

**Law Enforcement Division
BI-Weekly Report Field Report
2/12/2018 – 2/24/2018**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen gave a presentation about a career as a Michigan CO to the criminal justice class at Finlandia University.

CO Brian Lasanen attended the check-in for the annual Ontonagon Valley Sportsmen Club predator hunt. CO Lasanen talked with the hunters and overall the harvest was down but the hunters still had a great time.

CO Ethen Mapes worked a snowmobile patrol near Bergland where the snowmobile trail crosses an active logging road. CO Mapes wrote several snowmobilers for careless driving after running through a posted road crossing at high rates of speed.

CO Ethen Mapes was called to a snowmobile accident near Misery Bay. Witnesses stated that when two groups were passing each other, a member of one group forced a second rider off the trail causing him to strike a tree.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Ethan Mapes checked ice fishermen on Lake Gogebic when they observed two fishermen with seven tip-ups out. When contacted they were also found to be in possession of an undersized northern pike. The fishermen admitted to knowing that they were only allowed three lines per person. The pair claimed to not know there was a size limit on northern pike but also stated they had been coming to Lake Gogebic for years. The fish was seized and enforcement action was taken for the undersized pike and too many lines.

CO Shannon Kritz received a complaint of an untagged deer hanging in a tree near a residence. CO Kritz responded to the residence and observed a deer hanging that had been gutted and partially skinned. CO Kritz was able to look at the carcass and determine that the deer likely died from vehicle trauma. She contacted the resident of the home who confirmed the deer died because of a vehicle collision. However, the subject had not called dispatch to report that he was taking possession of the deer. CO Kritz explained the process and requirements of keeping a roadkill deer and the subject was issued a warning.

COs Jared Ferguson, Brian Bacon and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Micah Hintz were patrolling Lake Gogebic when they came upon an individual with too many lines and in possession of a short northern pike. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jared Ferguson, Brian Bacon, Ethan Mapes and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Micah Hintz were working a group snowmobile sound patrol when they observed three snowmobiles travelling at a high rate of speed heading towards open

water. Due the quick response of the COs, they were able to prevent the individuals from going through the thin ice.

COs Jared Ferguson, Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy followed up on several complaints of ice shanties without names and addresses and litter on several inland lakes in Dickinson County. The COs documented several shanties with pictures and locations for future enforcement action.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a report of an injured deer along Lake Superior near Wetmore Landing. CO Leadman was unable to locate the deer but did encounter multiple subjects in possession of glass containers and alcohol within the Wetmore Landing tract. As this is a popular swimming and recreational area, there are multiple administrative rules in place including a prohibition on the possession of alcohol and glass containers. Law enforcement action was taken for minor in possession and contributing alcohol to a minor along with numerous warnings for other violations.

CO Jeffrey Dell was driving to training when he observed the vehicle in front of him swerve into oncoming traffic narrowly avoiding a head-on collision. CO Dell initiated a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle explained she was trying to enter a destination into her navigation system when she had swerved into oncoming traffic. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Brett DeLonge taught self-defense at the annual winter "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" (BOW) course held at Bay Cliff in Big Bay, Michigan. BOW teaches outdoor skills to women of all skill levels over the course of a weekend.

CO Jeremy Sergey attended a meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard, Menominee County Sheriff's Department and several other agencies to discuss maritime communications and capabilities relating to search & rescue and intelligence issues upon the Great Lakes. Developing and maintaining inter-agency partnerships is a critical component in providing coordinated and unified search and rescue responses.

Sgt. Ryan Aho, Sgt. Marc Pomroy, COs Jeffery Dell, Shannon Kritz, Ethen Mapes, David Miller, Doug Hermanson, Brian Bacon, Brian Lasanen, Jared Ferguson and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Micah Hintze conducted a group snowmobile and angler patrol on Lake Gogebic. A wide range of violations were encountered and appropriate enforcement action was taken. Violations encountered were violate snowmobile sound emission level, possess undersized northern pike, fish with more than three lines, careless operation of a snowmobile, snowmobile registration and trail permit violations.

DISTRICT 2

CO Michael Evink patrolled Alger County trails to address common snowmobile issues and issued tickets for careless operation. CO Evink continued his patrol from the trails of Alger County to the frozen waters of Little Bay de Noc. CO Evink surprised

numerous groups fishing the bay after dark. While most fishermen were doing it the right way, there was a group that left the fishing gear out while they were gone to town. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Freeborn, Mark Zitnik and Chris Lynch set up the sound meter at a busy location for snowmobiles. While overall compliance was good for sound, the COs did write four citations for snowmobilers operating at above 88 decibels.

CO Bobby Watson assisted in instructing a basic snowmobile class to certify COs throughout the state as snowmobile instructors, and to demonstrate safe patrol techniques and operation. During a portion of the snowmobile class, a snowmobile approached the class of COs and it was discovered that the rider had failed to register his snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch were patrolling Little Bay de Noc when they contacted a fisherman using the maximum numbers of fishing lines allowed. COs Watson and Lynch noticed the fisherman also had an additional pole lying on the ice but not being used, near an open ice hole. It appeared to the two COs the fisherman had reeled the fourth line in while the COs were approaching and attempted to hide the pole. The COs continued their patrol and eventually circled back to observe the fisherman. CO Watson was able to watch the fisherman using four lines and contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch contacted a pair of fishermen who claimed to only have a few perch for the day's catch. CO Watson continued talking with one of the fishermen and eventually noticed a bucket hid in the bed of a truck. Upon inspecting, CO Watson discovered three northern pike in the bucket. All three, northern pike were less than the required 24". Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Chris Lynch contacted a group of fishermen and detected the strong odor of marijuana. CO Watson approached one of the fishing shacks and was able to observe a thick cloud of smoke rolling out of the shack as the two fishermen exited. A large amount of marijuana was discovered hidden in one of the fisherman's tackle bags. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson, Chris Lynch, Michael Evink, and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon took part in a Little Bay de Noc patrol on a busy weekend. Fifteen violations were written, along with many warnings, and many more contacts. Among the violations written were; possession of short fish, fishing with too many lines, fish without a license, unattended lines, failure to register ORV/snowmobile, and litter.

COs Chris Lynch and Mark Zitnik conducted a patrol on Munising Bay. Several anglers and snowmobilers were contacted that day with numerous violations encountered including; taking an over limit of coho salmon, possessing undersize splake, driving while license suspended, unregistered snowmobile, failure to display registration, careless operation, no helmet while operating snowmobile & ORV, and failure to license

ORV. Sixteen citations were issued to include one individual that was placed under arrest and lodged in the Alger County for multiple warrants that were out for his arrest.

CO Mark Zitnik was patrolling Grand Island for ice fishing and snowmobile activity. CO Zitnik wrote five citations for, no trail permit, unregistered snowmobile, failure to display snowmobile registration, no fishing license and undersized splake.

COs Christopher Lynch and Mark Zitnik were patrolling Trout Bay on Grand Island during a busy Saturday. Over 50 contacts were made, and one angler had an exceptional morning of fishing. CO Zitnik was checking anglers when he noticed one angler pack his things up to leave. As the CO Zitnik approached the fisherman he asked how he did he said, "I have a lot of fish." CO Zitnik dumped out the angler's backpack to find thirteen coho, eight coho over the limit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Christopher Lynch and Mark Zitnik were observing a stop sign in Alger County to address careless operation of snowmobiles. Several citations were issued throughout the day for operating at a high rate of speed through the stop sign.

