

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
4/26/15 – 5/9/15**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Ryan Aho watched two anglers fishing a secluded section of river in Baraga County. When checked neither subject was in possession of a valid fishing license.

CO Brian Lasanen made contact with a group of anglers who were drinking alcohol near a local river. The subjects contacted were all under the legal drinking age. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Eberly responded to a fire in which building materials were being burnt. CO Eberly ticketed the subject for illegal disposal of solid waste and also issued warnings for other issues.

COs Matthew Eberly, Dennis Gast, Mark Leadman, Elton Luce, David Miller, Doug Hermanson and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a group ORV patrol. Large numbers of ORVs were contacted. Many violations were observed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Dennis Gast observed several illegal dump sites on public land and was able to gather evidence at the sites that led to several suspects. CO Gast conducted several interviews that resulted in two confessions for dumping litter on public land. The officer issued tickets for two of the illegal dump sites that he located.

CO Brett DeLonge was on patrol with his ORV when he came across an area with recent ORV damage. While checking the area, he could hear ORVs in the distance. A few minutes later the operators approached CO DeLonge's location. Contact with the operators found they were not responsible for the recent damage, but the operators had not purchased ORV licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery worked an area in Gogebic County related to ORV damage caused by trespass into wetland areas. Off road vehicle operators were surprised to find CO Emery working the area. Numerous ORV violations were addressed on top of the fact the operators were trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge responded to the complaint of subjects targeting sturgeon in Menominee. CO DeLonge was able to observe the subjects catch a sturgeon, take pictures and release the fish.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Bobby Watson was beginning his daily patrol when a four-wheeler was observed travelling down a state highway. The driver was not wearing a helmet and had a very young child sitting on his lap who was also not wearing a helmet. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

After receiving multiple complaints of an individual repeatedly hunting out of season, COs Bobby Watson and Rob Freeborn conducted a joint patrol to contact the suspect. CO Watson observed the suspect, who appeared to be hunting, walking down the road while his dog ran in and out of the woods. The individual was in possession of a .22 rifle and wearing a hunter orange hat. Upon making contact, it was discovered that the individual was also a convicted felon and was not allowed to be in possession of a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma investigated a wildfire that burned 50 acres which was started by a juvenile playing with fireworks.

COs Kevin Postma, Jon Buskin and Mike Hammill instructed an ORV safety class certifying 20 students.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint of anglers keeping short splake that had been recently planted by DNR Fisheries Division employees. Fifteen anglers were checked, none of whom had any splake; however good numbers of perch were checked.

CO Mike Hammill responded to a wildfire east of Newberry. Upon arriving on scene it was apparent that earlier in the day someone had attempted to burn a pile of trash without completely extinguishing the fire before they left. After a few quick phone calls and a short face-to-face interview, CO Hammill obtained a confession from an individual who had been at the property earlier in the day. The suspect stated, "I thought it'd burn itself out". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill had numerous reports of traps being left on state land with half eaten and rotting animals left in them. CO Hammill responded to the area and found several traps with rotten muskrat and mink trapped earlier in the year. CO Hammill knew who the suspect was and contacted the individual. When faced with the violations and shown the rotten animals the suspect replied, "I must have forgotten about those". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill contacted an individual at a State Forest Campground who was taking down his camp. The camper had not paid for his campsite for the past three days and stated that he usually pays just before he leaves the campground. The sign advising to register and pay before setting up was pointed out and the subject was ticketed.

CO Jon Busken contacted an individual while following up on a complaint of the subject burning without a burn permit. The suspect admitted to burning the day before, leaving the fire burning while he was sleeping and continuing to burn the next day even though he knew no burning permits were being issued anywhere in the state. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was patrolling the St. Ignace area when a BOL was broadcast for a vehicle driving erratically on I-75. A Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper stopped the vehicle north of St. Ignace and requested assistance. The driver appeared to be intoxicated and had a valid felony warrant out of Dickinson County for carrying a concealed weapon. A search of the vehicle revealed marijuana and also prescription medication, for which neither the operator nor passenger had a prescription. The operator was transported to the hospital for a blood test and lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.

CO Jon Busken was traveling on US-2 when he observed a vehicle behind him approaching at a high rate of speed. The vehicle passed the patrol vehicle continuing at a very high rate of speed. CO Jon Busken conducted a traffic stop and during the contact asked the operator if she had ever received a motor vehicle ticket before. The operator said she had only gotten a ticket for going through a yellow light. A driving record check revealed she had four prior moving motor vehicle violations, a driver responsibility letter in her file and a prior suspension pending a driver responsibility fee repayment. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson received several complaints of household trash being dumped on public and private lands around St. Ignace. After searching through the trash piles, several items identifying a suspect were found. After speaking with the local US Forest Service (USFS) officer, it was discovered that several other dump locations were related to the same individual. The interview resulted in a statement by the elderly suspect, that he had paid an individual from St. Ignace to dispose of his garbage. The investigation continues.

CO Rob Freeborn was dispatched to a forest fire near Garden. Upon arrival the DNR fire units had the fire nearly contained. After investigating the possible starting point of the fire, it was not clearly determined what had started the fire. No structures were damaged in the fire.

CO Rob Freeborn received a complaint from DNR foresters regarding a timber theft on state land. CO Freeborn has a possible suspect and is continuing further investigation into the incident.

