

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
6/4/2017 – 6/17/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes was nearing the end of his patrol when he noticed a vehicle where the operator was struggling to keep his vehicle between the lines on the highway. After contact with the driver, it was found that the man had been drinking. Initial results showed the man to be over twice the legal limit. The driver was arrested for operating under the influence of liquor.

CO Ethen Mapes was called to a nuisance bear in the Village of Ontonagon. When CO Mapes arrived the adult bear was lying on the ground eating out of a trash bin. The bear was reluctant to leave but eventually went on its way. CO Mapes educated the complainant on keeping food sources inaccessible to prevent future encounters.

CO David Miller assisted a US Forest Service law enforcement officer in the location of a possible meth dump site on public land. The scene was secured and turned over to the Michigan State Police.

CO Miller assisted fire officers from various departments. The fire was located on private property and was a result of burning brush the day before. The strong winds reignited the blaze which became out of control for a short period of time. CO Miller assisted in transporting two injured firemen who needed medical attention.

CO Brian Lasanen was checking a popular river for fishing activity. CO Lasanen was checking anglers as they were coming off the river and made contact with one fisherman who advised CO Lasanen he did really well. CO Lasanen could see the angler had a bucket full of fish, which turned out to be northern pike. As CO Lasanen started to measure the pike, the angler stated he had only kept two undersize pike. CO Lasanen confirmed this and also pointed out that the angler was in possession of an over limit of fish as well. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethen Mapes was patrolling near Lake Gogebic after dark when he saw two dark objects floating in the lake. Upon further inspection, it was found to be two kayakers with no lifejackets and only one headlamp. Law enforcement action was taken for failing to provide personal floatation devices (PFDs).

COs David Miller and Brian Lasanen worked the Portage Canal and Portage Lake for Bridgefest in conjunction with the USCG and the Houghton County Sheriff's Department. Several marine checks were made with law enforcement action being taken for an unregistered watercraft and several other minor marine violations. A vessel was stopped for fishing with eight big yellow planer boards out and only two individuals on board. The anglers said that the fishing has been slow and they wanted to give themselves a better chance. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon conducted a check of two shore fishermen he came across while on patrol. One subject produced his fishing license, while the other stated he was not fishing. CO Bacon advised he had been watching them and observed both in the act of fishing. While checking the license of the first subject, it was noticed that the license was just purchased an hour before. Further conversation found that they had stopped so the one subject could buy bait and a fishing license. The second subject chose to not buy a fishing license and was cited by CO Bacon.

CO Shannon Kritz received a dumping complaint earlier this spring along a section of ORV trail on public land. CO Kritz was unable to determine the person responsible for the dumping, but took the initiative to coordinate a cleanup effort with concerned citizens. A county wide cleanup program, sponsored by the Iron Range Trail Club from Iron River and the Chippewa Sno-Kats from Crystal Falls, assisted with the cleanup efforts.

CO Shannon Kritz responded to a complaint of a dog that had caught a fawn. The complainant stated the dog had dropped the fawn and left the area. CO Kritz was able to track down the fawn which was found to be uninjured. The Iron County Sheriff's Department had earlier received a call regarding the dog running at large, and met CO Kritz at the residence for enforcement action.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call from a subject who reported a large snake in their flower garden. CO Ferguson was able to advise the subject that the snake was not a rattlesnake but rather a commonly found pine snake.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy were called to the scene of a missing 17 year old swimmer in Dickinson County. The subject was part of a group of people swimming at the Badwater Impoundment along the Menominee River near Iron Mountain. The swimmer was overpowered by the current, from recent heavy rains, as he assisted another swimmer who was having trouble with the current. Divers recovered the missing swimmer shortly before dark.

CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy patrolled the Groveland Mine Ponds for ORV activity. Sgt. Pomroy noticed a single direction ORV tracks heading to the last pond in the complex. The COs followed the track and came across two individuals on ORVs. The COs observed two fishing poles and a cooler strapped to the back of the ORV. Upon further investigation it was found that the cooler contained 11 largemouth bass. 8 of the bass were under the 14" size limit. A check of the ORVs found both to be unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call regarding a dog at large chasing deer near the Ford Airport in Kingsford. CO Ferguson arrived in the area to find a small dog being chased by a doe which had a fawn with her. The dog received minor injuries and both parties went their separate ways.

CO Shannon Kritz received a complaint of two missing teenagers who tipped their canoe while on a river with very strong current. CO Kritz responded to the area and searched downstream of the area they were last reported in. Agencies from both Michigan and Wisconsin joined in the search area. Four hours into the search, information was received that the teenagers had hiked into town and were last seen hitchhiking along the highway. The teens were on the canoe trip as part of a field trip for a "troubled teen" group. The juveniles were entered into LEIN as runaway juveniles and the search was halted. The teens were located the next day and returned to their group by local law enforcement.

CO Shannon Kritz received a call regarding a deer that had managed to squeeze itself into a narrow space between two buildings. The deer became stuck and was unable to move. CO Kritz found the deer lying on its back upside down. With the assistance of the building owner, the deer was eventually removed safely.

CO Nathan Sink and CO Ethen Mapes were on patrol near Watersmeet when a call came across central dispatch of a group of lost campers. One camper had a laceration on their leg. CO Sink and CO Mapes responded to the call to assist Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Police and Watersmeet EMS. A short time later the campers were located and treated for their injuries.

CO Nathan Sink received a call that an individual had picked up four baby raccoons. CO Sink went to the individual's residence to investigate. The individual stated the mom was hit by a vehicle and she was unsure what to do with the babies. CO Sink was able to recover the raccoons from the residence.

CO Nathan Sink received a call that an individual had picked up a baby duck walking across US-2. CO Sink went to the individual's residence to retrieve the baby duck. The baby duck was released back to the wild near the location from which it was taken.

CO Mark Leadman responded to the complaint of a bear on a second story balcony of a residence in the Schweitzer Basin area. The bear had made its way into a chicken enclosure to get the food placed for the chicken. When the home owner encountered the bear, the bear ran up to the house and climbed onto the second story balcony where it remained for nearly 30 minutes before running off into the woods. The situation is being monitored by the area biologist and law enforcement.

CO Mark Leadman responded to the complaint of a mobile home being burned when the unattended fire escaped and started the adjacent woods on fire. The homeowner admitted to slowly tearing apart the old mobile home and getting rid of debris in the fire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Cpl. Trey Luce conducted an annual fur education presentation to over 60 first graders at Aspen Ridge Elementary School. The presentation has been an annual event for the first graders graduation from first to second grade and consists of basic fur education along with the basic responsibilities of a CO.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling a local reservoir in Marquette County when he contacted a group of anglers near the boat launch as they were preparing to leave the lake. A quick check revealed that they were in possession of a short bass. The anglers explained that they were getting ready to measure the bass before they pulled out of the parking lot. CO DeLonge pointed out they were in the act of leaving so it didn't appear they intended to double-check their catch. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Sgt. Ryan Aho attended an open house event at the Michigan State Police Negaunee Post, celebrating 100 years of service. The COs, along with officers from other local law enforcement agencies, provided service information to members of the public and displayed equipment used in field.

CO Brett DeLonge was conducting a marine patrol during free fishing weekend on a reservoir in Marquette County when he observed a large group of kayakers. CO DeLonge made contact with the group and discussed recent fishing/boating activity on the reservoir. During the contact CO DeLonge observed that none of the kayakers possessed a personal floatation device. CO DeLonge explained the importance of having a PFD for each kayak and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling a county road when he observed an ORV struggling to maintain a straight line of travel. As the rider approached, the CO could see that he was not wearing an ORV helmet and one of the front tires was flat. CO Dell initiated a stop to address the helmet violation. Further investigation showed the ORV did not have a valid ORV license affixed. The driver was also suspended through the Secretary of State. The rider was taken into custody for operating an ORV while license suspended.

