



Guymon DAILY HERALD

Youth volunteers make tobacco compliance visits

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Area youth volunteers recently assisted the Northwest Center for Behavioral Health with “Reward Reminder Visits,” also known as Tobacco Compliance Checks for Texas County communities.

According to Prevention Coordinator Ashley Ferguson, stores where tobacco products are sold in Guymon, Hooker, Tyrone and Texhoma were visited randomly by volunteers, under the age of 18, who attempted to purchase tobacco.

These Reward Reminder Visits are not prosecutable, however, are considered a “trial run” for regular tobacco checks by Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Law Enforcement (ABLE) Commission Agents. All compliance check data is reported to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Prevention Services.

Ferguson reported, all stores visited asked the volunteer for their ID, did not sell them tobacco and were personally thanked by the Regional Prevention Coordinator (RPC) staff.

“If the clerk proceeds to attempt to sell to the minor, the RPC staff person informs them that they are illegally selling tobacco to a youth who is underage,” Ferguson said. “If the clerk requests an ID and refuses a sale, they are praised by the staff member and given a card thanking them for not selling to a minor.”

Regardless of the outcome, the store’s manager is notified with the clerk’s name and result.

Ferguson added, the retailers who refused sales to minors and deserve commendation for a job well done were:

- Guymon - Adolph’s Convenience Store, Walmart, United Supermarket, Kent Kwik and Loves Country Store
- Texhoma - Taylor Food Mart and Texhoma Grocery
- Hooker - Love’s Travel Stop
- Tyrone - Shell Food Mart