COs Michael Evink and Rob Freeborn, along with MSP, Manistique Public Safety and local deputies, responded to the Manistique High School for a report of a student with a gun who was high on cocaine. After several searches of the building it was determined that no threat was present and that it was a false report. While the COs were still at the school, dispatch advised of a separate incident of a suicidal subject who was just

involved in a trespass and had left the scene on foot. When COs located the subject he produced a knife and held it to his own neck. The COs were able to get the subject to drop the knife and proceeded to take him into protective custody to be evaluated by mental health staff. He was later turned over to the Manistique Public Safety. They also responded to a call of a subject who was involved in an altercation the previous night, reportedly heading to the other combatants residence with a gun. This complaint turned out to be unfounded.

CO Jared Ferguson was working the Days River for steelhead anglers when he observed a car with items being thrown out of the vehicle windows. CO Ferguson made contact with the elderly couple and found that they were throwing raw hamburger in front of a fox den occupied by kits.

CO Jared Ferguson and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel assisted with the removal of abandoned property interfering with the Kipling boat launch in Gladstone. Over the past several years both COs have made it a point to educate the public about leaving their ice shacks past April 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to the efforts of both officers the number of shacks has dropped from two to three dozen down to just two this year. Both owners were contacted and ticketed for leaving property on state land for more than 24 hours.

CO Robert Crisp contacted occupants of a vessel returning fairly late to the Munising dock and found them in possession of two sets of fish fillets. CO Crisp advised the individuals that it was illegal to clean their catch while still on the water because it destroyed the ID and length of the fish. Both occupants knew that it was illegal, but stated there is not fish cleaning station at the Munising launch. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Crisp was traveling on Hwy 13 when an ORV pulled out in front of him and accelerated to approximately 65 MPH. CO Crisp conducted a traffic stop on the ORV to find out why the subject was traveling on the roadway and at such a high rate of speed. Upon making contact with the driver it was clear that he was under the influence of intoxicants and had an open beer on the machine. CO Crisp gave the operator a PBT with a result of .15. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

COs Andrea Albert and Andrea Erratt assisted with a marine rescue of two overturned kayakers in Torch Lake. Both subjects had been in the water for over 30 minutes and were suffering from severe hypothermia. Employees from a local marina and Bellaire Volunteer Fire Department assisted in getting the two patients to shore, while CPR was administered and the subject began breathing again. The COs assisted with patient care on shore, where the victims were treated for hypothermia. Neither subject was wearing or had personal flotation devices (PFDs) with them. One remains in critical condition.

CO Andrea Albert investigated a brush fire on state land where a subject was camping and had a campfire for cooking. The camper took precautions to contain the fire, but due to the extremely dry conditions, the campfire spread into the surrounding dry grass resulting in about a 40 by 60 yard area burned. All of the camper's gear was burned.

CO Matt Theunick investigated three fire complaints, including fires that escaped, burning on non-burn days, and unlawful material burning. Tickets were issued in each case.

CO Duane Budreau investigated a fire that escaped and issued a ticket.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted CO Rich Stowe with illegally taken bobcat and fox from South Fox Island. The suspect was from Charlevoix was interviewed there by the COs, where a confession was received. The fox and bobcat were taken during the closed season. CO Erratt retrieved the bobcat from the island the next day.

CO Andrea Erratt took a complaint of a gill net washed up on the Lake Michigan beach. CO Erratt located the gill net and turned the complaint over to Commercial Fish Specialist Steve Huff for follow up.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint of ORVs in a closed area on state land. CO Erratt waited for the ORVs and contacted them on the way out. The subjects were turkey hunting and one of them was sitting on a loaded and uncased shotgun. He stated he thought his CPL allowed him to carry a loaded and uncased shotgun. None were wearing helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Feagan, Andrea Erratt and Sgt. Greg Drogowski all addressed ORVs on state land operating in closed areas.

CO Andrea Albert gave a presentation on ORV rules and answered questions for a local subdivision association meeting as a joint effort with the Sheriff's Department.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted at the Charlevoix Rod & Gun Club Youth Day, making many contacts (over 200) with both kids and parents.

CO Andrea Erratt gave a presentation to a group of elementary students at Wilderness State Park.

CO Eric Bottorff patrolled the High Country Pathway in the Pigeon River Country State Forest due to complaints of illegal horseback riding.

COs from the Gaylord District have continued to respond to complaints of fires which have escaped, all of these have been on days where burn permits were not being given out.

CO Brad Bellville watched two anglers targeting panfish for over an hour and checked them as they were loading their boat. The anglers were over their limit and a ticket was issued to one of the anglers for the overlimit.

CO Brad Bellville stopped two ORVs operating on the roadway whose operators were not wearing helmets. CO Bellville explained the laws pertaining to ORV operation and issued a ticket to one of the operators for operating without a helmet.

CO Jon Sklba was patrolling Rockport when he contacted three individuals who were operating an ORV in a closed area near one of the sink holes. The operator had driven around a gate with his two passengers and none of them were wearing a helmet. A ticket was issued to the operator of the ORV for operating in a closed area and a warning given for the other violations.

CO Bill Webster observed an angler on Hubbard Lake using four planer boards, and upon checking the angler, he claimed he was in the process of switching out lines then admitted he was using four lines intentionally. The subject was ticketed for using more than three lines.

CO Nick Torsky gave a presentation to students at a hunter safety class.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Ben Shively of Oceana County assisted in attempting to locate a suicidal subject who had been reported heading for a section of Federal Forest land. Upon finally locating the subject, the officers found that the subject had already taken their life. CO Shively assisted with transporting the Medical Examiner to the scene and removal of the deceased subject from the remote access location.