CO Brett Gustafson conducted snowmobile patrols over the Presidents Day weekend with Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Nick Ingersoll and Lt Skip Hagy in the Sault and Paradise area. Sound meter testing was incorporated into the patrol and compliance was found to be improving. Enforcement action was taken on two registration violations, and one operator was cited for careless operation when the operator ran a stop sign at high speed directly in front of the officers. As CO Gustafson and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Ingersoll made a stop on the subject, the remainder of the group was contacted by Lt. Hagy. The other riders were laughing at the fact their friend blew the stop sign right in front of the COs warnings were given for other violations during the patrol.

COs Colton Gelinis and Thomas Oberg were on snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. The COs observed a snowmobile that did not have a registration decal attached anywhere on the snowmobile. The COs contacted the driver who stated that he did not realize his registration decals were not on his sled and that he must have forgot to put them on.

COs Colton Gelinis and Thomas Oberg were on snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. The COs were sitting stationary observing a corner that has a stop sign where reports of careless operation is occurring. The COs observed a snowmobile operating in a careless manner and not even slowing down for the stop sign. When the COs contacted the driver he stated that he has been driving the same trail for 30 years and has never noticed the stop sign before. COs Gelinis and Oberg informed him that approximately 50 yards before the stop sign itself is a warning that states a stop sign is ahead. Law Enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinis was checking ice anglers on a lake in Mackinac County. CO Gelinis observed ten tip-ups with nobody around. CO Gelinis contacted a group that was near

the tip-ups and asked if they observed anyone near the ten tip-ups, the group stated they had not. CO Gelinas waited patiently near the tip-ups for approximately 10 minutes hoping someone would come check on the tip-ups since three flags were up. CO Gelinas then followed ORV tracks back to a house that was not even on the lake. CO Gelinas contacted three individuals who stated that those were their tip-ups and they came into the house for lunch. CO Gelinas explained the law regarding failing to attend lines. All three individuals were issued citations.

CO Kevin Postma and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Nick Ingersoll were checking anglers in the St. Mary's Shallows area in Chippewa County when the COs noticed an expired registration on a snowmobile. The COs contacted the angler and questioned him about his snowmobile that was not registered. The COs asked why he did not register the snowmobile and he stated that he has not used it much and he just got it out this year to go ice fishing. After further questioning, the angler stated that he was less than 100 yards from his residence on the water. The COs gave the angler a warning for operating an unregistered snowmobile and advised the angler to drive the snowmobile home and to park it until it was registered.

CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll patrolled Munuscong Lake in Chippewa County. While approaching an angler, the COs noticed that he had five lines out. The COs contacted the angler and questioned him about the number of lines he was using. The angler stated he was a tribal member. The COs questioned the angler to see if he had his subsistence card, the angler stated that he did not. The angler pulled two of his lines and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kevin Postma, Calvin Smith, and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Nick Ingersoll participated in a group snowmobile patrol in Paradise & Luce County. The COs also had a sound meter set-up to test snowmobiles believed to be over the 88 decibel sound limit. The COs contacted over 100 snowmobilers and issued citations for snowmobiles exceeding the 88 decibel sound limit as well as trail permit violations.

CO Calvin Smith stopped a snowmobile that was not displaying a registration decal. The operator of the snowmobile claimed that he lost them but assured CO Smith that the snowmobile is registered. A check of the VIN was made and not only was the snowmobile expired, the operator had failed to transfer it into his name. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson, Calvin Smith, Brett Gustafson, Rob Freeborn and Sgt. Mike Hammill conducted a snowmobile training for the new class of probationary conservation officers (PCOs) that are currently in the field training stage. All PCOs successfully completed the training and are currently in the second stages of an 18 week field training process.

DISTRICT 3

CO Nick Torsky assisted Wildlife Division with a collared bear. The sow was fitted with a new radio collar, her overall health was checked, and her two new cubs were assessed. The three healthy bears were returned to their den.

While inspecting a deer processor on November 18th, CO Andrea Erratt discovered a five-point buck tagged on November 15th with a deer license purchased near the end of shooting hours on the same day. CO Erratt talked to the hunter who supposedly shot the five-point and he said he worked on opening day and hunted on a friend's property on the morning of the 16th. He claimed he shot the five-point buck on the 16th and just notched his tag wrong. On November 19th, CO Erratt checked the friend bringing in two eight-point bucks to another deer processor. He said he helped his friend track the buck, but could not remember which day. CO Erratt obtained a cell phone search warrant and the locations of the first hunter's cell phone on November 15th and 16th directly contradicted his story. On December 19th, when CO Erratt showed the first hunter the findings of the search warrant, he admitted buying the tag and giving it to the second hunter for the five-point. The second hunter continued to shoot an eight-point buck on opening night and another eight-point on November 17th. The first hunter was ticketed for allowing another hunter to use his deer kill tag. CO Erratt interviewed the second hunter, who initially lied, but after CO Erratt explained his friend had confessed he finally admitted to shooting the five-point and using his friend's tag. The Charlevoix Prosecutor's Office issued a warrant for over limit of buck deer, using another person's deer kill tag. Due to a previous illegal bear bait charge, the hunter may be sentenced as a habitual DNR law offender.

CO Chad Baldwin and CO Duane Budreau participated in the ninth annual Camp Daggett Father/Son Weekend. The COs conducted several presentations to the group, consisting of wilderness survival techniques, wildlife criminal investigation tactics, as well as some orienteering instructions. Conservation officers have been presenting to the father/son program since it started.

While refueling his patrol truck at a local gas station, CO Duane Budreau observed a subject pull into the station and flick a lit cigarette in the direction of the gas pump CO Budreau was using. As the subject exited his vehicle and started towards the door, CO Budreau confronted him about the litter and the unsafe disposal of his cigarette. CO Budreau was not in uniform, so when confronted, the subject provided a challenge of his own and spoke to CO Budreau with some aggressive language. CO Budreau then identified himself and pointed to the patrol truck where the cigarette butt came to a rest about 20 feet away from. The subject immediately changed his tune and retrieved the litter. Enforcement was taken.

CO Andrea Albert and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Amanda McCurdy observed a snowmobile that had improper placement of its registration decals. The COs conducted a stop and contacted the driver, who reported that he was unaware that registration decals are required to be on the forward half of the cowl. During the stop, PCO McCurdy noticed that the snowmobile also lacked a trail permit and records showed the operator had not purchased a trail permit for the 2017-2018 year. A citation

was issued for no trail permit and a verbal warning was given regarding the placement of the registration decals. CO Albert advised the subject that replacement registration decals can be purchased through the Secretary of State.

CO Andrea Albert and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Amanda McCurdy observed a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign. PCO McCurdy stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver who provided the necessary documentation. While speaking with the driver, CO Albert inquired about possible firearms in the vehicle and the subject reported that he was a concealed pistol license (CPL) holder and was currently carrying a handgun. The driver was informed of his duty to immediately disclose his CPL to any law enforcement personnel. A citation was issued for failure to stop at the stop sign and a warning was given for failure to disclose the CPL.

Sgt. Mark DePew and CO Nathan Sink received a warrant from the Otsego County Court for a felon in possession of a firearm that occurred last deer season. Sgt. DePew and CO Sink were able to track down the individual at his residence and served the warrant. An arrest was made, and the suspect was transported to the Otsego County Jail.

CO Eric Bottorff and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Nickolas Wellman conducted an ice fishing patrol on Burt Lake. During the patrol, several fishermen were contacted. There were various issues on the lake including; ORV, fishing, and snowmobile violations. In all, four citations were issued for fishing with no license, no ORV license, and operating an ORV without helmets. In addition to these citations, several warnings were issued throughout the day.

