

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
2/27/2017 – 3/12/2017**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Denny Gast worked the snowmobile trail from Twin Lakes to Painesdale over the weekend. Due to the lack of good snow in most of the midwest, a large influx of non-resident snowmobilers had converged on the area. CO Gast took enforcement actions for no trail permits, careless operation of a snowmobile, improper snowmobile registrations and operating a snowmobile with a suspended driver's license.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted with traffic control in the Village of Ontonagon as local fire departments battled a house fire.

COs David Miller and Ethen Mapes assisted the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit and the Special Investigations Unit with the execution of a search warrant on an individual's residence/place of business in Chassell. The suspect was selling smelt as bait, which had been brought in from Canada that had not been inspected or certified to be disease free for invasive organisms. Law enforcement action was taken and approximately 150 pounds of smelt were seized.

COs David Miller, Ethen Mapes, Denny Gast and Doug Hermanson worked Houghton and Keweenaw Counties for snowmobile and sound enforcement over the weekend. Over 175 snowmobilers were contacted throughout the day. 17 citations were issued for: failure to obtain a snowmobile trail permit, failure to register snowmobile and operating a snowmobile in access of 88 Dbs.

CO Brian Lasanen attended a "Wildlife through Forestry" forum presentation at the Ewen School.

While working on Lake Gogebic, CO Brian Lasanen observed an ORV operator that was not using a helmet. Upon making contact, CO Lasanen did not observe a valid ORV license attached to the machine. CO Lasanen advised the rider of the violations and he responded he did not want to pay the money for an ORV sticker. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson is investigating a complaint from a local timber company where someone has been cutting standing trees in Baraga County. Over 20 trees have been taken.

CO Doug Hermanson recovered a bald eagle over the weekend that appeared to have been struck by a motor vehicle. Several other eagles were in the area feeding on a deer carcass near the highway. CO Hermanson moved the deer carcass further off of the roadway to prevent any additional problems.

CO Ethen Mapes reported that an illegally taken bear case that occurred in 2016 has been adjudicated. Two Ontonagon County men were sentenced on the charges of taking a black bear without a license and out of season. One individual was ordered to pay \$2,939.78 and the other \$3,070.00. Both had three day jail sentences suspended so long as they comply with all terms of their probation.

CO Ethen Mapes is investigating a complaint of three turkeys being taken out of season in Ontonagon County.

While returning home from a training session in Lower Michigan, CO Nathan Sink came across a vehicle that had left the roadway and was stuck in the ditch. CO Sink determined the operator was uninjured and assisted until the vehicle was extracted from the ditch.

CO Ethen Mapes and CO Nathan Sink worked a night patrol on Lake Gogebic targeting fishing activity on the lake. CO Mapes and CO Sink came across a group of tip-ups that were not being attended. After tripping one of the tip-ups and waiting a half hour, CO Mapes and CO Sink knocked on the individual's residence. Contact was made with the occupants of the house and confessions obtained for failing to attend to the fishing lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon, CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted a patrol of Dickinson County lakes on ORVs. Late season pan fish anglers were the target of the patrol and violations addressed included over limit of pan fish, fish no license, unregistered ORV and one subject was cited for possession of five undersize bass during the closed season.

CO Brian Bacon presented to students at Kingsford High School on the career of a CO.

CO Jeremy Sergey was patrolling Lake Ann when he came across 2 non-resident anglers. One of the anglers immediately stated that his license was expired. After checking their licenses, CO Sergey noticed that both of their 24 hour fishing licenses were expired and the anglers were using unlabeled tip ups. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Brett Delonge were patrolling a lake in the Gwinn area when three snowmobiles were observed operating at a very high rate of speed near an ice shack that was being utilized. CO Leadman signaled all three snowmobiles to stop. One of the three operators ignored the request to stop and fled back across the lake at a very high rate of speed to a residence. The operator could not be located but was identified by the homeowner. Returning to the other two snowmobiles, it was determined that both snowmobiles lacked trail permits and one of them was unregistered. One of the operators also had a suspended license. Both subjects were ticketed and a warrant is being sought for the subject that fled.