CO Ben Shively conducted a traffic stop on a suspected drunk driver who was crossing the center line and traveling off the roadway. CO Shively conducted field sobriety tests on the driver who refused afterward to submit to a preliminary breath test. Based on his investigation and observations, CO Shively placed the driver under arrest for operating while intoxicated, which happens to be his third offense for drunk driving. The driver also refused to give a blood sample and a search warrant for blood was obtained by court order. A preliminary breath test was given by jail staff to the driver after he was lodged and as of that time the BAC registering three times the legal limit.

CO Mike Wells responded to a wildfire that started between two residences in Newaygo County. Investigation of the scene revealed that someone had been out cutting firewood with a chainsaw and witness interviews confirmed that a subject was heard cutting and leaving the scene a short time before the fire was observed. A follow up investigation with the property owner revealed that a family member had been cutting firewood at the location for the last several weeks. The individual was located and interviewed. The chain saw operator admitted to striking a hard surface with the chain saw which caused several sparks. The individual advised that he attempted to

suppress the area where the sparks landed by stomping on the ground to make sure the sparks did not ignite and left a short time later. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells conducted an investigation of a fire that occurred in Newaygo County a few weeks earlier. Two suspects were identified and interviewed and both revealed that they were burning approximately 25 bags of household trash in an open manner when the fire jumped the fire pit and blazed out of control, burning five acres, including a large pile of tires. Enforcement action is being taken.

CO Troy Mueller of Osceola County received information of a large dump site on State Land. CO Mueller was able to recover evidence that indicated a suspect residence and attempted to contact the occupants. The CO learned that the residence had been recently sold and was vacant. CO Mueller contacted the owner downstate who provided the name of a hired contractor paid to remove the debris from the residence prior to selling. CO Mueller contacted the suspect and received a full admission of dumping the debris on State Land. CO Mueller followed the suspect to the dumpsite and witnessed him cleaning up the site. Enforcement action was taken in addition to cleaning up the site.

CO Sam Koscinski responded to a complaint in Manistee County of a woman being held at knife point by a couple on Federally owned lands near Tippy Dam. The suspects fled the area prior to arrival and responding units were unable to locate them during a search of the area.

CO Sean Kehoe responded to a complaint of someone baiting near a blind on state land being used for turkey hunting. CO Kehoe spoke to the complainant who stated the suspect had left the area. The CO patrolled to an area where he was checking for turkey hunters at another baited blind and located the suspect from the complaint. CO Kehoe issued the hunter a ticket for illegal bait.

CO Josiah Killingbeck assisted Lake County Sheriff's Department deputies with a fire where a subject had been burning plastic and insulation on a regular basis and had been warned of the violation several times. CO Killingbeck made contact with the subject who admittedly had been burning. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck responded to a fire in Lake County where approximately 10 acres of property was burned. When CO Killingbeck arrived, the owner stated to the officer that he was running a lawn tractor when he hit a rock, and tried convincing the officer that it "sparked" and caused a fire to ignite. After a lengthy discussion with the property owner, CO Killingbeck was able to get to the truth. The owner admittedly started a small fire to burn some yard clippings and brush and it got away from him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was working an ORV patrol when he encountered a side-by-side ORV being operated in a campground. The operator was not wearing a seatbelt. CO Killingbeck contacted the operator and ascertained there were no ORV permits for the

ORV. He also discovered that the operator had open intoxicants and was currently suspended. The operator was arrested and lodged at the Lake County Jail.

COs Kyle Publiski and Josiah Killingbeck responded to a report of an explosion and subsequent fire in Mason County. When the COs arrived on scene, they found several subjects sitting around a campfire consuming alcohol, claiming that they had no idea how the fire had started. The COs searched the area for the source of ignition and found two AR-15s buried in the leaves. The subjects finally disclosed that they had been shooting at tannerite (exploding) targets. These were the likely cause of the wildfire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was working an ORV patrol near an illegal hill climb in Lake County when he witnessed an ORV operating in a closed area. CO Publiski stopped the operator and found that he was intoxicated and in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was working a fish patrol in Mason County when he encountered a subject who was fishing without a license. The subject admitted to fishing the past five years without a license and felt that he had saved money overall. When CO Publiski advised him how much the ticket for fishing without a license was going to be, he made it clear to the angler that he would have had to go another five years unchecked to break even, and in the end there was no savings for violating the law.

CO Kyle Publiski was working a marine patrol on Hamlin Lake when he encountered three separate boats with unlicensed anglers, none of whom had any of the required PFDs on board. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Nick Atkin received a RAP complaint about an angler who was keeping bass during the closed season. In addition, the caller reported that the angler also had what appeared to be a short pike on a stringer. At the time, CO Atkin was on marine patrol on Saginaw Bay and was not in a position for a quick response. Quick thinking led CO Atkin to contact the local police department with the description of the angler and his vehicle. The local law enforcement, along with a unit from MSP was able to get the vehicle stopped. When CO Atkin arrived, he was able to retrieve five bass that were kept out of season along with one undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken by CO Atkin.

CO Jason McCullough responded to information about a camp that was baiting turkeys during hunting season. COs McCullough and Steve Lockwood were able to scout the area prior to season and locate bait as described. In the early morning hours of opening day, CO McCullough made his way into the baited area only to find two non-residents sharing the same blind. Each hunter had their own firearm and had very surprised looks on their faces. To make matters worse, both of the hunters were hunting without turkey licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin responded to a complaint from Arenac County Central Dispatch. It seems that a concerned citizen noticed a pick-up truck with a lot of junk, including mattresses and sofas, driving in an area of state land. A very short time later, the truck was spotted again, this time with nothing in the bed of the truck. CO Atkin was able to track the owner of the truck with the description that was provided by the caller. During the initial contact, the suspect attempted to convince CO Atkin that the garbage was unloaded on state land for temporary reasons only. He further explained that the load of garbage was blocking his view out the back window and so he simply unloaded it temporarily. It did not take the officer long to pick the story apart. In the end, the garbage was picked up and the litter bug left with a ticket for his violation.

