

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Report  
1/16/2017 – 1/29/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes assisted an elderly woman who had made a wrong turn and drove her vehicle down a snowmobile trail which became stuck near the White Pine Trail parking lot. Snowmobilers on scene assisted as a wrecker removed the vehicle from the trail.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen were able to assist a group of snowmobilers in the Bergland area when one of their snowmobiles caught on fire. Due to their quick response and training, the flames were quickly extinguished and no one was injured.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen patrolled Lake Gogebic finding over 15 set lines (fishing lines not in immediate control of the fishermen), one individual fishing without a fishing license, one fisherman in possession of an undersized norther pike, one snowmobiler who failed to attach his trail permit, and multiple tip-ups with improper identifications. Law enforcement action was taken on nine individuals throughout the late night and early morning hours.

CO Doug Hermanson assisted the Keweenaw County Sheriff's Department with a snowmobile safety class, which 13 students attended.

COs Denny Gast, David Miller, Doug Hermanson, Brian Lasanen, Ethen Mapes and Sgt. Grant Emery worked a snowmobile sound enforcement patrol near Calumet over the weekend. Approximately 200 snowmobilers were contacted with a total of 17 citations being issued: 7 for excessive noise (in excess of the 88 dbL limit), 5 registration violations, 1 failure to obtain a trail permit, 3 careless operation of a snowmobile, and CO Miller arrested one snowmobiler for operating a snowmobile while intoxicated (the same driver was operating on a revoked driver's license). The next morning while CO Gast was working snowmobile activity, he received a lot of positive comments regarding our efforts the day before from area snowmobilers.

CO Brian Lasanen responded to a snowmobile vs. car accident. CO Lasanen was about two miles away when the call was dispatched over the radio. CO Lasanen was first on scene and attended to the operator of the snowmobile who was complaining of severe leg, arm, and chest pain until medical personnel arrived on scene. CO Lasanen also assisted the sheriff's department with the accident investigation.

CO Brian Lasanen contacted two snowmobilers who were operating their snowmobiles on a state highway against the flow of traffic. Law enforcement action was taken for operating a snowmobile on a highway.

CO Ethen Mapes was patrolling along state highway M-64 north of Bergland when he witnessed several snowmobiles being operated down the highway. CO Mapes made

contact with the group who stated that the trails were poor so they thought riding along the highway would be better. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ethen Mapes and Nathan Sink conducted an overnight patrol on Lake Gogebic. Several violations were discovered through the night including: 14 set lines, one person fishing without a license, and one undersized walleye. Four individuals were cited for failing to have immediate control of their fishing lines, one fisherman was cited for fishing without a license and one angler who was in possession of a 12" walleye.

While investigating a snowmobile complaint, CO Shannon Kritz checked a camp in the area that had fresh snowmobile tracks. While checking the camp for anyone present, CO Kritz observed a deer carcass hanging from the buck pole. CO Kritz checked the carcass and located foothold traps below the carcass and a turkey stuffed into the chest cavity of the deer carcass. CO Kritz was able to locate the person responsible for the traps and the turkey. The suspect confessed that the turkey had been caught in his trap and sustained a broken leg. The suspect then shot it. CO Kritz advised the suspect of the violations associated with shooting the turkey outside the legal season along with illegally using it for trapping bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink was checking a local lake when he came across a vehicle parked in two handicap parking spots without a handicap permit displayed. The individuals had offloaded 4-wheelers and were out on the lake fishing. A short while later, CO Sink observed the two 4-wheelers approaching with multiple violations. When the subjects returned to their vehicle, a check of the days catch was conducted and enforcement action taken for the ORV violations.

COs Nathan Sink and Ethan Mapes conducted a group night patrol to target OWI snowmobile activity in the Bergland area.

CO Nathan Sink and CO Ethen Mapes conducted a night patrol on Lake Gogebic. A short while into their patrol, CO Sink and CO Mapes came across several tip-ups that were unattended. CO Mapes tripped one of the tip-ups to see if anyone was tending to the lines. After waiting a while, and no one coming out from the cabin to check the tip-ups, the officers knocked on the cabin door to wake the individuals up. The individuals stated they went to bed and did not remember to bring in their tip-ups. While talking with the subjects, an under-sized walleye was also discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink and CO Ethen Mapes were patrolling on Lake Gogebic when they came across a few tip-ups set in front of a house. CO Sink walked up to one of the tip-ups when an individual came out of his house and met the officer by the tip-ups. CO Sink asked the individual for his fishing license who stated he had his license in his wallet but not on his person. A check with Station 20 found the subject did not have a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink and CO Ethen Mapes were patrolling Lake Gogebic when they came across an ice shanty that was unoccupied but had tip-ups out. CO Sink and CO Mapes set-up to observe if anyone returned to the shanty. After waiting for a while without anyone returning to the shanty, the COs cleared the area and continued their patrol. Two hours later the COs returned to the shanty and made contact with two anglers. The anglers stated they had been in their shanty all night and had been watching their tip-ups. When the officers explained they had checked the shanty earlier and no one was present, they changed their story. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell made contact with an ice fisherman on Lake Independence who had four lines in the water. When asked how many lines he was legally allowed to have, the man stated, "Three." He then commented that it didn't matter that he had four because he was out there every day. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a joint patrol on East Bass Lake, CO Jeffrey Dell made contact with a pair of ice fishermen operating an unregistered snowmobile. The driver stated the machine was registered but he had not put the decals on yet. A check of the VIN revealed the machine was not registered and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeffrey Dell were checking ice fishermen on Hayward Lake when they came across an individual who did not have a current registration on his snowmobile. Upon further investigation, it was also discovered that the individual trailered his snowmobile to the lake despite having an expired Michigan driver's license. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell and CO Jeremy Sergey examined a dead eagle that was found in Menominee County. It was determined that the eagle was killed by a motor vehicle. Arrangements were made to send the eagle to the National Eagle Repository in Denver Colorado.

CO Sergey and CO Leadman found an ice shanty on Lake Independence that was not properly labeled. While examining the ice shanty, it was noticed that there were two unattended fishing lines set inside the shanty. The COs continued their patrol but decided to check the shanty again on their way back. Two individuals were found in the shanty and admitted to leaving set lines while they went back to camp. The fishing lines were seized and a citation was issued.

COs Jeremy Sergey, Jeffrey Dell, Mark Leadman, Brett DeLonge, and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a group snowmobile sound patrol in Big Bay Michigan. One citation was issued for operating a snowmobile exceeding the 88 dbL limit. Another citation was issued for careless operation of a snowmobile.

## **DISTRICT 2**

COs Mark Zitnik, Chris Lynch, and Robert Freeborn patrolled the busy snowmobile trails from Munising to Grand Marais. Even with the warmer weather, the COs contacted large amounts of snowmobilers. Overall compliance was good; however, the COs did

write six citations for no trail permits, expired registrations and failing to display trail permits and registrations.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint from Michigan State Police and Sault Tribal Police regarding a subject they had arrested a day earlier on unrelated charges. They advised that he had a tent set-up on state land and had been staying there for a while. CO Freeborn went out to the scene and documented the "camp" with a large amount of litter around it. CO Freeborn made contact with the suspect in jail and advised him he had to remove all his belongings from state land when he gets out in to avoid a litter citation.