CO Mark Leadman was notified by an ambulance driver that a raccoon was wandering in the state highway just outside of Marquette. The ambulance driver had attempted to drive the raccoon off the highway when he noticed that it was not acting normally and was possibly suffering from distemper. CO Leadman located the animal just as it wandered back into the highway nearly causing a three car collision. The raccoon was removed and will be referred over to wildlife for testing.

CO Mark Leadman and Corporal Marvin Gerlach conducted a minnow dealer/minnow catcher inspection at a local bait shop. The owner had failed to submit the proper monthly catch reports and had been reminded 2 times over the past 2 months. This time the owner was ticketed for failing to submit the required monthly reports and instructed to submit the late paperwork within the next week to avoid further legal action.

CO Jeffrey Dell received a complaint of a deer hanging at a residence within the city of Menominee for some time. CO Dell contacted the property owner after examining the deer and explained the health concern that the deer posed as it had been exposed to warmer temperature over the last four months. The owner agreed to properly dispose of the deer.

While conducting an ORV patrol on state land, COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey came across a man cutting fallen trees. The man was loading the wood into an ORV. The man did not have a wood cutting permit or an ORV decal affixed to the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Michael Evink gave assistance to Michigan State Police troopers who were responding to a possible domestic violence situation. The victim had no way to contact law enforcement and placed a sign in a snow bank asking for help. Due to the remote location CO Evink was able to clarify the location for troopers.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling Little Bays de Noc when he noticed a tip-up near shore with its flag up. After waiting over half an hour, two men riding on one ORV came from a nearby residence. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken for fishing with lines not in immediate control, riding double on an ORV and not wearing helmets on the ORV.

CO Pat Hartsig, along with members of the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit, spoke to a local sport fishing club about regulations as they pertain to state licensed commercial fishermen.

CO Pat Hartsig spoke to a conservation class at Escanaba High School. Many questions about the day-to-day actions of a CO and the requirements of the job were answered to the eager high school students.

CO Robert Freeborn, along with Park Service Officer Shawn Hughes, worked a busy snowmobile intersection near Grand Marais. While overall compliance was good, the officers did notice a snowmobile that went by without a registration. After stopping the snowmobile it was determined the snowmobile had a faded Ohio registration sticker. After a brief chat with the operator, it was found that he had bought the snowmobile several weeks back from out of state but actually lived in Michigan and did not have any paperwork for the snowmobile. After checking the VIN number on the snowmobile, it was expired and not titled in the current owner's name. When the officers explained that the snowmobile was not registered with him as the owner, the story then changed stating that it actually wasn't his and that it was his friends. A citation was issued.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink conducted a snowmobile sound meter patrol in a very busy snowmobile area. The COs made contact with several snowmobilers who were out enjoying the nice weather and trails. The COs were able to test several snowmobiles for loud exhaust. Seven citations were issued for snowmobiles with loud exhausts with the loudest being 97 decibels which is nearly ten times louder than the legal limit of 88 decibels.

COs Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink, Mark Zitnik, Christopher Lynch and Park Service Officer Shawn Hughes responded to a snowmobile accident where a snowmobile lost control and struck a tree head on. The COs aided medical support until EMS arrived on scene. Before EMS arrived, dispatch advised that a medical helicopter would be enroute to take the patient to the hospital due to the remote location and possible serious injuries. While the other COs stayed on scene to assist with traffic and EMS, CO Freeborn left the scene and headed to a landing zone a few miles away to provide coordinates to the helicopter and direct them to the landing zone. Once the helicopter had landed, the COs assisted with closing the trail until the patient was loaded and helicopter was clear of the scene.

