

NEWS RELEASE

Panhandle

Public Health District

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For immediate release.

For more information, contact: **Missie Payne, Community Educator-PPC Coordinator 308-203-1298**

In recent alcohol compliance checks 95% 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 forty-four checks including convenience stores, grocery stores and liquor stores throughout the Counties of Sheridan, Dawes, Garden, and Cheyenne.

Forty-two of the forty-four establishments that were checked did not sell alcohol to minors. The efforts of these forty-two responsible businesses are commended:

- Bean Broker Coffee House and Pub – 202 W 2nd Street, Chadron
- Ridgeview County Club- 16611 HWY 385, Chadron
- King Pin Lanes- 101 E Orin Street, Gordon
- Sidetracks Liquor- 100 S Main Street, Gordon
- Sackers- 105 S 1st Street, Hay Springs
- Barrel House Liquor- 215 W Highway 20, Rushville
- Lariat Liquor- 425 W 3rd Street, Chadron
- Cheema's Gas and Liquor- 855 W 3rd Street, Chadron
- The Silver Dollar- 124 N Main Street, Hay Springs
- Two J's- 1500 Illinois Street, Sidney
- S & S- 207 W Avenue A, Oshkosh
- Wild's Bar & Grill- 216 W 2 Street, Chadron
- Favorite Bar- 155 Main Street, Chadron
- Pump & Pantry 34- 101 W Highway 20, Gordon
- Pump & Pantry 36- 220 W Highway 20, Rushville
- Alta Convenience #6232- 440 E Illinois Street, Sidney
- Love's Travel Stop #625- 645 Chase Drive, Sidney
- The Post- 1020 Old Post Road, Sidney
- Fat Dogs Sidney- 3070 Silverberg Drive, Sidney
- Sonny's Super Foods- 2020 10th Avenue, Sidney
- Git N' Split- 1145 Illinois Street, Sidney
- Git N' Split- 1912 10th Avenue, Sidney
- Oregon Trail Trading Post- 20120 Highway 26, Lewellen
- Kwik Stop 10- 109 W Avenue A, Oshkosh

- Big Bat's- 1250 W Highway 20, Chadron
- Highway Express 2- 101 E US Highway 20, Gordon
- Pump & Pantry 12- 276 Mears Street, Chadron
- Maverik #501- 1211 W Highway 20, Chadron
- Common Cents Food Store- 301 W Main Street, Chadron
- Yoba's Tavern- 136 S Main Street, Rushville
- Pizza Hut of Gordon-100 E US Highway 20, Gordon
- Fuel Grill- 220 N Main, Gordon
- West 20 China House- 1240 W Highway 20, Chadron
- CK of Chadron- 1250 W 10th Street, Chadron
- Helens & The Grove- 950 W Highway 20, Chadron
- The Ridge- 164 Main Street, Chadron
- Ideal Market- 710 E 2nd Street, Rushville
- Grocery Mart- 228 N Main Street, Gordon
- Safeway 2555- 1944 Illinois Street, Sidney
- Walmart 5170- 3001 Silverberg Drive, Sidney
- Gordon Super Foods- 401 W Highway 20, Gordon
- Safeway 2563- 230 Morehead Street, Chadron

Regrettably, two 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:

- Oshkosh Superette- 101 E Avenue A, Oshkosh
- City S Liquors Discount Beer Wine- 319 Beech Street, Chadron

Responsible Beverage Server Training is available for free to retail merchants, owners, and employees across 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. This training may be attended remotely. The next training is to be determined for Spring 2021. For more information on the retailer's trainings, go to <http://www.panhandlepartnership.com/training-academy.html>.

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 is made up of a group of coalitions united by our passion and dedication to making residents of western Nebraska healthy and safe across the 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 or call Missie Payne, Panhandle Prevention Coalition Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-203-1298. 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.