During a Burt Lake patrol, CO Eric Bottorff and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Nickolas Wellman checked a fisherman. During the contact, the fisherman couldn't find his fishing license. While the COs waited for dispatch to notify them if the fisherman purchased a license for this year they talked to the fisherman about his deer season. During the conversation, the fisherman admitted to taking one doe this past season. The COs then asked him why all his 2017 deer tags were still on his person at this time. The fisherman confessed to not tagging the doe. In addition, it came back that he also never purchased his 2017 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Nickolas Wellman received a complaint from a passerby that someone had a fresh deer laying in their backyard and it was possibly poached. The COs tracked down the homeowner and renters of the property. After several interviews, and examining the deer, it was determined the deer had been struck by a vehicle and picked up to be processed.

CO Kyle Cherry was patrolling in Otsego County when he observed two snowmobiles operating down railroad tracks. CO Cherry stopped the operators who stated they were going down the railroad tracks because the trail conditions weren't great. CO Cherry explained the hazards of operation on railroad tracks along with violating the law. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Cherry attended a kid's fishing derby at Otsego Lake State Park. With over 50 kids in attendance, a great time was had by all.

CO Adam LeClerc was checking ice fishermen on Grand Lake in Presque Isle County when he encountered an ORV on the ice. The driver and passenger were not wearing helmets, were riding double on a machine not designed for two people, and the ORV had not been registered since 2012. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Paul Fox and Jon Sklba have handled numerous recreational deer feeding complaints in Presque Isle County. Additional complaints are under investigation. Tickets and warnings have been given for the violations.

While patrolling a lake in Presque Isle County, CO Jon Sklba located fishing equipment with nobody around. CO Sklba was able to count 10 unattended tip-ups. Based on the fresh snow, they had not been checked since the snow fell. CO Sklba was able to track down the owner, who advised he must have gotten a little too drunk the night before and the tip-ups were left out. Enforcement actions was taken.

Sgt. Michael Mshar assisted the Wildlife Division in Montmorency, Cheboygan, and Otsego County with the collaring of 14 elk. The elk were netted from a helicopter and then a ground crew placed radio collars and collected biological samples from the elk prior to release. The information from the collars will be used in a joint study with the DNR Wildlife Division and Michigan State University. The information gathered will help with the overall management of the elk herd.

CO William Webster was patrolling Beaver Lake in Alpena County during a fishing tournament. CO Webster observed an UTV driving erratically and spinning circles on the ice near where other anglers were fishing. When CO Webster attempted to contact the UTV it came to a sliding stop as the occupants noticed the CO. CO Webster also observed the subjects had tip-ups left unattended. CO Webster took enforcement action on the ORV violation and issued a warning for unattended lines.

CO William Webster put on a snowmobile safety class in Alpena County. The Alpena Snow Drifter Club opened their club house and put on a lunch for those in attendance. The Alpena County Sheriff's Department and the DNR Forest Resources Division also assisted in presenting for the group. All students passed the written test at the end.

DISTRICT 4

CO Richard Stowe and CO Rebecca Hubers were first responders on scene of a medical call of a possible overdose/unresponsive person. CO Stowe secured the scene and CO Hubers initiated CPR with AED on the patient until advanced emergency responders arrived.

CO Rebecca Hubers was requested by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Office (GTRLC) to speak to staff and volunteers about the duties of conservation officers and law enforcement capabilities on GTRLC property. GTRLC is a private property owner of a large portion of public access land in Grand Traverse, Benzie and Manistee Counties.

CO Sean Kehoe and Secretary Dawn Willman from DNR Customer Service Center in Traverse City attended the Big Buck Night at Kingsley High School. There were approximately 600 people in attendance. Several good contacts were made during the event.

CO William Kinney was checking for ice fishing on Hodenpyl Pond in Wexford County. When CO Kinney was walking out on the ice to check some anglers, he noticed two tip-ups set in the ice with no one around. After CO Kinney had checked surrounding fishermen, he noticed the tip-ups were still unattended. CO Kinney had observed the tip-ups for over an hour before a vehicle showed up. The driver of the vehicle told the CO the tip-ups were his, he had gone to his cabin for lunch and was gone for approximately an hour. CO Kinney also discovered numerous violations during the course of the interview. Enforcement action was taken for the unattended tip-ups.

CO Rich Stowe participated in Career Day at Traverse City High School where he was able to speak with students about a career in conservation law enforcement.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Rich Stowe responded to a location along the Boardman River in Grand Traverse County where a citizen had attempted to rescue a deer after it had plunged into the river. The small deer was pulled from the river by the citizen, but did not survive.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling on foot along the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin in an area where property owners have requested recreational trespass enforcement action. CO Killingbeck observed two subjects on land who were trespassing. One subject was lying on the ground resting directly underneath several no trespassing signs. The other subject was nearby standing next to a no trespassing sign watching the river. CO Killingbeck contacted the subjects and asked them what they thought no trespassing signs meant. Both subjects looked at the signs and said, "Probably stay off." CO Killingbeck explained regulations pertaining to recreational trespass and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, while on patrol, attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle initially began pulling over, but then sped off for a short distance before pulling over again and then speeding off once again. The vehicle eventually stopped and CO Killingbeck made contact with the driver and ordered him out of the vehicle. The subject was very

uncooperative and after getting out of the vehicle the subject refused commands to place his hands behind his back. CO Killingbeck attempted to take the subject into custody and a physical altercation incurred. A Lake County Sheriff's deputy arrived and with assistance of the deputy, the subject was taken into custody. The driver admitted to seeing CO Killingbeck's lights, but said he did not want to stop because he did not feel that conservation officers are "real police." It was determined there was no insurance on the vehicle and that it not legal to be on the roadway. The driver was lodged in the Lake County Jail on charges of Flee and Elude, Resisting and Obstructing a Peace Officer, and no insurance.

CO Sam Koscinski, CO Josiah Killingbeck, CO Ryan Andrews, CO Steve Converse, Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Cody Smith, along with Michigan State Police troopers, Manistee County Sheriff deputies, USFS Officer and the Mason County K-9 unit worked together to search for a fleeing felon in Manistee County. Manistee Deputies attempted to arrest a suspect on a warrant during a traffic stop. The suspect, along with his father, resisted arrest and assaulted the officers. The suspect fled into a wooded area after threatening great bodily harm to any law enforcement officer who would apprehend him. A perimeter was established as the officers tracked the suspect. After 3.5 hours and approximately seven miles of tracking, the subject was taken into custody by CO Andrews and Mason County

K-9 officer Ken Baum. The suspect remained non-compliant and was forcefully taken into custody. A search of the suspect revealed he was carrying a large hunting knife in his jacket. The subject continued to resist and refused to walk out of the flooded cedar swamp. . The officers then proceeded on foot to aid in extracting the uncooperative and verbally abusive subject out of the swamp and into a waiting ambulance where he was treated for hypothermia before being lodged in the Manistee County Jail. Additional charges are now being sought through the Manistee County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kyle Publiski and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Stephen Butzin were following up with deer processor paperwork, when they discovered an individual had purchased ten antlerless licenses for Mason County, five more than allowed. CO Publiski and PCO Butzin went to the subject's residence to address the violation. As the COs pulled in, they noticed that the individual was also feeding deer well over the two gallon feeding limit. An interview was conducted, and the individual admitted to

purchasing the ten antlerless deer licenses and loaning several of the tags to different people. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Bomay and Mike Wells attended a QDMA meeting in Mecosta County to discuss laws, rules and regulations. Also in attendance was the local wildlife biologist, who discussed CWD and various other wildlife related topics.

CO Mike Bomay inspected taxidermists and minnow dealers for specimen documentation, records maintenance and compliance.