COs Robert Freeborn and Mike Evink responded to an injured eagle along Highway US 2. Upon arrival, it was determined the eagle was paralyzed. Wildlife Division personnel also arrived on scene and determined the bird couldn't be saved. It was taken for testing.

CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon patrolled the Wetmore area for snowmobile activity. Violations such as no trail permits, improper registration placement, and careless operation were addressed.

While checking snowmobilers in Alger County, CO Pat Hartsig stopped a snowmobile that did not have a snowmobile trail permit on it. The operator produced it from his wallet and stated he didn't want to place it on his sled because he was saving up for custom decals for his snowmobile. When CO Hartsig instructed him to put it on his windshield, he was worried about how it would affect his future "wrap" for his sled and didn't want to affix the permit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch attended a sportsman's coalition meeting at the Escanaba Sportsman's Club. Questions were fielded regarding the past deer season and the COs experiences with hunters in the field.

CO Michael Evink assisted an RN from Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital to teach wilderness first aid to a local group of Girl Scouts. He educated the group on some techniques that would be beneficial in wilderness settings.

CO Mark Zitnik along with Alger County Sheriff's Department received a call of two deer stranded on the ice on Lake Superior. A hovercraft was deployed, CO Zitnik and the Alger Co. Sheriff's Department successfully removed the two stranded deer from the ice and onto the shoreline unfortunately, both deer died shortly after.

CO Mark Zitnik was checking anglers on Munising Bay when two anglers attempted to keep the CO away from their shanty. When CO Zitnik reached the shanty he smelled the strong odor of marijuana. CO Zitnik asked the angler where the drugs were and the fisherman produced a small mason jar of marijuana, a pipe, and a vapor pen with a jar of resin. The 22 year old said he was trying to get his medical marijuana card but didn't have it yet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch successfully served a warrant on a hunter for possession of marijuana from the rifle deer season. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

CO Chris Lynch successfully served an arrest warrant on a hunter who shot a 6 point buck without license.

COs Marc Zitnik, Mike Evink, and Chris Lynch conducted a snowmobile patrol and made hundreds of contacts. The COs issued 12 tickets for violations pertaining to trail permits and registrations along with several warnings.

COs Jon Busken and Calvin Smith were on snowmobile patrol in Paradise when they observed several snowmobiles fail to stop at a stop sign where the trail crossed a school driveway. A traffic stop was conducted and contact was made with the operators. One of the operators was found to have an administratively denied and revoked Michigan driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken contacted three anglers on Big Manistique Lake. The group said that they had some success and showed the officer two walleye they caught. The CO measured the fish and asked if they had kept any other fish. All three said they had not. The CO told the group he was going to go and count their tip-ups. At this point, one man said he had a pike on the ice. He said he had not measured the pike but would keep small pike for the day and release them before he went home. CO Busken measured the pike, found it to be undersized and explained that short fish must immediately be returned. The man told the CO he had no other fish on the ice. CO Calvin Smith arrived on scene and continued counting tip-ups. At the first tip-up, CO Smith checked he found a 17 inch pike. A prior check showed the man had 10 DNR priors. One was for this same violation last winter. Multiple citations were issued.

CO Watson was on ice fishing patrol during a local ice fishing tournament. Contact was made with a fisherman who informed CO Watson that his uncle had just taken some fish back to the cabin to clean. CO Watson found this odd, and followed snowmobile tracks back to the cabin where he made contact with the family member. A pile of filleted fish, mostly walleye, was discovered in the snow bank. Five of the fish were undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill were conducting ice fishing patrol when Sgt. Hammill made contact with a fisherman who had multiple tip-ups set out near his shanty. It was quickly discovered the individual was fishing with too many lines. Sgt. Hammill also discovered an undersized walleye which the individual tried to hide. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Watson and Sgt. Hammill made contact with a young fisherman who smelled of marijuana. After a brief search of the area, an undersized pike was discovered in the snow bank along with a handful of drug paraphernalia items. The fisherman claimed his friend who was back at their cabin had caught the fish. CO Watson and Sgt. Hammill

located the cabin and made contact with the friend. The friend confessed that the short pike was his and enforcement action taken.

COs Kevin Postma, Calvin Smith and Tom Oberg, worked a group patrol on Munuscong Bay. CO Postma observed a group of fishermen with numerous tip-ups out. After being checked by CO Smith, it was determined that one of the fishermen was fishing on a tribal subsistence license, which allows him to have 10 tip-ups. CO Postma continued his observation of the group and observed one of the non-subsistence fishermen catch and keep a short walleye on the subsistence fisherman's tip-up and a second non-subsistence fishermen tend several of the subsistence fisherman's lines while he was gone. COs Smith and Oberg addressed the violations and enforcement action was taken.

COs Calvin Smith and Tom Oberg were working a group patrol on Munuscong Bay when they were made aware of a snowmobile accident that had just occurred. COs Smith and Oberg responded to the scene just a short distance away to find a fisherman that had rolled his machine. It didn't take long for the COs to realize that the driver was extremely intoxicated. Approximately a mile off shore CO Oberg contacted CO Kevin Postma and requested him to meet them to assist with running sobriety test. CO Postma arrived and made contact with CO Oberg. CO Smith attempted to walk the highly intoxicated driver off the ice, but it was quickly apparent this was not feasible, as the driver kept falling. CO Postma then unloaded a dog sled type sleigh from his trailer and pulled it by snowmobile out to CO Smith's location. The Intoxicated driver was transported in the sled to where a sobriety test could be given. The driver did not pass the sobriety test and was arrested and lodged in the Chippewa County Jail for OWI on a snowmobile.

CO Kevin Postma received blood results back from an OWI ORV incident that occurred back in the beginning of January. The individual advised CO Postma that he had stopped drinking at about 2:00 a.m. and was still a .14 BAC at noon when the accident occurred.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Steve Speigl and CO Chad Baldwin responded to a complaint of unattended lines on an Antrim County lake. After searching the lake, the COs were unable to locate any set lines, but did find an angler that was fishing with five lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a complaint of snowmobile trespass in Antrim County. When CO Speigl arrived on scene, the snowmobiles were gone but the trucks used to transport them were nearby. CO Speigl acquired the names associated with the trucks and left. A short while later, ten miles away, CO Speigl stopped a group of snowmobiles for running stop signs on the trail. The group of snowmobilers was the same as those trespassing earlier. Enforcement action was taken on all violations.

CO Chad Baldwin was part of a group snowmobile enforcement patrol when he noticed a snowmobile with an expired registration. CO Baldwin conducted a stop and questioned the operator as to why he had placed a current trail permit on his snowmobile but not updated his registration. The operator stated that he had not been prompted through the mail to update the registration and didn't realize that it was expired until they hit the trail. He also stated that a CO from another county stopped him the previous day for the same violation but he continued to ride knowing the registration was expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt, Charlevoix County, checked numerous inland lakes for fishing activity. A few verbal warnings were given for no name and address on tip-ups and for no license in possession.

