

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/15/15 – 3/28/15**

DISTRICT 1

CO Brian Lasanen located an abandoned vehicle in Ontonagon County and determined the vehicle was stolen. The Ontonagon Sheriff's Department had handled the original complaint; the vehicle was then turned over to the Sheriff's Department.

CO Brian Lasanen reported contacting several ORVs that were operating with no ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen checked an angler fishing on a large Gogebic County lake. The angler was fishing with more than three lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman contacted an angler fishing on a secluded Marquette County lake. CO Leadman had watched the subject fish and catching fish. The subject stated that he had a fishing license and had just misplaced it. A license check revealed that the subject had never purchased a Michigan fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dennis Gast reported a high volume of snowmobile activity on the west end of the U.P. and throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. CO Gast reported contacting many snowmobiles with trail permit and registration violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was able to catch up to a suspect in a trapping case he had been working. Illegal snares and ground sets were located and tracked back to a nearby camp owner. An interview with the camp owner led to a confession regarding ownership of the traps along with determining the suspect had not purchased a fur harvester license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

While working the closing day of walleye season on Little Bay De Noc, CO Rob Freeborn was surprised to see only a handful of anglers enjoying the nice day. Overall compliance was good but he did run across a few anglers with no ORV licenses, riding double and with no helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Rob Freeborn, Mike Hammill, Robert Crisp, Mike Evink and Jon Busken assisted the Alger County Sheriff's Department along with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Liquor Control Commission and US Forest Service on search warrants executed on a local business and residence. The teams located illegal drugs and paraphernalia along with firearms in possession by a felon. The Alger County Sheriff's Department is seeking warrants on the incident.

COs Rob Freeborn and Mike Evink were out on Big Bay De Noc near Garden Bay when they discovered an ice shack that had been frozen into the ice and it appeared that the owner tore it down leaving everything scattered all over the ice. The COs were able to find a partial name on the broken pieces of shack. COs unsuccessfully attempted to locate the owner. A few days later the officers returned to the site and observed that the remains of the shack had been partially burned, leaving the same amount of garbage as before. This time the COs were able to locate the suspect at his residence. The suspect stated that he had been meaning to get back out there and pick everything up. A ticket was issued for litter and the suspect was warned that the remaining pieces of shack needed to be off by March 31 or additional tickets would be issued. Ice shanties that are abandoned become severe marine navigation hazards to boating operators once the ice melts.

While on a group patrol on Lake Superior in Munising COs Jared Ferguson, Mike Evink, Jerry Fitzgibbon, Rob Freeborn and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel, located an angler who stated he did not have his fishing license on him and thought he left it at home, but was sure he bought one. After a quick check of the computer, it was determined the subject hadn't purchased a license in three years. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Evink and Rob Freeborn were following up on a littering and ice shack complaint in Garden Bay. The two officers documented the litter issues and decided to check an additional shack nearby. The two officers located an unattended tip-up set below the second shack. The officers then returned to the first shack, dealt with the litter issues and informed the subject about additional issues that needed to be taken care of. While the officers were sitting in front of the first subject's house, an ORV drove past the officers. The driver of the ORV did not have a helmet on and did not have an ORV license. He was also pulling a trailer load of wood down the state highway. The COs contacted the subject, took enforcement action and then followed up on the set line. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jerrold Fitzgibbon, Jared Ferguson, and Rob Freeborn patrolled Little Bay De Noc on Friday the last weekend of March. They were looking for any "litter" or "problem" shacks that might be left behind. Almost no litter was observed and only one permanent ice shack still remained on the ice before the March 31st deadline for removal. It did, however contain two set lines. The COs were able to follow up on the violation later in the day when they made contact with the shack owner riding his ORV on the county road near his residence. His driving privileges had been revoked for many years. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. John Wenzel spoke to a group of Boy Scouts about the job of a Conservation Officer. The group had many questions about the job and law enforcement work. The presentation helps the scout towards earning one of their badges.

Acting Sgt. John Wenzel taught the law enforcement section at a hunter safety class of about 35 children.

While on patrol CO Jon Busken was dispatched to a house fire where children were still inside the residence. The Mackinac County Sheriff's Deputies, Michigan State Police (MSP) and several fire departments responded as well. Everyone was evacuated safely.

CO Jon Busken contacted a suspect who recently had a misdemeanor warrant authorized for angler harassment. The suspect was cooperative and CO Busken was able to collect bond in lieu of lodging him in the Mackinac County Jail. A court date is scheduled for next month in regard to the charges.