COs Jonathan Warner, Bobbi Lively, Josh Russell, Brian Olsen, Warren MacNeill, and Steve Lockwood along with Sergeants Brandon Kieft and Jon Wood responded to a large wildfire in assistance to the USFS near Barton City in Alcona County. The officers assisted with road closures and home evacuations. The fire burned approximately 500 acres and is still under investigation.

CO Jon Warner responded to a fire in Arenac County involving a subject who was illegally burning construction materials and furniture without a permit on a "no burn" day. The fire escaped the burn pit, travelled across the grass, and started an unoccupied mobile home on fire. The structure was a total loss. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Russell and John Huspen stopped ORVs operating illegally at Camp Grayling in Crawford County. As the COs were finishing their stop, they observed two additional ORVs coming up the trail. When the operators saw the officers and their emergency lights, they immediately turned around and sped off. CO Russell pursued them in his patrol truck, which led to a chase off road and back onto a two-track. At that time, the ORVs split up and CO Russell was able to get one of them stopped. After further questioning the location of the camp was determined and the other ORV operator was contacted as he came back into camp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen, assisted by a sheriff's deputy, responded to wildfire complaint just west of the City of Grayling. The subjects were burning leaves and trash from their house when the fire escaped. Earlier that day there had been a red flag warning issued to advise people not to burn. The officers arrived on scene and located the fire burning toward a very large brush pile on the neighbor's property. The officers used their fire extinguishers to keep the fire from getting into the brush pile. They successfully kept the fire from spreading until the township fire department arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn handled a yard waste complaint where a subject was dumping yard debris on state land. CO Hearn located and interviewed a suspect, who ended up being an employee of a lawn maintenance company hired to do the spring clean-up at a seasonal cabin. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn responded to an ORV personal injury accident at an illegal hill climb on state land. CO Hearn was first on scene, and was able to direct first responders into the remote portion of state land. Upon investigation, it was determined that the operator had rolled a four wheeler while navigating around a wash out on the trail. The victim was turned over to first responders for medical treatment.

COs Chuck McPherson and Bobbi Lively were patrolling Houghton Lake and found a subject in possession of a smallmouth bass during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson assisted with an ORV safety class offered in St. Helen at the "Snowpackers Club". CO McPherson presented to 25 students and all students successful passed this course.

Roscommon District Conservation Officers responded to a large wildfire that started east of St Helen. Responding COs evacuated numerous residences and provided traffic control with road blocks. The fire burned approximately 300 acres of private and state property. COs Chuck McPherson and Brian Olsen investigated the origin of the fire, located a suspect and are seeking warrants in Ogemaw County.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Dan Lee and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly assisted Saginaw County Sheriff's Department deputies with a fatal boating accident that occurred on the Saginaw River. The investigation is still ongoing but it appears that the two victims were having motor problems and could not get their motor started as a tug boat pushing a barge headed right for them. The two men, ages 27 and 52, both jumped off the boat just before the collision. Apparently the 52 year old subject was caught in the turbulence from the tug boat's propeller. The Saginaw County Sheriff's Department, MSP, Coast Guard and the DNR all took part in the search and recovery of the victim.

While patrolling the Flint River, COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel came across two subjects fishing in a small boat. As the COs approached they noted the odor of burnt marijuana. As they made contact, the subjects were asked if they were in possession of any illegal drugs, at which time they said no but they smelled it too and said it was coming from the other boat which they had just passed. The COs continued with the check and still smelled marijuana. When faced with having the boat and their persons searched, the operator of the boat indicated that it was them and apologized for lying. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of captive wildlife. The complainant advised that she was driving by a residence and saw a deer chained to a stake. Upon arrival, the CO observed a year old doe chained in the yard. Upon contacting the homeowners, they advised that the deer was found alone on the side of the road. They thought that the mother was killed so they took her in and kept her until she was big enough to fend for herself. The CO explained the laws pertaining to captive wildlife and

also that their mother will always leave the fawn alone, due to the fact they have no scent and the mother does. The CO advised the subjects to remove the chain and dog collar from the deer and then chased it out of the yard across the road and into the field. The deer took off running in a dead sprint through the field and into the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Montcalm County, CO Will Brickel received a complaint of litter on state land. The CO went to the site and found several pieces of litter with names and addresses. Upon contact with the suspect, a confession was obtained and the litter was set to be cleaned up. Enforcement action was also taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Dan Lee were patrolling state land in northern Midland County when they encountered two dirt bikes operating where prohibited. They stopped the riders and discussed the situation. One of the men asked the COs to explain how he could possibly know if he was on an ORV trail when there weren't any signs. The other rider, when issued his ticket, explained that he gets one every year. A check of DNR records proved him to be correct. The court was notified of his continued violations.

CO Larn Strawn conducted a follow up investigation on a recent illegal burn. The CO was able to identify and locate a suspect of an illegal burn in Isabella County which caused a large forest fire. Upon interviewing the suspect, the CO was able to obtain a confession. The suspect admitted to igniting a pile of trash and yard debris during a period of high fire danger when no burning permits were issued. Enforcement action was taken.