COs Eric Bottorff, Tim Rosochacki, Matt Theunick and Paul Fox patrolled Black Lake and checked two subjects that had left their lines unattended for over an hour. When they returned, the subjects were riding on an ORV with no helmets and riding double. Enforcement action was taken and COs also warned an additional five anglers on the lake for minor violations.

COs Eric Bottorff, Mark Depew, Tim Rosochacki, Matt Theunick, and Nick Torsky took part in Operation LifeSaver, a group snowmobile enforcement effort in conjunction with District 5 officers, Michigan State Police Gaylord and Houghton Lake posts, Otsego and Crawford County Sheriff's Departments, and Lake State Railway. The patrol is designed to target illegal operation on or across railroad property, as well as educate the public about the dangers of illegal railroad-related snowmobile operation. During the patrol, officers issued three citations for operating on the railroad right-of-way, warned five others, issued one citation for careless operation, issued 12 miscellaneous warnings, and policed one personal injury accident. Over 100 contacts were made, and several hundred snowmobiles were checked for registration and trail permit compliance. While working the Operation LifeSaver joint snowmobile patrol, COs Tim Rosochacki, Matt Theunick, and Nick Torsky encountered three snowmobilers who had stopped on the railroad tracks to make a minor repair to one of their machines. Officers alerted the men, who were unaware of the rapidly approaching train, and they quickly moved to safety as the train came to a stop just before reaching their location. One rider stated that he knew he was on the tracks, but did not expect to see any trains. Enforcement action was taken when people and property were safely away from the tracks.

COs Mark Depew, Tim Rosochacki, and Nick Torsky were dispatched to a snowmobile personal injury accident in a remote area of southeast Otsego County. Three individuals were riding off-trail when a passenger on one snowmobile was struck by a low-hanging tree, suffering a neck injury. After searching the vicinity of the call, officers were eventually able to locate the victim, bring medical personnel to the scene, and assist in transporting the victim to a waiting ambulance.

COs Nick Torsky and Eric Bottorff attended the Cheboygan County Conservation District meeting in Indian River; DNR staff presented information on the new hunter

access program process that provides additional property for hunters and incentives for landowners that allow hunting on their property through the program.

CO Mark Depew ticketed two snowmobile riders who rode through stop signs in Otsego County at road intersections at speeds of approximately 25 MPH.

CO Matt Theunick received a complaint about a possible illegal mountain lion that was being transported to Michigan from Colorado. CO Theunick was able to track down the hunter and verify that the animal was harvested legally and registered in Colorado, as required by law.

COs Kelly Ross and Paul Fox went to Lansing to participate in the Pre-Screening Interviews (PSI) for Recruit School #8. These are the early steps of the recruiting process for hiring COs.

COs Jon Sklba and Paul Fox, Presque Isle County, went to the annual wild game dinner in Posen; the COs answered questions and mingled with the crowd of about 450 sportsmen and women.

COs Jon Sklba and Paul Fox did a presentation on deer regulations and answered questions at the Presque Isle Sportsman's Club annual banquet. There were about 80 people in attendance.

CO Brad Bellville, Montmorency County, contacted a vehicle operating recklessly on rural roads in northern Montmorency County. A traffic stop was initiated and found the driver was driving on a suspended driver's license, had open alcohol in the vehicle as well as an uncased rifle under the seat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Bellville and Adam LeClerc, Alpena County, worked a patrol in Alpena County in response to a specific complaint on Fletchers Pond. Specialized surveillance tactics were used and resulted in contact with the targeted group in possession of an undersized pike and an out of season largemouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

While on patrol, CO Colton Gelinas observed ice fishermen on South Lake Leelanau. CO Gelinas made contact with two fishermen as they were leaving the lake. It was determined that one of the fishermen did not have a license. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe attended a career day at Traverse City West Middle School. CO Kehoe gave five presentations to over 100 students regarding employment as a Michigan CO.

Sgt. Michael T. Bomay responded to a report all poaching complaint of a subject that fell through the ice while ice fishing. The angler was upset that he fell through a spearing hole that was unmarked and felt that a violation had occurred and failure to mark a spearing hole should be illegal. Sgt. Bomay advised the complainant that there is

nothing in the law requiring an angler to mark where they have been fishing but also provided caution to the angler that anytime walking on frozen lakes a spud or walking stick should be used to check the ice prior to taking a step.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a report all poaching complaint where the suspect allegedly took three deer on the last day of the 2016 deer season. The initial investigation revealed the suspect not having purchased any licenses for several years and having an outstanding warrant. Upon arrival, CO Ginn was unable to get the suspect to come to the door. CO Ginn also observed an untagged deer hanging in the garage. A search warrant was obtained for the residence and garage, and the search revealed the suspect hiding inside the house and an illegal deer in the garage. The suspect was arrested for the warrant and the illegal deer.

COs Jeff Ginn and Brian Lebel conducted a taxidermy inspection at which they located a head and cape of a Kansas whitetail buck. Their investigation revealed one additional buck being imported illegally from Kansas. Both buck heads and capes were seized and destroyed and the suspects were cited for illegal importation of deer from a CWD state. The taxidermist was subsequently cited for receiving the deer.

CO Casey Varriale of Osceola County received a complaint of an individual using eight tip-ups while ice fishing at Saddlebag Lake in Osceola County. During the investigation, CO Varriale was only able to locate three tip-ups on the lake. The three tip-ups were not being tended to, and CO Varriale located the individual who owned them at his residence. During an interview, the suspect admitted to having six tip-ups on the lake. CO Varriale located the remaining three tip-ups and cited the individual.

CO Casey Varriale was on snowmobile patrol with CO Ryan Andrews in Lake County where they witnessed an individual operating a snowmobile without headlights. The individual was flagged down and educated about the importance of having the headlights on at all times.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews located numerous ice shanties left in a public launch area. One shanty was left directly in the middle of the boat ramp blocking access to the lake for other anglers. The owners of the shanties were eventually located and enforcement action was taken after the shanties were left un-moved for an extended period of time.

During a routine patrol of area frozen lakes in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews checked several fishermen that were using tip-ups near their shanties. The tip-ups were not labeled with the anglers' information and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling area snowmobile trails in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews came across a snowmobile that did not have a working headlight. A stop was made and they were able to get it working again. The operator was educated as to the importance of having a working headlight.