CO Jeffrey Dell observed an ORV operating on US 41. CO Jeffrey Dell stopped the ORV for operating on a closed highway and for the passenger not wearing an approved crash helmet or seatbelt. The driver stated he was only going to the store. CO Dell explained that the highway was closed to ORV traffic regardless of destination. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell found debris scattered along a county road. Upon closer inspection, mixed with the debris were several empty shipping boxes and packing materials with address affixed. CO Dell delivered the debris to the address and appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman arrived at Deer Lake in Ishpeming and located a family stranded at the dock when their boat would not start. The operator had just purchased the boat and this was his first time on any lake with the vessel. His children were anxiously awaiting a boat ride in the beautiful weather. CO Leadman assisted as the operator changed spark plugs and instructed him on the cold starting procedures of the boat motor. The very appreciative family was soon on their way out on the lake with their new boat.

CO Jeffrey Dell stopped an ORV on a county road for not displaying a valid ORV sticker. The rider stated he did not need it because he was headed to perform farm

work and pointed to a slow moving vehicle sign in the back window. CO Dell looked at the sign and observed an uncased shotgun hanging above it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge assisted wildlife biologists from the Marquette Service Center with a young whitetail buck that was caught under the rocks along the lower harbor breakwall in Marquette. U.S. Coast Guard and Marquette City Police Department personnel also assisted with pulling the hypothermic deer from the water under the rocks. The deer was successfully removed, treated for cuts & shock resulting from being trapped, and then safely released. The complaint was called in by a passerby who noticed the lethargic deer poking its head through a small opening in the water below large boulders along the breakwall.

CO Brett DeLonge conducted a marine patrol on Lake Michigamme in Marquette County. CO DeLonge spotted a canoe with two anglers tucked into a small bay fishing. CO DeLonge contacted the individuals and found that one angler did not have a license in possession. The angler was adamant that he purchased a fishing license earlier in the year. CO DeLonge did a quick of the retail license sales system and found that the individual had purchased an ORV registration but no fishing license. CO DeLonge also found during his file check that the subject had an outstanding warrant in Marquette County. Enforcement action was taken with all violations during the patrol and the warrant was satisfied.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik contacted a father and two sons fishing. When asked why his three year old son was not wearing a life jacket the father said he didn't know he needed one. CO Zitnik asked if he had a life jacket for his older son and the father replied, "Do I need life jackets in this small of a boat?" Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch helped transport/relay of a subject arrested on a felony warrant in Ontonagon County. The subject had to be transported from Ontonagon County Jail to the Bay County Jail.

CO Pat Hartsig attended the NRC meeting in Houghton to receive a lifesaving award for a previous rescue on Little Bay de Noc this winter.

COs Bobby Watson, Robert Freeborn, Cpl. Shannon VanPatten and Sgt. Mike Hammill checked a fisherman who was suspected to be taking several limits of walleye each day. The COs made contact with the fisherman as he left the launch in his truck. While the fisherman didn't have an over limit of fish on this day, the fisherman had been operating his boat after dark without lights, did not have his boat registered, nor did he have a valid driver's license, valid registration plate, or insurance and he had an improper registration plate on his vehicle. The suspect received several citations for his violations.

CO Robert Freeborn participated in the annual kids fishing day at Camp Seven Lake. CO Freeborn answered several questions and helped the US Forest Service throughout the day.

CO Kevin Postma contacted two individuals fishing at approximately 12:30 pm. on Munuscong Bay. It was determined that both of the individuals were highly intoxicated. At the time of contact, the two fishermen were only drifting and were not in operation of their small fishing boat. CO Postma informed them that if they attempted to operate the vessel they would be arrested for OWI on a watercraft. CO Postma suggested that the couple fish for several more hours until they sobered up and only then should they attempt to operate the vessel. CO Postma cleared and checked a nearby fishing boat. Roughly three minutes after clearing the initial contact and only 150 yards away, CO Postma could see that the vessel he had just left was now under full power and heading for their resort (roughly 6-7 miles away). CO Postma then stopped the vessel and asked the operator what he was doing. The operator advised that he just wanted to get back to the resort. The operator asked CO Postma "What now?" CO Postma administered sobriety tests then advised him "Well, now you go to jail" and the operator was then taken into custody for OWI on a water craft.

COs Kevin Postma and Brett Gustafson assisted Commercial Fish Specialist Cpl. Marv Gerlach and Commercial Fish Investigator Cpl. Shannon VanPatten with a joint commercial fish patrol. The patrol covered the Lake Superior shoreline from Sault Ste. Marie to Marquette. Several improperly marked nets were located in the Munising area. The COs also followed up on a net complaint in the Grand Marias area. The net was located and the location was turned over to Bay Mills Indian Community officers who pulled it the next day.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith patrolled a popular Mackinac County lake and came across several violations including possession of undersize bass, no PFDs, fishing without a license, expired boat registration and possession of marijuana. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill were patrolling a local lake during free fishing weekend when contact was made with a single fisherman. The two COs observed the fisherman reeling in a fourth line as they approached his boat. A routine check also led to the fisherman showing an undersized walleye he had caught. The fisherman stated he knew he was over the allowed number of lines, and that it was not the first time he had gotten caught for it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg and a Lake Superior State University intern were on marine patrol on the north side of Drummond Island when CO Oberg spotted an individual fishing from a dock on a nearby island. After observing him fishing for a couple minutes, CO Oberg made contact. After asking how his fishing was going, CO Oberg asked to see a fishing license. The individual had not purchased one and stated he was told it was private property if fishing from the dock. CO Oberg explained that just because he is fishing on

someone's property, it doesn't make the water private property as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg worked Drummond Island for their annual Jeep jamboree event. The island holds this every year for Jeepers and different sponsors from all over the country. Hundreds of Jeeps and four wheelers were on the island all weekend for the event. No major issues occurred throughout the weekend.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Chad Baldwin attended Career Day and Career Vehicle Day at Boyne City Middle School. CO Baldwin spoke to over 50 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about how to become a conservation officer, the training requirements of a conservation officer, and what the typical daily job functions are. CO Baldwin also answered questions by the students and had his patrol truck on display for students to view and see what type of equipment COs carry and utilize on a daily basis.

CO Chad Baldwin responded to a complaint about a swarm of honey bees hanging off the side of the homeowner's chimney. The bees made their way into the chimney and all the way down into the woodstove in the basement of the home. Unable to make contact with the suspected local bee keeper, CO Baldwin and the homeowner reached out to other bee keepers in the area until one was able to respond. The bee keeper started a fire in the woodstove to smoke out the bees and then utilized pheromones to remove the rest of the bees that were now hanging on a tree outside the home. The honey bees were safely returned to their hive.

On Friday evening CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County stopped a man driving a John Deere side-by-side ORV on Boyne City-Charlevoix Road. A passenger was sitting in a folding chair in the bed of the ORV. As CO Erratt approached the ORV, the driver said, "We must be breaking some laws" and she agreed. During the traffic stop, CO Erratt discovered that both passengers had open bottles of beer. The driver asked CO Erratt if she had a gun and was surprised a CO could issue traffic tickets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County was near Walloon Lake when she received a Report All Poaching complaint about a fisherman keeping short bass at the Elk River Dam. CO Erratt patrolled to Elk Rapids and checked the fisherman who had two short smallmouth bass on his stringer. He said he did not know if bass had to be 12 or 14 inches long and he had not measured the smallmouth bass. CO Erratt ticketed the fisherman for taking and possessing an undersized smallmouth bass and gave him a tape measure.

CO Rosochacki investigated a personal injury accident involving an ORV in Cheboygan County. The operator was climbing a hill and rolled the ORV over on him causing severe injury.

CO Rosochacki worked the Black River in Cheboygan County that was close due to spawning regulations. The CO contacted three individuals who were in possession walleye and fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Bellville was patrolling in Montmorency County when he stopped a group of ORVs. One of which had two riders - neither wearing a helmet. After checking with local dispatch, it was found that the passenger of the ORV had outstanding arrest warrants. The driver of the ORV was ticketed for operating without a helmet and the passenger was lodged on his warrants at the county jail.

CO Brad Bellville, CO Jon Sklba and CO Adam LeClerc attended a local Hunter Education Instructor Workshop for new instructors at the Alpena Sportsman's Club.

CO Bill Webster received a complaint thru the Gaylord District Office about a young man who had a fawn in his possession in Alpena County. CO Webster made contact with the subject who stated that someone dropped the fawn off to him. The subject further stated he could not properly care for a new born fawn. CO Webster explained the law to the man about possession of wild animals and the importance of leaving them in the wild. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint in Presque Isle County of a skunk in a trap. Upon arrival, it was determined that the complainant was also the trapper and was unfamiliar with handling a skunk in a trap. The trapper had used a small cage trap in an attempt to remove red squirrels that had nested in his shed. To the trapper's surprise a full grown skunk had squeezed itself into the small trap overnight. CO Sklba assisted the trapper/complainant with removing the skunk from the trap.