COs Christopher Lynch and Mark Zitnik were patrolling western Alger County looking to address snowmobile violations. Over 75 snowmobilers were contacted on this patrol with several violations being addressed for failing to attach trail permits. Several warnings were given throughout the day with most of the snowmobilers happy to see the COs out on the trails.

COs Christopher Lynch and Mark Zitnik were on routine snowmobile patrol when they happened upon a head-on collision that had just occurred between two snowmobiles. Both riders of the sleds were ok, but the snowmobiles had extensive damage.

CO Chris Lynch responded to a fatal car accident. CO Lynch assisted in first aid and traffic control along with other agencies at the scene. The driver of one vehicle involved in the accident received minor injuries. Unfortunately, both occupants of the other vehicle involved in the accident died from injuries they sustained.

CO Kevin Postma was checking fishermen on Munuscong Bay when he made contact with a fisherman in a portable shanty. CO Postma was able to somewhat surprise the fisherman inside the shanty and discovered him to be fishing with a 4th line. Enforcement action was taken for fishing too many lines.

CO Jon Busken attended a career fair at Bay College in Escanaba. CO Busken answered questions from the public and interested applicants on the process of becoming a CO.

CO Jon Busken was first on scene for a single vehicle accident in which a snowmobile trailer had rolled over and separated from the vehicle. The vehicle was high centered between the road and ditch and over turned trailer. Surprisingly the vehicle and trailer were drivable. The snowmobiles suffered only minor damage. A crash report was completed.

COs Bobby Watson, Calvin Smith, and Tom Oberg participated in a group patrol near Paradise focusing on trail safety. The COs positioned their snowmobiles in order to observe a busy intersection where motor vehicles frequently cross the snowmobile trail. Shortly after taking position, the three COs watched two snowmobiles speed through the intersection, disregarding the stop signs and failing to check for vehicle traffic. CO Watson quickly caught up to the snowmobiles and made contact. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson, Calvin Smith, and Tom Oberg were patrolling a local lake for fishing and snowmobile activity. CO Watson approached the first group of fishermen for the afternoon patrol and knocked on the ice shanty door. CO Watson could hear lots of shuffling before the door was opened. A short investigation revealed the anglers were fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith received a tip of a trap being left out on state land after the closure of trapping season. The complainant informed the COs the trap had no

sign of any recent activity, and had a fisher caught in it which appeared to have been dead for quite some time. The COs hiked into the woods and located the trap and the fisher. The investigation is ongoing.

As CO Calvin Smith approached a group of three fishermen on Big Manistique Lake, he observed two fishermen exit their ice shack and remove two tip-ups. Unfortunately for the fishermen, CO Smith had already counted 11 lines as he was approaching on his snowmobile. When CO Smith made contact with the group, one angler stated, "I will take the ticket. I had extra tip-ups set out." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith assisted Michigan State Police troopers and local deputies with several vehicles that had slid off the roadway due to high winds and blowing snow.

CO Calvin Smith and Tom Oberg attended a three day training course on boating under the influence of alcohol. The COs were trained in techniques for marine patrol tactics and administering field sobriety tests to boat operators.

Sgt. Mike Hammill and COs Jon Busken, Bobby Watson, Tom Oberg, and Calvin Smith conducted a group snowmobile patrol in the Paradise area. Citations were issued for careless operation, operating on state highway, and for exceeding the legal sound decibel level.

Sgt. Mike Hammill noticed a group of snowmobilers loading what looked to be a snowmobile that had been in a crash onto a trailer. Sgt. Hammill made contact with the group and one of the riders advised he had left the trail due to poor visibility and had hooked a ski around a tree. No injuries were reported and a crash report was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County contacted a group of snowmobiles in the Jordan River Valley. While talking to one snowmobile owner about his missing registration decals, CO Erratt heard and then observed a snowmobile coming down an adjacent hill marked with a "No Snowmobiles" sign. The group admitted the rider was with them. CO Erratt contacted the rider who said he did not know the laws prohibiting off trail snowmobile operation in the Jordan River Valley but he had observed the no snowmobile sign. CO Erratt ticketed the snowmobiler for operating a snowmobile off trail in the Jordan River Valley.