CO Ryan Andrews was patrolling snowmobile trails in Lake County when he stopped a snowmobile that did not have a valid trail permit attached. The operator of the machine was unable to provide one at that time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting at a busy snowmobile intersection in Wexford County when he witnessed two snowmobiles in a group that were displaying expired registrations. CO Killingbeck was able to stop the snowmobiles and verified that they had not been registered since 2014 and 2015. The riders initially claimed to have paperwork downstate at their residences, until CO Killingbeck advised them that he had the ability to check Secretary of State's records. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling Wexford County snowmobile trails when he observed a snowmobile operating past him displaying an expired out of state registration. CO Killingbeck made contact with the operator who said he had bought the snowmobile one hour prior and did not even look to see if the registration was valid. The operator advised that with his transaction, he didn't receive a title or old registration paperwork. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on snowmobile patrol in Wexford County when he observed a snowmobile with an expired out-of-state registration. CO Killingbeck made contact with the operator who said there must be a mistake as he was not the kind of person to drive with an expired registration. CO Killingbeck was able to run the VIN of the snowmobile and determined there was no current registration associated with the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed a snowmobile with an expired registration displayed. CO Killingbeck made contact with the operator who claimed the snowmobile was a friend's and he was only borrowing it. The operator also told CO Killingbeck that he felt that he should not be responsible for the registration. CO Killingbeck informed the operator that he was indeed responsible to make sure the machine was legal before riding. CO Killingbeck was able to determine that the "friend" had never transferred the title to the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was subpoenaed for a jury trial involving a subject who had taken an 8 point buck without a license. After the 9-plus hour jury trial concluded, the defendant was found guilty and was sentenced to five days in jail. The defendant's hunting was revoked for six years and was ordered to pay \$6,000 in reimbursement to the State of Michigan for the deer.

CO Josiah Killingbeck reported that a suspect in a case where a 9 point buck was shot without a license pled guilty. The suspect was ordered to pay \$6,500 in restitution, received a loss of hunting privileges for two years, and will serve 5 to 90 days in jail at the discretion of the court.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski were working at a Hamlin Lake site at dark when they noticed a snowmobile coming to their location. As the snowmobile approached, they could see that the operator wasn't wearing a helmet and also was operating with an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski were on patrol in Mason County when they noticed a set of ORV tracks going down the snowmobile trail. The COs investigated and found the operator who was riding double, in a closed area, without registration, and had failed to title the ORV to his name. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski checked a local taxidermist in Mason County and found a tag on a 9 point buck that had not been notched properly. The COs checked retail sales records and found that the female who purchased the license had not taken hunter safety and had no license history. The COs went to speak to the female and she advised them that she indeed took the deer but she only had photos of her husband posing with her first 9 point deer, not herself. The husband confirmed her story, but the COs weren't buying it. They then advised the woman that she would be receiving a citation for the offense of hunting without hunter safety. That was when her husband decided to tell the truth, admitting to shooting the 9 point and two additional 7 points. He had used her tag for one of his three deer taken in 2016. Enforcement action was taken for the taking an over limit of antlered deer.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski were patrolling a section of federal land in Mason County, where they saw fresh tracks going in to a walk-in only lake. The two COs decided to walk in to check for fishing activity and discovered two men fishing with over limit of lines. When confronted, the anglers immediately apologized to the COs and informed that they would gladly reel in the excess lines. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While patrolling Houghton Lake during the 2017 Tip-Up-Town festival, CO Ben McAteer made contact with a subject operating a snowmobile without a helmet. During the contact it was determined that the operator was highly intoxicated. With assistance from COs Ethan Gainforth, Steve Lockwood, Mike Hearn and Sgt. Jon Wood, the subject was arrested for operating a snowmobile while intoxicated and lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

During an evening patrol at the 2017 Tip-Up-Town festival, COs Craig Neal, Nick Atkin and Josh Wright observed a snowmobile being operated with multiple colored headlights. When the COs attempted to stop the snowmobile, the operator observed their emergency lights and fled from the scene. After a short high speed pursuit, COs Neal, Atkin and Wright were able to apprehend the male subject. He was arrested for flee and elude, reckless driving, operating an unregistered snowmobile, possession of marijuana, and possession of open intoxicants. Further investigation determined he also had an outstanding warrant from northern Michigan. The subject was lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

While patrolling Houghton Lake during the Tip-up-Town fireworks, COs Craig Neal, Nick Atkin, John Huspen, Josh Wright, and Sam Schluckbier observed two snowmobiles operating at a very high rate of speed. The operators came within 100 feet of the COs stationary position on the ice. Both snowmobiles were stopped and further investigation determined the operators were highly intoxicated. With assistance from COs Chuck McPherson and Mark Papineau, the subjects were arrested for operating a snowmobile while intoxicated and lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

While patrolling the area of the Tip-Up-Town snowmobile drag races, CO Sam Schluckbier made contact with the operator of an unregistered snowmobile. A LEIN/SOS check confirmed the operator had a suspended driver's license. The subject was arrested for driving while license suspended. With assistance from COs Chuck McPherson and Mark Papineau, the man was transported and lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

CO Sam Schluckbier was patrolling Lake Skegemog in Kalkaska County when he observed a three-wheeler operating without a headlight or tail light. The machine was exceeding rider capacity, none of the occupants were wearing helmets, and there were open intoxicants possessed by one of the passengers. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake Margrethe in Crawford County, CO Sam Schluckbier contacted an ice angler with an over limit of northern pike. The angler claimed ignorance and stated that the DNR failed to inform him of the fishing regulation change. CO Schluckbier informed the man that the changes had been in existence for a few years. The extra fish was seized and a citation was issued for possession of an over limit of northern pike.

CO Mike Hearn contacted a non-resident angler in the process of ice fishing with multiple lines and no fishing license in Kalkaska County. The subject stated he was going to buy a license after his fishing equipment was set up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer assisted with Operation Safe Rails, a joint patrol with the Michigan State Police that targets snowmobile trespass along the Lakes State Railway System in Crawford and Otsego Counties. Approximately 82 contacts were made and 2 citations were issued.

CO Casey Pullum received a complaint of a subject taking deer illegally over multiple years. After completing several months of investigation, he drafted search warrants on four separate residences to recover evidence of the crimes. CO Pullum enlisted the help of 18 additional COs to assist with the search warrants. When the search warrants were executed simultaneously in both Oscoda and Genesee Counties, various deer antlers, firearms, compound bows, and media devices were seized. The evidence is being analyzed and the case is still under investigation.

CO Kyle Bader received information of a bobcat that was shot at night during a local predator hunt in Ogemaw County. He followed up with the hunt coordinator and developed a suspect. CO Bader interviewed the suspect who advised, he was ashamed that he had killed the bobcat in the afternoon, prior to the start of the competition. CO Bader informed the suspect that he was going to verify the story with as many of the other competitors as he could. The suspect quickly confessed to shooting the bobcat at night to avoid looking like a cheater. Enforcement action is being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kyle Bader assisted with pre-screening interviews for the Law Enforcement Division's ongoing hiring process. While traveling back to Ogemaw County, CO Bader stopped a vehicle on I-69 that was traveling in excess of 90 mph and driving erratically. The driver was operating on a suspended license, didn't have valid insurance or registration for the vehicle, was in possession of a large amount of marijuana, and wasn't wearing a seatbelt. The subject also had two outstanding warrants for his arrest. CO Bader arrested the subject for the violations and lodged him in the Shiawassee County Jail.

