

NEWS RELEASE

Panhandle

Public Health District

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For immediate release.

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Twenty-Four Establishments Did Not Sell Tobacco to Minors

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

All twenty-four establishments that were checked did not sell tobacco to minors. The efforts of these twenty-four responsible businesses are commended:

- Nick's Gas & Liquor- 224 E 3rd Street, Alliance
- Cenex Westco- 705 Wyoming Avenue, Hemingford
- Raben Foods- 814 Box Butte Avenue, Hemingford
- J & J Pitstop- 1308 W 3rd, Alliance
- Dollar General #8755- 1325 W 3rd, Alliance
- Westco Main- 724 W 3rd Street, Alliance
- Git N' Split- 611 W 3rd, Alliance
- Kloch's Liquor- 301 W 3rd, Alliance
- Grocery Kart- 207 E 3rd, Alliance
- Safeway Store #549- 500 E 3rd Street, Alliance
- Martha's Westco- 1000 E 3rd Street, Alliance
- Dollar General- #7534- 713 Flack Avenue, Alliance
- K-C's Short Stop- 2420 Box Butte Avenue, Alliance
- The Gathering Spot- 213 Box Butte Avenue, Alliance
- Maverick #549- 500 E 3rd Street, Alliance
- Terry's Westco- 1639 W 3rd Street, Alliance
- Bayard Tiger Paws- 144 Main Street, Bayard
- Dollar General- 308 Main Street, Bayard
- Trading Post- S Main Highway 385, Bridgeport
- Panhandle Co-op- 102 W 5th Street, Bridgeport
- Dollar General- 319 Main Street, Bridgeport
- Sonny's Super Foods- 310 Main Street, Bridgeport
- Thrifty's Gas & Liquor- 102 N Highway 385, Bridgeport
- Lee's Service- JCT Highway 385 & 26, Bridgeport

"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 Jessica Davies, 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 to be determined for Spring 2021. 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 Janelle Visser, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-487-3600 ext 105 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.