While on a recent traffic stop, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed a car carelessly pass him in the same lane. The car was at such a high rate of speed and so close it caused the COs patrol truck to rock. The driver did not attempt to slow or move over for the CO as the law states. CO Bucholtz quickly caught up with the driver and spoke with him. The driver stated he was only going 60 mph as he passed the CO and did not move over as there was another car coming. CO Bucholtz then explained the law which stated the driver shall then slow to a safe speed when passing an officer. The driver became upset and advised CO Bucholtz he needed to pull further off the road when the CO makes his next traffic stop. When asked for his driver's license the driver stated he did not have one on him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling the Saginaw Bay when he checked a vessel with anglers onboard. Officer Wright observed that the registration was expired. Upon further investigation, there was no other required equipment in the vessel including any type of PFDs. The only thing proper was that the anglers had fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a complaint of a subject posting pictures on a local social media web site of a turkey and suspected that the subject did not possess a kill tag for it. CO Foerster confirmed that the hunter did not purchase a license and then made contact to interview the subject. At first the hunter had many stories to tell the CO prior

to confessing to killing the turkey without purchasing his license. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Greg Patten patrolled Muskegon Lake after receiving complaints of persons taking bass during the closed season. During his patrols he was able to make contact with one subject who had taken an overlimit of sunfish and was wanted on an outstanding warrant for shoplifting. CO Patten ticketed the angler for the violation and transported him to the Muskegon County Jail on the warrant.

CO Greg Patten responded to two wildfire complaints in Muskegon and Oceana Counties prior to recent rainfalls. One investigation involved an escaped campfire on a small island that was started by juveniles. In this case CO Patten and fire officials turned the youths over to parents with a verbal warning and education on fire responsibility. A second call on the Muskegon – Oceana county line was for a five acre fire on public land. COs Patten and Ben Shively responded for security but the origin of the fire has not been determined.

CO Ivan Perez was checking shore anglers in Ottawa County when he observed a subject quickly heading for his car. When stopped, the CO thought he recognized the angler from another contact. The subject mentioned that CO Perez had ticketed him last fall for retaining foul hooked whitefish in Muskegon. When asked for a fishing license, the subject responded that he was not fishing, only checking out some tackle. A quick check found bluegills in a bucket in the vehicle and a quick story developed as to how his female companion had caught the fish that were now in the car. After a short discussion the angler was ticketed for fishing without a license.

COs Ivan Perez and BJ Goulette responded to a call of a subject shooting birds in a semi-residential area near a wetland. A significant neighbor dispute was in progress when the call was received and the officers arrived within minutes. Officers quickly located three dead turkey vultures that had been shot with a rifle by one property owner. He was concerned the birds may kill nesting waterfowl on his property and took action into his own hands without consideration that the birds are a legally protected species. The officers seized the rifle used and collected three illegally killed birds. A ticket was issued for the illegal taking of a protected species.

CO Chris Simpson was checking boats at a Muskegon Lake boat launch when a driver entered the gravel lot and “spun donuts” with her vehicle throwing gravel against CO Simpson’s patrol vehicle. After a traffic stop, CO Simpson had an extensive discussion with the young driver about her operation and the damage that a reckless driving charge could do to her driving privileges. CO Simpson ticketed the driver for not having proof of insurance and released her at the scene.

CO Chris Simpson, on two occasions while off duty, had observed a subject operate a motorcycle past his residence at an extremely high rate of speed. During the second

incident, neighbors added that this driver continues to do this putting children and drivers at risk in the neighborhood. CO Simpson followed the operator of the cycle home after the second incident and during his investigation said he felt the driver was operating in excess of 90 mph in a 55 mph zone. The driver stated he was doing 105 mph at the time, had no cycle endorsement and the vehicle was registered to another owner. CO Simpson had a lengthy discussion with the operator and took enforcement action for the violations and gave several verbal warnings.

CO Chris Simpson was patrolling the Muskegon State Game Area (SGA) when a four wheel ATV was observed riding down the road heading into the game area. After stopping the vehicle it was learned the operator had multiple suspensions on his driver's license. Enforcement action was taken and the operator was returned to his residence.

CO Cary Foster was on patrol in Ionia County when a call was dispatched of a suicidal subject heading to the Lowell SGA. CO Foster began to check the area and located the suspect vehicle with the doors open in a game area parking lot. Meeting with the MSP near the scene, CO Foster and troopers approached the vehicle to find the occupant unresponsive from what appeared to be an overdose of prescription medication. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived at the scene and the subject was transported for medical treatment.

CO Jeff Robinette checked anglers on Cass County lakes and made contact with two subjects who were fishing without licenses. In addition, CO Robinette contacted a boater operating an unregistered boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer located a Jeep in Three Rivers SGA that was stuck on a hill in an area where motor vehicle operation is prohibited. Three subjects were waiting on a friend to come back and help them get the Jeep unstuck. The operator of the vehicle was ticketed for operating a motor vehicle in a prohibited area and the Jeep was successfully removed.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols was on marine patrol on the Maple River when he encountered three subjects fishing from the bank in a remote area. All three subjects were 16 years old and had no fish, but as CO Nickols was about to leave, he spotted some cans tossed in the weeds nearby. CO Nickols then spotted a cooler hidden behind a tree. When asked what was in the cooler, the subjects were silent. CO Nickols tied his boat off and retrieved the cooler and found it contained beer. The subjects admitted to the beer being theirs and to each drinking one previously. Enforcement action was taken.