CO Ben Shively and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Zach Painter were working an ice fishing tournament in Newaygo County above the Croton Dam. They observed an ORV sliding sideways on the ice with three subjects on it, including a small child. There was no ORV registration and none of the subjects were wearing helmets. The violations were addressed with enforcement action.

CO Ben Shively and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Zach Painter observed a truck parked near a closed trout stream in Oceana County. There were waders in the truck leading the COs to believe the subject was fishing. The COs waited at the truck and observed a subject come out of the river with a fishing pole. The subject admitted to fishing for trout. Enforcement action was taken for fishing on a closed trout stream.

CO Ben Shively and Probationary Conservation Officer Zach Painter were on patrol in Oceana County when they heard several dirt bikes that were operating in a closed area of federal land. The COs waited and made contact as the subjects came out of the area. In the end, one subject was found to be operating on a suspended operator's license, marijuana was seized, open alcohol was located and all the violations, including the illegal operation, were addressed with enforcement action.

CO Ben Shively and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Zach Painter attended a career fair at the Shelby High School. The COs answered many questions, explained their jobs as Michigan COs, and spoke with many promising future applicants.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn contacted two snowmobile operators coming off a parcel of private property. The property, which is well marked and fenced as private property, has had continuous problems with snowmobile trespass. The riders did not have permission to be on the property, and claimed they were only following tracks. They were cited for the trespass violation.

While checking a remote lake in Crawford County, CO Mike Hearn contacted an angler who provided false information about his identity. After determining the proper identity, the angler was found to have multiple warrants for his arrest out of Grand Traverse and Antrim County. He was arrested and lodged in the Antrim County Jail. While being

transported to the jail, the suspect stated that he was relieved to be arrested so he could stop looking over his shoulder and have a fresh start with his life.

Approaching the end of a shift in Kankaska County, CO Mike Hearn and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Jeremy Cantrell responded to a domestic assault with the Kankaska County Sheriff's Department. The altercation was between a father and son. Upon investigation, it was determined that the father had assaulted the son. The father was arrested and lodged on the charges of domestic assault.

While on patrol in the Village of Kankaska, Conservation Mike Hearn and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Jeremy Cantrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for an expired registration. Upon contact, the driver appeared nervous and unwilling to provide the documentation requested by PCO Cantrell. A LEIN inquiry determined that the driver was suspended and operating without insurance on the vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the scene and the man was arrested for the violations. He was lodged in the Kankaska County Jail.

CO Ben McAteer was patrolling Crawford County when he located a vehicle parked on the side of a dirt road with the keys still in the ignition. CO McAteer noticed a single set of woman's boot tracks heading away from the vehicle and into the woods. While checking on the vehicle registration, a second vehicle arrived occupied by a male who informed CO McAteer that the car belonged to his girlfriend. The couple had just been in a fight and the girlfriend had left the home with a pistol. The male subject believed that she was planning to commit suicide. Crawford County Central Dispatch was notified of the situation and CO John Huspen, Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Sidney Collins, as well as deputies from the Crawford County Sheriff's Department arrived to assist at the scene. The female subject was contacted via cell phone and agreed to leave the pistol on the ground and walk out of the woods. After exiting the woods, she was transported to Munson Hospital for further evaluation. The firearm was located and secured without incident.

CO Craig Neal checked fishing activity at Reedsburg Dam in Missaukee County. CO Neal noticed one of the anglers below the dam had a stringer tied to a bush with an obvious undersized northern pike. The angler advised he had put the 19-inch pike on a stringer in case he had to let it go. CO Neal explained that undersize fish are required by law to be released immediately. A citation was issued for possession of an undersized northern pike. After receiving his citation, the angler stated that he did not realize tying the fish onto a stringer was considered possession.

CO Jeff Panich was on patrol in Alcona County checking lakes for ice fishing activity. He located a fishing shanty with four tip-ups set and no identification affixed to the tip-ups. There was also no one fishing in the area at the time. CO Panich finally contacted the angler later that evening and advised him of the multiple violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Justin Vinson assisted CO Casey Pullum on the investigation of a deer feeding complaint in Oscoda County. PCO Vinson interviewed the landowner and located a large pile of sugar beets behind the residence. The landowner was issued a citation for feeding deer in a closed county and educated about the disease concerns for the area.

While investigating an illegal trapping case, CO Kyle Bader and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Justin Vinson contacted the suspect's ex-girlfriend. During the interview, both COs recognized the strong smell of marijuana coming from inside the garage. The COs gained consent to search the garage. Even though the woman did possess a medical marijuana card, she exceeded the number of plants allowed by law. Enforcement action was taken.

The 82nd District Court in Ogemaw County was requesting an officer to respond to their location due to a subject at the window attempting to turn himself in. The subject had an outstanding warrant out of the West Branch Police Department. When Ogemaw County Central Dispatch broadcast the name, CO Kyle Bader recognized it as a person for which he also held a warrant. The COs responded to the court and arrested the man on both warrants. He told them he didn't appear at his scheduled court date for the driving-related warrant out of the West Branch Police Department because he knew he had a DNR warrant as well.

CO Brad Bellville was on patrol in Ogemaw County when he heard a dispatch call about a car in the ditch as a result of high flood water. Due to his close proximity, CO Bellville responded to the area. Once on scene, he discovered there were actually two cars in the ditch as a result of the flood waters. The original caller was on the high side of the road, not in any imminent threat. A second car, occupied by an elderly couple, had gone into the ditch and was in deep flood waters unable to get out. CO Bellville entered into the nearly waist deep floodwater along with two other citizens to rescue the couple. They were unable to get the driver's door open, so they approached the passenger side of the car. CO Bellville and the two citizens pulled the female passenger from the car and took her to safety. They had to enter the car from the passenger side of the vehicle to open the driver side door. Once open, they rescued the male passenger and took him to safety as well. EMS was called to treat the passengers of the vehicle for any injuries.

CO Mark Papineau responded to Lake Lancer in Gladwin County due to a report of a subject who had fallen through the ice. While responding, CO Papineau was updated by Gladwin County Central Dispatch that the incident involved an ORV that had fallen through the ice and there were two victims in the water. Several good samaritans managed to free one of the victims from the icy waters along with a dog. The second victim was still submerged and trapped in the ORV. CO Papineau assisted with securing the male victim to a backboard and transporting him to an awaiting ambulance. The second victim, a female, was later recovered from the sunken ORV and did not survive. The male victim was treated overnight for exposure and hypothermia but is expected to make a full recovery.

CO Phil Hudson was fishing on his day off when he witnessed an angler catch multiple undersize largemouth bass and remove the eyes for bait. He also witnessed the angler throw the carcasses on the ice and move to another location on the ice. CO Hudson contacted CO Nick Atkin who was working and able to respond. CO Atkin arrived on scene and interviewed the angler. The angler denied the whole incident until CO Atkin identified CO Hudson as the witness. Finally, the angler confessed to the violations. CO Atkin pointed out that the largemouth bass were not only taken out of season but were all undersized as well. The angler apologized to the COs and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth conducted a presentation at the Clare Primary School with approximately forty students in the fourth grade. CO Gainforth covered all the fur bearing species in Michigan. Students were taught the importance of using trapping as a management tool to keep populations in balance. The class was shown numerous tanned hides and learned about identification. Topics of discussion were management of furbearing animals, how to identify furbearing animals in the field, and how to get involved in trapping. The presentation was very well received by the students and teachers.