CO Bobby Watson was patrolling a local lake for fishing activity and contacted a husband and wife fishing. Upon asking the wife if she had a fishing license, she said she always leaves her purse at home and didn't have her license with her. Further investigation revealed that the woman had not purchased a fishing license since 2008. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill was catching up on paperwork in his patrol vehicle when he witnessed a snowmobiler disregard a stop sign and come to a sliding stop in the middle of a very busy county road. Without looking down the road for oncoming traffic the operator of the snowmobile, still stopped, focused his attention behind him looking for his snowmobiling partners. CO Hammill raced to get the snowmobiler out of the roadway before an accident occurred. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill was contacted by the Luce County Sheriff's Department regarding an injured moose that had been struck by a semi-truck. The two year old cow moose was dispatched due to the injuries sustained in the accident. The meat was salvaged and donated to a local food bank.

CO Brett Gustafson investigated a complaint of trees being tapped for maple sap on State Land. After checking the area on several occasions, CO Gustafson located two individuals emptying sap from the bottles attached to the trees. The subjects were unaware it is illegal to tap trees on state land.

DISTRICT 3

CO Brad Bellville received a complaint of animal parts being left in a rental house after the last tenants vacated the property. CO Bellville located deer legs and other animal parts, and determined the last tenants did not have any hunting licenses. COs Bellville and Mark DePew contacted the tenants and obtained a confession to shooting the deer without a license. The officers are continuing to follow up on information and will be submitting a warrant request through the prosecutor's office.

COs Brad Bellville and Paul Fox were patrolling when they witnessed a vehicle operating at a high rate of speed and swerving on the road. The officers activated their emergency lights and the driver drove through a stop sign and attempted to hide in the

back yard of a nearby residence. When the driver was contacted he was found to have a suspended driver's license and was in possession of an open bottle of alcohol and marijuana. The driver was arrested and lodged for his violations.

CO Mark DePew received information that during the 2014 firearm deer season a hunter had shot an eight point buck prior to purchasing a license. CO DePew contacted the hunter and received a confession for shooting the deer without a license. CO DePew then went to a local taxidermist and seized the antlers. Charges are being sought with the prosecutor's office.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of a man walking down a road with a gun. CO DePew contacted the individual and was told that he was squirrel hunting and had gotten one squirrel. CO DePew advised the hunter the season had closed a few weeks ago and issued him a ticket for hunting squirrel during the closed season.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of three sofas and household garbage being dumped on state land in the Pigeon River Country. After a short investigation CO DePew was able to locate the individual responsible for dumping the garbage and issued them a ticket and had them pick up all of the trash.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint of a permanent blind on state land, and when he located the blind he found numerous apple trees which were recently planted, along with hay, sugar beets and apples. The adjacent landowner was contacted and he admitted to planting the trees on state land and to feeding the deer, but stated the blind was on his property. He was issued a ticket for feeding deer illegally and CO Sklba is continuing to investigate the location of the property lines.

CO Jon Sklba stopped an ORV who did not have a visible ORV sticker. The driver of the ORV had a suspended driver's license and was ticketed for the violation.

CO Jon Sklba tracked down the owner of an ice shanty who had left his shanty on the ice a week after the March 15th deadline for removal. The owner's personal information which is required to be on all ice shanties was so vague that it did not meet the legal requirements. Enforcement action was taken. Ice shanties that are abandoned become extreme marine navigation hazards to boaters once the ice melts.

CO Nick Torsky reports that two hunters were sentenced for the illegal shooting of a bull elk during the 2014 firearm deer season. The shooter was sentenced to pay \$1500 in restitution, over \$1000 in fines and costs, had his hunting license suspended for four years, and served five days in jail. The friend of the shooter who helped process the elk was also fined for helping conceal the crime.

COs Tim Rosochacki and Bill Webster removed an ice shanty which did not have the owner's name and address on it and was frozen into the ice and had not been removed by the March 15th deadline. Many anglers thanked the officers for removing the shanty.

COs have responded to numerous wild land fires whose causes range from the illegal burning of trash, burning brush and leaves and dumping ashes from wood burning stoves.

CO Steve Speigl learned of a taxidermist without a license making European skull mounts. After a thorough investigation, it was determined the new taxidermist didn't have any idea he needed a license and was educated of the license requirements to conduct a taxidermy business.

While in an unmarked truck, CO Steve Speigl was passed by a car traveling at over 100 mph. CO Speigl called in the violation to Central Dispatch and followed the vehicle, eventually losing it in a subdivision area. Through a network of contacts, CO Speigl learned the address where the suspect vehicle was parked. After contact was made, a confession was received and a ticket for careless driving was issued.

