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Excise Police Issue 93 Tickets as Students Return to Ball State

MUNCIE, Ind. (Aug. 28) – Indiana State Excise Police officers issued 93 tickets in Muncie this weekend, as Ball State University students returned to campus for the new school year.

Excise officers arrested 70 people on 93 charges while patrolling on and around the Ball State campus Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, excise officers arrested 26 people on 31 charges. Twenty-one minors between the ages of 18 and 20 were issued tickets for minor in possession of alcohol and various traffic violations.

Andrew Mark Cunningham, 20, was jailed after officers observed him in possession of alcohol near the intersection of Locust and Abbott. Cunningham fled from officers, who apprehended him after a short foot chase. He was charged with fleeing law enforcement, public intoxication and minor in possession of alcohol.

Two adults were issued tickets for furnishing alcohol to a minor and a traffic violation.

On Saturday, excise officers arrested 45 people on 62 charges.

Forty-two minors were arrested for minor in possession of alcohol, public intoxication, fleeing law enforcement, false informing, possession of false ID, open container violation, entering a liquor store and various traffic violations. Three adults were arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Excise Police and Ball State Police also conducted an underage drinking party investigation at 1208 W. Bethel in Muncie. As a result, three juveniles and 17 minors were arrested for possession of alcohol. Two adults who lived at the residence were issued summonses for furnishing alcohol to minors.

All persons arrested, except juveniles, will have court dates in Muncie City Court.

The Indiana State Excise Police, who worked with Ball State University Police, Muncie Police and the Delaware County Sheriff's Department this weekend, will continue to be an enforcement presence in Delaware County.

"The increased presence of State Excise Police officers is essential to ensuring the safety of all students and adults on and around campus," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "The State Excise Police will continue its effort to ensure the safety of everyone in college communities by enforcing the underage drinking laws and other laws that regulate the access of alcohol to minors."

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. Excise officers enforce all state laws, but focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related violations.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.