While on snowmobile patrol, CO Andrea Erratt located a vehicle that was stuck on Pinney Bridge Road, which is a seasonal road and groomed snowmobile trail in the winter. Two ladies and a young girl had been winter camping at Pinney Bridge State Forest Campground. CO Erratt and two snowmobilers attempted to push the ladies'

vehicle but they could not make it up a hill with their front wheel drive vehicle. CO Erratt called a towing company who had to bring their tracked vehicle to tow the vehicle two miles out to M-66.

CO Steve Speigl attended a father/son day at Camp Daggett in Charlevoix County. CO Speigl presented to 60 attendees and covered tracking, land navigation and follow-up for search and rescue situations.

CO Steve Speigl was contacted by a landowner who had placed a trail camera to capture pictures of snowmobiles trespassing on their property. Several snowmobiles were caught on camera and using the registrations CO Speigl and CO Chad Baldwin followed up with the owners of the snowmobiles. Several tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to several prior complaints related to illegal snowmobile operation near Inspiration Point in the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRC). Two separate pairs of snowmobilers were stopped after passing within feet of the "Closed Area" signs. Three citations were issued for operating a snowmobile in a closed area.

Sgt. Mark DePew responded to a complaint of an eagle located in a farmer's field that was not flying. Contact was made with the landowner who reported they approached the eagle and it would not fly. A rehabber was contacted and arrived on scene to take possession of the eagle. After her arrival, a second eagle was located in the same field exhibiting the same symptoms as the other. The eagle rehabber took possession of both birds taking them to a veterinarian for examination. It was determined the eagles had consumed some type of poison. At the time of the weekly report both eagles are still alive and their conditions are improving. The investigation continues.

Sgt. Mark DePew and CO Nick Torsky conducted several taxidermy inspections in Otsego County looking for violations of fish and game laws. Several leads were developed and are being followed-up on.

CO Nick Torsky conducted several unannounced minnow dealer inspections in Otsego looking for violations of the law. Upon inspecting the facilities, CO Torsky reports all the dealers were in compliance with the law.

Sgt. Mark DePew was traveling southbound on I-75 north of Gaylord when he was passed by a vehicle traveling in excess of the posted speed limit of 70 MPH. It was determined the vehicle was traveling in excess of 100 MPH. After stopping the vehicle he asked the operator how fast he was going. The operator stated "very fast". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki received anonymous information about a deer poaching case he has been working since November of 2016. The anonymous informant located the vehicle that he had originally observed shoot a deer from at night. The investigation continues.

CO Kelly Ross was checking anglers on Tomahawk Flooding in Montmorency County when he observed a snowmobile being operated by a subject without a helmet and driving carelessly. CO Ross made contact with the subject as he stopped at an ice shanty, where several other subjects were fishing. During this contact CO Ross discovered that the operator of the snowmobile had a suspended operator's license. CO Ross also found two of the subjects to be underage and in possession of alcohol and two of the subjects in possession of marijuana. CO Ross arrested one subject and took enforcement action on the other three for numerous violations.

CO Paul Fox was at his residence in Presque Isle County when he noticed something out of the ordinary lying on the river bank across from his home. CO Fox looked closer with the aid of binoculars and discovered that it appeared to be a person who had fallen thru the ice on the river. He quickly responded to the location, which was near a small cabin in a remote area on the opposite bank. CO Fox's patrol truck became stuck in deep snow as he approached the area. He then continued on foot and came upon a set of footprints that left the cabin and went toward the river. CO Fox followed the tracks and found a female subject lying on the edge of the river. Closer inspection revealed the female was suffering from a stab wound to her chest. CO Fox was able to carry the subject up from the river as additional units arrived. The victim was transported to the area hospital with severe hypothermia, frostbite and a stab wound. Further investigation uncovered that the female had been in an argument with her husband the previous evening and had stabbed herself in the chest after he had left the residence. She then wandered down to the river and had fallen in. The victim then spent the night on the water's edge after falling through the ice.