CO Carl VanderWall assisted the Tuscarora Township Police officers, when they responded to a duck in distress complaint on the Indian River. When officers arrived they found a duck with a fish hook in its beak and tangled in fishing line. After releasing the duck, officers found five fishing lines out, with no one around. Contact was eventually made with the angler and tickets were issued for fishing with unattended lines.

A MSP trooper contacted CO Andrea Erratt regarding mudder trucks operating on state land and causing environmental damage. CO Erratt located the trucks and ticketed the operators.

CO Andrea Erratt contacted a subject burning over 50 bags of trash, along with furniture and a mattress. A ticket for illegal disposal of solid waste was issued.

CO Andrea Albert was the first responder on scene to a suicide and protected the scene until the Sheriff Department could arrive.

CO Andrea Albert reports the prosecutor issued a warrant for the owner of a snowmobile rental business for renting snowmobiles without insurance.

CO Steve Speigl responded to several grass fires in Antrim County, one of which was started from propane tank being hauled on a flatbed trailer that ignited, resulting in a fire roadside on M66. Local fire departments were able to contain the fire in short order before it was out of control.

CO Steve Speigl stopped a dirt bike operating against the flow of traffic on State Highway 131 in Mancelona. The ORV operator had been doing 'wheelies' and operating in a manner that promoted erosive conditions in the ditch. In addition to these violations, the operator had been trespassing on a railroad right-of-way. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt gave presentations at the Boyne Falls Schools career day, discussing CO duties to multiple groups of students.

DISTRICT 4

Responding to numerous complaints of no-wake violations on the Pere Marquette River in Mason County, COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski stopped several vessels for violating the wake law. While contacting the occupants of the vessels, it was discovered that several boats had no personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board. Enforcement action was taken.

Responding to a complaint of subjects keeping an overlimit of Brown Trout at Tippy Dam in Manistee County, CO Steve Converse found two anglers with six undersized Brown Trout. The anglers had placed their fish in a garbage bag and stashed them on the stream bank. During his contact, CO Converse discovered that neither angler could identify the fish. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was checking anglers on Portage Lake when he made contact with two men who had buckets full of bluegill and Rock Bass. CO Converse asked the anglers how many fish they had and they proudly displayed that they had counters around their necks. Both advised they had 25 fish apiece and told CO Converse that there was no need for him to count them. CO Converse decidedly counted the fish anyway and found that both anglers were overlimit. DNR priors revealed that one angler had a prior offense for an overlimit of panfish in Oceana County. Enforcement action was taken.

After appearing in the 85th District Court in Manistee County, five hunters that were arrested by CO Steve Converse last fall for illegally taken deer were convicted and sentenced. Court costs were \$1800 and they were ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution for all the illegal deer taken. All hunters lost their hunting privileges and one was sentenced to spend five days in jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling along the Pere Marquette River in an area where there has been a long standing history of trespass complaints. While there, CO Killingbeck witnessed two anglers step out of their boat and walk up and down the river bank where it was clearly posted "No Trespassing". CO Killingbeck heard one of the anglers talking about all the trespassing signs, stating "...good thing the DNR isn't around..." and, "I wonder how much a trespassing ticket costs?" CO Killingbeck made contact with the anglers and enforcement action was taken. The individual inquiring on the cost of the ticket had been cited for the same violation in the past.

CO Josiah Killingbeck advises a disposition was given on a case he worked involving a trapper who had taken an overlimit of otter and bobcat this winter. The subject was charged in the Lake County Trial Court and assessed \$2,640 in fines, costs, and restitution. He also had his hunting and trapping privileges revoked for three years.

CO Justin Vanderlinde conducted an investigation on a trapper who set his traps out last fall and did not return to check them. This is the second time CO Vanderlinde has issued this trapper a ticket for a trapping violation.

CO Sam Koscinski observed two anglers on the Manistee River fishing with lead minnows. CO Koscinski saw one of the anglers reel in a foul hooked undersized trout. The angler unhooked the fish, put it on his stringer, and then placed the stringer in the water and continued fishing. The second angler also caught an undersized foul hooked brown trout, reeled it in, removed the hook from the side of the fish and then placed the hook inside the fish's mouth. The second angler turned to his buddy and asked, "Well, what do you think?" The second angler made a wise decision and returned the fish to the water. CO Koscinski made contact with the two anglers and wrote the first angler a ticket for possession of undersized trout.

CO Jeff Ginn of Newaygo County was dispatched to a burning complaint. Upon arrival CO Ginn made contact with the suspect who advised she was moving out of her rental trailer and needed to get rid of some garbage. The suspect was found burning a large pile of trash including rubber, plastic, diapers and old food products. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County conducted a taxidermy inspection and discovered a caped out head of an eight point whitetail deer that displayed a Minnesota kill tag from 2013. Due to the violation of Importation Law regarding a deer from a CWD positive state, the owner was contacted and admission was received of the importation of the deer in late November of 2013 from Minnesota. Enforcement action was taken including seizing the deer to be destroyed.

