

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/28/2016 – 4/10/2016

DISTRICT 1

CO Brett DeLonge and Cpl. Marvin Gerlach received a complaint of deer and turkey carcasses being dumped on private property in the city of Menominee. After investigating the scene, officers were able to locate multiple deer and turkey kill tags from previous hunting seasons. A quick check of the licenses brought the officers to a neighboring suspect's residence. After a brief interview, the suspect admitted to dumping the carcasses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint of a pick-up truck mudding on private property along the Menominee River. After getting pictures from security cameras on a nearby service building, CO DeLonge was able to locate the vehicle's owner. CO DeLonge interviewed the suspect at a residence in Menominee and the suspect admitted to causing environmental damage with the pick-up truck on the property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman contacted two anglers fishing a closed section of the Carp River in Marquette County. When asked to produce a valid fishing license one of the subjects stated that he left his license in his tackle box. CO Leadman checked the subject for a valid license through the DNR retail sales system and determined that the subject last held a Michigan fishing license in 2013. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge made contact with two anglers fishing a closed section of the Garlic River in Marquette County. The subjects were also trespassing. Enforcement action was taken with both anglers.

CO Mark Leadman contacted three anglers fishing a closed section of the Garlic River in Marquette County. Enforcement action was taken with all three anglers.

CO Adam LeClerc responded to a complaint of a dead bat on the deck of a residence in the town of Bessemer. The owner was concerned because this was the second bat she found dead this spring and had recently read an article regarding White Nose Syndrome. CO LeClerc collected the bat to be tested by Wildlife personnel.

CO Adam LeClerc assisted in the apprehension of an escaped prisoner from the Gogebic County Sheriff's Office. The prisoner was being taken from the jail to the courthouse for arraignment when he ran from the deputy. CO LeClerc deployed his ATV and assisted the Michigan State Police and Gogebic County Sheriff in the search. After riding the local trails and grades, the prisoner was found approximately a half mile north of the courthouse in a heavily wooded area. After a short foot chase the prisoner was apprehended by sheriff deputies.

Sentencing has been carried out in a case belonging to Sergeant Grant Emery and CO Ethen Mapes. An Ontonagon man was sentenced to two days in jail and was ordered to pay just over \$1000 in fines and restitution for the illegal possession of a bobcat and transporting an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. The individual was also ordered to serve 10 days community service for the violations that occurred late last fall.

Conservation Officer Ethen Mapes assisted the Michigan State Police and the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office with a suicidal subject who had barricaded himself in his deer camp. After a couple of hour standoff the subject was taken into custody without injury.

Conservation Officer Brian Lasanen was checking a local river for fishing activities when he came across a group of ORVs covered in mud. CO Lasanen made contact with the group and checked for valid ORV trail permits. Only one ORV in the group was properly licensed. CO Lasanen questioned the other drivers and asked if they had purchased an ORV license and they told CO Lasanen that they were going to but did not want to spend the money on a sticker. CO Lasanen cited the three ORV operators for failing to license their ORVs.

Conservation Officer Brian Lasanen came across a vehicle that just went into the ditch due to snow covered and slushy roads. CO Lasanen made contact with the driver and checked to see if any medical attention was needed. The driver was ok, just a bit shaken up. CO Lasanen called for a tow truck and gathered the drivers and vehicle information for the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office, while providing traffic control until the vehicle was removed from the ditch.

Conservation Officer Denny Gast made contact with a four wheel drive truck trespassing on private property, while the truck was causing damage in a logging area. Law enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

While on patrol CO Calvin Smith observed an individual operating an ORV without a helmet. A stop was conducted and upon further investigation it was also found that the operator had failed to license his machine. Law enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon, COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch conducted the first part of a two day hunter safety program held at the Escanaba field office. There were 27 students at the class along with several parents.

CO Mark Zitnik took advantage of some late season snow in Alger County for one last snowmobile patrol. He contacted several snowmobilers along with some eager ORV riders. Violations encountered on this patrol included failure to register snowmobiles, failure to obtain trail permits, open intoxicants and littering. There were seven tickets issued on this patrol along with several verbal warnings.

During a snowmobile patrol CO Mark Zitnik had observed ORV tracks and several empty beer cans thrown out where the tracks had pulled over. Later in his shift, CO Zitnik passed by an ORV and observed the driver holding a beer. As the CO went by, the driver threw the can into the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch responded to a domestic violence complaint in Escanaba that turned out to be a barricaded gunman. The COs assisted state and local agencies in closing roads to and from the area the gunman was located. The situation ended peacefully.

CO Pat Hartsig received a call at home from the State Police post in Gladstone requesting help with a marijuana grow operation in the Garden Peninsula. Officers had seized a trailer full of dried marijuana plants. The plants were transported in CO Hartsig's patrol truck due to the sheer quantity seized.