CO Paul Fox responded to a possible domestic violence in progress in Presque Isle County. CO Fox arrived before the responding deputies and separated the parties involved. The investigation was turned over to the sheriff's deputies.

CO Paul Fox and CO Matt Theunick assisted local deputies and fire personnel in Presque Isle County after a severe storm went thru the Black Lake area. Multiple trees and power lines were down across roads in the area. In addition, numerous boats were capsized on Black Lake. The COs monitored the lake for any oil and hazardous material that may have entered the waterway.

CO Paul Fox assisted local deputies in Presque Isle County with a suicidal subject who claimed he was going to shoot himself. CO Fox and deputies secured the scene and located the subject, who was intoxicated and lying naked in his residence. Numerous loaded rifles were discovered along with a large amount of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and marijuana plants. The case is under investigation.

CO Adam LeClerc assisted Michigan State Police with a burglar alarm call outside of the city of Alpena. The back door to the building was open upon arrival. The building was cleared and a key holder was contacted to shut off the alarm.

CO Adam LeClerc was checking fishermen at night on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge when he witnessed a vehicle pull into the Alpena Skate Park and fire what sounded like a pellet gun three to four times. The vehicle turned around and attempted to leave the area. CO LeClerc was able to stop the vehicle. Identification was obtained from the individuals and Alpena City Police arrived on scene for backup. Upon removing the driver from the vehicle, multiple large knives and machetes were found between the seat and center consol. Upon removing the passenger from the vehicle, a pellet gun fell on the concrete from the floor of the vehicle. In addition an open bottle of liquor was located in the passenger seat. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed marijuana, and multiple concealed weapons violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc assisted Alpena Sheriff's deputies with a wildfire investigation that occurred in Sanborn Township.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Richard Stowe and CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted with a two-hour search of a missing four year old boy who left his home to explore the woods. The boy returned home safely. Other agencies involved in the search included Benzie County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police K-9, and National Park Service Rangers.

CO Colton Gelinias and CO Rebecca Hopkins participated in a Great Lakes Water Safety Expo with other non-profit groups and agencies, educating the public on water safety and paddle craft safety. Other participating groups included Benzie County Sheriff's Office, National Park Service, US Coast Guard and US Coast Guard Auxiliary, American Canoe Association, Paul Oliver Hospital, the National Weather Service, and Great Lakes Surf and Rescue Project.

CO Sean Kehoe participated with Fisheries Division, The Rotary Club and The Grand Sport Fishing Association in the annual Kids Free Fishing Day. Hundreds of kids participated and caught several rainbow trout.

CO Rich Stowe and CO Rebecca Hopkins responded to a wildlife in captivity complaint. The COs found that the complaint was valid and that a skunk had been kept in captivity as a pet. Enforcement action was taken

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on marine patrol on Big Star Lake near Baldwin to address high speed boating operation outside of the legal hours. CO Killingbeck received numerous complaints about the operation. Upon arriving, he instantly observed two boats both operating at high speeds well before hours. Both operators were stopped for the violation. In both cases, the operators told CO Killingbeck that they had seen other people operating in violation of the watercraft controls and figured it was okay. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking an access site of a lake near Baldwin when he encountered two subjects loading a boat up onto a trailer. CO Killingbeck made contact

with the anglers who said they had a successful day of fishing. CO Killingbeck asked to see their fish and was shown several bass. CO Killingbeck asked the subjects if they had measured their fish. The anglers said that they did not have anything to measure the fish with and kept all the fish they caught. CO Killingbeck measured one bass at 12 inches and another at 13 inches. The anglers were educated on Michigan fishing regulations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on marine patrol near Baldwin when he observed a boat operating that did not have a valid registration sticker displayed. CO Killingbeck made contact with the operator and discovered that the boat had not been registered since 1999. The operator told CO Killingbeck that he normally does not use this boat and that he has never seen a CO on this particular lake which was why he was not worried about needing a registration. CO Killingbeck educated the operator on registration requirements and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when Lake County Central Dispatch put out a BOL of a reckless driver that was not far from CO Killingbeck's position. CO Killingbeck was able to locate the suspect vehicle which nearly hit him and was swerving all over the roadway and driving at excessive speeds. CO Killingbeck reported speeds in excess of 100 mph before being able to stop the vehicle. CO Killingbeck determined that the driver was operating under the influence of alcohol and was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail for OWI and reckless driving.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Will Kinney were on marine patrol when they received a call from Wexford Central Dispatch requesting their assistance with a subject having a diabetic emergency on the Big Manistee River. The victim was miles from the nearest road and the COs were able to launch their jet boat and locate and extricate the patient to an ambulance where he was stabilized.

CO Ryan Andrews was on patrol in Lake County when he witnessed three men fishing from a pontoon boat. Upon checking the anglers, only one had a valid fishing license in his possession and the other two stated their licenses were back at the cottage they were staying at. CO Andrews ran a check through the retail sales system for license purchases and discovered that neither had purchased any licenses for 2017. A LEIN check revealed one angler also had an active warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky assisted Michigan State Police troopers and Mason County deputies on a complaint of a large burn with heavy smoke crossing the expressway. Upon arrival, it was determined that the burn was actually an agricultural burn. With the possibility of the fire spreading into the adjacent woods, the person on scene who lit the fire decided that it would be a good choice to have the fire department extinguish the fire until conditions improved for burning.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling Hamlin Lake in Mason County when he encountered a vessel that had seven persons on board with an insufficient number of PFDs. While

approaching the vessel, CO Brosky could see one subject attempting to hide the beer he was holding. It was determined there were minors on board the vessel who were drinking alcohol. The operator of the vessel was issued a citation for the life jacket violation and the subject who attempted to hide his beer was issued a citation for MIP.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski attended an all day trial in Manistee County regarding a subject who had illegally shot an over-limit of bucks during the 2015 hunting season. Initially when interviewed, both individuals involved gave the COs written statements indicating the suspect had shot two bucks on a combination tag and later took an 11-point buck that was tagged with a tribal tag. The defendant's and witnesses' story changed significantly while testifying on the stand. Fortunately the jury believed the COs testimony and the initial written statements provided by the defendant and witnesses. The suspect was found guilty of taking an over-limit of deer. The defendant is awaiting sentencing and faces up to 90 days in jail and over \$10,000 in fines, costs and restitution.

CO Ben Shively was on patrol when he observed a large column of black smoke approximately six miles from his location. CO Shively responded to the area and located a large illegal burn of building and household materials. The subject was cited for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Ben Shively was on patrol when he was overtaken by a motorcycle that was travelling at 73 mph in the posted 55 mph zone and the motorcycle did not have a license plate visible. CO Shively conducted a traffic stop and found that the motorcycle operator did not have a plate, insurance, or a cycle endorsement and his license was suspended and revoked multiple times. The subject was also found to have four misdemeanor warrants for aggravated assault, domestic violence, and child support. The subject was arrested and lodged for driving while license suspended/revoked and on the outstanding warrants.

CO Ben Shively and CO Troy VanGelderren spoke to 69 students at hunter safety in Oceana County and assisted with the field day held at Grace Youth camp.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a large garage fire called in by a UPS driver. CO Ginn was the second person on scene and was able to assist the first engine company with pulling hose lines and setting up the portable water tank to extinguish the fire.

CO Jeff Ginn observed a vehicle traveling on M-82 without a license plate. The occupants noticed Ginn following and quickly turned off on a side road. CO Ginn executed a traffic stop on the vehicle for failing to signal and not displaying a registration plate. CO Ginn also determined the vehicle was uninsured and the driver was operating on a suspended license. The driver was cited for the violations and the vehicle was impounded until the registered owner was able to make the vehicle legal.