While conducting a taxidermy inspection in Iosco County, CO Kyle Cherry located a deer that he believed was taken illegally by a hunter who lived in SE Michigan. CO Cherry contacted CO Joseph Deppen in Macomb County. CO Deppen conducted an interview on the male subject and was able to obtain a confession for shooting the deer without a license. Enforcement action is being sought through the Iosco County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Jon Warner and Kyle Cherry were contacted by Michigan State Police Troopers to assist with a shots fired complaint in Iosco County. After responding to the area, MSP Troopers encountered a man coming out of a barn and could see a freshly killed deer inside. When COs Warner and Cherry arrived, they interviewed the man who admitted to shooting the deer. The suspect claimed he wanted venison so he went to a blind behind the residence to shoot a deer. At approximately 9:00 p.m., he shot a deer with the aid of an artificial light. The deer and a 12-gauge shotgun were seized and other evidence was collected at the scene. Prosecution is being sought through the Iosco County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a request for assistance from the Gladwin County Sheriff's Department. A suspect had fled from deputies and went on foot into the woods in the wee hours of the night. CO Lockwood responded and was able to utilize his tracking skills to follow the suspect's trail in the woods. CO Lockwood, along with deputies, was able to catch up to the suspect and arrest him. He was lodged in the Gladwin County Jail.

A couple late night anglers were surprised to be checked while fishing after midnight on a local Gladwin County lake. CO Lockwood made contact with them just prior to 1am. Neither subject had purchased a fishing license for the year and apparently felt

confident that they would not be checked that late at night. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling northern Gladwin County, CO Mark Papineau conducted a traffic stop on a Polaris Side-by-Side ATV that was being operated illegally on a state highway. As CO Papineau approached, he observed the four occupants quickly attempting to hide objects in the ATV. Upon immediate contact, it was discovered that the occupants were hiding numerous open containers of alcohol. Numerous citations were issued regarding open intoxicants along with the illegal operation of an ATV on a state highway.

CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to a trespassing complaint in Clare County in which several anglers intentionally trespassed to gain access to a frozen lake. During the investigation, it was quickly determined that the anglers deliberately and knowingly walked past numerous "No Trespassing" signs. The facts were clearly visible by tracking foot prints in the snow. Citations were issued.

CO Mark Papineau investigated a property line dispute in Gladwin County. He was advised by the complainant that a neighbor had placed a constructed ground blind on his property, obstructing a primary game trail. The complainant indicated that he has had repeated issues of harassment and trespass from a particular neighbor, which has been ongoing for years. During an interview with the suspect, CO Papineau was able to obtain a confession for trespassing and hunter harassment. The suspect openly admitted to building a structure on the neighbors land and doing it intentionally to 'mess' with the landowner and his hunting. Charges are being sought through the Gladwin County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Phil Hudson was the first to respond to a residential fire. Concerned there may be victims inside, CO Hudson shut off the gas to the home and was able to gain access to the residence to make sure there was no one inside. Upon entry, CO Hudson located two dogs and removed them from the home. He re-entered to check second story rooms but was unable to see through the smoke to continue looking and had to exit the residence. The garage of the home had already been completely consumed in flames and unfortunately some farm animals did not survive the fire.

COs Phil Hudson, Ethan Gainforth and Steve Lockwood waited several hours on Houghton Lake for anglers to return to their fishing shanty. As it turns out, the group of anglers had fished in the morning and then left for the entire afternoon. The problem was that they left several tip-ups set in the water. Any fish caught on one of the unattended lines would face a good chance of perishing. Finally, late in the afternoon, the group returned to their shanty only to find the three COs waiting for them. The importance of the fishing laws were explained to the group and citations were issued for leaving unattended lines in the water.

COs Nick Atkin and Steve Lockwood had a busy patrol recently on Secord Lake in Gladwin County. During their patrol, the COs located anglers fishing with too many

lines, in possession of undersized walleye and northern pike. Several citations were issued for the violations.

Sgt. Jon Wood was working surveillance activities on Houghton Lake during Tip-Up-Town when he noticed an angler sitting in his parked truck. The driver's door was open just enough for the angler to jig a fishing rod in a hole right beneath the truck's door. Sgt. Wood also noticed a few tip-ups in the immediate area of the angler. After watching for a short time, the angler looked in the direction of Sgt. Wood, reeled up his jig pole line, and began to drive away. Sgt. Wood was able to make contact with the angler before he left the immediate area. During the investigation, it was discovered that the angler was fishing with too many lines. He already had three tip-ups on the ice and the jig pole he had been using out the door of the truck was his fourth line, putting him over his legal number of lines. A citation was issued for fishing with too many lines.

Sgt. Jon Wood and COs Ben McAteer and Chuck McPherson were checking anglers on Houghton Lake during the recent Tip-Up-Town celebration. While checking a shanty and anglers in East Bay, it was discovered that the group was fishing with too many lines. However, they were quick to tell the COs that the extra lines did not belong to them, but rather belonged to their buddy that had left for shore to pick up some pizza. By their account, he had already been gone for 25 minutes. The COs waited at the shanty for another 30 minutes until the 'buddy' showed up with the pizza. Enforcement action was taken for leaving unattended lines in the water.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Chad Foerster was traveling northbound on M-13 in Bay County when he observed a vehicle traveling south at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was passing outside the curb line nearly striking mailboxes and garbage containers. CO Foerster was able to catch up to the reckless driver and make a traffic stop. The driver stated he was "just messing with his buddy" and laughed at the situation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas responded to a complaint on Coldwater Lake in Isabella County. An ice angler was driving his 4-wheeler over the ice through dense fog and operating too close to open water. As the machine and ice fishing shanty fell through the ice, the angler was able to jump to safe ice. Two days later, all of the angler's fishing gear and 4-wheeler were recovered from the lake.

While on patrol in Bay County, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were working the Saginaw Bay. The COs made contact with several anglers, including several just coming off the ice. CO Robinson made contact with a subject pulling a sled with fishing gear. The subject had 15 yellow perch in a bucket and when asked for his fishing license the subject started digging through his pockets but was unable to produce a license. A check of the retail sales system's records showed that the subject had not purchased a 2016 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg checked an individual in December that was trapping an area of state land in Midland County. CO Lundberg continued to monitor the area and the

trapper and eventually turned up evidence in January of a bobcat that was trapped a month before bobcat season was open. An investigation led to a confession from the trapper to trapping and killing the large male bobcat. The bobcat was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz was checking anglers near Saginaw Bay. While speaking with a group of anglers, CO Bucholtz detected an odor of marijuana. When the topic was brought up to the anglers, one subject began walking away and failed to comply with commands made by CO Bucholtz. The subject was detained and marijuana was seized. The case is ongoing.