CO Paul Fox attended a local National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) banquet in Posen. Numerous contacts were made with local residents. CO Fox provided attendees with local hunting regulation information and answered various questions from the group.

COs Paul Fox and Jon Sklba assisted local deputies in traffic control during a severe blizzard that swept over Presque Isle County. Some locations received nearly 24" of snowfall in approximately 12 hours. The COs responded to several stranded motorists and assisted in shutting down roadways to allow for tow trucks and plow trucks to remove vehicles and clear roadways.

CO Bill Webster was patrolling Grand Lake in Presque Isle County. As he was approaching a portable ice shack, he noticed the angler had the door open and was reeling up a jig pole. The angler then threw the jig pole into the back of the ice shack in attempts to hide it. CO Webster counted three tip-ups set up around the shack. When he questioned the angler about the jig pole, the angler was surprised CO Webster had noticed it. Enforcement action was taken for using too many lines.

CO Bill Webster was patrolling Grand Lake in Presque Isle County when he came across three tip-ups set up on the ice with no one around. CO Webster had been watching the area for about 15 minutes prior to checking the tips-up and had not noticed

anyone tending the lines. CO Webster tripped one of the flags and waited. After about five minutes a man came driving out onto the ice with an ATV. CO Webster made contact with the man who admitted to the tip-ups being his. He stated he had gone in for lunch and stayed longer than he intended on. Enforcement action was taken for multiple violations.

CO Bill Webster was contacted by the Report All Poaching hotline concerning a deer hanging at a camp in Alpena County. CO Webster contacted the complainant who advised he was out coyote hunting on state land and got turned around and ended up coming upon a small cabin. The subject then noticed a fresh deer hanging on a deer pole. CO Webster was familiar with the cabin and the subject who owned it due to previous contact on an out of season deer complaint several years earlier. CO Webster responded to the area and made contact with the suspect. Upon arrival CO Webster noticed what appeared to be fresh blood in the snow under the buck pole. CO Webster made contact with the suspect at the cabin. The suspect confessed to shooting the deer over a bait pile with his rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster was patrolling Alpena County in the early morning hours. A complaint came in from a female subject who had woken up to find one of her disabled children missing from their home. CO Webster was close to the area where they lived and responded towards the location. About a mile from the residence CO Webster came upon a young man walking that matched the description of the missing subject. CO Webster made contact with the young man and confirmed it was the missing boy. The young man was very cold from being out in the elements for several hours without the proper attire. CO Webster drove the young man in his patrol truck to the young man's residence and turned him over to his parents who were very grateful to have him home.

COs Webster and LeClerc conducted several minnow dealer inspections in Alpena County; the businesses were happy to see the COs combatting the fight against aquatic invasive species and unlicensed dealers.

DISTRICT 4

CO Colton Gelinis was on patrol in Leelanau County when he observed a snowmobile with an expired registration. CO Gelinis stopped the snowmobile for the violation. The driver of the snowmobile stated that it was his last ride of the year and wondered if he could get a warning, because he at least had a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe followed tracks into a small lake in Grand Traverse County and observed an ice fisherman catching bluegills. The fisherman counted fish at one point, put some fish back in the hole and then proceeded to put some fish in a glove and conceal it in under his bibs. CO Kehoe contacted the angler as he approached shore, and asked how he did. The angler stated he had caught 25 bluegills. After CO Kehoe counted the fish in the bucket, of which there were 25, he then asked the angler about