While on routine patrol, CO Robert Freeborn located a subject operating an ORV without a helmet while transporting a passenger on the ORV that was not manufactured for a passenger. When talking with the suspect he advised CO Freeborn that he had stopped him last summer as well. CO Freeborn asked the subject "what was it for?" The subject hung his head and said, "The same thing." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich contacted multiple anglers taking advantage of a new splake season in the Hessel area. When one angler with several large splake was asked for his fishing license he quickly replied, "I haven't had a chance to get one yet." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken and Sgt. Mike Hammill made contact with several snowmobilers taking advantage of the last snow of the season. One of the snowmobilers contacted showed an expired snowmobile trail sticker he had in his pocket. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Steve Speigl responded to a call of an injured bald eagle that was spotted by an oil field worker. CO Speigl recruited a local bird capturing expert to assist and the two were able to safely catch and deliver the eagle to a rehabilitation center for birds of prey where it is being treated for heavy metals found in the digestive tract. There were no other injuries found.

CO Andrea Albert found several large trash piles on state land. After digging through the piles, two different suspects were developed. Both were interviewed and took responsibility for the litter. Enforcement action was taken and the two subjects are required to clean up their trash.

CO Andrea Erratt was patrolling Chandler Hills in Charlevoix County, when she observed fresh ORV tracks on the state snowmobile trail. The tracks went by a no ORV

sign. CO Erratt patrolled the trail and located a side-by-side utility terrain vehicle (UTV) operating on the trail with two subjects. A ticket was issued to the driver for operating in a closed area on state land.

While on patrol in Charlevoix County, CO Erratt encountered a truck operating in a closed area of state land. The driver had a misdemeanor warrant from the DNR for operating an ORV with open intoxicants. With help from his passengers, the driver was able to post bond and avoid having to go to jail.

In late fall of 2015, COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau began to receive complaints of large sugar maple trees being illegally cut on state land along forest roads in Emmet County and launched an investigation. The timber thieves continued through the winter of 2016 along groomed snowmobile trails, county roads and state land in Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties. COs Chad Baldwin, Eric Bottorff, Matt Theunick, Mark DePew and Sergeants Mike Feagan and Greg Drogowski all took part in the investigation, along with COs VanderWall and Budreau. Suspects were developed through witnesses, interviews and evidence. The suspects were taking the stolen veneer maple logs to area sawmills and the total value of stolen and destroyed trees is in excess of ten thousand dollars. MDNR foresters were able to match end slabs of logs from the mill to the trees left in the woods. Multiple interviews resulted in confessions and have led to additional suspects. To date, two felony warrants and a misdemeanor warrant have been issued and the suspects have been arrested. In addition, the suspect vehicle and related equipment has been seized. More arrests are anticipated as the investigation continues.

CO Matt Theunick followed up on an abandoned campsite on state land at Cochran Lake in Cheboygan County where lots of trash was left behind. The subject had been given an opportunity to clean it up, but did not. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba made contact with a fisherman casting off of a dock on the Ocqueoc River in Presque Isle County. While talking with the fisherman he admitted he did not know whose dock it was that he was fishing from and he did not have a fishing license. CO Sklba checked the fisherman for DNR priors and it showed he had received nine prior citations, and was issued his tenth for fishing without a license.

CO Brad Bellville assisted the Montmorency County Sheriff's Office with a call about a feral pig near Atlanta. CO Bellville identified it as a large domestic pig and was able to chase the pig back to a pen behind a nearby house. The pen was secured and the Sheriff's Deputy waited at the residence for the owners to return and issued them a citation for letting an animal run at large.

DISTRICT 4

CO William Haskin found a deer that was tagged improperly in Manistee County. Since the suspect's residence was in Ingham County, CO Matthew Neterer went to the suspect's residence for an interview. The suspect admitted to shooting a deer and purchasing the deer license afterwards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin was working in Wexford County where he was observing fishing activity. He approached an angler and asked to see his fishing license. The individual claimed he was going to purchase a fishing license the next day. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Patrick McManus and Rebecca Hopkins assisted the Benzie County Sheriff's Office and the National Park Service with the search and rescue of a family who had become lost while hiking near Otter Creek in the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. The family was so deep and lost in the swamp that they decided to call 911 as darkness was approaching and they were wet from snow and rain. The family was found and escorted to safety without incident.

CO William Kinney was sitting on a hill next to the ORV trail on state land that is known for illegal ORV activity. CO Kinney heard a group of ORVs approaching and stop at the base of a hill climb. One ORV proceeded to climb the hill off the trail where CO Kinney was waiting. The second ORV decided to circle around the backside of the hill, also illegally operating, to meet up with his riding partner. CO Kinney found that neither ORV had valid trail permits, licenses, transferred titles, and were creating erosive conditions while operating in a closed area on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

