcohol or selling tobacco with strategies to avoid illegally selling to underage youth or intoxicated patrons. Responsible Beverage Server Training is available for free to retail merchants, owners, and employees across the Panhandle. The next training is on July 19. For more information on the retailer's trainings, go to <http://www.panhandlepartnership.com/training-academy.html>.

Funding for Tobacco Free in the Panhandle is provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

For additional information visit www.pphd.org/tfn.html or call Tabi Prochazka, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-487-3600 ext 107 or toll free at 866-701-7173. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.