the fish in his bibs. The angler admitted to concealing an additional five bluegill and tried to explain that they were dead and didn't want to leave them out on the ice. CO Kehoe informed the angler that next time he should make the decision to return fish to the lake immediately upon catching them rather putting himself into the situation he was in. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was contacted by the Michigan State Police to investigate an untagged antlerless deer that was discovered during a complaint. An MSP trooper responded to a complaint in the Manton area in Wexford County, where they located the deer hanging in the garage at the residence. The home was currently for sale and the current buyer was contacted for more information. After several phone calls with the current buyer, the MSP Trooper and CO Kinney obtained a confession from the individual that he did in fact shoot the deer. He told the CO he had forgotten to tag the deer before returning to his permanent residence in southern Michigan. The individual thought he was not required to tag the deer if the deer was harvested on private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was contacted by CO Steve Converse in regards to a discrepancy in a deer tag that was discovered at the local meat processor in Wexford County. CO Kinney contacted the hunter to question about the deer tag. The hunter had shot a 7-point antlered deer and neglected to purchase a kill tag prior to hunting as he didn't think he was going to see a deer and had limited time to hunt. Since the hunter had been successful, he went and purchased his kill tag the following day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Stowe was in the vicinity when a subject was reported to have been shoplifting and then fled the area on foot. CO Stowe responded to the location and felt that the subject would have taken the path of least resistance. This was a route down an embankment and along a railroad bed. CO Stowe picked up on tracks in the snow along the railroad bed and reported it to other law enforcement agencies that were responding. After quite a walk tracking the footprints, CO Stowe noticed the subject he was tracking, a short distance ahead of him, approaching the next road crossing. An MSP Trooper, who had heard CO Stowe's information about the direction the subject was heading, had been sitting at the crossroad waiting. As the trooper began walking towards the subject, the subject began walking backwards with no idea that CO Stowe was behind him. The trooper was able to talk to the subject as he continued his path backwards until he was within only a couple of feet of CO Stowe, at which time he took one last quick step towards him and the subject turned and walked right into CO Stowe. CO Stowe was able to take him into custody without incident and turn him over to MSP. While working snowmobiles in Lake County, CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky watched a group of snowmobiles drive past their location. One of the snowmobiles was

operating without a registration on the side of the sled. When CO Publiski approached the group to make a stop, the operator without the registration failed to stop for a stop sign and continued to operate down the roadway. The COs caught up to the group and after making contact with the operator for the licensing violation and failing to stop, it was determined he also failed to transfer his registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed a vehicle that seemed to be attempting to evade him. CO Killingbeck stopped the car for several minor traffic violations and when he went to the driver's window, he could smell a strong odor of marijuana. CO Killingbeck spoke to the driver, who initially denied that there were any drugs in the car, but then changed his story and said his dad might have left marijuana "crumbs" in the car. A search of the car resulted in two partially burned joints, a drug pipe, and a grinder with residual marijuana inside. The subject claimed it was his "first time using" and that he had just bought the pipe and grinder from a friend. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling along the Pere Marquette River in Lake County checking fishermen when he encountered a subject who said he did not have his fishing license on him. CO Killingbeck ran the subject through the retail sales system and discovered the subject had not purchased a fishing license since 2015. The subject was very adamant that he had purchased a fishing license online; however, he was unable to tell CO Killingbeck when he made the purchase. The angler then tried looking it up himself through the E-License system and was still unsuccessful in finding a valid license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed a sports car pull onto the roadway behind him that was displaying red and green LED lights on the front of the vehicle. The LED lights were flashing and gave the overall appearance of an emergency vehicle. CO Killingbeck stopped the car and asked the driver why he had LED lights on the front of the car. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he wired them into the car himself and just thought they were cool looking. CO Killingbeck explained the laws pertaining to motor vehicle lights to the driver and then discovered that the subject was also driving on a suspended license and had no insurance on the vehicle. The driver also had a warrant for his arrest from downstate. The driver was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Ryan Andrews were driving by a local hardware/sporting goods store when a 911 call went out that the store they were in front of had shoplifters inside. The COs stopped and detained the suspects until deputies arrived. The COs assisted in the investigation and interviews. After watching video footage, the COs obtained a confession from a suspect that had stolen fishing bobbers by putting them down his pants and then putting them in a vehicle before re-entering the store. Two of the three suspects had warrants and were arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail. One suspect had told CO Killingbeck that they were planning on fishing in Newaygo County, but did not have fishing licenses. CO Killingbeck advised the subjects

