

NEWS RELEASE

August 5, 2013

For immediate release

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Four Chadron Businesses Fail Recent Compliance Checks

The Nebraska State Patrol conducted checks of underage tobacco 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 10 convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the city of Chadron in June. Of the 10 establishments, 6 did not sell tobacco to the underage person. However, four businesses did sell them tobacco.

The businesses that failed were:

- Lariat Liquor, 341 W Third St. Second fail within one year.
- Feik's 120, 120 W Second St. Second fail within one year.
- Common Cents, 301 Main St.
- Favorite Bar, 155 Main St.

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: Big Bat's, Cheema's Gas and Liquor, Pump and Pantry, Safeway Stores, Wal-Mart, Dollar General.

"A failure rate of 40% raises concerns showing us there continues to be a need for education and training," stated Tabi Prochazka, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator. "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."

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 September 7th. For more information on the retailer's trainings, go to www.pphd.org/tfnChecks.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.