COs William Kinney, Josiah Killingbeck, Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky assisted a U.S. Forest Service officer in Lake County with a group of ORVs that fled from him while making a stop. The COs were able to track the ORVs back to a residence where they ultimately found all the individuals, including the one hiding in the basement. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse and CO Sam Koscinski of Manistee County were working a patrol near Tippy Dam when they witnessed an angler hook and reel in a foul hooked steelhead. A second man netted the fish for him and placed it up on shore behind the angler who had reeled it in. Shortly thereafter, the angler packed up to leave and picked up the fish on his way out to his vehicle. The COs confronted him about the violation and enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski of Manistee County responded to a vehicle accident that occurred on a county roadway. As they approached the scene, it was apparent that the operator had been driving carelessly, and he could see there was a significant amount of skid marks and dirt thrown all over the roadway for several

hundred yards. The vehicle had apparently lost control, went down into the ditch, and snapped off a power pole. The driver advised that she and her boyfriend were “testing out the auto four wheel drive” when she lost control. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse of Manistee County located two subjects fishing in the closed portion of the Betsie River and in possession of a steelhead. The anglers claimed that they had no knowledge of the closure. The fish were seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Steve Converse of Manistee County was working an ongoing ORV complaint when he noticed fresh tracks in a closed area. CO Converse tracked the ORVs for approximately 10 miles where they operated on utility right of ways, around multiple forest service gates, through wetlands, and on illegal hill climbs. CO Converse finally caught up to the operators when he found them stuck in a wetland. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski stopped two quads that were operating illegally on federal land in Lake County. The operators advised they were just “following tracks” of other operators and figured they were legal doing so. The operators also had failed to title their ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski assisted a deputy in Lake County who was calling for backup. The deputy was making an arrest for operating while intoxicated when the passenger got out of the car and tried to prevent the deputy from arresting his friend. He was taken to the Lake County Jail for several violations, along with the intoxicated driver.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski of Mason County were out checking a baiting complaint when they heard ORVs operating nearby. The COs went towards the direction of the ORVs and found two 3-wheelers and a lawnmower tearing up the roads. Both ORVs had expired registrations, one was a 2002 and the other a 2007. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling the Pere Marquette River for fishing and trespassing violations when he observed two subjects on private property where it is well posted. CO Killingbeck made contact with the two anglers who admitted to seeing the trespassing signs. They advised that the “signs are everywhere” and said they were just following trails that were already on the property. One angler was also fishing without a license in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck made contact with a boat on the Pere Marquette River with several anglers fishing. One occupant onboard advised he was just along for the ride

and said he did not have his identification or fishing license with him. CO Killingbeck advised that he could simply take his name and run him through the retail sales system and obtained his name, but he again insisted he wasn't fishing. The angler told CO Killingbeck "go ahead and run me. I'm as clean as can be." CO Killingbeck did run the man and he came back with a warrant out of Saginaw County for aggravated assault. CO Killingbeck took the opportunity to ask him about the warrant and the man maintained that "he just couldn't remember anything about that." The subject was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting on top of an illegal ORV hill climb when he heard several ORVs approach. CO Killingbeck immediately contacted the first individual as he crested the top of the hill and could hear the second ORV attempting to climb the hill. As the ORV came into sight of CO Killingbeck, the driver loudly exclaimed "oh, no I knew we weren't supposed to be here!" Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking fishing access sites in Lake County when he observed the driver of the vehicle not wearing a seatbelt. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle and could immediately smell marijuana coming from the vehicle. Both occupants denied that they had any marijuana in the vehicle initially. When CO Killingbeck asked for identifications and insurance information, the driver could only produce a policy that expired in November of 2015. The driver was very sure she had insurance and CO Killingbeck called the insurance company to confirm her claims. CO Killingbeck was told that the policy was in fact expired and had not been renewed. Eventually the passenger handed CO Killingbeck a container with a pipe and bag of marijuana and informed him that his medical marijuana card was expired. The passenger was arrested for possession of marijuana and the driver was cited for no insurance.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking anglers along the Pere Marquette River when he observed a subject fishing with a trout bead in the flies only section. As CO Killingbeck approached the angler, he suddenly tried to rip the beads and hook off his line. CO Killingbeck was able to stop the subject from doing so and discovered that the angler's two fishing companions were also using the same illegal fishing gear. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking fishing activity along the Pere Marquette River when he checked a boat with three subjects fishing. The anglers had no personal floatation devices onboard. The owner said that the boat was just purchased and they didn't think about needing personal floatation devices. CO Killingbeck explained the importance due to the water temperature being in the 30s. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County picked up a subject who had an outstanding DNR warrant from last fall. The subject was convicted of taking a deer with a firearm during archery season and failed to pay his fines. The bond was set at \$2,000. The subject was not able to come up with the money and was lodged on the warrant.

In Osceola County, a well-known poacher in Sylvan Township was charged with poaching a 10-point deer with a drop tine last fall. He recently pled guilty to taking the 10-point deer without a license. He was sentenced to \$5,000 fines, cost, restitution, ten days in jail and loss of hunting privileges for the next four years.