CO Steve Lockwood and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Charlie Jones were checking road ends on Saginaw Bay when they noticed a couple of vehicles parked nearby. The COs knew ice conditions were less than favorable and anglers should not be on the ice. The COs were able to contact a family member of one of the anglers. The family member explained to the COs that she had talked with the anglers earlier in the day and learned the ice was very bad at their location. CO Lockwood obtained a direct number to the anglers and made contact. The anglers explained they were in a bad situation with open water surrounding them and were not able to make it back to shore. CO Lockwood obtained their GPS location coordinates and advised them not to move from that spot. The COs were able to get the US Coast Guard notified of the situation through a call to Bay County Central Dispatch. The Coast Guard helicopter was able to locate the anglers with the GPS coordinates and airlift them back to safety.

CO Steve Lockwood and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Charlie Jones stopped a vehicle that was being operated erratically down a rural county road in Gladwin County. There were open intoxicants in the vehicle and the driver was showing signs of intoxication. After sobriety tests were administered, the driver was told he was under arrest. He was not happy about going to jail and attempted to resist arrest. In the end, the driver was lodged in the Gladwin County Jail for resisting and obstructing police and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

DISTRICT 6

CO John Byars was on snowmobile patrol and noticed a truck drive through a road intersection towing a person on skis. The CO conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the person skiing and the driver. The CO noticed a strong smell of

marijuana coming from the vehicle. CO Byars asked where the marijuana was, and they said they didn't have any. CO Byars asked again a short time later and explained all the violations they were facing and the consequences. They admitted having marijuana in the console and turned it over to CO Byars. The CO issued citations for careless driving and possession of a control substance.

CO John Byars received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint about a possible unlicensed squirrel rehabber. CO Byars contacted the suspect and determined she had applied for the license and had not received it. The CO issued a verbal warning and explained the consequences of rehabbing without a license and sheltering wild animals. The squirrels were taken to a licensed rehabber.

COs Josh Russell and Michael Haas were patrolling the Lake Isabella area when they noticed a snowmobile driving down the opposite shoulder of the road going into oncoming traffic. The COs observed the snowmobile almost strike a vehicle. The COs conducted a traffic stop on the snowmobile and spoke with the operator. The operator was suspended, did not have a trail sticker, and did not know he had to operate with the flow of traffic. Tickets were issued.

CO Will Brickel was on patrol in Saginaw County when a call for a snowmobiler that went through the ice came out. The snowmobile went through at the back side of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The CO responded and made a trail to the subject through the refuge. The CO then brought the subject to rescue personnel waiting at the road. The subject was intoxicated and was taken to the hospital as a safety precaution. Enforcement action was taken by the federal wildlife officer involved.

CO Quincy Gowenlock and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Joshua Boudreaux received a complaint of deer carcasses being dumped in Chesaning Township. Upon arrival on scene, the COs noticed there were kill tags still attached to the carcasses. Further investigation came back to suspect located only four miles away. The COs contacted the suspect and after a brief conversation, he admitted to dumping the deer carcasses. When asked why he dumped the carcasses, the suspect stated that he always dumped carcasses and didn't think it was wrong. CO Gowenlock asked the suspect if he owned property, would he want people dumping carcasses and trash on his land. The suspect stated, "well putting it like that, no I wouldn't". The suspect was cited for littering and was immediately sent back to the area to remove the carcasses and dispose of them properly.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly signed a warrant on a suspect in Saginaw County for impersonating a police officer. The suspect was impersonating Sgt. Ron Kimmerly.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a complaint in Saginaw County where the caller advised she and her son were attacked by four coyotes. She advised she took her puppy outside when they were surrounded by the coyotes, which then chased them back into the house. She advised that the coyotes then crossed the street, jumped her neighbors fence and tore her dog apart. She went on to say that the neighbor will most likely have

to put the dog down. Sgt. Kimmerly stopped at the neighbors and did notice fresh blood. When Sgt. Kimmerly asked the neighbor what happened, she advised that her dog cornered a raccoon behind a glass window that broke. She advised that it had nothing to do with a coyote, she never spoke with her neighbor and her dog will be just fine.

While at the Mud Creek Access in Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk checked fishermen who had returned to the access on a snowmobile with no registration. The snowmobile owner had recently registered the machine but had not yet put the registration stickers on the snowmobile. After discussing the snowmobile issue, CO Hobkirk asked the man how he had done while fishing. The fisherman told CO Hobkirk that he had caught two walleyes, one catfish and informed the CO that the fish were in his sled. When CO Hobkirk checked the fish, he found two smallmouth bass and a catfish. As the CO and the fisherman were discussing the violation, the fisherman changed his story and told CO Hobkirk that he thought that all seasons were open on free fishing weekend. The fisherman was cited for taking the bass during a closed season.

While on patrol, CO Seth Rhodea observed a large plume of smoke in the southern part of Huron County. Upon locating the fire, the CO located tires and other unlawful items being burned. Contact was made with the person that started the fire and a citation was issued for the illegal burn.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted an angler coming off the ice on Saginaw Bay after a successful morning of perch fishing. The angler was found to have an over limit of perch and he was cited for the violation.

During a snowmobile patrol in Sanilac County, CO Mark Siemen had contact with multiple subjects. Some warnings were given to operators. While talking to some fishermen coming off the ice in Tuscola County, a snowmobile drove by at a high rate of speed and was being operated in a careless manner. The operator was not wearing a helmet at the time. CO Siemen stopped the subject and enforcement action was taken.

In Sanilac County, CO Mark Siemen assisted the Sheriff's Office with locating and arresting a B and E suspect in Carsonville. The subject was highly intoxicated and broke into a garage and multiple campers in the area. A deputy along with CO Siemen located the subject hiding in a back yard. The subject was arrested and lodged at the county jail.

CO Jason A. Smith attended a hunter safety class with about 45 kids in attendance. CO Smith discussed with the students the role of a conservation officer within the DNR and the local law enforcement community.

With a strange weather pattern this winter it made for unstable ice conditions on the Saginaw Bay. CO Chad Foerster assisted with numerous rescues on the ice ranging from anglers going in the water to anglers getting stranded on ice flows. Two deaths

were recorded on the Saginaw Bay this year with over a dozen others being rescued with favorable outcomes.

During a snowmobile patrol in north western Isabella County, COs Mike Haas and Josh Russell encountered a snowmobile operating towards them with no headlights activated. The COs stopped the snowmobile operator and discovered numerous issues. The snowmobile was missing its headlight, was not registered and did not have a valid trail permit. A citation was issued to the operator for the violations.

While patrolling through southern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas witnessed a truck performing numerous donuts and spinning out in an intersection. As the CO approached the intersection, the operator of the truck hit the brakes and slid through the intersection sideways. The truck then came to a stop with the back end of the truck off the road almost sliding into the ditch. The driver told CO Haas that he was having trouble shifting the truck into 4-wheel drive. After a brief conversation, the driver admitted he just got a new truck and had never performed donuts before and thought there was no one around. The operator was cited for careless driving.

CO Mike Haas received multiple complaints of a truck that was tearing up the roads through the state forest in Isabella County and was now stuck. The operator of the truck had asked for help to get his truck out of a large water hole on a social media site. Thanks to the good directions the man listed on the internet, CO Haas was able to locate the man and his friends as they were attempting to remove the truck. The gentleman received a citation for operating his vehicle off the designated trail and was warned for creating erosive conditions and leaving items on state land unattended for over 24 hours.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson and Probationary CO (PCO) Kyle McQueer contacted a couple anglers ice fishing on an Isabella County lake. The subjects were checked for fishing licenses and fish. During the check, the COs could smell marijuana. When asked about it, the subjects first said that there was no marijuana in the shanty, then they said that it was their vapor smoke. After a search of the shanty, the subjects admitted to smoking marijuana in their shanty before the COs arrived. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson and Probationary Conservation Officer (PCO) Kyle McQueer attended a wild game dinner in Midland County. The COs fielded many questions from the attendees and led two separate seminars. The COs covered topics ranging from the hiring process to CWD in Michigan.