COs Angela Greenway and Brian Lebel of Mecosta County contacted a subject at a residence who was identified in a litter complaint near a state game area earlier that week. CO Greenway conducted an interview and was able to determine that the subject's stepson was responsible for the litter. COs made several attempts to contact the stepson by phone with no return calls received. COs patrolled the area for several hours and returned to the residence and observed the stepson's vehicle was in the driveway. COs were able to make contact with the stepson and received a full confession for the dumping of the litter. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Angela Greenway, Brian Lebel, and Josiah Killingbeck responded to a brush fire in Lake County. Upon arrival, CO Killingbeck identified the owner and person responsible for setting the fire. While investigating the point of origin of the fire, CO Lebel could smell the odor of marijuana. Upon further investigation, it was determined that marijuana plants were being burned causing the fire to escape into a large brush fire. Lake County deputies were contacted for assistance. The joint investigation uncovered a large marijuana grow operation. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Lebel and Angela Greenway of Mecosta County were dispatched to a fire in Aetna Township. CO Lebel talked with the resident and person responsible for starting

the fire. The subject was trying to burn some burnable waste and yard waste. The fire department was able to contain the fire and no structures were harmed. There were no burn permits being issued that day and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson received a complaint of a fish shanty left on Houghton Lake after the March 15 deadline. CO McPherson investigated the complaint and was able to locate the owner of the shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobbi Lively responded to a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint involving a subject who had shot a bobcat during the closed season. The male complainant had contacted the dispatch center attempting to report the violation. He stated that he was trying to kill coyotes during nighttime hours and noticed "eyes" on his deer carcass bait pile. He failed to identify the animal before shooting. During the interview, CO Lively pointed out that based on the situation nighttime predator hunting for coyotes was also closed for the season. The subject also admitted to using an illegal firearm in the bobcat killing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a wildfire involving a subject who was attempting to work on his hunting blind. The subject removed the roof, shingles and all, and attempted to burn it. This negligent act sparked a wildfire. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Brian Olsen observed damage from recent ORV activity along a roadway in Ogemaw County. CO Olsen was able to follow the tracks back to an ORV parking area nearby. He located four 18-year-old riders in the parking lot, which was also severely damaged from careless operation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader investigated a littering complaint in Roscommon County. After multiple interviews, two juveniles were tracked down and admitted to dumping the garbage. An arrangement was made for them to clean up the trash, as well as some other trash in the area.

COs Warren MacNeill and Josh Russell responded to a wildfire in Alcona County. While burning household trash, the male homeowner had taken his eye off the fire allowing it to escape. The female homeowner, who tried to help put out the fire with numerous trips involving a frying pan and water, was quick to place blame on her husband. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell received a RAP complaint that two subjects had set up tip-ups on Little Long Lake in Iosco County and that the complainant had a good feeling they were targeting pike and walleye during the closed season. As CO Russell was responding to the complaint, the RAP hotline operators advised him that the complainant had called back and stated the subjects had just put two bass in a bucket that were caught using the tip-ups. CO Russell arrived on scene and began surveillance on the anglers. He observed a third bass caught on the tip-up and placed in the bucket. As he approached

the anglers, they grabbed the bucket and made an attempt to dispose of the evidence. CO Brian Olsen arrived on scene to assist with the complaint. Despite the anglers' attempts to cover up the violations, enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau investigated a complaint of a subject illegally camping on State Forest Lands in Gladwin County. The subject had also been allegedly running people out of the area and reportedly driving state land two-tracks with an uncased firearm. CO Papineau contacted the individual and confirmed that the subject was camping illegally on State Land. After a records check, CO Papineau learned that the subject was a convicted felon with several attempted murder convictions. A firearm was recovered and seized from the subject's camper. Warrants are being sought through the Gladwin County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Nick Atkin received information about illegal wood cutting on state land. CO Atkin was able to identify several suspects with the information provided. The suspects had cut standing wood without a permit. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Bob Hobkirk observed a small group of ice anglers on Saginaw Bay north of Sebewaing. Not wanting to wait for the anglers at their vehicles, CO Hobkirk walked out just over a mile to see how they were doing. The first two anglers approached by the CO did not notice his presence until he was just a few yards away. The two anglers were quite surprised and advised the CO that they were just about to count their fish. With CO Hobkirk's assistance the fish were counted and the anglers were in possession of 106 perch. One of the anglers claimed responsibility for the overlimit and was written a ticket. Once CO Hobkirk was finished with his first contact he walked toward another angler about 200 yards away. As he approached, he saw the man answer his phone and then watched him dump fish down his fishing hole. When CO Hobkirk reached the angler he was still in possession of 89 perch. The man advised the CO that he wouldn't have kept the smaller fish in his bucket, but he would have kept all of the bigger ones even if he would have been over his limit. The angler's fish were seized and he was ticketed for the violation. Even after the angler was issued a ticket, he thanked CO Hobkirk for the way he was treated.

