

CHIEF OF POLICE
Richard Killips



OFFICE: (269) 469-1593
DISPATCH: (866) 630-7679
FAX: (269) 469-2110

Press Release 6/15/2021
Theft of yacht.

On Thursday 6/10/2021 a vessel with the name "Land Shark II" was taken from the New Buffalo Marina without the owner's permission. An arrest has been made in the case, a 37 year old man from Syracuse Indiana was lodged at the Berrien County Jail on initial charges of possession of stolen property.

A maintenance employee was servicing the vessel that morning when a subject came onto the vessel impersonating a relative of the owner, took possession of the boat, and powered off. The next day when the owners arrived their boat was missing, and they contacted police. The NBPD immediately started investigating and quickly identified a suspect in the case. The vessel was entered into the National Crime Information Center and the US coast Guard was also notified. The New Buffalo Harbormaster also contacted other transient marinas on the Great Lakes to be on the lookout for the vessel.

On 6/12/21 the Michigan State Police were notified that the stolen vessel had been seen adrift and possibly grounded near the Bridgman, Lake Township border. Officers from the Michigan State Police and the Bridgman Police Department were able to take the subject into custody when he waded his way into shore from the Land Shark and was turned over to the New Buffalo Police for questioning. The Land Shark II was towed to a marina in St Joseph where damage can be assessed, and the boat processed for evidence.

The suspect arrested was tied to other thefts in the area that day where he left his wallet and identification behind. This also made it difficult for him to buy food.....or fuel for the boat that he was on for the better part of three days. These crimes are still under further investigation.

Sincerely,

Rich Killips

Rich Killips
Chief of Police

NEW BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY HALL, 224 WEST BUFFALO STREET
NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN 49117