CO Mark Siemen concluded his investigation into the shooting of a great horned owl. The suspect was located and questioned about shooting the owl. The suspect advised he was avoiding contact because he is on probation and did not want to end up in jail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen concluded his investigation involving a suspect that was trespassing on private property during firearm deer season in Sanilac County. The suspect was hunting on a property line and shot an 8-point buck that was on property he was not allowed to hunt. The suspect was questioned and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a subject in Marlette Township that was advertising his taxidermy work and charging \$75.00 for European mounts. CO Siemen along with CO Matthew Zultak responded to the business. Contact was made with the subject, who stated he was doing European mounts for people and stated he thought he did not need a taxidermy license because he had a hunting license. During the investigation the COs also found two sets of deer antlers that were not tagged properly. The subject had no records for the two sets of antlers. After the investigation was complete and enforcement action was taken, the subject was educated why he needs a taxidermy license and how to obtain one.

CO Jason A. Smith noticed a truck parked beyond a gate in the Vassar State Game Area of Tuscola County. The area was checked and three subjects were located ice fishing on a nearby pond. The subjects had trespassed across private property to get around a guardrail, operated in a closed area, and did not have their names on their tip-ups. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling a state game area in Tuscola County when he noticed a vehicle stuck in an area where vehicles are not allowed. The suspect said he was looking for a place to small game hunt the next day. The vehicle was removed and enforcement action taken.

Sgt. Scott Brown was in contact with the manager at the Detroit Edison Facility in Harbor Beach to clarify the company's direction on fishing in the discharge canal from their facility. It was decided that the canal was public waters and public fishing

regulations would be in place. As long as anglers stayed on the ice in the canal or in the water (when not frozen) trespass charges would not be sought.

CO John Byars was patrolling the Maple River State Game Area boat launch off Wilson Road when he noticed a fresh pile of burnt barrel litter that wasn't there a couple days ago. CO Byars searched through the litter and found two bank cards with the same name from a bank in St. Johns, Michigan. CO Byars found that the suspect was also out of St. Johns. CO Byars made contact with the suspect and he admitted that it was his trash but said he did not put it there. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO John Byars noticed an ORV crossing M-57. CO Byars noticed the tail light was not working properly and the suspect was not on the far right side of the road. After a traffic stop, the CO discovered that the operator's driver's license was suspended. The CO also found that the suspect was in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Myers and Josh Russell contacted two raccoon hunters using dogs in the Maple River State Game Area. Upon investigation of the hunter's equipment, they were found to not have the proper license in possession and not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken and education points were made to the hunters.

COs Joe Myers and Jill Miller were on an ORV patrol in the Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area when they observed two ORVs operating legally on the shoulder of the road. The only problem was that the COs did not see any ORV licenses on the machines. The COs stopped the ORVs and issued them each a ticket for the license violations.

CO Joe Myers presented to Olivet College regarding the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division and to potential interested applicants. He spoke about the career of being a CO and answered questions regarding the hiring process. There were about 1000 students in attendance.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling the Stanton State Game Area in Montcalm County when he came across a pickup truck blocking a two track. CO Russell then observed a hunter a short distance away with no hunter orange. As CO Russell approached, the truck backed up and pulled in a parking area. When the CO made contact he learned the driver of the vehicle was 12 years old and the brother of the hunter. The hunter did not have hunter orange, a case for the firearm, and was also in possession of tobacco while under the age of 18. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Russell and Ken Lowell were patrolling lakes in Montcalm County when they noticed tip-ups on the ice with no one around. The COs made contact with a local home owner who claimed three of the four tip-ups on the ice. After further investigation, the owner admitted to setting all four tip-ups, not putting his name and address on them, and failing to attend them. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg, Joe Myers, and Will Brickel were on patrol in Midland County checking anglers on Sanford Lake. While approaching a shanty, an angler rushed out and gave his fishing license to the COs. Upon approaching the shanty, a strong odor of marijuana was noticed. When questioned, the fisherman admitted to having smoked marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Andy Bauer received a complaint of some possible illegal trapping activity. During the course of the investigation, CO Bauer discovered two raccoons in an untagged live trap that had been transported to the residence from another location. CO Bauer issued a citation for the untagged trap.

CO Andy Bauer spoke to an entry level law enforcement class at Lake Michigan College about a career as a CO. The talk was well received with a number of the twenty students expressing interest in how to become a CO.

CO Richard Cardenas observed tracks indicating that people on dirt bikes were operating illegally on state game area lands. CO Cardenas ultimately located three subjects operating dirt bikes who admitted to trespassing onto private property and riding their dirt bikes on state land. Enforcement action was taken

CO Richard Cardenas received an internet complaint referencing a subject who had taken several deer without purchasing his deer hunting license. The investigation resulted in confessions from the subject related to the illegal taking of four antlered deer over the past four years. A warrant was approved for the subject's arrest and he appeared in court. The subject was ordered to pay \$12,250.00 in reimbursement, and his hunting rights were revoked.

CO Chris Holmes completed a lengthy investigation regarding a subject who had been purchasing licenses unlawfully. During the investigation CO Holmes found that the suspect had taken a turkey during the closed season and an antlerless deer from an area other than the DMU the subject had a license for. He also discovered that the suspect had possessed/transported untagged antlered deer. The incidents took place in Ionia, Kalamazoo, and Montcalm Counties. Charges have been issued in each county totaling 10 misdemeanor counts.

CO Chris Holmes assisted area agencies with the search and apprehension of a subject involved in a mobile active violence crime spree. The subject was wanted on armed robbery, carjacking, attempted murder, arson, and multiple felony acts he committed during the three hour crime spree.

During recent patrols on state land, CO Justin Ulberg had noticed evidence of vehicles driving in a closed area and doing "burnouts". CO Ulberg checked the area after dark and could hear a vehicle's engine revving up in the distance. CO Ulberg also noticed fresh dirt kicked-up on the snow from a vehicle doing "doughnuts". A truck was observed driving in the closed area and doing "burnouts". CO Ulberg stopped the

vehicle and discovered open containers of alcohol in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Beavers checked hunter activity in the Portland State Game Area. While checking the game area on foot, he came into contact with a group hunting rabbits. CO Beavers immediately realized that one of the subjects was not wearing hunter orange. Further investigation revealed that the hunter didn't have a license either. The subject was cited for hunting without a license and given a warning for not wearing the required hunter orange.

While on patrol, COs Jeremy Beavers and Richard Cardenas heard a call for a suicidal subject in their area. The COs located the subject who was sitting in the vehicle smoking a cigarette. The subject explained that he was not having a good day. CO Beavers asked the subject if he had any firearms in the vehicle and he said he did have a pistol. At that time, the COs asked the subject to exit the vehicle and leave the gun where it is. After he exited the vehicle, CO Cardenas located the pistol while CO Beavers asked the subject what his intentions were. The subject stated that he came to the game area with the intention of ending his life. CO Cardenas found a locked and loaded .380 pistol on the floor near the center console. CO Cardenas then asked the subject if the pistol belonged to him and he said no. The subject then admitted to stealing the firearm from a co-worker. At that time, the subject was detained while the COs waited for deputies from the sheriff's department to arrive. CO Cardenas then provided CO Beavers with the name and number of the person who owns the firearm. CO Beavers was able to make contact with the subject in order to verify the pistol was taken without his permission. Upon the arrival of the deputies, the subject was turned over to them, where he was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

CO David Rodgers checked several boats coming back from fishing on the Grand River in Grand Rapids. Two boats caught good numbers while the others all had at least one fish. One guide service came back with a cooler full of fish and when CO Rodgers went through the boat and asked for licenses one of the subjects looked stunned and admitted to not really being a fisherman and not purchasing one. Enforcement action was taken.