While working an unrelated complaint, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed three subjects on dirt bikes. The subjects, ages five, 12 and 16 were riding without helmets on the wrong side of the road and without the proper licenses. Also the 16 year old and the five year old were riding double. CO Bucholtz returned the children to their home and located the children's guardian. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at Bay City State Park, CO Will Brickel made contact with a subject riding a snowmobile without a registration. During the contact it was discovered that the subject was in possession of illegal prescription medication. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn R. Strawn was conducting a follow up investigation at the scene of a recent forest fire in Isabella County. While on the scene, the CO identified the origin of the fire at a large illegal burn and dump site. Ultimately the CO was able to identify the person responsible for setting the trash ablaze. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of numerous deer carcasses being dumped into ditches, CO Larn R. Strawn came up with a suspect. The suspect was contacted and could not explain to the CO why he dumped the carcasses along the road. A ticket was issued.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel made contact with three subjects bow fishing in the Maple River State Game Area (SGA) and found two of the three did not possess valid fishing licenses. The COs also observed that the anglers were leaving the dog fish and suckers on the bank and had no intention of taking the fish with them. Last year the COs came across a huge pile of dead dog fish in one of the parking lots. Enforcement action was taken with the reminder that anything they shot must be taken with them.

DISTRICT 7

CO Jeff Robinette was on patrol when he observed household garbage dumped alongside the road. CO Robinette was able to locate a name in the garbage and tracked it back to the owner of the mail. The owner of the mail was subsequently ticketed for littering.

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Zach Doss were checking a portion of the Black River that is currently closed to fishing when they observed a subject fishing on the closed section of the trout stream. Contact was made with the subject, who was in possession of one snagged steelhead. The subject initially gave a wrong name to the officers, but finally gave his real name. During the contact, it was discovered that the subject did not have a fishing license, was in possession of treble hooks with weights permanently attached and had a warrant for his arrest for a probation violation. The subject was ticketed for two fishing related violations and was arrested and lodged on the outstanding warrant.

CO Brad Brewer received a call from the local county parks department that they had seen a subject with snares and a firearm on their property, where hunting and trapping is not allowed. CO Brewer responded from his home after asking that local deputies also respond. Just as CO Brewer arrived, he saw the subject in a field with a firearm, being approached by a deputy. The subject was ordered to stop by the deputy, but ran into a woodlot. CO Brewer and the two deputies were able to locate the subject hiding in the woodlot, but the subject had hidden the firearm. CO Brewer was able to locate the loaded firearm, along with a bag of snares. The subject admitted to trapping with the snares during the closed season and was discovered to have no type of license. In addition, the subject was in possession of a trout that had been taken during the closed season and also had three warrants for his arrest. The subject is also prohibited from possessing a firearm due to a past conviction for illegal drug possession. The subject was lodged at the St. Joseph County jail for felon in possession of a firearm,

resisting/obstructing a peace officer, the three outstanding warrants and will be ticketed for the trapping and fish violations.

CO Cary Foster was on patrol when he responded with sheriff deputies to a possible spearing complaint on Belamy Creek in Ionia County. After locating five subjects walking along the closed trout stream without gear, the officers continued their questioning without admissions by the group. A search of the area revealed five landing nets that were used in an attempt to net steelhead. Five tickets were issued for possession of nets along a closed stream.

CO Cary Foster obtained information about a subject who was hunting and may have taken a turkey during the spring of 2014 while hunting property behind his home. CO Foster met with the subject who provided evidence and an admission to taking a turkey without a license last year. CO Foster is taking enforcement action for the illegal taking of a tom turkey.

CO Chris Simpson was on patrol in the Muskegon SGA and was approaching a male subject walking down the road. As he approached, the subject began to run toward a parked car. CO Simpson stopped the man as he neared the vehicle, where he found a partially clothed woman and a second male subject. As the situation became more suspicious, MSP troopers arrived as back-up and all parties were separated and questioned. CO Simpson requested registration paperwork for the vehicle and was handed a registration form which was folded to contain a small amount of marijuana. The driver of the vehicle was determined to be suspended and was just released from jail the previous day. CO Simpson impounded the unregistered and uninsured vehicle while all subjects were removed from the game area.