CO Jeff Ginn was on marine patrol during the Newaygo Nationals Canoe and Kayak Races. CO Ginn checked multiple anglers and located one in possession of three

undersized trout. The angler stated he marked the handle of his fishing rod so he could quickly measure the fish when caught. Although the measurement was accurate on the handle the fish were still short. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted the Newaygo County Sheriff's Department in locating a subject who had fled the scene of a domestic violence incident. CO Ginn assisted with the perimeter when he was advised by a local citizen that the suspect was seen walking out to the edge of a nearby roadway, then ran back into the wooded area. CO Ginn later checked a thick marsh near the area the suspect was last seen. CO Ginn located the suspect's phone on the edge of the marsh and detectives were able to view the last text message sent by the suspect disclosing his location. The suspect was located and arrested by additional responding units.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a subject in possession of live raccoons at an Osceola County residence. CO Wells made contact with a male subject at this residence and inquired as to the raccoons that he possessed. CO Wells advised he was aware of several raccoons in a cage in the barn. The subject advised he did have live raccoons and that he was using them to train his dogs. The subject took him to three raccoons in the barn, and also displayed to CO Wells a roll cage that was used to put the raccoons in to train the dogs. The subject advised he works on a local farm and had nuisance trapped them and brought them home for training purposes. The subject was cited for the possession of the live raccoons and the animals were released back into the wild.

CO Mike Wells was on marine patrol on a Newaygo County lake when he observed three subjects fishing from a pontoon boat. The pontoon boat was displaying an expired marine registration. As CO Wells approached the vessel the anglers stopped fishing and began to start the engine. Upon contact, only two of the subjects produced valid fishing license. When CO Wells asked the third subject for his license, he advised that he was not fishing. CO Wells advised the subject of his observation and the subject admitted that he had casted out a few times. A marine safety inspection revealed that no Type 4 PFD was onboard, the fire extinguisher was not serviceable and the owner had forgotten to affix the current registration sticker. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was driving into Silver Lake State Park to work in the dunes when he passed a Jeep that revved up his engine really loud. CO VanGelderren checked with dispatch on the validity of the license plate on the Jeep and discovered the plate belonging to a Pontiac Lemans. The CO stopped the Jeep and discovered that the driver had taken his car plate along on vacation to put on his uninsured and unlicensed Jeep to drive it into the dunes. The plate was confiscated and citations were issued.

CO Troy VanGelderren and Deputy Tim Simon from the Oceana County Sheriff's Department responded to an early morning complaint of a subject unresponsive at the helm of a fishing boat that had drifted to shore on Lake Michigan. Off-duty Deputy Jason Quinn from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, who was on vacation, boarded the

boat before the officers arrived and woke the driver. It was determined that the driver was highly intoxicated. Further investigation revealed that the driver had been fishing throughout the night and fell asleep at the helm. The driver was arrested for boating under the influence. They also found him in possession of eight salmon, which were three over his limit. The salmon were confiscated and the suspect was lodged in the county jail.

CO Brian Lebel made contact with a boat while on marine patrol that had an expired registration, a title that was never transferred after purchase, no PFDs on board and one angler who was fishing without a license. The violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Varriale received a complaint of a nuisance bear in Big Rapids in Mecosta County. CO Varriale arrived at the scene and saw a sow and cub in the tree. The tree was very close to an occupied residence where the homeowner and family were outside viewing the bears from the deck. CO Varriale offered advice of how to keep bears from becoming a nuisance to the homeowner. CO Varriale also told the family to give the bears some space so they would come down from the tree. The bears eventually came down from the tree during the night without incident.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mike Hearn responded to the Kalkaska Hospital to investigate an ORV accident involving an injured 6-year-old. The child was unlawfully riding double with a parent on private property when the operator lost control and the child was ejected from the machine before striking a tree. Both riders were wearing helmets. The child suffered non-life threatening injuries and the accident remains under investigation.

CO Mike Hearn was dispatched to Blue Lake in Kalkaska County to investigate several 911 calls regarding a group of boats violating the no wake ordinance. Upon arrival, CO Hearn observed three vessels with multiple occupants acting in a loud/disruptive manner on the lake. The group was monitored for a significant time, and it was determined that the behavior was likely alcohol induced. After an irate property owner yelled at the group, they packed up the party and headed home. CO Hearn was able to contact two of the three boats when they returned to shore. Both operators showed obvious signs of intoxication upon contact. Field sobriety examinations were conducted on both operators. Both suspects were taken into custody for OWI and lodged in the Kalkaska County Jail.

CO John Huspen attended the Junior Deputy Rodeo at Grayling Elementary School. This marked the 16<sup>th</sup> year that CO Huspen has attended the youth event. He talked with the fourth grade class, answered questions, and showcased his patrol truck and ORV.

COs Craig Neal, Chuck McPherson, Sam Schluckbier, and John Huspen assisted Crawford County Sheriff's Department with the recovery of a drowning victim on Lake

Margrethe. Roscommon and Grand Traverse County Dive Teams also assisted with the two day recovery.

CO Craig Neal received a complaint of someone shooting a duck on Lake James in Roscommon County. CO Neal contacted the complainant who stated that the duck had flown away but was able to give information about the suspect. CO Neal and CO Chuck McPherson interviewed the suspect and a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier was patrolling the Rapid River in Kalkaska County when he observed an unattended fishing pole. After a short search, CO Schluckbier located the owner who was fishing in another location. Upon checking the angler's stringer, an undersized brown trout was located. The angler claimed he was unaware of the minimum size requirements for trout. The fish was confiscated and a citation was issued.

Oscoda County law enforcement put on a hunter safety class for 25 students. The class was a success with the efforts made by COs Casey Pullum, Jon Warner, Kyle Cherry, Kyle Bader, and Sgt. Bobbi Lively from the DNR Law Enforcement Division. They were assisted by law enforcement from the U.S. Forest Service and Michigan State Police. The students got to interact with law enforcement throughout the day while they participated in many activities including firearm safety, archery shooting, first aid, and outdoor survival.

COs Jon Warner, Kyle Cherry, and Lt. Brandon Kieft were patrolling Tawas Bay in Iosco County when they approached an angler trolling for walleye. The COs observed the man using five lines, but he started reeling them in once he noticed the law enforcement boat approaching. When asked how many lines the angler was using, he stated "Three" despite having five still out at that moment. After realizing lying wasn't going to work, the man admitted to fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Warner was patrolling the ORV trails in Northern Iosco County with U.S. Forest Service Officer Justin Repine. Fresh ORV tracks were located in a closed area. They followed the tracks, eventually locating two ORVs with three men, none of which were wearing helmets. In addition, the ORVs were unlicensed, operating in a closed area, and one of the drivers was operating with a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While assisting Michigan State Police with a search warrant in Ogemaw County, CO Kyle Bader located a set of whitetail deer antlers with a suspicious hunting license attached. After two separate interviews with the owner of the license, she confessed she did not have a license when she killed the deer. Charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Mark Papineau and Kyle Bader participated in an Ogemaw County law enforcement appreciation night in downtown West Branch. The COs interacted with

over 100 attendees who got to experience firearm handling and hunting scenarios using the hunter safety simulator trailer.

COs Steve Lockwood and Sgt. Jon Wood decided to make a late evening patrol on Houghton Lake in Roscommon County. While observing two boats that were anchored close to each other, the COs noticed a lone angler in one of the boats. The angler looked at the officers and began to make what appeared to be a lot of “nervous movements” in the boat. As the COs approached and spoke to the man, they noticed he was very quiet. Sgt. Wood gained consent and was able to board the angler’s vessel and begin counting his fish. While Sgt. Wood was counting fish in the livewell, CO Lockwood was able to locate a small ice cream pail filled with several more pan fish. The angler had covered the pail with a large black cloth in hopes of hiding the fish. In total, the angler was in possession of 40 pan fish and one largemouth bass. He quickly told the officers that the “extra” fish belonged to his buddies in the next boat. Those accusations were quickly denied by the anglers in the other boat. After further interviewing, the lone angler admitted to additional pan fish being caught earlier in the day. He admitted that those fish were being kept in the back of his vehicle. The COs followed the angler in to the access site where his vehicle was parked. Located inside a cooler was a large block of ice along with an additional 71 pan fish, for a total of 111. After further interviews, it was determined that the lone angler caught 71 pan fish in the morning and went in to shore and put them on ice. He then returned to his “hot spot” where he caught the additional 40 pan fish. He admitted that he lied to the COs about the fish belonging to his buddies in the second boat. In the end, the angler was frustrated because he planned on serving the fish at his next family reunion. Enforcement action was taken at the scene which included a citation and seizure of 86 pan fish.