DISTRICT 5

While patrolling the Rifle River Recreation Area, Conservation Officers Brian Olsen and Mark Papineau made contact with two anglers fishing in a closed stream. The anglers admitted that they were fishing for trout; however, they advised they were unaware of the current spawning closure. As the investigation continued, COs Olsen and Papineau learned that one of the subjects did not have a valid fishing license. In addition to the numerous fishing violations, one of the subjects was a minor who had been consuming alcohol provided by the adult angler. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Gladwin County, CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to an injury traffic accident in the Gladwin Field Trial Area. Upon arrival, CO Papineau met with the driver who had been driving the icy backroads during a sanctioned field trial when he lost control of the vehicle and slid down into a ravine. After sliding into the ravine, the vehicle collided with several trees which appeared to have prevented the truck from overturning. The driver suffered only minor injuries and refused medical treatment.

Conservation Officer Josh Wright received MSP crime lab results from a white powdery substance he located inside a vehicle. The substance was located inside a vehicle he contacted during the fall hunting season. The substance tested positive for methamphetamines. The lab results as well as a copy of the report were turned over to the Clare County Prosecutor's Office and a warrant was issued for both occupants of the vehicle. CO Wright was able to locate one of the subjects while the second subject is still at large.

CO Brian Olsen made a traffic stop on the vehicle operating illegally on a hill. Upon contacting the vehicle, CO Olsen noticed all of the windows were rolled down and the strong odor of marijuana was coming from the vehicle. CO Olsen conducted a follow up investigation on top of the hill where he had originally noticed the vehicle. CO Olsen was able to follow fresh footprints into the woods where he noticed a pile of leaves that had been disturbed. Further investigation revealed a camouflaged hat with a marijuana pipe and bag of marijuana inside of it. CO Olsen, assisted by CO Kyle Bader, interviewed the occupants one at a time and obtained a confession. Warrants are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kyle Bader was contacted by Ogemaw County Dispatch on a request for assistance from Grand Blanc PD in locating a suicidal subject. On-star indicated the man was on state land in Ogemaw County. CO Bader started searching for the man in the area given by On-star. CO Bader was unable to find a passable road to the location and continued on foot. CO Bader located a pickup in the woods that was still running. There was a flexible dryer hose in the tail pipe, with the other end stuck in the back window and sealed with towels and shirts. The man inside was initially unresponsive, but responded to CO Bader pounding on the window. CO Bader was able to get him to open the door and get him out of the vehicle. The man was transported to the hospital by EMS personnel for an evaluation.

CO Kyle Bader was first on scene of a subject who attempted suicide. After an argument with her boyfriend, the subject shot herself in the side of the head with a .22 revolver. CO Bader provided first aid and assisted EMS personnel on scene. The woman was transported to the local hospital and transferred to flight care.

CO Kyle Bader was patrolling for fishing activity near Prescott when he witnessed a car stop in the roadway. A man exited the car through the passenger window and took a minibike out of the trunk. CO Bader contacted the man before he began to ride the unlicensed ORV without a helmet. The man had outstanding warrants in Gaylord and Arenac County. He was arrested and turned over to Arenac County Sheriff's Deputies.

While on patrol, CO Ben McAteer observed a car driving erratically. Upon stopping the vehicle, an elderly woman stated that she was not used to driving in the snow and was having a difficult time seeing the road due to her windshield freezing up. CO McAteer cleared off the woman's windshield and gave her directions on the most direct route back to her house. After further observation, she was again observed weaving and driving into oncoming traffic. A second stop was conducted and the woman stated she did not feel comfortable driving home due to the road conditions. After multiple unsuccessful attempts to locate a ride, CO McAteer drove the woman to her residence without further incident.

CO Mike Hearn attended a sportsman's banquet dinner at the Victory Baptist Church in South Boardman. CO Hearn gave a short presentation on law updates and answered several questions by the attendees.

CO Sam Schluckbier was notified of an untagged deer that was located at a recently evicted residence. Upon further investigation, CO Schluckbier discovered an untagged four point buck, and additional evidence that the deer was taken illegally. Interviews were conducted on several individuals involved and confessions were obtained of shooting the buck in Kalkaska County. Charges are being sought for violating the Antler Point Restrictions in the Deer Management Unit of Northwest Michigan.

DISTRICT 6

CO Mike Haas investigated a truck parked along the road near the Chippewa River and noticed tackle boxes and a walleye lying in the bed of the truck. CO Haas then made his way to the river and approached two anglers. The anglers told the CO the fishing

was slow but CO Haas reminded them about the fish that was in the truck. One of the anglers said it was his fish and identified it as a walleye. When CO Haas advised the anglers that inland walleye season was closed, they stated they thought the season was open all year. CO Haas educated the anglers on the walleye fishing regulations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg received a call from central dispatch from a man picking up garbage on state land that watched three jacked-up pickup trucks drive over a berm and around a gate on state land in Midland County. The vehicles were back in a creek driving through the creek and closed state land. CO Lundberg responded from Gaylord and the vehicles were still there when he arrived. All three vehicles received citations for operating their vehicles in a closed area.

