

# NEWS RELEASE

**Panhandle**

Public Health District

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For immediate release

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## **In recent alcohol compliance checks 100% of establishments did not sell alcohol to minors.**

The Nebraska State Patrol conducted alcohol compliance checks as part of the Panhandle Prevention Coalition's comprehensive plan to prevent youth from starting alcohol use. Officers with the assistance of youth under the age of 18, completed sixteen checks including convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout Box Butte County.

All sixteen establishments that were checked did not sell alcohol to minors. The efforts of these sixteen responsible businesses are commended:

- KC's Short Stop – 2420 Box Butte Ave., Alliance
- Yesway – 610 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Safeway 549 – 500 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Nick's Gas and Liquor – 224 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Alliance Grocery Kart – 207 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Git N Split – 611 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Kloch Liquor – 301 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Gathering Spot – 213 Box Butte Ave., Alliance
- Pizza Hut of Alliance – 1239 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Terry's Corner – 1639 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Maverick #502 – 1640 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- J&J's Pit Stop – 1308 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Sam & Louie's New York Pizzeria – 1313 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Ken & Dale's Restaurant – 123 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance
- Mi Ranchito – 930 Flack Ave, Alliance
- Wonderful Kitchen – 930 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Alliance

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 will be held April 13, 2022; visit <http://www.panhandlepartnership.com/training-academy.html> for further details.

Please help us keep the next generation safe; keep alcohol out of the hands of our youth.

Illegal alcohol use by underage persons contributes to crime, car crashes, injuries, and deaths. Law enforcement officers find that alcohol also has a role in many of the more frequent minor crimes and nuisances that degrade the quality of life in our community. Many noise complaints, vandalism, littering, and similar nuisances involve young people who have been drinking. Public health officials report that alcohol use and abuse are also connected with teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other health problems.

We have learned that the community and our youth are safer and healthier when they do not start using alcohol until after age 21. In Nebraska, providing alcohol to minors is a Class I misdemeanor. Adults who provide alcohol to minors can spend up to a year in jail, receive a \$1000 fine or both.

The Panhandle Prevention Coalition (PPC) is a part of the Panhandle Partnership. We are a regional coalition united together by passion and dedication to make residents of western Nebraska healthy and safe across their lifespan. Our purpose is to reduce the impact of substance use and abuse including underage drinking, binge drinking, drinking and driving, tobacco use, drug use, and prescription drug abuse while promoting and supporting mental and emotional health for all in the Panhandle. This work is supported in whole or part, by federal or state funds received from Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services Division of Behavioral Health, and the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), including Grant #93.243 under the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success Grant. The Tobacco Free Nebraska Program also supports the PPC as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

For additional information, visit [panhandlepreventioncoalition.org](http://panhandlepreventioncoalition.org) or call Chris Fankhauser, Panhandle Prevention Coalition Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-487-3600 ext 102. 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.