While off duty, CO Cary Foster received a phone call from a Lowell Police Department Officer. The Lowell Police Department officer stated he was taking a report from a witness who observed a subject dumping yard waste in a parking lot in the Saranac-Lowell State Game Area. The Lowell Police Department officer advised he would obtain the information for CO Foster. CO Foster met with the Lowell Police Department officer the next morning and learned he obtained the suspect's information and a confession. CO Foster then met with the suspect later in his shift. The suspect advised he was cleaning up the yard to his daughter's residence in order for it to look nicer as it was going to be sold. He admitted to dumping the yard waste in the parking lot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Cary Foster heard a call dispatched to the Portland Police Department about a subject that had just stolen a large bottle of vodka from a local party store. CO Foster was in the area and located a subject fitting the suspect's description walking quickly down the sidewalk. CO Foster detained the subject. After Portland Police Department arrived at his location, it was determined the subject detained was an accomplice, but was not the suspect who did the actual theft. A short time later, CO Foster located the other suspect in the McDonald's restaurant and detained him. Both suspects were turned over to Portland Police Department and eventually lodged at the Ionia County Jail for retail fraud.

COs Chris Simpson and Greg Patten were checking on a wood cutting complaint in the Manistee National Forest. While near the trail system they found that the warmer weather brought out multiple people operating ORVs. Three off-road motorcycles were checked with no ORV licenses or ORV trail licenses. The operators told the COs that they didn't expect to see them out there. The COs told the operators that they didn't expect to see them out there either. Enforcement action was taken

### **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler was checking anglers on Silver Lake when he contacted one angler who stated the CO would need to check the system for his fishing license as he did not have it on him. CO Drexler explained it was required for the angler to have his license with him while he was out fishing. A computer check revealed the subject never purchased a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Reynolds, Isaac Tyson, Josh Jackson, and Sgt. Joe Kellam responded to a lost child call in Hillsdale County. During the initial phases of the search, officers cleared buildings and searched the area near the child's home. After K-9 units cleared some areas, Sgt. Kellam and CO Reynolds used ORVs to patrol wood lines and fence rows near the home, while COs Isaac Tyson and Josh Jackson kayaked a river that ran near the home. Later in the day COs Andy Monnich and Eric Smither helped look in the area for a possible direction of travel. On the second day of the search, CO Chris Maher, along with the initial group of officers, led the ground searches with civilian volunteers set up by Sgt. Joe Kellam.

COs Chris Reynolds and Andrew Monnich attended a criminal bench trial on a group of subjects who trespassed while deer hunting. The land owner and CO Reynolds were called on to testify. The entire group of hunters was found guilty of recreational trespass.

CO Jeff Goss investigated a complaint of a suspect posting a photo of a dead bald eagle online and claiming to have shot it. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was discovered that he was upset that people were posting photos on a waterfowl hunting site of birds they killed, that they couldn't identify. In an attempt to ridicule the others on the site, he posted the picture of a dead bald eagle that he found online and then asked them to help identify the bird he had shot. The subject admitted that it wasn't the smartest thing he'd ever done.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale County when he observed an ORV on the roadway. The operator was not wearing a helmet. Contact was made with the operator at their residence and it was also discovered the ORV was not licensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig attended the Olivet College Career Day. He made numerous contacts explaining what CO's responsibilities are and encouraged hopeful recruits to apply for future academies. The CO shared advice about the academy and how the application process works.

CO Al Mendez responded to a report all poaching complaint and contacted a suspect who had a snapping turtle in a dog cage. The suspect stated he had gotten the turtle from a local Eaton County river approximately two months ago. After advising the suspect when snapping turtle season was open, he decided to change his story. The snapping turtle was measured and was two inches too short also. Enforcement action was taken for both violations.

CO Robert Slick received a complaint of ORVs operating in the Maple River State Game Area. CO Slick responded to the location and found tracks leading from a residence and into the game area. CO Slick made contact with the individuals that were riding the ORVs who stated they didn't know ORVs were not allowed in the game area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick received a separate complaint of ORVs riding in the Maple River State Game Area in Clinton County. CO Slick responded to the area and waited for the ORVs to exit. A short time later CO Slick contacted the ORV operators and enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of feeding deer at a residence in East Lansing. CO Thorn found the feed and saw that there were many deer tracks throughout the individual's yard. CO Thorn contacted the individual, who was an elderly man, and advised him not to feed the deer any longer as his actions could be helping to spread CWD.

CO Todd Thorn and CO Troy Ludwig arrested a man at his residence on outstanding DNR warrants. A cell phone was located during the arrest and images of the suspect with additional violations were observed. The cell phone was seized and a search warrant was obtained for the phone. Over 500 photos and other digital data were recovered, and will be submitted as evidence in the case, which included the taking of at least three antlered deer without licenses.

COs Todd Thorn and Matt Neterer contacted a man suspected of taking a deer before purchasing a license. It was a large trophy-class deer with unique antler features. After a short interview the man confessed to shooting the deer and purchasing a license afterwards. Charges will be sought through the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While on general patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was checking an angler with six perch. When asked for his license, he said he had lost it, but another CO checked him last week and he was good. Upon checking his license with dispatch, it was found that the angler did not purchase a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken and reimbursement is being sought for the six perch.

While checking waterfowl hunters on the opening day of the late goose season, CO Joseph Deppen and Sgt. Todd Szyska encountered a party of four hunters in Chesterfield Township, Macomb County. Upon inspection of their hunting gear, one hunter was found to be in possession of three lead shot shells in the bottom of his box of steel shells. The hunter said he was new to the sport and did not know those lead shells were in his bag. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling for waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen and Sgt. Todd Szyska drove past a man burning insulation and construction material in his front yard. The owner said he did not have a burning permit and he did not know it was illegal to burn construction material. The subject was ordered to stop burning immediately and extinguish the fire, and the subject complied. Photos were taken and the case is being turned over to the Department of Environmental Quality for possible prosecution.

While checking ice anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen happened upon an ice shanty. Upon opening the shanty, the angler started reeling in a fourth line. When asked about the fourth line, the angler said he was trying to switch out the baits, because the fish did not like the color. When CO Deppen explained to the angler that he cannot fish with four lines in the water, the angler said "I know...you got me". A fishing license was verified and enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer interviewed a hunter about an illegal deer. The suspect posted photos on Facebook and Michigan Buckpole of himself posing with an eight-point antlered deer. During the investigation it was determined that the hunter did not purchase a valid hunting license to shoot an antlered deer. CO Dragomer interviewed the suspect at his residence. The hunter confessed to shooting the eight-point and not having a license for it. Enforcement action taken.