As CO Rich Nickols was preparing to launch his boat at Lake Ovid, a young girl contacted him and asked if he could help measure the fish she had just caught. CO Nickols said he would be glad to assist and went to the nearby dock where the girl was fishing with the father. The girl removed a black crappie from a bucket which CO

Nickols measured to be 16 inches long. CO Nickols provided the young angler with a fishing guide and the instructions for receiving her Master Angler award.

CO Rich Nickols checked an angler on the Sycamore Creek. When asked for his license, he produced a 2014 fishing license. When asked for a 2015 license, he stated he thought they expired at the end of April. Realizing it was well into May, he then said he thought they expired at the end of May. A ticket was issued to remind him they expire at the end of March.

COs Al Mendez and Rich Nickols were conducting a marine patrol on the Grand River when they observed two subjects sitting on a dock. One subject was actively fishing while the other was sitting on a bucket with a fishing pole in front of him. When the COs contacted them, the subject sitting on the bucket attempted to throw the fish back in the water. CO Mendez stopped the subject and found the bucket contained one sunfish and two undersized rainbow trout. One subject was ticketed for possessing undersized trout and the other was given a verbal warning about fishing without a license.

COs Damon Owens and Shane Webster assisted a Jackson County Sheriff's deputy with a vehicle that had run off the road and into a ditch. The subject was not injured and violations included no proof of insurance and operating under the influence. The subject was found to be twice the legal BAC limit.

CO Shane Webster assisted the Lansing Police Department with a Red Tail hawk that had been struck by a car. The officers were able to help a wildlife rehabilitator capture the bird of prey. It appeared the bird had suffered a broken wing and should make a full recovery.

CO Chris Reynolds assisted CO Justin Ulberg with an investigation where a subject shot two turkeys without having a license. While investigating the complaint, the officers were having a difficult time getting information on the subject who shot the turkeys. The officers decided to just interview the subject in the case. Without knowing it, the subject gave the officers several names of people to interview. The officers interviewed all of the people disclosed by the subject and found several holes in the subject's story. The next morning the subject called CO Ulberg and gave a full confession stating that he couldn't take the guilt anymore. A report will be submitted and charges sought.

CO Chris Reynolds passed an ORV on a back road. When the CO returned to the area, the ORV and the subject were waiting. The CO questioned the subject on why he was not wearing a helmet; the subject stated that he heard that he didn't need to wear a helmet since the county had passed a law saying such. The CO explained to the individual that helmets are required for all ORVs in the county. A verbal warning was given.

CO Matt Page received a tip of a subject who shot two turkeys. CO Page drove by the residence which appeared to be unoccupied at the time. CO Page then located the subject vehicle in the parking lot of a sporting goods store and initiated a traffic stop.

CO Page questioned the driver, who was identified as the subject from the tip, if he had shot a turkey that morning. The subject stated that he had shot a turkey earlier in the morning. When asked how many turkeys he shot he stated that he shot two turkeys but did not see the second turkey until after it started flopping around. CO Page followed the subject back to his residence and located the turkeys hidden in the back yard. CO Page advised the subject that if he would have called in and self-reported that the ticket would have likely been much lighter. The subject was issued a ticket for overlimit of turkeys and will be charged reimbursement of \$1000 as well as a loss of hunting privileges for the next three years.

CO Matt Page was conducting marine checks on a local lake when two subjects began unloading a boat with an expired registration. CO Page informed the owner that his boat had an expired registration and that he could not operate it on the water until it became registered. The owner of the boat stated that he was glad the CO talked to him before he got out on the water.

COs Matt Page and Chris Reynolds assisted local deputies with a warrant service where three raccoons and two African Coatis were located at a residence in cages. The individual involved was listed as a missing person after her vehicle was torched on the east side of the state. The COs assisted in removing the animals from the scene as well as checking the residence and surrounding area for any signs of the landowner. The animals were picked up by a licensed rehabilitator who, while on scene, was bitten by one of the raccoons. The COs then performed first aid on the rehabilitator for a puncture wound on her forearm. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Matt Page received a complaint of a snowmobile operating on the roadway in early May. CO Page located tracks from the snowmobile on the side of the road that led into a barn with an older model snowmobile located inside. CO Page questioned the landowner who stated that he drove the snowmobile on the road because he just bought it and wanted to "get it ready for winter." The snowmobile did not have any registration paperwork nor did it have any decals. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page received a call from a subject who took his nephew out hunting while a group of four turkeys came in. After all was said and done the subject accidentally shot three birds, one of which they did not have a tag for. CO Page met with the subject who was very remorseful and stated that he wanted to do the right thing to set an example for his nephew. During the interview the subject stated that the turkeys were only a few feet apart and agreed that he should have used better judgement and not taken the shot. A ticket was issued; however CO Page will be working with the court to ensure a lighter sentence for the hunter. CO Page seized the turkey involved and it will be sent to a wildlife biologist who had advised that he wished to test a few turkeys from the area.