CO Mark Papineau investigated the report of a snapping turtle that appeared to have been killed by gunshot. The turtle had been located in the middle of a gravel road in Gladwin County. While investigating the scene, CO Papineau was able to locate several spent .22 caliber rifle casings and lead bullet fragments in the vicinity of the turtle carcass. There were also horse tracks along the road in that general area. During interviews of several neighbors, CO Papineau was informed that they had heard numerous gunshots followed by seeing some Amish riding on horseback. CO Papineau was able to follow the hoof prints to a large tract of state land in rural Gladwin County. The tracks eventually led to two Amish men riding horseback with rifle scabbards secured to the horses. After a brief interview, both Amish men confessed to shooting the turtle with their .22 caliber rifles. Warrants are being sought for the illegal taking of a turtle during the closed season through the Gladwin County Prosecutor’s Office.

CO Steve Lockwood recently stopped a vehicle late in the evening on a rural road in Gladwin County. The operator of the vehicle appeared nervous and would not open the console even while searching for his registration and insurance paperwork. Further investigation led to CO Lockwood locating a concealed handgun in the console of the vehicle. The driver told CO Lockwood that he thought it was OK to carry a handgun in

that manner. CO Lockwood lodged the driver in the Gladwin County Jail for handgun violations, no operator's license and insurance/registration violations.

While patrolling Gladwin County, CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to the report of a hit and run boating accident on Wixom Lake. According to the caller, a pontoon boat filled with anglers had drifted into another boat that was moored to a dock. According to the caller, the subjects quickly fled the area and failed to report the accident despite damage to the moored boat. With assistance from the caller, CO Papineau was able to locate the suspects and a complete confession was obtained. Charges are being sought for leaving the scene of a boating accident.

CO Nick Atkin contacted anglers on a vessel in Arenac County. During the contact, CO Atkin checked for the proper number and type of life jackets. The anglers could not produce enough life jackets for all anglers, including a minor child on board. It was also determined that one of the anglers aboard had three outstanding warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While on marine patrol, CO John Byars noticed someone fishing from a boat that seemed to be avoiding the CO. CO Byars had trouble getting to the vessel so he backed off and waited until the boat came to him. Contact was made and it was determined that the operator of the boat did not have any PFDs, registration or any other required equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

COs John Byars and Josh Russell conducted a marine patrol in Montcalm County and made over 70 contacts. A number of verbal warnings were issued and only one ticket was issued for not having a personal floatation device onboard one of the vessels. The COs were happy that almost all of the boaters complied with the laws.

COs Joe Myers and Quincy Gowenlock conducted a marine patrol on the Saginaw River. During their patrol, they patrolled an area of high complaints of slow no-wake violations. The COs made contact with several violators. Tickets were issued for violating the no wake zones.

CO Joe Myers assisted CO Will Brickel while checking several fishermen who were trespassing on another's property in northern Saginaw County. The COs were able to find multiple fishermen who were fishing without a license and trespassing. Tickets were issued.

COs Joe Myers and Dan Robinson conducted a marine patrol on Crystal and Duck Lakes, in Montcalm County. During their patrol the COs stopped multiple vessels for registration, bow riding and other marine violations. Multiple violations were found as well as many failures to have safety equipment. Tickets were issued.

COs Josh Russell and Mike Haas were patrolling Clifford Lake and issued numerous citations for unregistered watercraft and for fishing without a license.

While on patrol in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed an ORV operating on a state highway. Upon stopping the ORV, CO Bucholtz learned the operator was driving with a suspended license, had multiple warrants and was in possession of illegal substances. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea was driving down a back county road when he observed a vehicle parked in the road. CO Rhodea contacted the operator who was looking for some medication he had dropped. However, the driver had a freshly open beer sitting in the center console. A citation was issued for the open intoxicants.

CO Seth Rhodea stopped an ORV after observing it operating on the roadway with an improperly displayed ORV sticker. Upon turning around and catching up to the ORV, CO Rhodea noticed the odor of beer. Upon contacting the operator and passengers of the ORV, it was discovered that after they saw the CO turn his truck around they started trying to empty their open beers while driving down the road in an attempt to hide the fact they had open intoxicants in the ORV. A citation was issued.

CO Mark Siemen had a number of contacts while conducting ORV enforcement. CO Siemen gave numerous warnings and educated the operators on the ORV laws.

CO Mark Siemen received a call from the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office about a cougar sighting near Brown City. CO Siemen was emailed a photo of what appeared to be a cougar that had been taken two weeks prior. CO Siemen responded to the location and spoke with the home owner. The home owner stated his wife saw it once and was able to get a picture with her cell phone. Further investigation will be conducted in the area. This is the third call received from the area about a cougar.

CO Jason Smith rescued two fawns after the mother doe was struck by a vehicle. The fawns were transported to a wildlife rehab facility where they are recovering.

CO Chad Foerster was requested for assistance from the United States Coast Guard in reference to a 19-foot vessel that was taking on water in the Saginaw Bay with three subjects in the water at a vague location three miles out from the mouth of the Saginaw River. Shortly after receiving the call, a good samaritan vessel located the vessel in distress and was able to give coordinates as they pulled the subjects from the water. CO Foerster and the U.S. Coast Guard arrived on scene simultaneously shortly after receiving the coordinates. CO Foerster followed the good samaritan vessel to the DNR launch in the Saginaw River where he administered First Aid to two of the three subjects for minor cuts and scrapes. Tow Boat US was called for removal of the vessel that was 95% submerged with only a couple feet of the bow visible.

CO Mike Haas received a complaint through the Report All Poaching hotline that someone had a dead bald eagle in their possession. The suspect was looking for a

taxidermist to mount the animal or trying to find someone that would pay him for parts of the eagle. More information was obtained concerning the situation and COs Haas, Dan Robinson, Josh Russell and officers from the Isabella County Sheriff's Office carried out a search warrant at the suspect's residence. The remains of a bald eagle were located at the residence as well as evidence connecting the suspect to an illegally shot deer. Charges are pending with the Isabella County's prosecutor's office for the illegal possession of a protected animal and for the illegal taking of a whitetail deer.

Isabella Central Dispatch contacted CO Mike Haas and notified him of a pair of lost river tubers on the Chippewa River. Two teenage foreign exchange students had been floating down the river and never arrived at their pickup point along the river. The two girls had been missing for approximately 2.5 hours when the CO received the call. CO Haas assumed the girls had beat the rest of their party to the pickup point and passed the area they were supposed to exit the river. CO Haas worked with Isabella County park employees and searched wooded areas along the river where they thought the girls may be. Approximately half an hour into the search, CO Haas and a park ranger located the girls along the riverbank. Neither girl had been on the Chippewa River before and had no idea where they were. CO Haas and the park ranger transported the girls to their relieved family and an emotional reunion ensued.

COs Chad Foerster, Josh Russell and Mike Haas conducted a marine patrol on the Saginaw River during the Country Music Festival at Ojibway Island. The COs made contact with several boaters and anglers that were recreating along the island. The COs gave numerous warnings for improperly placed MC numbers and boat registrations and issued citations for failing to have PFDs on board vessels.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson contacted a boat that was showing an expired registration. While talking to the operator, CO Robinson realized that he had stopped the owner of the boat for failing to display the registration on a different boat earlier in the day. The operator stated that the boat was his dad's and that it was expired. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol in Isabella County, COs Dan Robinson and Josh Russell came across three individuals who were fishing from kayaks taking advantage of the free fishing weekend. The COs checked for any fish that the three individuals had and then asked about lifejackets. None of the boats had PFDs on board. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, COs Dan Robinson and Josh Russell were patrolling an area that sees frequent trespassing. The COs made contact with a group of kayakers who had pulled their boats up in the private ground and were having a picnic, that group was given a reminder that they were on private land. While the COs were leaving that group, they witnessed a group of 12 young people who were jumping from a county road bridge across the river. The COs made contact with the group and gave them a warning about jumping from the bridge and the possible consequences if one of their jumps went wrong. The group moved on.