CO Raymond Gardner was at Lake Erie Metro Park Marina checking fishermen. While approaching one fisherman who was fishing from the boat slip, CO Gardner witnessed the man catch a small yellow perch. The man then removed the fish from the hook and tossed it down onto the ice, approximately 2 to 3 feet away from nearest hole in the ice. After the man went back to fishing, CO Gardner asked him if he planned to put the fish back in the water or to let it die on the ice. At that point, the man turned around and saw CO Gardner, then quickly said that he was going to put it back, he just missed the hole and had a tool to knock it back into the water. CO Gardner asked the man to put the fish back in the water and for his fishing license. The man told CO Gardner, after looking at his fishing gear, that he must have already put his spade back in his truck and that was

also where his fishing license was. CO Gardner explained to the man that his fishing license and identification used to purchase it, is supposed to be on his person while fishing. CO Gardner told the man to use his fishing pole to knock the fish back into the water and then followed the man to his truck. After the man gave CO Gardner his fishing license, CO Gardner asked him if he was keeping any fish. The man told CO Gardner that he had a few yellow perch and two bass in his bucket on the boat slip. CO Gardner explained to the man that bass were out of season and asked him why he had them. The man said that he kept catching the same bass, so he put them in his bucket and was going to return them to the water when he was done fishing. CO Gardner then retrieved the bucket to inspect the fish. CO Gardner found 3 largemouth bass in the bucket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner was at Lake Erie Metro Park boat launch checking boats as they came back in. In the early evening after sunset, CO Gardner witnessed a boat coming into the launch without using navigational lights. CO Gardner made contact with the two individuals on board and asked why they didn't have their navigational lights on. The operator of the boat said they started coming back when it was still daylight out and just forgot to turn them on. CO Gardner told the operator that wasn't an excuse and asked to see the safety equipment on the boat. The operator also did not have enough personal flotation devices on board. Enforcement action was taken.

While working in the Harsens Island Management Unit Area, CO Ben Lasher contacted several ORVs operating on the dyke system. Multiple violations were witnessed including: no ORV licenses, operating ORVs without wearing helmets, and riding more persons on the machines than the manufacturer designed them for. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser received a call from a man saying that he found several snares on his property and nobody had permission to trap. The complainant also found a deer nearby and thought that it may have been caught and drowned in the nearby creek. CO Muehlhauser investigated the property with assistance from CO Jacob Griffin. The COs were able to recover two illegal snares, one had suspected deer hair caught in the cable. The COs also noticed a large catch circle with deer hair scattered about. The property owner then advised that he had video of the trapper on his trail cam. The COs photographed the area and collected the snares as evidence. While talking about the case with the local police department, they advised of an incident a few days prior where a man was arrested on a warrant. The man claimed to be trapping a vacant property and had various cables and trapping equipment on his person. CO Muehlhauser shared the video with the local police department who confirmed that the trapper arrested on the warrant was the same person in the video. CO Muehlhauser and CO Travis Dragomer entered the vacant property and investigated for illegal trapping. The COs were able to recover several illegal snares. The COs then confronted the trapper about his illegal trapping activity. Initially he denied that any of the traps belonged to him. However, when faced with the evidence against him he admitted to the illegal traps found at both locations but would not admit to the deer being taken in the snare. The CO advised the man that charges would be sought for the

illegal snares and the deer taken by illegal means. Charges are currently being sought through the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Justin Muehlhauser conducted an inspection at a local taxidermist. The CO discovered a deer that was brought in from Missouri. Missouri is a state listed in the 2016 hunting guide known to have tested positive for CWD. The deer was seized and charges are being sought for importing a deer from a CWD State.

CO Al Schwiderson has been swamped with complaints coming out of the Roods Lake Wildlife Shooting Pit in Lapeer County revolving around late shooting. Due to the unseasonal warm weather many target shooters have been flocking to the pit to shoot. Unfortunately, many persons are not abiding by the laws, including shooting after hours. CO Schwiderson issued three separate subjects citations for shooting after hours in Roods Lake Pit this weekend.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol when he heard Macomb County Dispatch put out a call for a missing elderly man with dementia. CO Silorey responded to the city of Mt. Clemens to assist in the search for the man. The dense fog that day made the search even more difficult. After searching the out skirts and surrounding area for the subject, CO Silorey spotted a man fitting the description stumbling across a busy road. CO Silorey made contact with the elderly man who stated that he had gotten into an argument with another person at the house hold. The man was secured and brought back to his residence after he was checked for injuries.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol looking for late goose hunters in Macomb County when he observed traffic slowing down in front of him. It was at the time CO Silorey noticed a traffic accident had occurred between a semi-tractor trailer and a pickup truck. CO Silorey was the first on scene and immediately radioed dispatch for EMS and assistance blocking of the roads. CO Silorey checked with both drivers to see if there were any major injuries. The driver of the semi complained of a head injury. EMS arrived on scene shortly after. It was found that the driver of the pickup truck disregarded a stop sign and was struck on the passenger side front end by the semi. The semi-truck jackknifed and then crashed into a drainage ditch. CO Silorey noticed that the semi-trucks diesel fuel tank was compromised and had been leaking fuel into the flowing water of the ditch. CO Silorey contacted department of environmental quality (DEQ) to notify them of the spill. DEQ is going to investigate the incident further to ensure any residual oil or fuel has been properly cleaned up.

COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel received a tip from an informant in reference to individuals taking over limits of pan fish in Macomb County. CO Silorey set up surveillance in the area and watched the anglers catching fish at a very fast rate. After receiving additional information from the informant, COs Silorey and Kiel found out that the subjects were getting dropped-off and trespassing on private property to gain access to the canal system. The COs staged down the street and waited for the anglers to finish fishing for the day. After several hours, one of the anglers returned to the location of where he was dropped-off and exited onto the private property. COs

Silorey and Kiel made contact with the subject who was loading his fish and gear into a vehicle. The subject was in possession of an over limit of crappie. The subject also had an active warrant out for his arrest out of Detroit. The warrant was confirmed and the subject was taken into custody and transported to the Macomb County Jail. Enforcement action was also taken on the over limit of pan fish.

CO James Zellinger made contact with three subjects hunting for geese in a corn field. The subjects were in possession of an over limit of geese. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers at a local boat access site, CO James Zellinger encountered a vessel containing two people and zero life jackets. Enforcement action was taken.

### **BELLE ISLE**

While on his way to Belle Isle for a work detail, CO Dan Robinson came across a traffic accident that occurred on one of the four lane highways near Detroit. The involved vehicles were stopped in the middle of the highway and were being narrowly missed by passing vehicles. CO Robinson positioned his patrol vehicle to protect the occupant of the vehicle and monitored the driver's condition until other units arrived. The driver was okay, but the car was inoperable and blocking two lanes of traffic. CO Robinson and a Michigan State Trooper cleared the vehicle from the road while the medical unit tended to the patient.

CO Eric Smither and CO Mark Siemen were asked to talk and answer questions for a CPL class that was being held in the yacht club on Belle Isle.