CO Matt Page patrolled HAP lands for any activity. Upon checking the sign-in book first, he noticed that no one was signed in for the day. However after checking the property, a subject was observed in a blind with a turkey decoy out in front of him. CO

Page waited for the subject to return to his vehicle and when approached, the subject stated that he forgot to sign the book. CO Page noted that the subject's name was on the list for past dates indicating that he usually signs in. CO Page issued a verbal warning to the subject.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While enroute to Belle Isle, CO David Schaumburger's patrol truck was almost struck by another vehicle. CO Schaumburger initiated a traffic stop and discovered the driver had a suspended license and a warrant for her arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas received an email complaint from CO Jeremy Beavers. The email complaint contained photographic evidence of a suspect with a possible illegal turkey in Oakland County. CO Cardenas conducted an internet investigation and found that the suspect had illegally harvested four antlered deer and three turkeys over a four year time period. COs Cardenas and Jason Becker interviewed the suspect, and obtained a verbal statement and written confession admitting guilt. Evidence was seized and a report is being prepared to be submitted to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Richard Cardenas conducted a traffic stop on a subject with no helmet operating a dirt bike on the road in Oakland County. The dirt bike did not have the necessary equipment to legally be operated on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas responded to a safety zone complaint where a complainant had witnessed a turkey being shot. The complainant obtained a license plate number and provided it to the officer. CO Cardenas arrived at the complainant's residence and found that a turkey had been shot within the safety zone of two occupied dwellings. Utilizing the license plate number, CO Cardenas was able to make contact with the hunters who were hunting within the safety zone. It was found that the father was allowing his son, who was a minor, to hunt unsupervised and therefore the son was unaware of the safety zone. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. Pete Purdy and CO Lacelle Rabon conducted a fish patrol in Detroit along the Detroit River and issued five no fishing license violations and also apprehended a subject who had two smallmouth bass in his possession and one undersized northern pike. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. Pete Purdy and CO Lacelle Rabon contacted an angler in Detroit along the Detroit River who couldn't locate his fishing license. The angler was checked through the Retail Sales System and LEIN. A valid fishing license was located and so were two outstanding misdemeanor traffic warrants. The holding police agency advised that due to overcrowding they were unable to accept the subject. The subject was warned for not displaying his fishing license, and advised and released on the two warrants.

CO Lacelle Rabon received an informational complaint from Station 20 regarding one of the local fishing spots. The subjects were alleged to be putting smallmouth bass in their motor vehicles. Upon arrival and checking the described vehicles, no violations were found. However, after checking the nearby canal, 10 smallmouth bass were discovered. All the smallmouth bass were returned to the water except one that had died.

CO Lacelle Rabon was patrolling an inland lake and came upon a female subject who was kayaking and had her four year old son with her. Neither of them had on nor access to any flotation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith responded to a road hunting complaint in Washtenaw County where an individual had taken a turkey on the complainant's property without asking permission. CO Smith received information from a witness and tracked the suspect down at his residence with help from CO Dan Walzak. CO Smith interviewed the hunter and received a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith worked an early morning patrol along the Huron River in Washtenaw County focusing on fishing activity. CO Smith checked one angler who had a smallmouth bass that was hidden in the bottom of his cooler. CO Smith was addressing the issue of the out of season bass when another angler approached him. The angler advised that she had warned the person in possession of the bass that the fish was out of season. CO Smith issued a ticket and thanked the assisting angler for speaking up and supporting conservation.

While on patrol in Monroe County, COs Justin Ulberg and Christopher Knights received a complaint regarding individuals keeping overlimits of white bass in Monroe Township. The COs responded to the location and after only a couple minutes of waiting, the officers encountered multiple parties coming from the site with large coolers. Four anglers were carrying coolers filled to overflowing with white bass. After all fish were counted, the COs discovered that the anglers were 170 fish over the limit. According to the group, they never referenced a guide book and did not know there was a limit. The illegally possessed fish were confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Monroe County, CO Christopher Knights received a complaint of several anglers keeping overlimits of white bass at the Monroe access site. CO Knights responded to the location and after checking multiple anglers and their catches for that day, CO Knights discovered a number of them had kept greater than the legal limit. Two of the anglers CO Knights checked had kept 61 fish, one individual who was 31 over the limit and also a group of three anglers who had 110 fish over the limit. All illegally possessed fish were confiscated and enforcement action was taken. CO Knights noted on each ticket the restitution is \$5.00 per fish.

Area 2 officers conducted a day of charter boat inspections at the Elizabeth Park Marina and boat ramp. COs also conducted regular marine and fishing checks during their time at that location. CO Mark Ennett and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth encountered one vessel

that contained two large coolers which were full of white bass. When asked if the three anglers had kept count, they vaguely replied that they believed they had "about 90". A count was made of the fish revealing that the three had caught 178 fish which was 103 over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Ulberg and Christopher Reynolds investigated a complaint of a subject hunting turkeys over bait in Lenawee County. During the investigation CO Ulberg discovered that not only was the subject hunting over bait, but he'd also shot two turkeys and did not have a 2015 turkey license. The officers interviewed the subject, who denied shooting the turkeys, and claimed that he had taken a friend out to show him how to hunt and that his friend had shot the turkeys. After further investigation CO Ulberg was contacted by the initial subject who confessed to shooting both turkeys. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers coming off Devils Lake in Lenawee County, CO Justin Ulberg checked anglers in a boat who had four largemouth bass in a live well during the "catch and immediately release" bass season. The anglers claimed they were going to release the fish. During the contact it was also discovered that one of the anglers had been fishing without a fishing license. CO Ulberg spoke with the anglers regarding the meaning of "catch and immediately release". All the bass were returned alive to the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett assisted with prescribed burns in Monroe County. The target location this time was Sterling State Park. CO Ennett concentrated on traffic and crowd control. The burns took place in several sections of the Park, including next to the entrance roads and the Nature Trail.