CO Dan Robinson, Mike Haas and Jason King attended the Mid-Michigan chapter Safari Club expo in Mt. Pleasant. The COs led a seminar one of the evenings and covered a wide range of topics. The COs spoke to over 350 people over the course of the weekend and answered a lot of questions from the attendees.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson stopped to talk to a trapper who had emerged from a farm ditch holding a muskrat. After checking the individual's licenses, CO Robinson asked the trapper if he had permission from the farmer to trap the ditches on his property. The individual was unable to provide the landowners' names and said he had "so many permissions" that he didn't remember. It was also discovered that the trapper was in possession of several untagged traps, including one that was set in the ditch for muskrats. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson was checking ice anglers during the free fishing weekend. While talking to a group of anglers about a large pike they had caught through the ice, the CO observed a snowmobile operating at a high speed across the lake. CO Robinson could see that the snowmobile was not displaying registration stickers or a trail sticker. After watching the sled for several minutes, CO Robinson witnessed the operator pass a shanty within one-hundred feet. CO Robinson contacted the subject, who turned out to be a minor. The subject was operating an unregistered snowmobile, did not have the required trail sticker and above all else was operating in a careless manner that had the potential to injure another person. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson was called to a complaint where a subject was seen trapping squirrels in his yard and allegedly shooting them in the cage. Working with Mt. Pleasant police, CO Robinson went to the residence and located a trap that appeared to be set for animals, set outside the residence. There was also a target set up in the back yard, where the individual had been target shooting with a pellet gun or similar weapon. CO Robinson was finally able to talk to the subject several days later. Based on the circumstances and the comments made by the subject, CO Robinson used the situation to educate the subject on some other possibilities for handling the problem of squirrels getting in his attic and advised the subject that it was also an ordinance violation to discharge any kind of weapon in the city limits, even if target shooting with the pellet gun.

DISTRICT 7

COs Matt Page and Tyler Cole spoke to a hunter safety class at the Watervliet Rod and Gun Club on February 24th. Approximately 20 students attended.

COs Travis Dragomer, Matt Page and Zach Bauer conducted a group snowmobile patrol in VanBuren and Berrien Counties. Seven tickets were issued for registration and trail permit violations and numerous warnings were given for other additional violations

DISTRICT 8

CO Daniel Prince talked with 61 students and parents at a hunter safety class which was held at the Livingston Wildlife Conservation Club in Hamburg Township, Livingston County. CO Prince talked about firearm safety, hunting laws, and ethics. CO Prince also did an advanced hunter safety presentation on spring turkey hunting.

CO Eric Smither spoke to the Lenawee County Explorers Program at the Lenawee County Sheriff's Office. CO Smither spoke to approximately 18 students and adults about the roles and responsibilities of conservation officers in Michigan.

Brandon Hartleben attended a hunter safety class held at Creekside Intermediate School in Dexter. CO Brandon Hartleben spoke about hunting regulations, season dates, and safe hunting practices. CO Hartleben also participated in a couple "scenarios" with the hunter safety instructors to demonstrate safe firearms handling practices and what a contact with a CO in the field might look like.

CO Troy Ludwig and PCO Adam Beuthin followed up on a baiting complaint in Eaton County. When the COs arrived at the site, they located a feeder hanging from a tree. The spreader was being used to broadcast corn onto the ground to attract deer. Baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited in Eaton County. The COs attempted contact with the property owner but no one was home. The COs followed up later that evening and met with the property owner who admitted to placing the feeder. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig and PCO Adam Beuthin were checking anglers on Saubee Lake in Eaton County when they observed several tip-ups near a cluster of homes on the south end of the lake. While the COs were examining the tip-ups they noted that many were unlabeled. A man from a nearby house came out to the location and stated that three of them were his and that he had been watching them. When asked about the other four tip-ups he stated that they were his neighbors. The angler pointed out the location of his neighbor's house, but was not sure if he was home. As the COs were making their way to the home another man came out from a different home and, when asked about the tip-ups, stated they were his uncle's and pointed towards the same house the neighbor had pointed to. The COs attempted contact at the home, but no one was home. CO Ludwig returned the following day and interviewed the man who admitted to placing 4 tip-ups and leaving them unattended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough and PCO Johnathan Kamps conducted a public presentation at the Hughes Elementary School science fair on Wednesday night. The COs took a fur kit and talked to the kids about the different fur bearing animals in Michigan.

CO Jason McCullough and PCO Johnathan Kamps conducted surveillance on a closed fishing lake in Calhoun County. After a period of watching an individual, it was determined that he was keeping fish from the closed lake. The individual was contacted as he was leaving, and fish were located in the bucket within the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough and PCO Johnathan Kamps were on patrol in Calhoun County. Late at night a fisherman was observed with an over limit of lines in the water. The fisherman stated that some of the lines were his and the other lines belonged to his friend that just went inside the cottage to go to the bathroom. The COs pointed out that

they have been watching the fisherman for approximately 30 minutes. Additionally, the COs observed there were no lights on in the cottage and there was only 1 set of foot tracks coming on to the ice from the cottage. After a short time, the fisherman confessed to fishing with the extra lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough and PCO Johnathan Kamps completed an investigation involving two subjects who have killed several deer over the last couple of years. The investigation revealed one individual killed an antlerless deer without a license and the other killed three deer with only two licenses. Full confessions were obtained from both individuals and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds while on patrol checking ice fishermen in Hillsdale County heard some ORV activity in the distance. The CO walked towards a walking path and before he could get to the path noticed two ORVs driving on the path. As the ORVs got closer one of the operators noticed the CO and yelled to the other ORV "turn around, the game warden is out here." The CO was able to run to the road and stop the ORVs. The CO asked the riders why they were in a hurry to leave the area and the riders said they knew they were not supposed to be on the trail. The officer also advised the riders that ORV licenses were required to be operating on the roadways. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier was assigned a security detail at the Governor's Summit for Extractive Industries. The event was held at the MSU Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Also assigned were, CO Matt Neterer, CO Rich Nickols, CO Robert Slick and Sgt. Troy Bahlau. Officer presence was well received by attendees.

CO Sam Schluckbier worked a snowmobile patrol in Eaton County. During the patrol he observed several snowmobiles operating along roadways and crossing fields. Most snowmobilers were in compliance; however, a few citations were issued for failure to register and operate without a helmet. Warnings were given for trespassing and fail to obtain trail permits.

While working an ice fishing patrol, CO Sam Schluckbier checked a DNR access site well after dark. Watching as four anglers drove their ORVs to shore, he observed them riding double and not wearing safety helmets. Upon contact with one of the subjects, he found the driver to be under the influence of alcohol. Further inspection found that the driver of the ORV had a felony warrant for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated - 3rd offense. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Calhoun County jail.

