

NEWS RELEASE

April 17, 2015

For immediate release

For more information, contact: *Tabi Prochazka*, 308-487-3600, ext107 or 866-701-7173

Two Businesses Fail Recent Compliance Checks

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 10 convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the cities of Sidney and Kimball in March. Of the 10 establishments, 8 did not sell tobacco to the underage person. However, two businesses did sell them tobacco.

The businesses that failed were:

- Two J's Liquor, 1500 Illinois Street, Sidney. Second fail in the past 12 months.
- Woody's Liquor & Sporting Goods, 208 E 3rd Street, Kimball.

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: The Post, Safeway, and Git'N Split in Sidney and Kwik Stop, Main Street Market, Sportsman's Liquor, Vince's Corner and Dollar General in Kimball.

"A failure rate of 20% raises concerns and shows 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 April 30th. 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.