CO Simpson spent portions of two days investigating a report of a subject taking one or two deer out of season in eastern Muskegon County. After working a variety of untrue stories from the suspect, the truth was told when the subject admitted to being involved in a car-deer accident while driving with a suspended license recently. He did not report the incident concerned that the violation may send him back to prison and was therefore untruthful to CO Simpson. The subject was advised and warned about his driving activities.

CO Greg Patten responded to a complaint at Hoffmaster State Park where a subject frequently operates a vehicle without a current registration or Recreational Passport. CO Patten eventually located the vehicle and driver and issued tickets for expired registration, no insurance and no Recreation Passport.

CO Greg Patten ticketed a subject operating an ORV along a railroad grade where weeks before officers were working to enforce trespassing problems related to snowmobiles near Twin Lake.

CO Greg Patten worked the Cedar Creek ORV Trails area and located three juveniles using an ORV illegally to pull a skateboard. All were taken home and turned over to

parents. In another incident, a family of three riders were stopped and warned for various licensing and trail permit violations and sent on their way. A short time after the same group was found operating off the ORV trail on a US Forest Service road. CO Patten ticketed one of the operators for the violation and warned the remaining family members.

CO Ivan Perez was checking fishing licenses near Lake Macattawa when he found two persons fishing without licenses. A file check revealed one person was wanted on an outstanding felony warrant from Ottawa County. CO Perez requested assistance from the Holland Police Department and the subject was taken into custody with further enforcement action taken for fishing violations.

DISTRICT 8

While patrolling the Maple River SGA, CO Rich Nickols stopped to check a subject who was getting ready to go hunting. CO Nickols asked the subject what he was hunting for and he said that it was such a nice day he wanted to go sit out in the woods and maybe shoot some squirrels. CO Nickols asked the subject if he had received a hunting guide when he bought his license. He stated that he did not. CO Nickols was able to provide the subject with a hunting guide and show him that squirrel season closed on March 1st. The subject was very appreciative being checked before he went out hunting, rather than getting caught with a bunch of illegal squirrels.

CO Rich Nickols received a complaint of ORVs chasing deer. CO Nickols responded to the area and located two ORVs operating on vacant property. While the ORVs were not observed chasing deer, after contacting the subjects, several violations were found. These included ORV trespass, no ORV license or trail permit, operate without helmet and eye protection, riding double, and operate through wetland. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds conducted an interview with a subject whose deer license was purchased after hunting hours were closed for that day, with the tag being validated for the same day. The subject at first denied taking the deer without a hunting license, stating that, "I always get my hunting licenses before season starts". CO Reynolds showed the subject his license purchase history; at this time the story changed, ultimately ending up in a full confession. A report will be submitted and charges will be sought for the illegally taken deer.

CO Chris Reynolds was on his way to conduct an interview with a subject when he observed three anglers fishing in a river just off of the road. The CO decided to check the anglers on the way back through the area after the interviews were complete. On the way back through the area CO Reynolds watched from a distance and noted all three anglers continuing to fish. The CO contacted the individuals and the anglers started to joke with each other saying, "I hope you have your license; you don't want to get a ticket." Two of the anglers laughed, the one angler looked kind of somber and

said "I forgot my license". A quick license check revealed that the angler didn't have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds while returning home from working on Belle Isle was first on scene of an automobile accident on I- 94. The CO blocked traffic for a short time so that the vehicles could get to the shoulder of the road and all lanes of traffic could stay open during the morning rush hour. CO Reynolds secured the scene and turned the accident over to the MSP.

CO Chris Reynolds checked areas of Lost Nations SGA. While CO Reynolds was there investigating a litter complaint, he found a different site with a lot of trash blowing around. CO Reynolds checked the area and found several credit card receipts, along with some statements from the person's place of employment. The subject has been located and charges will be sought.

CO Matt Page checked a local lake and found an ice shanty that had not been removed by the required date of March 1st. Two days later CO Page received a call that someone had burned their shanty down leaving debris all over the ice on the same lake. CO Page tracked down the address that was placed on the shanty and spoke with an elderly female who stated the shanty belonged to her grandson. CO Page then contacted the owner of the shanty. The owner of the shanty stated, "What shanty?" when asked originally; however after further facts were given to the subject a full confession was made. The subject cleaned the area of all debris and was issued a ticket.