CO Sam Schluckbier followed up on a suspicious set of antlers located during a taxidermy inspection. It appeared that the hunter had killed an 8-point buck during last archery season and purchased his hunting license afterwards. During the interview, the hunter initially explained that he never breaks the law and hates poachers. After speaking with him for several minutes, the hunter admitted to hunting all season without a license and then buying a license after the deer was harvested. The antlers and deer

meat were confiscated and CO Schluckbier is seeking charges through the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Sam Schluckbier conducted an interview on a hunter in Eaton County. The subject harvested an 8-point buck on opening day of firearm deer season. After a lengthy interview, the subject confessed to killing the deer without a license. While on his way home he decided that he needed to buy a license to get the deer mounted by a taxidermist. The deer meat and antlers were confiscated and charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Sam Schluckbier received a report all poaching complaint of traps left unchecked on private property in Jackson County. Further investigation revealed that the trapper had left out several conibear and foothold traps before leaving for an ice fishing trip to the Upper Peninsula. CO Schluckbier found a dead skunk in one of the traps that hadn't been checked for several days. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling through a state game area in Hillsdale County, CO Carter Woodwyk observed a subject with several youth, hand sawing trees. The CO spoke with the subject who advised they were looking for a specific tree to use for a woodworking project. The CO advised the subject they cannot cut trees down and take them from state owned lands without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols and Probationary Conservation Officer James Garrett were checking ice anglers on Round Lake during the free fishing weekend. After talking to a group of four people with 12 tip-ups out, the COs were walking away and discovered two additional tip-ups. Further investigation revealed no name or address on any of the tip-ups. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols received a call from a subject about possible coyote depredation. CO Nickols and Probationary Conservation Officer James Garrett investigated the complaint and found a young cow with lacerations on both of its eyelids. Coyote tracks were located nearby. The investigation revealed the wounds were not caused by a coyote or other wild animal.

CO Rich Nickols and Probationary Conservation Officer James Garrett received a call from Clinton County central dispatch about a woman who thought she struck a young eagle with her car and killed it. The COs made contact with the woman and recovered the bird which turned out to be a juvenile red tail hawk.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson were checking anglers when they noted the strong smell of marijuana coming from a fishing shanty. CO Hanson questioned the subject who admitted to being in possession of marijuana and having glass pipe which he turned over. It was also found that he was caught in possession of marijuana only a few days prior in the same location. Enforcement Action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson were checking anglers when they noted an ORV being operated across the lake without a helmet. They observed the operator

go to shore and pick up a second passenger, despite the ORV only being designed for a single rider, and return to their fishing location. The officers made contact with the subjects who admitted that they didn't think about their safety in riding without helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson followed up on information received from CO Carter Woodwyk about a deer taken in Jackson County illegally. An interview with the subject revealed that he had taken an 11 point antlered deer on November 15th without a license and utilizing a .223 rifle in the limited firearm zone. Charges are pending through the local prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson were patrolling the Sharonville State Game Area when they noted two hunters exiting the woods with shotguns, but failing to wear hunter orange. Contact was made with the hunters who showed the officers the rabbit and the squirrel they had taken. When asked, the hunters both claimed they didn't know they were supposed to be wearing hunter orange. However, an orange sweater was clearly visible inside of their vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson responded to a report all poaching complaint of a subject riding an ORV on state land. The COs spotted the subject as they approached the area, and the rider noted the COs and quickly sped off. The COs were able to follow the tracks to a nearby residence where the rider had stowed the ORV in the garage. Easy identification was made of the rider who admitted that he knew he was on state land, not wearing a helmet, and did not have an ORV license for the machine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn issued several snowmobile tickets after finding a number of snowmobiles being operated on county roads where not allowed. Violations included operating without helmets, without registration or trail stickers, operating down the middle of roadways, and operating without snowmobile safety certificates. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn was working with a ride along when he observed some individuals shining red lights in a field well after dusk. The individuals were contacted and found to be hunting without a license in possession and to be violating the CPL laws. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Katie Stawara were patrolling back roads in northern Eaton County when they observed a suspicious vehicle parked on the shoulder of the road. The vehicle was then observed being operated at a slow speed and weaving within the lane. A traffic stop was conducted and further investigation revealed that the passenger was intoxicated and in possession of open intoxicants. Also, the driver was found to be violating her probation by being in possession of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Katie Stawara assisted an Indiana Conservation Officer by interviewing a man thought to have taken an 8-point buck in Indiana before purchasing a license. The COs were able to gain a confession from the man and were able to locate and seize the deer mount. The suspect admitted to taking the deer and then purchasing a license online afterwards. The case will be turned over to Indiana DNR law enforcement.

CO Todd Thorn patrolled a portion of the Grand River in Lansing by patrol boat and contacted a man fishing underneath the Martin Luther King Bridge. The man was startled when he was contacted by CO Thorn and then stated that he didn't have a fishing license. Further investigation revealed that the man had two warrants; one for fishing without a license. The man was arrested and lodged in the Eaton County jail on his warrants.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Katie Stawara were patrolling back roads in northern Eaton County when they observed a severed antlered deer head on a trailer in a resident's front yard. After observing the head was not tagged, they made contact with the resident. The man stated he found the deer in his yard and cut the head off. He offered to show them the carcass remains. The COs observed a broad head wound behind the front shoulder of the remains. Further questioning led to suspicious behavior. The man later admitted to shooting the deer and not tagging it. The COs asked him to show them where he shot it. During their walk, the COs found an inactive spin cast feeder. Enforcement action was taken. A request for charges will be sought through the local prosecutor's office.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Katie Stawara responded to a report all poaching hotline (RAP) complaint regarding an opossum that was observed to be held in a live trap for up to three days. The COs seized the trap and released the opossum. Contact was later made with the suspect regarding his disregard to checking the trap and not displaying the proper owner identification required. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Katie Stawara responded to a report all poaching hotline (RAP) complaint regarding a female whitetail deer that was found dead in the caller's backyard. The doe had a snare embedded around her neck. A catch was on the snare but no owner identification. The COs foot patrolled the area for further evidence but found none.

COs Matthew Neterer, Todd Thorn and Kenneth Lowell attended the Annual MSU Law Enforcement Career Fair held at the MSU Kellogg Center. Law enforcement agencies were represented from all over the State of Michigan and the United States.

CO Robert Slick received a complaint of a sickly-looking deer around the Aginaw Lake area in Shiawassee County. CO Slick responded to the location and spoke with the caller to get more information about the deer's behavior. CO Slick located the deer and dispatched it. CO Slick will be submitting the deer for testing through the DNR Lab.

DISTRICT 9

While checking anglers on a local lake in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed two anglers pulling a fish through the ice. CO Deppen watched the area and saw the anglers pull out a northern pike which appeared to be undersized. CO Deppen observed the two anglers each fishing with rod and reel, but also counted six tip-ups around the two anglers. As CO Deppen approached the anglers; one angler dropped his fishing rod and began to walk toward the tip-ups. CO Deppen stopped the anglers and while checking their licenses, it was noted there were a total of eight lines in the water. When asked about the excessive lines, the anglers said, "It's free fishing weekend man." The anglers also claimed the other tip-ups were their friends and they were watching them for him. They pointed across the lake to another angler, and said they were his. They called the angler by phone and he walked the quarter mile to his unattended lines. CO Deppen explained that it was "free fishing weekend" and they can fish without purchasing a fishing license, however the rules and regulations still apply. The group of anglers were each fishing with more than three lines, had unattended fishing lines, unlabeled tip-ups, were in possession of a short northern pike, and one angler had warrants for his arrest. CO Deppen confiscated the northern pike and enforcement action was taken.

While checking small game hunters in Macomb County, COs Joseph Deppen and Brad Silorey noticed small floats frozen under the surface of a local pond. COs Deppen and Silorey then investigated the floats and discovered a total of eight floats which had traps attached to them. COs Deppen and Silorey noted that the accessible traps did not have tags on them showing ownership and it seemed like they had not been checked in weeks. COs Deppen and Silorey confiscated the traps and discovered one trap still had a tag on it. COs Deppen and Silorey contacted the owner and he admitted to leaving the traps out when the ice came in. While at the residence returning the traps, COs Deppen and Silorey discovered multiple species of furs the owner had been trapping. A license verification yielded the trapper failed to purchase a fur harvester license for the current year. When presented with this evidence the trapper was in disbelief. His furs were documented, and enforcement action was taken. Reimbursement will be sought for all animals trapped for the current season.

