



Indiana State Excise Police News Release

302 West Washington Street, Room E112 ~ Indianapolis, IN 46204
Telephone: (317) 232-2469 ~ Fax: (317) 233-6114
www.in.gov/atc

For Immediate Release

Contact Person:

Officer Travis Thickstun
tthickstun@atc.in.gov
(317) 232-2469

Excise Police Arrest Woman for Large Alcohol Theft, Cite Bar

New Albany, Ind. (July 22, 2011) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested a woman for theft after a week-long investigation into reports that she had been stealing alcoholic beverages from Kroger stores and selling them, including to bars in Jeffersonville and Louisville, Ky.

Excise Officers Christopher Strouse and Corbin Smith arrested Theresa D. Lowe of Jeffersonville at Kroger, 200 New Albany Plaza, Thursday afternoon on preliminary charges of theft (Class D Felony) and criminal trespass (Class A Misdemeanor) after she stole alcohol and other items totaling approximately \$543.68. The arrest was the result of a joint investigation between excise police and Kroger loss prevention personnel into a string of recent thefts of alcohol and other items taken from area Kroger stores by the same suspect.

Lowe's charge of criminal trespass stems from a theft case at Kroger in Clarksville on March 3, 2011, when she signed a no-trespass form after being stopped for allegedly taking approximately \$159.43 worth of merchandise. Since March, officers estimate that Lowe may have taken about \$3,000.00 in alcohol and other items from area Kroger stores.

After arresting Lowe Thursday afternoon, Officers Strouse and Smith continued their investigation at R&R Bar and Grill, 1702 Spring Street, Jeffersonville, where they located and seized 21 bottles of liquor taken from Kroger and other stores. The bar's owner indicated that he paid Lowe about \$20.00 for each bottle of liquor. R&R Bar was cited for four violations: purchasing alcohol from unauthorized source, receiving stolen property, no employee permit and record of employee permit required.

Excise police officers work with alcohol and tobacco businesses, like Kroger stores, on a regular basis to enforce the state's alcohol and tobacco statutes, as well as provide training programs to store employees. Yesterday's investigation is one example of how a cooperative relationship between the excise police and alcoholic beverage industry produces results.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana's alcohol and tobacco statutes.