While on patrol in Bay County, COs Jill Berry and Dan Robinson made contact with several walleye anglers coming off of Lake Huron. One boat that came in had four anglers onboard and one of the anglers could not produce his fishing license. He told the COs that he purchased it the night before online but could not show proof and a check through the retail sales system showed no license for the subject. The COs, believing his story, told him that they would check the next day. A retail sales system check the next day showed that the subject had purchased his license while on the phone with his wife while the COs were checking the other anglers in his party. The angler had walked his wife through the process to buy it for him online. After a follow-up phone call, the subject admitted that he did not purchase his license prior to fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson responded with county units to a domestic assault where it was reported that seven people were at the residence. CO Robinson assisted with a search of the property for one of the people involved in the incident. The incident is still under investigation.

CO Quincy Gowenlock has been investigating a dumping complaint where the suspect dumped over 30 bags of garbage off Wahl Road in the Shiawassee River State Game Area. While investigating the complaint, CO Gowenlock found that most of the bags contained insulation and a few miscellaneous items. After going through all the bags, CO Gowenlock located a prescription pill bottle with a possible suspect name. After an extensive search by Station 20, an address was located only 12 miles away. The CO made contact with the suspect who advised that the trash was his but denied putting it out on state land. The suspect advised that he paid an acquaintance 20 dollars to take it to the dump. The suspect called his acquaintance and put him on speaker phone. The acquaintance advised that he took the trash out and dumped it. When he found out that CO Gowenlock was listening to the conversation he immediately changed his story and said he put it in a dumpster. CO Gowenlock is planning on a visit with the new suspect in the near future in regards to the illegal disposal of solid waste charges.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a call from Station 20 regarding a deer that was acting strange and appeared to be sick in Richland Township, Saginaw County. The reports indicated the doe would stand in one area and act like it didn't notice humans around it. At one point, a Township Police Officer was able to walk up behind it and touch the doe

on its hind end without it running away. CO Gowenlock responded to the scene and confirmed that the deer was definitely in distress and suffering. CO Gowenlock dispatched the deer and submitted it for testing at the state laboratory in Lansing.

CO Ken Lowell received a Report All Poaching complaint regarding a person who shot and killed a turkey vulture in Montcalm County. CO Lowell made contact with the suspect at his residence. The suspect admitted to shooting at the bird to scare it away. He then admitted that his fifth shot accidentally hit the bird and it fell out of the tree. A warrant request for the killing of a protected species has been submitted.

While on patrol in Gratiot County, CO Jill Berry stopped two subjects for riding double with no helmets on an ORV. CO Berry also noticed that they did not have an ORV license or trail permit. The subjects were educated on the rules and regulations and a citation was issued for failing to license the ORV.

While on a recent patrol, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed multiple subjects attempting to burn a collapsed barn. Upon closer inspection, it was learned the owner had set the fire. CO Bucholtz spoke with a representative from the local fire department who stated the barn owner had recently inquired about burning brush in the area. When asked, the barn owner was unable to provide a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol of the Rush Lake State Game Area, CO Robert Hobkirk encountered an off road vehicle on Sand Road. The operator of the ORV stopped when signaled by CO Hobkirk. When asked about an ORV license, the operator stated he had just purchased the 4 wheeler from a co-worker and had just got it running. CO Hobkirk ran the necessary checks to ensure that the ORV was not stolen, but in doing so, he learned that the operator had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken for the violations and arrangements were made for a friend of the operator to come pick up the 4-wheeler.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling when he observed two ORVs leaving a parking area on state land. Upon making contact with the ORVs it was discovered that juveniles were operating unlicensed ORVs in closed areas of state land. Contact was made with the juvenile's parents and a citation was issued.

DISTRICT 7

CO Matt Page was patrolling a closed stream with signs of illegal activity including an arrow that had been shot into the stream. CO Page observed a group of individuals attempting to use a hatchet to cut down a small tree. CO Page asked the subjects what they were doing. They advised that they got snagged in the tree on their first cast and were trying to retrieve their lure. CO Page observed a lure in the tree connected to a fishing pole that had been snapped in half while the subjects attempted to free their lure. CO Page asked the subject if he had ever received a ticket from the DNR and the subject stated that he has never been ticketed. Upon further investigation, it was found

that the subject had eight prior arrests with the department including fishing a closed stream and snagging. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tyler Cole spoke to thirty students at the Niles New Technology Center about careers as a conservation officer.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh checked a number of fishermen at the Pucker Street Dam and subsequently contacted and cited a fisherman for fishing without a license.

COs Saykham Keophalychanh and Andy Bauer received a complaint of a subject retaining foul hooked fish at Pucker Street Dam. After interviewing and receiving a confession from the subject, enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer checked a subject who had been fishing on a small lake in St. Joseph County. The subject was in possession of fifteen crappie, did not have a fishing license, nor had the subject purchased a fishing license in 2015. In addition, the subject's motorized canoe was unregistered. The subject was cited for fishing without a license and issued a warning regarding the unregistered canoe.

CO Greg Patten responded to a woods fire in Oceana County to assist local and state fire officers. The investigation revealed that the fire was started by an arsonist. The arsonist deliberately set the woods on fire, which burned down a deer blind. The investigation continues.