While patrolling for ORV activity, CO Matt Page came across two subjects riding an ORV down a county road. After further inspection, the CO found several violations including riding double, no helmets, and operating an unregistered ORV. Upon contact the couple stated that they were going to feed the starving turkeys and they thought if they had an orange triangle on the back of the ORV that was good enough. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page conducted a traffic stop on an SUV driving down the road with the rear hatch door open and a subject sitting in the trunk. After further inspection, CO Page observed three young children inside the vehicle, two of whom were not wearing any restraints and jumping around inside the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was operating on an expired license. The driver stated that she didn't think she was doing anything wrong because she was on a back road so close to her residence. A ticket was issued for no child restraints along with several warnings.

DISTRICT 9

COs Mike Drexler and Kris Kiel checked anglers at the spillway dam in Macomb County during the spawning closure. The first angler contacted was using illegal gear on a gear restricted portion of the river. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler and Kris Kiel checked ice anglers coming off Lake St. Clair when they found one angler who under estimated his catch. When asked how many perch he had the angler guessed he had about 40. The angler stated he gauged his catch by how full his bucket was, stating a half bucket was about a limit. After counting 53 perch, the angler received a ticket for the overlimit of perch. The angler admitted he probably should have counted instead of estimating.

COs Mike Drexler and Kris Kiel were checking ice anglers when they contacted one angler who stated he purchased a fishing license but left his wallet at home. After the angler again stated he was sure he purchased a fishing license, the COs conducted a RSS check which revealed different information. The angler had never purchased a fishing license, and his most recent license purchase was a deer firearm license from 2009. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on Lake St. Clair, CO David Schaumburger contacted a couple near South River Road. CO Schaumburger observed an angler sitting on a bucket above a hole, with no visible pole nearby. CO Schaumburger asked the subject where her pole was, to which she held up her ice scoop with a line attached to the bottom. She stated that she "didn't plan on fishing today." A check of the couple's fishing licenses revealed that she did not have a current fishing license, nor has she ever purchased one. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and Chris Knights patrolled the Pointe Mouillee SGA for ORV activity and encountered a Jeep operating illegally. The COs managed to sneak up on the vehicle and observed the vehicle stuck in the mud, off the road, with the four occupants attempting to push the vehicle out. The COs contacted the driver who stated his friend told him about the area. Enforcement action was taken by the COs with hopes of preventing any further activity and damage to the land.

CO Jason Becker was investigating a RAP complaint of a subject who shot a coyote within the safety zone of other residences and within a township that has a no hunting ordinance. CO Becker interviewed the suspect and addressed the violations. CO Becker was able to get a confession from the subject and enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas submitted a report to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office requesting an arrest warrant for a suspect. CO Cardenas and Sgt. Brandon Kieft conducted an investigation on a suspect after finding suspicious records during a deer processor inspection. Sgt. Kieft had located records showing one subject dropping off six antlered deer, and obtained a bullet from one deer that appeared to be from a rifle. Sgt. Kieft and CO Cardenas interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession admitting guilt, seized three antlered deer heads, and seized additional evidence including a Remington rifle. CO Cardenas also obtained a written statement from a witness stating that the suspect had harvested an overlimit of antlered deer. The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office reviewed the report and authorized the warrant request.

While working in Lenawee County CO Justin Ulberg checked a group of anglers on an inland lake. One of the anglers had a five gallon bucket with a large number of panfish. CO Ulberg asked the angler how many fish he had. The angler replied that he hadn't been counting. CO Ulberg counted the fish and discovered the angler was seven over his daily limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg was patrolling in Lenawee County when he encountered a group of anglers out ice fishing. While checking for fish CO Ulberg discovered one of the anglers was in possession of marijuana. The bag of marijuana was seized and charges will be sought with the county prosecutor.

Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Saykham Keophalychanh were requested by the MSP to respond to the Flint River in Flushing where a vehicle had entered the river and was submerged. The two responded to the location with a patrol vessel that was designed for low draft yet high powered to allow them to safely navigate from a launch site to the vehicle without risk of hitting submerged rocks. Sgt. Bigger and CO Keophalychanh were able to meet up with the MSP divers and other agencies and assist in devising a plan for recovery of the vehicle. It was unknown at the time if there were people inside. Facing upstream in heavy current, they were able to maintain a somewhat steady platform that allowed them to work the MSP divers' safety cable across the river. This would allow divers to hook onto the cable without fear of being washed downstream with the heavy current and raised water levels. The cable was stretched and the divers made it to the submerged vehicle. Sgt. Bigger and CO Keophalychanh maintained a position in the river just downstream in the event there was an emergency with the divers. They also provided the transport of equipment from a local tow company so the divers could secure the vehicle and have it pulled out. Once the divers had the vehicle secured, the divers were unable to get off the vehicle due to the strong current and possible hidden obstacles under the water. Sgt. Bigger and CO Keophalychanh were able to maneuver the patrol vessel up to their location and assist them aboard. Once aboard, they released their safety lines and then were taken just upstream and dropped off at the shoreline. The vehicle was removed and it was found to be empty of occupants. The driver had gone into the river earlier in the morning and was later arrested for DUI. He was unable to remember if there had been anyone else in the vehicle.