CO Joel Lundberg attended a 5<sup>th</sup> grade presentation night at Adams Elementary School where he had mentored the students on Animal Conservation. The students had to present to hundreds of parents and faculty on their subject matter. The students made a billboard, handed out pamphlets and talked about what you can do locally to help wildlife out. The students also made bluebird boxes and they will be placing them around the school property in the near future.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While checking anglers along the Grand River in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg encountered two subjects fishing without a license. Further investigation revealed that one of the subjects had multiple warrants. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was lodged at the county jail.

CO Justin Ulberg checked two anglers fishing in gravel pits off the Grand River. The anglers did not have fishing licenses and they had eight undersized bass on a stringer, the biggest being about ten inches. One of the anglers had five outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken for the violations and the subject with the warrants was taken into custody.

While working Holland State Park during graduation week, CO Ivan Perez assisted the rangers with several violations encountered throughout the evening. CO Perez was able to find several sites that had alcohol, which is not allowed at Holland State Park. CO Perez also located several subjects smoking marijuana by one of the campground pit toilets. One girl, who had admitted to bringing the marijuana, stated that there was no more left. CO Perez had the female park ranger conduct a search for evidence on the girl's person; still no marijuana was located. When CO Perez asked the girl what they were smoking with, she stated it was just a rolled up joint. When asked what she used to light it with, she stated she just used a lighter and opened her hand to show him. But, instead of a lighter, there was a small glass pipe that they had been using. As it turned out, the girl in an effort to toss the pipe, when surprised by CO Perez forgot which hand contained the pipe and threw the lighter into the bushes instead. Enforcement action was taken.

After conducting a marine patrol with CO Greg Patten on Muskegon Lake, CO Ivan Perez decided to stop at Grand Haven State Park for a short patrol. CO Perez had one of the rangers ride with him in his vehicle and they surveyed the beach looking for alcohol violations. Alcohol is prohibited at Grand Haven State Park. CO Perez noticed several subjects by a single blue cooler; one subject began looking all around to make sure the coast was clear to open the cooler. As he opened the cooler a single beer can fell out of the cooler and onto the sand. The subject quickly picked up the beer and put it back into the cooler. CO Perez and the ranger made contact with the suspects and found the cooler to be half full of beer. The subjects were escorted back to CO Perez's patrol vehicle and the subjects were file checked. One subject had an active warrant out of Walker, MI for fail to appear on a traffic related charge. The subject could not post bond and was taken into custody. The other subjects were written citations for the

alcohol and released. CO Perez transported the subject to a meeting place and transferred custody to a Walker City Police Officer.

CO Greg Patten reported finding a subject on Wolf Lake operating a vessel with expired registration. The subject also had no Type IV PFD and no fire extinguisher. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten reported attending a youth fishing derby at White Lake in Muskegon County. Over 300 children participated along with adult attendees. After the fishing derby, CO Patten patrolled through Grand Haven State Park and observed a subject carrying a box with a beer brand on it. CO Patten made contact with the subject after a few minutes and by then he was holding a full beer bottle in his hand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez and CO Greg Patten worked marine patrol on Muskegon Lake and located a subject towing a child on an inflatable raft with no observer in the boat. When they made contact with the subject he angrily said, "Can I pull my 7 year old son in first?" The subject was allowed to pull his child into the boat and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Muskegon County, CO Greg Patten had a car pass him at a high rate of speed. CO Patten caught up, paced the car, and stopped it. The driver was driving a classic muscle car and told CO Patten that he was in a hurry to get home from a car show before his car got rained on. Enforcement action was taken for speeding.

COs Zach Bauer and Tyler Cole assisted deputies with a search warrant regarding an untagged turkey found in the freezer that was found while the deputies were conducting the search warrant. CO Cole and CO Bauer arrived with a new search warrant and located the untagged turkey. COs Bauer and Cole examined the turkey and then proceeded to the county jail to interview the suspect about the turkey. A citation was issued for possessing an untagged turkey.

COs Zach Bauer and Tyler Cole were on patrol checking shore anglers when they noticed an angler fishing from a railroad bridge. COs Bauer and Cole proceeded to walk onto the bridge when they noticed No Trespassing signs. When COs Bauer and Cole made contact with the individual, he stated he has been fishing there since he was a kid. The angler said he saw the No Trespassing signs but still continued to fish. A citation was issued for railroad trespass.

CO Zach Bauer was on marine patrol, when he located a PWC operating with an expired registration. CO Bauer made contact with the PWC operator and numerous violations were noticed including, improper display, no lanyard attached, and no paper registration. A citation was issued for the registration violation.

While patrolling the St. Joseph River, COs Zach Bauer and Tyler Cole observed five subjects fishing at a popular shore fishing area. Upon making contact, it was found that

one subject had kept an undersized largemouth bass. A citation was issued for possessing the undersize bass.

CO Matt Page assisted local officers on a perimeter after a subject with a 4-count felony warrant attempted to run over another officer. The suspect then fled in his vehicle and eventually on foot. While sitting on the perimeter, CO Page spotted the suspect in a blueberry field approximately an hour after the initial incident. The suspect looked at the patrol vehicle, turned, and ran into the woods. CO Page was then able to coordinate with other officers to tighten up the perimeter. CO Page then assisted with a K-9 track that was unsuccessful due to the dog being exhausted from already tracking in the high temperatures. CO Page stood at the last point until another K-9 unit showed up from a neighboring county to start a track. A severe thunderstorm hit during the second track and just before calling it off another officer about a mile south of the last point seen located the suspect and after a short foot chase was apprehended.

CO Matt Page issued a subject a trespass ticket for turkey hunting on a neighbor's property and also issued a trespass ticket to the subject who was filming the hunt.

COs Matt Page and Saykham Keophalychanh conducted a marine patrol on the St. Joseph River checking walleye anglers and recreational boaters. All fish observed were of legal size. Two citations were issued for expired boat registrations.

COs Jeff Robinette and Tyler Cole assisted the Dowagiac Police Department with the department's first annual "Fish with a Cop" program. There were four local kids of elementary school ages that participated in the event. CO Cole gave a brief talk about the job duties of a Michigan conservation officer as well as the importance of conservation. COs Robinette and Cole then helped the kids fish by securing bait/lures to their fishing poles, as well as the occasional untangling of fishing lines. Dowagiac PD hopes to expand the program in the future and both COs Robinette and Cole advised they would be happy to assist again.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh investigated a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject shooting song birds. The investigation showed that the subject didn't like the birds defecating on his vehicles, so he shot them with a pellet gun. CO Keophalychanh was able to obtain a confession and recovered a song bird. The pellet gun was seized and the subject was cited for taking a protected bird.

CO Chuck Towns gave a presentation to a group of high school students regarding waterfowl conservation and enforcement. The group then ventured into the Allegan State Game Area and placed wood duck boxes they had constructed earlier.

CO Chris Holmes stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in Kalamazoo County. Further investigation revealed the driver to be in possession of a loaded handgun and an AR-15 style rifle. He was arrested and lodged in the Kalamazoo County Jail for carrying a concealed handgun and a felony weapons charge.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject keeping undersized bass in Ypsilanti Township. The CO was out of the area when the complaint was received; however, when he checked the location later that afternoon, the suspect was still fishing. CO Drexler found the subject in possession of two bass, both undersized. Enforcement action taken.

COs Andrew Monnich and Brandon Hartleben responded to a multiple vehicle accident on US-12 and assisted with traffic while EMS and the Lenawee County Sheriff's Department could clear the accident and the roadway.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither assisted Lenawee County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police on a stabbing that took place in Rome Township.

CO Eric Smither assisted Lenawee County deputies on a BOL for a possible intoxicated individual swerving on the road near Manitou Beach. A few moments later dispatch advised that the individual was passed out in his car in the roadway. CO Smither arrived and found the driver passed out in the car with the driver's door open. CO Smither was unable to wake the individual and contacted dispatch for an ambulance. CO Smither was then able to wake the individual as the deputy arrived with the ambulance. The individual refused medical treatment as well as a PBT. The deputy conducted sobriety tests and lodged the individual at Lenawee County Jail.

While patrolling Lenawee County, CO Eric Smither responded to an unknown three car accident along with Raisin Township officers. CO Smither assisted Raisin Township officers with traffic by closing the road down until the accident was cleared.

