

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Three Sidney 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 9 convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the city of Sidney in August. Of the 9 establishments, 6 did not sell tobacco to the underage person. However, three businesses did sell them tobacco.

The businesses that failed were:

- The Sip, 1219 Arthur. Third fail in three years.
- Sonny's Super Foods, 2020 10th Avenue.
- Sapp Brothers, 2419 Upland Parkway.

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: Git n' Split, Shamrock BP Amoco, Two J's Liquor, Wilkinson Sidney Conoco, Smoker Friendly, Family Dollar.

"A failure rate of 33% 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.