

NEWS RELEASE

Panhandle **Public Health District**

April 30, 2019

For immediate release.

For more information, contact: *Chelsy Schneringer, 308-487-3600 ext. 104*

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 forty-six checks including convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the Counties of Scottsbluff, Dawes, and Box Butte.

Forty-one of the forty-six establishments checked, did not sell tobacco to minors. The efforts of these forty-one responsible businesses are commended:

- Dermers – 1311 East Overland, Scottsbluff
- The Watering Hole – 121 West 27th Street, Scottsbluff
- The Liquor Cabinet – 817 West 27th Street, Scottsbluff
- Dollar General – 918 West 27th Street, Scottsbluff
- Big Bats – 902 West Overland, Scottsbluff
- Cheemas Gas & Liquor – 2002 Ave I, Scottsbluff
- WTT – 822 S Beltline, Scottsbluff
- Smoker Friendly – 118 South Beltline, Scottsbluff
- Valley Gas & Liquor – 2055 10th Street, Gering
- Dollar General – East Overland, Scottsbluff
- Cigarette Chain – 323 East Overland, Scottsbluff
- Loaf N Jug – 2015 10th Street, Gering
- Pony Express Station – 675 South Kimball Ave, Gering
- Midwest Vapers World – 12 East 17th Street, Scottsbluff
- Cyclone Express Mart – 2648 North 10th Street, Gering
- K&S Vapor – 265 Main Street, Chadron
- Mad Hatter Vapor – 503 East 3rd Street, Alliance
- Safeway 549 – 500 East 3rd Street, Alliance
- Yesway – 610 East 3rd Street, Alliance
- Dollar General – 713 Flack Ave, Alliance
- K-C's Short Stop – 2420 Box Butte Ave, Alliance
- Nicks Gas & Liquor – 224 East 3rd Street, Alliance
- Git N Split – 611 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- Westco – 724 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- J&J Pit Stop – 1308 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- Terry's Corner – 1639 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- Dollar General – 1325 West 3rd Street, Alliance

- The Gathering Spot – 213 Box Butte Ave, Alliance
- Martha's Westco – 1000 East 3rd Street, Alliance
- Dollar General – 602 Hwy 385, Chadron
- Safeway – 230 Morehead Street, Chadron
- D & S Market – 202 Main Street, Crawford
- Maverik 501 – 1207 W Hwy 20, Chadron
- Cenex C Store – 1120 7th Street, Crawford
- Dollar General – 3485 Hwy 20, Crawford
- Saddlerock One Stop – 3481 Hwy 20, Crawford
- Walmart – 510 Linden Street, Chadron
- Cheemas Gas & Liquor – 855 W 3rd Street, Chadron
- Big Bats – 1250 W Hwy 20, Chadron
- Common Cents Food Store – 301 W Main Street, Chadron
- Lariat Liquor – 341 W 3rd Street, Chadron

Regrettably, five of the businesses checked failed to comply with the law and sold to the underage buyers. These businesses have been notified and appropriate action has been taken:

- Git N Split– 506 West 27th Street, Scottsbluff
- 5th and Eastco – 503 East Overland, Scottsbluff
- Klochs Liquor – 301 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- Maverick 502 – 1640 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- Pump & Pantry 12 – 276 Mears Street, Chadron

"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 is on June 5, 2019. 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 Jessica Davies, Tobacco Free in the Panhandle Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-487-3600 ext 101 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.