COs Brandon Hartleben and Andrew Monnich contacted a pair of fishermen returning to their vehicle in the campground at Lake Hudson Recreation Area. When asked how the fishing was, one of the subjects responded, "more than 25 and less than 50." After counting all of the bluegills, it turned out that they actually had more than 50. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol, COs Brandon Hartleben and Andrew Monnich made contact with a vessel owner in the parking lot of the Devils Lake boat launch. The COs advised the owner that his registration had expired in 2016 and that he would need to get it renewed before he could legally operate on the water. After observing several vessels operating without navigation lights, the COs again made contact with the vessel owner who decided to launch his vessel anyway. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jason Smith conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that tried passing him at a high rate of speed on a blind hill. Sgt. Smith had to brake hard and swerve so the operator could get back in the correct lane to avoid a collision. Sgt. Smith asked the driver if he was in a hurry and the driver stated "yup." Enforcement action taken.

CO Jason McCullough received a complaint of a bunch of bluegills and bass being dumped along a fence next to a residence. The complainant just happened to have recently installed a security camera on his residence. The security video showed the neighbor walking down the driveway and dumping the fish while the complainant was not home. In the pile of fish CO McCullough was able to identify several short bass and a bunch of bluegills that had not been cleaned. Further investigation revealed the subject who dumped the fish did not have a fishing license. Upon contact and faced with the video, a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough was checking fishing activity on a local lake when he contacted an angler who was just finishing up. CO McCullough asked the fisherman if he was having any luck and how many fish he had. The angler stated he had around twenty something fish but he actually stopped counting. Further investigation revealed the fisherman was well over his legal daily limit. A citation was issued.

CO Josh Jackson was patrolling in Branch County when he noticed one lone angler in a canoe. The canoe did not appear to have any registration decals on it, and the angler was using a trolling motor to navigate the lake. The CO made contact and, when asked about the unregistered canoe, the angler looked confused and claimed he did not know a canoe had to be registered. Further investigation proved the angler had no PFDs on board. The angler admitted he knew he should have bought some before getting on the water. The angler was issued a citation for not having proper safety equipment and was educated on the laws regarding powered vessels.

CO Isaac Tyson located a group of three fishermen at a local park. CO Tyson contacted the group and asked to see their fishing licenses. During the conversation CO Tyson smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. CO Tyson asked the subjects where their marijuana was and they denied having any. After a few minutes of denial, one of the subjects pulled a bag of marijuana out of his pocket. The same subject did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson located multiple shore fishermen at a local Branch County lake and checked their licenses. During the conversation one of the subjects kept emphasizing that he was not an avid fisherman. CO Tyson checked the man's fish basket and discovered an undersized bass. CO Tyson asked the suspect if he knew the legal size limit for bass. The subject again stated that he did not fish much and he did not know the size limit. A check of the suspect's license purchase history showed that he had purchased a fishing license every year for over twenty years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols received a Report All Poaching complaint about two subjects trespassing on Consumers Energy property along the Grand River in Lansing. CO Nickols was able to track the subjects for about a half mile along the river before locating them fishing from shore. Upon making contact, one of the subjects advised he had a couple warrants for his arrest. A file check was run on both subjects but the one who thought he had warrants was clear. However, the other subject had a warrant,

although it was out of pick-up range. Neither subject had a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher, while on patrol in Jackson County, stopped to check shore fishermen at Grass Lake County Park. During one of his checks a man stated he was just going to fish for a few minutes and did not have a license. CO Maher explained that there is not a time limit on how long someone can fish before they need to obtain a license. Enforcement action was taken.

After putting his patrol boat in storage prior to his days off, CO Chris Maher drove by Vandercook Lake in Jackson County on his way home to check for activity. He witnessed a man on a jet ski pulling two tubers with no spotter. Not having a boat, CO Maher watched the jet ski who anchored on the other side of the lake. CO Maher drove his truck to the location and made contact with the subject. CO Maher explained the necessity of having a spotter while towing tubers. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason King and Robert Slick met with Michigan State Police fugitive team, emergency services team members, and Michigan Department of Corrections absconder team to serve a felony warrant in Shiawassee County. While conducting surveillance on the suspect, he departed his residence in a truck. COs King and Slick conducted a felony traffic stop on the vehicle and took the subject into custody. While conducting a search of the vehicle they discovered rifle and shotgun ammunition. The suspect was a prior felon and a search warrant was obtained for his residence and property. Sgt. Troy Bahlau assisted with the search. During the search of the suspect's home, 25 guns, a large amount of ammo, ammunition reloading equipment, and illegal explosive components were seized. A frozen nine-point antlered deer in velvet was also seized. The suspect was lodged at the Shiawassee County Jail.

Sgt Troy Bahlau led a funeral detail for retired Chief Herb Burns in Lansing. The detail consisted of COs Thorn, Maher, Reynolds, Ludwig, Smither and Hartleben. The family was very appreciative of the detail.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While on patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen responded to a call over the radio for any available officer to assist on a traffic stop involving home invasion suspects. CO Deppen responded and assisted with getting the suspects out of the vehicle and recovering stolen merchandise. During a search of the vehicle a seventh suspect was found hiding in the trunk. The suspect was pulled out of the trunk and told officers he was asleep and had no idea what was going on. The merchandise was recovered and all seven suspects were lodged. Prosecution is pending for all seven suspects.

While observing anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed an angler place his fish in a grey plastic bag in between some rocks. CO Deppen approached the group and asked to see any fish they had caught. The anglers showed CO Deppen a

bucket full of bluegills and perch. When asked about the plastic bag, the anglers would not claim responsibility. CO Deppen pulled one angler aside and after speaking with him, he confessed the plastic bag was his. The bag contained white bass and an undersized largemouth bass. Enforcement action was taken and reimbursement is being sought for the largemouth bass.

COs Kris Kiel, Brad Silorey, and Joseph Deppen conducted a marine patrol on Lake St. Clair this week. Two separate vessels were checked fishing along the shipping channel. On one vessel, the single subject stated that he had seven walleye, but that he was going to throw the smallest one back. After counting the fish in the live well, it was found that he had eight walleye. On the other vessel, the single subject stated that he had five or six walleye. After counting and measuring the fish, it was found that he had seven walleye and four of them were undersized. Enforcement action was taken in both cases. On another vessel, there were three subjects fishing, and none of them had fishing licenses, even though they all said they did. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach conducted several patrols this past week on the water of the St Clair River and Lake Huron for fishing and marine activity. CO Kovach observed several anglers possessing short walleye and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher watched an angler catch and keep a walleye but put it on the stringer of another angler. A short time later the angler who caught the walleye was preparing to leave and picked up his own stringer with a limit of walleye. CO Lasher contacted the first angler and advised him of what he saw and the angler admitted to taking an over limit of walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was working an evening marine patrol on Lake St. Clair, checking both recreational boaters and anglers. While checking several anglers that were fishing in a popular spot, CO Silorey spotted two people on a vessel begin to quickly reel in their lines and begin to pack up to leave. After completing the check that he was on, CO Silorey motored over to the anglers. CO Silorey requested to see both anglers fishing licenses and what they had caught. The anglers had caught four walleye. CO Silorey checked the one angler's license, and then turned to the female passenger on the vessel to look at her fishing license. The female stated that she did not have her license on her and had left it at home. CO Silorey asked for the angler's ID to verify that she had a fishing license. The angler stated that she did not have her ID with her either. CO Silorey wrote down the angler's information, and then looked at her one more time to ask if she had purchased a fishing license this year. The angler then admitted to not having purchased one this year. Enforcement action was taken.

While working in Macomb County, CO Brad Silorey drove up on an accident that had just occurred moments before his arrival. CO Silorey immediately activated his emergency light to block off traffic, and radioed dispatch for EMS, a tow truck, and local police assistance. The accident occurred in a very congested area of the county. CO Silorey then exited his vehicle to assist a female that was stumbling out of her totaled compact car. Immediately CO Silorey knew that the accident was a hit a run

situation. Bystanders told CO Silorey that the other vehicle took off moments before his arrival. What the fleeing suspect did not know, was that he left behind a crucial piece of evidence. Among the pieces of debris, CO Silorey found the license plate of the other vehicle involved. The female involved was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries, and the scene was cleaned up by fire department and tow company. The suspect who fled the scene will be charged for leaving the scene of an accident.