CO Justin Ulberg investigated a complaint of a subject taking an over limit of steelhead in Kent County. The subject had posted several pictures on a social media site showing more than the allowed three fish daily limit. During the investigation, CO Ulberg determined that other anglers were fishing with the subject and some of the fish in the photographs belonged to other anglers. However, during the investigation CO Ulberg determined that the subject's girlfriend had been fishing without a license and the subject had been fishing in a closed trout stream. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on the Rouge River in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg noticed the smell of marijuana. CO Ulberg questioned two anglers who both denied having any illegal substances. While CO Ulberg continued to speak with the anglers about how the fishing was he continued to notice the smell of marijuana. CO Ulberg questioned the anglers again and both subjects produced a small amount of marijuana. One of the subjects was also fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page assisted local deputies who were chasing a subject who fled on foot from a traffic stop. Deputies chased the subject to the Black River where the subject swam across the river on a 30 degree snowy day. CO Page was able to drive his patrol truck in an overgrown field connected to a large section of woods close to the area where the subject crossed the river. After an hour search, CO Page located a snow covered footprint. After following the tracks, CO Page located a fresh footprint indicating that he

had jumped the subject out of his hiding spot. After a short track, CO Page located the subject lying in the brush approximately 200 yards from where the patrol truck was parked. The subject was taken into custody and turned over to deputies. The subject was then taken to the hospital for medical treatment due to hypothermia. Charges are being sought for possession of methamphetamine components and possession of marijuana.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling the Barry State Game Area when he came in contact with a four-wheel drive pickup stuck on Shaw Trail. CO Cardenas made contact with the subjects and determined that one of the subjects had a warrant for his arrest. The subject was placed under arrest and lodged at the Barry County Jail.

DISTRICT 8

While out checking anglers at the Brenke fish ladder in Lansing, CO Matthew Neterer asked one of the anglers on the pier for his fishing license. The subject stated that he had left it at his parent's house but assured CO Neterer that he had purchased a license. Upon returning to his truck and running the subject's retail sales system history, it was discovered that the subject hadn't purchased a fishing license since 2013. CO Neterer issued the angler a citation for fishing without a license. After receiving his citation, the angler stated that the license machine wasn't working at the local bait store so he just went fishing anyway.

CO Matthew Neterer investigated a complaint of a woman who gave someone permission to hunt on the complainant's land in exchange for work being done on her house within Ingham County. CO Neterer responded to the property and located tree stands set on the complainant's property. CO Neterer interviewed the woman and the person hunting the property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer was conducting a night patrol and checked a dead end road in the Dansville State Game Area that has had recent issues with garbage dumping. CO Neterer was patrolling from his truck hidden from the main road when he observed a car traveling down the road at a high rate of speed, slammed on the brakes, and skidded across the gravel. The vehicle then began to travel in reverse at a high rate of speed toward the main road. CO Neterer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and found it to be occupied by four young adults. CO Neterer found that the driver had been previously suspended and had only been reinstated for two months. The driver was cited for careless driving and educated about the proper use of the game area.

CO Matthew Neterer investigated an abandoned vehicle parked at a Lansing river trail access site. The vehicle had been sold but ownership was never transferred through the Secretary of State. CO Neterer located the owner and advised that it would need to be removed or a citation would be entered and the vehicle towed.

While out on a late night snagging patrol in Lansing, CO Matthew Neterer pulled into a popular fishing spot and observed a car quickly leave the area. CO Neterer followed the vehicle for a short distance and it appeared as though the driver was attempting to

evade CO Neterer. CO Neterer observed a traffic violation, conducted a stop, and discovered that the driver had three outstanding warrants for his arrest. The subject was arrested on the warrants and turned over to the Lansing Police Department.

CO Jason King assisted Owosso Ambulance and Police Department with a subject that went into cardiac arrest while driving his vehicle on Chestnut Street within the City of Owosso. The subject was transported to Memorial Healthcare for further treatment

CO Jason King assisted Shiawassee County Conservation Club hunter safety instructors in teaching a hunter safety class. The class was a huge success.

CO Rich Nickols checked two subjects steelhead fishing at the Brenke Dam in Lansing. The subjects stated they had stopped at the bait shop to purchase their new licenses but were told the license terminal was down. CO Nickols followed up at the bait shop and verified their story. As CO Nickols was giving the subjects a warning and advising of alternate locations to purchase a license, one of the subjects emptied his bait bucket into the river. CO Nickols educated the subjects on the importance of not dumping bait into lakes and rivers.

CO Rich Nickols was given information about a subject involved in possible environmental and illegal burning activity. CO Nickols followed up and documented the evidence. While following up a couple days later, CO Nickols found the subject actively burning prohibited materials and burying shingles for fill adjacent to the Looking Glass River. The subject had been cited several times for similar violations in the past and was prohibited from obtaining a burn permit. The subject was again cited for illegal burning and the information was turned over to the Department of Environmental Quality.

COs Christopher Maher and Shane Webster had a bench trial reference the taking of a deer with a .22 caliber rifle during last year's firearm deer season in Jackson County. The defendant was found guilty and reimbursement was ordered in the amount of six thousand dollars for the eight point whitetail deer along with five years of hunting license revocations.