COs Pete Purdy and Jeremy Beavers responded to a RAP complaint of anglers keeping walleye out of season at the Holloway Dam. The COs responded to the area and made contact with several anglers. No walleye were found. One of the anglers advised he believed the anglers in question left before the COs arrival.

CO Jeremy Beavers had just finished checking the Flint River in and around the Flushing area when a call came over the radio regarding a vehicle that had gone into the Flint River. It was stated that the vehicle was occupied by one female subject and was floating downstream. While traveling west toward downtown Flushing another responding officer requested a vehicle go to Park Avenue and Sharon Drive. CO

Beavers traveled to the location requested. CO Beavers was the first to arrive on scene followed immediately by a Deputy from the Genesee County Paramedic Division. The responding officers exited their vehicles and ran to the river. Once on the bank they located the vehicle, a Jeep Grand Cherokee, caught on a tree that hung over the river. The vehicle was facing upstream, giving a clear view of the driver. The driver was alert and stated that she was ok. Her window was slightly rolled down, but she was unable to roll it down all the way. CO Beavers retrieved his throw bag and float coat from his patrol truck. Additional officers from the City of Flushing and members of the Flushing Fire Department began showing up on scene and a Deputy was able to get on top of the vehicle. The Deputy was able to pull the driver from the vehicle. He then tied the rope from the throw bag provided around her and lowered her into a small vessel that was manned by members from the fire department. After lowering her into the boat, CO Beavers assisted in pulling the boat to the bank against heavy currents. CO Beavers and another individual pulled the female from the boat onto the shore. She was then taken to an awaiting ambulance and checked out by medical personnel. It was not known why she had driven into the river. Other agencies and personnel present were City of Flushing Police, Flushing Township Police, City of Flushing Fire Department, Genesee County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police.

While conducting a fisheries patrol on Mott Lake, CO Saykham Keophalychanh observed a boat on the lake occupied by two males. Shortly after, the boat returned to the launch. CO Keophalychanh made contact with the boaters and found the operator recently purchased the vessel. An inspection of equipment revealed the boaters were missing the required PFDs and a fire extinguisher. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh contacted an angler along the Flint River. An inspection of equipment revealed that the angler was using an artificial lure and a weighted hook, both of which are restricted on the Flint River for the close of walleye spawning season. The angler stated he was not familiar with the restrictions on the River. A check of the DNR Retail Sales System revealed that he has consistently purchased a fishing license every year for the past seven years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh contacted a subject operating a golf cart at Holloway Dam. It was explained to the driver that Genesee County is closed to ORV traffic on public highways. Enforcement action was taken.

BELLE ISLE

While working Belle Isle on foot patrol, CO Kyle Bucholtz located a discarded purse frozen in the ground. The purse was located in a closed portion of the island in a heavily weeded area. Once removed from the ice, CO Bucholtz located a digital camera and cellular telephone inside the purse. The items were transported to the district headquarters where the investigation continues.

While patrolling Milliken State Park, CO Larn R. Strawn observed two vehicles and several subjects in the park at 2:00 a.m., well after the closed hours. The CO contacted

the subjects about being in the park after hours and subsequently arrested the three individuals. The arrests were for possession of a controlled substance and a total of six fugitive warrants.

DISTRICT 21

Detective Tim Shuker of the Environmental Investigation Section reports that on Monday, March 30th, a Manistique man pled guilty to one count of a Part 303 Wetland Protection violation. The plea occurred in the 93rd District Court, Schoolcraft County.

The case arose from a referral from Ryan McCone, DEQ-WRD, UP District Office, and pertained to the unpermitted filling of wetland at the residence for the construction of a pole barn. The defendant had initially agreed to enter into a Consent Agreement with the DEQ in order to resolve the violation but upon hiring a consultant, changed his mind. As a result of the guilty plea, the defendant agreed to abide by the initial Consent Agreement, with the exception of some minor changes in the restoration parameters. In so doing, he agreed to pay a penalty of \$5,100.00, which is more than twice the penalty that the statute authorizes. In addition, the court assessed \$250.00 in court costs, \$50.00 state fees, and a \$75.00 crime victim's fee. The court issued a delay of sentence for one year during which time the defendant would be placed on non-supervised probation.