CO Jason Becker responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject in possession of a live raccoon. After several attempts, CO Becker made contact with the subject. She stated that she had a baby raccoon and was nursing it back to health because its mother was hit by a car. While getting details about how the subject acquired the raccoon, she stated that she should not get in trouble again. CO Becker asked what she meant by "in trouble again". The subject stated that she received a ticket for possessing a live raccoon several years ago by CO Torsky. CO Becker advised that she was well aware that she could not possess the raccoon and in the future, advised her to contact a licensed rehabilitator. CO Becker removed the raccoon from the home and enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer received a complaint of a dog caught in a foothold trap in Gaines Twp. Genesee County. The dog was released from the trap prior to the COs arrival. The dog suffered minor injuries to the leg. The CO located the trap which was on the neighboring property of the dog owners. As the CO was investigating the trap an individual from the adjacent property walked over and admitted to the ownership of the trap. The trap was unlabeled. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted multiple vehicles and ORVs operating upon city owned land. CO Griffin stopped all five individuals and explained that they were trespassing with ORVs on city property. CO Griffin pointed out that they drove over a steel cable placed to indicate the property is closed. The group had three full size vehicles, three ORVs, and a trailer. One subject stated that the property was not posted so he could ride there. CO Griffin explained that land does not have to be posted to restrict people from driving all over the property with vehicles and dirt bikes. Furthermore, CO Griffin explained that the individuals must know where they are riding and that they have permission to do so. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on marine patrol in Oakland County when he spotted a pontoon boat operating without a valid registration. CO Griffin stopped the vessel with two subjects on board. He asked the operator if his boat was registered. The operator stated that he was not sure, but he is thinking about buying the boat. Throughout the conversation and his safety check, CO Griffin discovered that the boat belonged to a family that has been given multiple warnings over the last couple years for the same issues. Other than a fire extinguisher, there were no other pieces of the required safety equipment on board the vessel including personal floatation devices (PFDs) and there was never a transfer of ownership. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser worked marine patrols on the southern lakes in Genesee County. The CO encountered many vessels failing to display a current registration. On one occasion the CO contacted a vessel which showed expired as of 2017. CO Muehlhauser asked the operator if he was the registered owner. He said "no." Then he was asked if the registered owner was onboard. He again said "no." When the man provided the CO his paper registration it showed that the man had purchased the vessel in 2015 and still hadn't transferred ownership. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser encountered an overloaded vessel on Lobdell Lake. It was a 14 ft. jon boat with seven occupants onboard. One of the occupants was dragging his leg in the water while the vessel was underway. The CO stopped the vessel and discovered that the maximum occupancy was five persons. Upon completing a safety inspection, it was determined that there were only two PFDs onboard. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake Fenton after sunset, CO Justin Muehlhauser stopped a vessel underway with no navigation lights on. The operator tried to turn them on but they weren't working properly. He then explained that he just purchased the vessel and didn't make sure everything was working properly. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and James Zellinger received a Facebook complaint of a subject in possession of a whitetail fawn and the comments of the photograph stating the deer was going to be eaten for the Ramadan holiday. The COs attempted to locate the subject in Detroit and after numerous contacts in the neighborhood they finally talked to the suspect. The suspect stated that he was in possession of a fawn and it was in his backyard this morning but was now gone. The COs left the location, but after about 20 minutes, an anonymous caller reported the suspect's vehicle dropping a fawn off in the middle of a street approximately two blocks from the suspect's house. The COs quickly picked up the fawn and delivered it to a wildlife rehabilitator. The suspect was issued a citation for possession of a whitetail deer without a license.

CO David Schaumburger contacted two anglers fishing for walleye in the Detroit River. The CO asked the anglers what the shortest fish on board the vessel was and the angler replied 13 inches. The CO asked why they had undersize fish as the limit was 15 inches. The angler replied he just talked to somebody who works for the DNR in Lansing who told them the limit was 13 inches. The CO advised they were wrong and measured four undersize fish, two of which were even smaller than 13 inches. Enforcement action was taken as they did not even follow the wrong information of 13 inches.

CO David Schaumburger approached a pair of anglers fishing for walleye and upon making contact, one of the anglers said, "I love seeing the DNR out here." The CO counted the anglers' fish and found them to be over limit by one fish. The anglers asked if they could just throw one of their belly-up walleye back so they would not be over the limit but the CO advised it was too late for that. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger approached a pair of anglers while they were pulling into the launch, and before the CO could say a word to them, one of the anglers stated to the CO, "I wasn't fishing." The CO asked how many fish they had and the other angler stated they had 12 fish. The CO asked why he was over the limit, and the two anglers started arguing with each other about who was fishing and who caught the over limit. The CO seized their cooler and counted the fish, finding 16 total fish, putting the only angler with the fishing license ten walleye over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking shore anglers, CO Dan Walzak made contact with a subject who was having a fairly decent day catching fish. When CO Walzak asked him how he was doing he responded, "Real good!" and motioned toward his bucket. When the CO looked inside the bucket, a couple of fish lying on the top caught his attention. Emptying the bucket to look at all of the fish inside, CO Walzak found that the angler was in possession of 11 largemouth bass. To make matters worse, every bass in the subject's bucket was under the legal size limit – none of the fish measured over 6½ inches. CO Walzak seized all of the fish and enforcement action was taken.

CO James Zellinger assisted Monroe County animal control with a complaint of unclean aquariums inside of a local laundromat. After further investigation, it was determined an eastern box turtle was being kept in one of the aquariums. Eastern box turtles are a protected species and illegal to possess. Officers were able to contact the owner of the business. The owner was out of town for three to four weeks. The turtle was seized from the business and released back to the wild. Officer Zellinger will be making direct contact with the owner of the business when he returns.

## **DISTRICT 21**

Detective Erick Thorson reports that a 58 year old Shelby Township man pled guilty to two misdemeanor charges of Part 303 Wetlands Protection; Dredging a regulated wetland. As part of the plea agreement, additional charges of Inland Lakes and Streams violation and Malicious Destruction of trees, shrubs, crops, grass, turf, soil were dropped. This case was adjudicated in the Macomb County Circuit Court. The violation took place on two Shelby Township properties owned by two separate individuals who had not given the suspect permission to do the work. The suspect used an excavator to dig over 2000 feet of trenches through the largely undeveloped wooded properties. This activity caused extensive damage to the properties. The suspect was placed on 18 months probation and paid a \$500 restitution to the property owners. In addition, the suspect was ordered to pay \$775 in court fines and costs and \$38,875 toward a restoration place to fix the damaged properties.

## **BELLE ISLE**

While working a Belle Isle shift, CO Mark Siemen assisted the Detroit Police Department with a hit and run accident that happened off the island. The semi involved in the hit and run came to a stop on the MacArthur Bridge. Detroit Police Department

and a tow truck were contacted and all information was gathered for Detroit Police Department.

While on Belle Isle, CO Todd Thorn responded to a complaint of firearms being brandished at the beach. CO Thorn was able to locate one of the individuals, who had a firearm in his pocket. Charges are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

While working an afternoon shift on Belle Isle, CO Ivan Perez became busy responding to various calls. One call came from the big slide, where subjects slide down on sacks. One individual landed wrong and injured his back, so EMS was called, responded, and checked the subject and then transported him to the hospital. Several coolers were checked throughout the day for alcohol, where as a result from those checks, dozens of alcoholic beverages were dumped and several warnings issued for the possession. Alcohol is prohibited on Belle Isle. CO Perez assisted another CO, who discovered two subjects having inappropriate relations in public. Enforcement action was taken. CO Perez also responded to a request for backup from MSP Troopers who were out with subjects from a large family picnic, who were becoming belligerent with the troopers. Upon arriving, CO Perez found 2 females and several males verbally engaged with troopers. One female was using expletives and claiming the troopers were picking on them for no reason. Speaking with the troopers, they stated they just walked up and made salutations with the group, and they began to immediately act belligerently. CO Perez pulled the female aside and could smell the odor of alcohol coming from her breath. CO Perez explained that alcohol was not allowed in the park and it would be better if they left the island before tickets were written. She thought this was a good idea too and the party packed up and left.