CO Raymond Gardner was on patrol and arrived at the Rood Lake Road Pit to check for activity. While on site, CO Gardner did not observe any violations. CO Gardner then stayed until shooting hours ended to monitor and make sure there was no after-hours shooting. After the last vehicle departed the parking lot, CO Gardner left and patrolled Byers Rd where he contacted two crow hunters. As CO Gardner was preparing to leave the game area he heard gunfire coming from the pit's direction. CO Gardner returned to the pit and observed three individuals target shooting after hours. CO Gardner asked the shooters if they had seen the sign with the shooting hours posted when they entered, and they told him they did. He then asked them if they checked what time sunset was and they said they did not. CO Gardner explained to the shooters that it was their responsibility to find what time shooting hours ended. Enforcement action taken.

CO Ben Lasher conducted a snowmobile patrol in the area of the Fair Haven Access site and St Johns Marsh Game Area. Many contacts were made for fish, ORV and snowmobile activity. ORV enforcement action was taken on two different subjects for failing to have an ORV sticker and another for not wearing a helmet. Both subjects were driving with suspended driver's licenses.

CO Pat Hartsig was checking ice anglers on Lake St. Clair when he watched a snowmobile quickly operate past an ice angler. The operator was stopped and was asked why he chose to carelessly operate that close to someone fishing. They exclaimed they were in a hurry and had to go to shore to use the restroom. Enforcement action was taken for operating within 100' of a fisherman.

CO Pat Hartsig received a complaint from a homeowner that his house was struck by a bullet while he was inside of it. Neighbors were target shooting and he believed a carelessly discharged firearm was to blame. CO Pat Hartsig investigated the complaint. The bullet was removed from the siding of the house and interviews were conducted. The investigation is on-going.

CO Pat Hartsig was checking ice fishermen in a local marina. When CO Hartsig asked for one of the angler's fishing licenses, he stated he didn't have it on him, but he knew CO Hartsig could "look it up" because that is what the CO earlier in the week told him. CO Hartsig asked if the officer from earlier in the week instructed him to get a replacement; which he did. CO Hartsig then asked why he did not get a replacement after being told to. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey and Joe Deppen were working checking ice anglers at a popular location along Lake St. Clair, in Macomb County. As soon as the COs pulled up CO Silorey got out of the patrol vehicle to check an angler that was just coming off the ice from fishing. CO Silorey contacted the angler and asked if he had any success that day. The angler replied that he did have some luck catching perch. CO Silorey requested to see the angler's fishing license and looked at the angler's bucket. As CO Silorey began checking the angler's fish in the bucket, he noticed that the angler had fish in a second bucket also. CO Silorey then counted the fish in both of the angler's buckets. CO Silorey walked to the bed of the patrol truck and began counting the fish. In total, the angler had 68 yellow perch, which is 18 fish over the daily possession limit. When CO Silorey questioned the angler on why he kept so many, the angler stated that it was "too cold, to count." It was 45 degrees and sunny that day. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Cass Lake, CO Jacob Griffin notice two subjects on what appeared to be a home-built ORV. The subjects were doing donuts while making their way out to the lake. When asked why they were not wearing helmets, one subject stated because the machine was a side-by-side. CO Griffin explained that their home-built machine was not equipped with a roll cage, doors, seatbelts or a windshield. CO Griffin informed the subjects of Michigan's ORV laws and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin and Sergeant Steve Mooney were patrolling Cass Lake when they spotted a large ORV being operated carelessly with people hanging off the machine and none of the subjects were wearing helmets. The COs signaled for the ORV to stop. As CO Griffin approached the ORV he noticed that the rear seat was removed, none of the subjects were wearing their seat-belts, and there were open alcohol containers inside the ORV. The COs addressed multiple issues and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin and Sergeant Steve Mooney were patrolling Cass Lake when they spotted two subjects riding on a very small ORV. CO Griffin signaled for the subjects to stop and shut their ORV off. CO Griffin informed the subjects that two people cannot ride on a machine which is not designed to carry a passenger, they were not wearing crash helmets, and their ORV did not have an ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting an ORV and snowmobile patrol on Cass Lake, CO Jacob Griffin, CO Chris Knights, and Sergeant Steve Mooney witnessed multiple violations including unregistered ORVs, snowmobiles without trail permits, multiple subjects riding on machines designed for one, subjects not wearing crash helmets while operating/riding ORVs and snowmobiles, and careless operation. The subjects were educated on Michigan laws and enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser conducted a taxidermy inspection and located a few sets of antlers with suspicious tag validations and purchases. In one instance, the tag was purchased in the afternoon of November 19th. The tag was also validated for November 19th. A brief search of the subject's social media accounts revealed that the deer was taken on November 15th. The CO interviewed the subject who stated that he was very busy at the time. He said he just got back into town and wanted to get out in the field. He admitted that he took a chance and got caught. Charges are being sought with the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office. CO Muehlhauser resumed the inspection and located another set of antlers with a suspicious validation. Again, it was validated for the same day in which the tag was purchased. However, when the tag was purchased, there was only 20 minutes left of legal hunting time. CO Muehlhauser documented the information and continued the inspection. When the CO reached the opposite end of the rack, he again found a set up antlers in which the tag was validated for the same day it was purchased. The tag was purchased later in the afternoon. The CO then noticed that both deer were taken in Lake City. By coincidence, they both ended up at a Genesee County taxidermist. As the CO dug further, it was revealed that the tags belonged to a couple from Lake City. The CO forwarded the information to a District 5 CO who took over the investigation. CO Craig Neal conducted interviews on all parties involved. One subject admitted to taking a deer without a license. However, the couple claims that the other deer was taken legally. Investigations are still underway on the second subject.

CO David Schaumburger located an ice fisherman at a marina that is closed to all access. The CO asked the angler where he walked from and the angler stated he walked from his friend's house on the other side of the canal. The CO then asked the angler if his car was parked outside the marina gate and the angler replied no. After

viewing the anglers fishing license and driver's license, the CO ran plates of vehicles near the marina until he found the anglers vehicle. The CO asked the angler why he lied to him and he stated, "Well I usually come from my friend's house across the canal, but the ice was not safe." Enforcement action was taken for recreational trespass.

BELLE ISLE

During a Belle Isle shift, CO Rich Nickols located a subject sleeping in a vehicle behind the aquarium. The subject was an employee of the aquarium and had ran out of gas. CO Nickols was able to locate a gas can and went off the island to purchase gas for the subject. The subject was very appreciative of the help.

During a Belle Isle shift, CO Rich Nickols stopped a vehicle for being in the park after hours. The driver did not have a license on his person. LEIN terminals were down for both MSP and DNR Station 20. CO Nickols called his local county dispatch who still had LEIN access and verified the driver's identity and also found the driver and his passenger each had a misdemeanor warrant. Unfortunately, the warrants could not be confirmed due to LEIN being down in SE Michigan. The subjects were advised of the warrants and released.

While patrolling Belle Isle, COs Jason King and Jacob Griffin responded to a possible suicidal subject that was suspected to be on the island near the lighthouse. The COs located the subject in his vehicle. After proceeding with caution, the COs were able to talk the subject out of wanting to harm himself. A friend and family member eventually arrived on scene. The subject seemed mentally stable and was released into the custody of the family member.