CO Kris Kiel was on his way to Brighton for pistol maintenance when he received a cell phone complaint of a subject keeping a smallmouth bass at Blossom Heath, in St. Clair Shores. CO Kris Kiel had just a few minutes to spare and was close by. The CO approached the subject and found that the subject did have a 15 inch smallmouth bass in a bucket. The subject also had not purchased a fishing license since 2011. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the stretch of water through the Port Huron SGA, CO Ken Kovach checked several anglers and found two subjects fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Ben Lasher observed a male driving an ORV on Wadhams Road. CO Lasher pulled into the driveway of where he suspected the machine had come from and contacted a juvenile female standing in the garage door area with an ORV helmet in her hands. CO Lasher asked if her dad was driving the ORV and she advised he was. CO Lasher then waited in the driveway for a few minutes and the suspect returned to the garage. CO Lasher then made contact with the subject and advised him of the violations. The subject stated that he did not need a helmet because of the change in the helmet law. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Prince investigated a coyote dumping complaint on state land. There were approximately nine coyote carcasses dumped in the Oak Grove SGA. CO Prince followed up with the Howell Nature Center about a turkey that was brought in with a possible bullet wound to its leg. The turkey was euthanized and there are no suspects.

While working in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers investigated a complaint regarding a turkey that was illegally killed. CO Beavers contacted the suspect and questioned him about his turkey hunting activity. CO Beavers informed the suspect that he was given information that he killed a turkey illegally and asked if he shot a turkey one day before the season opened. The suspect stated no, that he shot the turkey on April 20, opening day for turkey season. The suspect showed pictures to CO Beavers confirming that he shot the turkey on the evening of the opener. CO Beavers then asked if anyone could confirm his story and he stated his father. The suspect told CO Beavers a long story about how and where he shot the turkey and stated he processed it himself. CO Beavers then asked the suspect if he validated his kill tag and tagged the turkey. The suspect stated he did but then threw the tag away with the carcass once it was processed. The suspect said he bought his tag on April 19. At that time CO Beavers informed the suspect that it was in his best interest to be honest when answering the questions. CO Beavers asked the suspect once again when he bought his license. The suspect stated he would be honest and said he never purchased a license. He went on to say that he just happened to see the turkeys behind his father's shop and felt the opportunity was too good to pass up. CO Beavers went on to collect the necessary evidence and information and obtained written statements from the suspect and his father. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

While researching popular Michigan hunting sites on the internet, CO Jeremy Beavers came across a subject who made multiple posts referencing a turkey he shot on opening day of the spring turkey season. The subject posted multiple pictures of the turkey and a video of his kill. CO Beavers was able to identify the subject and looked him up in the Retail Sales System in order to determine if he purchased a 2015 Turkey license. After the RSS check, it was determined he had not purchased a turkey license. On a follow up patrol CO Beavers and Sgt. Dan Bigger contacted the subject at his residence. CO Beavers told the subject he was investigating a complaint that the subject shot a turkey before the season opened. The subject stated that he did not shoot a turkey. The subject went on to say that he went out during the opener with his father and sister but he did not actively hunt. The subject stated that his father was the only one who hunted and he shot a turkey. CO Beavers then got the fathers contact information and Sgt. Bigger attempted to call the father in order to confirm the subject's story. When the subject realized Sgt. Bigger was attempting to call his father he stated he wanted to be honest and went on to say that he shot the turkey. The subject explained that he was in the blind with his father and sister when a group of turkeys came into view. The subject stated that his father did not have a good shot so he gave the gun to the subject because he had a better angle to make the shot. The subject stated he shot the turkey and used his father's tag to validate the kill. CO Beavers asked the subject if he processed the turkey himself and he stated he did. The

subject stated that he consumed all the meat but still had the wings and legs from the turkey. CO Beavers then seized the wings and legs. The information will be presented to the prosecutor for review.

## **BELLE ISLE**

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly witnessed three subjects sitting in a vehicle right in front of the kids park on Belle Isle, drinking from a half gallon bottle of vodka. The Sgt. made contact with the three and discovered that they had 23 warrants for their arrest between them. The warrants were all for traffic offenses and retail fraud. The subjects were lodged in the Detroit Detention Center.

While patrolling Atwater Street in the City of Detroit, CO Larn Strawn noticed a car parked in a closed parking lot at Milliken State Park. While checking on the vehicle the CO contacted two subjects in the park after hours engaging in lewd behavior. After identifying the subjects, the CO determined one of them was a fugitive wanted on 16 outstanding arrest warrants in multiple jurisdictions. The CO placed the subject under arrest and turned him over to Corrections staff of the Detroit Police Department at the Mound Road Detroit Detention Center.

CO David Schaumburger initiated a traffic stop on Belle Isle for a car doing 40 mph in a 25 mph zone. The driver had a suspended driver's license, no proof of insurance and improper plates. The passenger in the vehicle had a warrant for his arrest relating to child support. Enforcement action was taken on both subjects.

While patrolling on Belle Isle, CO Kris Kiel was stationary, monitoring traffic when he observed a vehicle speeding around a curvy portion of the island. The vehicle was stopped and the 17 year old driver was contacted. The driver admitted to 40 mph in a 25 mph zone, but CO Kiel informed him that he was going much faster than that. A file and status check was run due to the fact the driver handed the officer a graduated level one permit. Along with having no proof of insurance, the driver was suspended four times over for an extensive driving history despite never having an actual driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) with a suicidal subject on Belle Isle. The driver of the vehicle was contemplating driving the vehicle into the River on Riverbank. After talking with the subject the officers were able to talk the subject into going to Detroit Receiving. The subject was transported by the MSP.

COs Shane Webster and Dan Prince were working Belle Isle when a call came out for a possible suicidal subject who was planning to jump off the MacArthur Bridge. The MSP, Detroit Police Department, and the COs converged on the bridge and soon the female subject was located inside of her vehicle. The subject appeared very distraught and after some conversation agreed to go to the hospital for evaluation.