CO Robert Slick checked multiple anglers at Hopkins Lake in Shiawassee County. While there, CO Slick noticed an angler in a kayak across the lake from where he was standing. When the angler got to shore, CO Slick made contact checking his fishing license and for marine equipment compliance. When CO Slick asked if he had a life jacket or personal floatation device in the kayak the individual stated that he did not and didn't think he needed one since it was a kayak. CO Slick informed the angler of the requirements. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson followed up on an investigation regarding a suspicious kill tag located during a taxidermy inspection. The suspect admitted to buying a tag to put on a deer that his 14 year old son had shot without a license. The antlers were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince did a turkey hunting presentation for the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, Flint River Chapter, on turkey hunting safety, laws, regulations, call techniques and turkey hunting tactics. The turkey hunting workshop was held at William's Gun Sight Company in Davison, Michigan. 37 people attended the event.

CO Pete Purdy assisted Livingston County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police with checking injuries in several road spin off vehicles during the latest snow storm. During the recent snow storm, Livingston County Central Dispatch requested that CO Pete Purdy check the welfare of a semi-truck driver that was on the shoulder of US-23. A 911 call came in that the semi-truck was causing a hazard as it was partially blocking one of the lanes and the freeway was already in poor condition due to snow and ice. CO Purdy made contact with the driver who was uninjured but the semi was unable to go up the incline of the freeway and became stuck in the snow. CO Purdy assisted with obtaining a tow company for the driver.

COs Mike Drexler and Brandon Hartleben were checking activity along the Huron River in Ypsilanti and made contact with two anglers. One angler possessed a largemouth bass during the closed season and the other was fishing without a license. A file check also revealed one of the anglers had nine outstanding warrants for his arrest, one being a felony weapons charge. The subject was arrested and turned over to Van Buren Township Police for a few of his warrants. Enforcement action was taken on the fish violations.

COs Mike Drexler and Brandon Hartleben responded to a complaint where three bearded turkeys were shot from a vehicle and left in a farm field. The COs met with the complainant and took possession of the turkeys before investigating the area where the shooting took place. A vehicle description was obtained and the turkeys will be submitted to the lab for bullet retrieval and a necropsy.

COs Mike Drexler and Brandon Hartleben responded to a complaint of a deceased mute swan found in the complainant's front yard. After investigating, the COs determined the swan died as the result of flying into a power line.

CO Brandon Hartleben was patrolling northern Washtenaw County when he came across a gray Ford F-150 that had run off the road and down an embankment into a tree. CO Hartleben checked the vehicle to see if anyone was injured and discovered that no one was in the vehicle. CO Hartleben then walked over to a party store that was right next to the crash and made contact with a male subject in the parking lot who had been locked out of the store by the owners. After a brief interview, CO Hartleben ran the subject through field sobriety evaluations and administered a PBT. The subject was arrested for operating while intoxicated 10th and operating while revoked.

CO Brandon Hartleben was involved in assisting in negotiating a settlement between the president of a condominium association and one of the residents of the condos regarding the safety of a nesting pair of Canada geese. Ultimately, flagging was

allowed to be placed around the nest to help protect the area from upcoming fertilizing and mowing operations.

CO Andrew Monnich was just finishing up his patrol when he saw an individual on an ORV operating down a county road. CO Monnich turned around and located the individual who was now in a county cemetery doing donuts. CO Monnich made contact with the individual who stated he was on a test drive on his sister's new 50 CC mini 4-wheeler. The violations for no ORV stickers, helmet, driving on a county road, destruction of cemetery property and a suspended license were pointed out and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Reynolds were on patrol when they came across a semi that had rolled over due to weather conditions on US-12 and was partially blocking traffic. CO Reynolds checked the driver while CO Monnich started directing traffic to assure no other accidents occurred before emergency vehicles arrived on the scene.

DISTRICT 9

While checking for angler activity near a local shore fishing area, CO David Schaumburger observed an individual in a vehicle toss trash out of the window. CO Schaumburger made contact with the driver who thought it was okay, making the statement "look around, everybody does it here." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker received a Report All Poaching complaint that two anglers were keeping trout from the Huron River in the Proud Lake Recreation Area. CO Becker responded to the area and found the two anglers described by the complainant. When the angler saw CO Becker, he dumped two trout out of a trash bag into the river. CO Becker was able to retrieve the trout from the water and photograph them before releasing them back into the Huron River. CO Becker spoke with both anglers about keeping trout during the catch and release season. CO Becker also addressed the issue that both anglers were using unlawful bait in an area that is open to artificial flies only. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling back to Monroe County from Detroit, CO James Zellinger noticed a three car crash blocking a lane of traffic on I-94. CO Zellinger secured the scene until a responding Michigan State Trooper arrived. Enforcement action was taken on the driver at fault by the state trooper.

