

10 cited in underage compliance operation in Mansfield

At one of every seven Mansfield retail locations Monday, clerks flunked a real-life test of their compliance with the laws that ban underage people from buying alcohol or tobacco.

Ten people were issued summonses as a result, METRICH enforcement unit commander Ken Coontz said.

Members of the Mansfield Police Special Investigations Unit, Richland County Sheriff's office and Lexington Police Department, along with staff members from Community Action for Capable Youth, conducted an alcohol and tobacco sales compliance operation Monday.

People under the age of 21 were taken to 73 bars or retail establishments, where they attempted to buy alcohol or tobacco products.

Three employees sold some type of alcoholic beverage, five sold a tobacco product and two sold both types of products to the underage customers, Coontz said. The 10 who were cited will be required to appear in Mansfield Municipal Court or Shelby Municipal Court.

Those who were cited, and locations where they were working, according to METRICH, were Jesse Kershner, Duke Station, Shelby; Thomas Pfahler, Shell Station, Shelby; Mohammed Al-Jabi, Sunshine Market, Ashland Road; Amanda Cornell, Duke station on Park Avenue East; Zach Zappone, Matt's Marathon; Sheryl Teeters, Marathon at Woodville and South Diamond Street; Abigail Lamp, Los Arriero's, Lexington; Christopher Doane, Beer Dock, Shelby; Deanna Buchanan, Valero, 750 Lexington Ave.; and Amber Durfee, That One Place, 390 Orange St.

In the alcohol-related cases, the Ohio Investigative Unit will review whether the liquor permit holder at the location should be cited, METRICH officials said.

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