

NEWS RELEASE

Panhandle

Public Health District

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For immediate release.

For more information, contact: *Janelle Visser 308-487-3600 ext. 105*

100% of 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 sixteen checks including convenience stores, grocery stores, and liquor stores throughout Kimball, Morrill, and Box Butte Counties.

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

- Vince's Corner - 100 E 3rd St., Kimball
- D&J Liquor Woody's – 208 E 3rd St., Kimball
- Kwik Stop #14 – 230 S Chestnut St., Kimball
- Dollar General #7718 – 215 W 2nd St., Kimball
- Main Street Market – 815 E 3rd St., Kimball
- Phoenix Conoco – 1700 S Hwy 71, Kimball
- Sportsman Liquor – 111 W 2nd St., Kimball
- Bayard Tiger Paws – 144 Main Street, Bayard
- Dollar General – 308 Main Street, Bayard
- Trading Post – S Main Hwy 385, Bridgeport
- Dollar General – 319 Main St., Bridgeport
- Panhandle Coop – 102 W 5th St., Bridgeport
- Sonny's Super Foods – 310 Main St., Bridgeport
- Thrifty's Gas & Liquor – 102 N Hwy 385, Bridgeport
- Cenex Westco – 705 Wyoming Ave., Hemingford
- Raben Foods – 814 Box Butte Ave., Hemingford

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

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.