COs David Schaumburger and Dan Walzak were patrolling the Pointe Mouillee State Game area during late hours when they observed a vehicle in the game area being operated erratically. The COs followed the vehicle and watched the driver swerve from the far right to the far left of the road and back again in order to hit some very large puddles. While following the vehicle, CO Schaumburger smelled the odor of marijuana. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was found to be in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was checking anglers along the Huron River and was given a tip that several anglers were fishing with spoons in an area open to artificial flies only. CO

Becker made contact with two men and a boy fishing along the bank. CO Becker saw that the boy was fishing with a spoon and the two men were fishing with fly tackle. CO Becker was checking the two angler's licenses when one angler cut the boy's line and dropped the spoon into the river. The angler who cut the line stated he left his fishing license in the car. An RSS license check revealed the angler had never purchased a fishing license in the State of Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers checked anglers fishing in the Flint River. During one check, CO Beavers spotted three subjects near the river along Irish Road. CO Beavers approached the site in his patrol vehicle and noticed two subjects were fishing while the third was simply observing. CO Beavers also noticed the two fishing were using artificial bait, currently prohibited on the Flint River. While CO Beavers was still in his vehicle, one of the subjects noticed he was there and immediately dropped his pole and quit fishing. At that time, CO Beavers made contact with the group. CO Beavers first explained to the group that they were in violation of the current bait restrictions on the Flint River. CO Beavers explained the restrictions and both subjects stated they were unaware of the regulations. CO Beavers then asked for their fishing licenses. The first subject quickly provided his identification and fishing license while the second subject only offered his identification. CO Beavers then asked for his fishing license and the subject began to look through his wallet. At that time, CO Beavers told the subject he knows he does not have a license and saw him fishing and drop the pole once he noticed he was there. The subject then admitted that he was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking the canoe launch at Flushing Road and Mitson Road, CO Justin Muehlhauser noticed a significant amount of personal belongings scattered around the parking area. There was a vehicle parked at the launch but after further investigation it was determined that the vehicle was not involved. CO Muehlhauser searched through the belongings and found a check stub belonging to a man that lives in Davison. CO Muehlhauser followed up with the man and addressed the littering issue. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker received a complaint from the Special Investigations Unit that a local fish market was selling live red swamp crayfish. The information was passed to them through an ongoing investigation of a distributor that supplies fish to markets across the state. The red swamp crayfish is an invasive species that is illegal to possess live in the State of Michigan. CO Becker contacted CO David Schaumburger and CO Brad Silorey and met them at the fish market. CO Becker and CO Silorey located the live crayfish in coolers inside the store and interviewed the store owner. CO Schaumburger interviewed some of the store staff to locate more live crayfish. The officers seized over 300 pounds of live red swamp crayfish from the market. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol in Macomb County when the county dispatch aired a request to any law enforcement officer in the area to assist EMS with an intoxicated man. CO Silorey was nearest to the location and advised the dispatcher he would assist. Upon arrival to the local motel, CO Silorey entered the room where the man was staying with several other people. The room was engulfed in cigarette smoke and the

man was lying on his bed in a dazed state. The man was unresponsive to EMS but was conscious with his eyes wide open. CO Silorey, along with a Macomb County Deputy, explained to the man that they were going to take him to the hospital to help him sober up. After several attempts EMS was able to get the man on a stretcher and take him to the local hospital.

COs Matthew Zultak and Brad Silorey checked multiple boat launches and marinas in Macomb County for fishing and marine activity. During the patrol the COs came across a subject riding a dirt bike on the roadway without a helmet. Contact was made with the subject at his residence. During the investigation it was also discovered that the ORV was unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Matthew Zultak received a report that a Chevy 1500 was stuck on Byers Road. Byers Road is a decommissioned county road that runs through the game area. CO Zultak made contact with the subject operating the stuck vehicle while the license plate was run through LEIN. A misdemeanor warrant came through LEIN for the registered owner. CO Zultak confirmed the driver was the registered owner. The subject was arrested on two misdemeanor warrants out of Macomb County.

BELLE ISLE

CO Chad Baldwin spent two days on Belle Isle helping area COs patrol the island. On his second day of patrol, CO Baldwin located several individuals trespassing at the closed former zoo on the island. Warnings were given and the subjects sent on their way.

While working on Belle Isle, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a call from a park officer of an intoxicated man near the fountain armed with a gun. It turns out that the suspect and his girlfriend were drinking alcohol in his parked vehicle when she passed out. The suspect was in possession of a .40 caliber pistol while under the authority of a valid CPL (concealed pistol license). The problem was that he was intoxicated while in possession of his handgun and that he had open intoxicants in his vehicle. The firearm and the CPL were seized and tickets were issued. Sgt. Kimmerly also advised the suspect of the warrant he had for his arrest for not taking care of a parking ticket. The girlfriend was transported to the hospital by a Detroit ambulance.

While working on Belle Isle, CO Al Mendez received and responded to a 911 complaint of a bird caught in a tree. Upon further investigation CO Mendez found a great horned owl tangled up in fish line hanging in a limb of a tree too far out to reach from the bank. With the help of a concerned citizen and Sgt. Damon Owens, they were able to retrieve the owl and turn it over to a raptor rehabilitator.