it was in their best interest to get fishing licenses before getting themselves into more trouble.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews was contacted by a U.S. Forest Service employee who had picked up a dead bald eagle in Oceana County. The eagle was found on the shoulder of a road and it appeared to have been in a collision with a motor vehicle.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews received information that someone was illegally baiting deer near hunting blinds on vacant property. During the investigation, CO Andrews found several old bait sites that had some residual feed on the ground. The landowner was contacted and he admitted to feeding wildlife to help them through the cold winter. A warning was issued and the landowner was educated on the laws pertaining to baiting and feeding.

CO Ryan Andrews and CO Casey Varriale were on patrol on the Pere Marquette River in Lake County when they witnessed three individuals standing on a posted private river bank. CO Varriale and CO Andrews made contact with the individuals and asked why they were stopped on the river bank. One of the kayakers said that his friend had capsized into the 38 degree water. Because of the frigid water and 20 degree weather conditions, CO Varriale and CO Andrews escorted the individual to his personal truck to retrieve dry clothes and warm him up. The individual was observed for signs of hypothermia, and was thankful that the COs were able to help him before hypothermia had set in.

CO Ben Shively was driving along the north branch of the White River in Oceana and noticed a van driving erratically. CO Shively ran the plate and found that it came back to a Jeep and not a van. The van quickly pulled into a driveway and CO Shively conducted a traffic stop for the plate violation. The driver stated he was just test driving the van after working on it, as he had just bought it three days ago and threw a plate on it to drive it on the road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively observed a vehicle traveling toward him in the wrong lane. CO Shively quickly pulled to the shoulder of the road as the vehicle corrected his line of travel and slowly passed CO Shively. CO Shively was able to get eye contact with the driver and believed the operator to possibly be under the influence of alcohol due to the blank stare. CO Shively conducted a traffic stop on the suspected drunk driver. CO Shively quickly realized the operator of the vehicle was in shock and had a severe laceration from a chain saw accident on his arm. CO Shively advised dispatch to contact EMS and applied his issued tourniquet above the wound stopping the severe bleeding. The operator had lost a tremendous amount of blood and was over 20 minutes away from the hospital. EMS believed the driver would have passed out shortly from the large amount of blood loss.

CO Jeff Ginn received a complaint of a subject shooting geese out of season. CO Ginn responded and was able to recover the dead goose from the open water and locate the suspect in the area. Violations include taking waterfowl during the closed season and safety zone violations.

DISTRICT 5

COs John Huspen and Chuck McPherson were patrolling on snowmobiles in the Frederic area of Crawford County. The COs encountered numerous violations for operating within a railroad right-of-way, failing to stop before crossing a public highway and driving while license suspended. Two of the subjects that were contacted also had outstanding warrants for their arrest; one of the subjects was lodged on a felony warrant.

CO Sam Schluckbier responded to a snowmobile accident in Kalkaska County. CO Schluckbier observed CPR being performed on the victim upon his arrival. He took over from the first person on scene who was conducting CPR and continued until additional emergency medical personnel arrived. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene. The investigation is still on-going; however, alcohol, drugs, and speed may have been contributing factors to the crash.

While checking inland lakes in Kalkaska County, CO Sam Schluckbier located two anglers fishing with too many lines. While speaking with the two men outside their shanty, CO Schluckbier could smell marijuana smoke coming from inside. The shanty was searched and the marijuana was located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Pullum conducted a taxidermy inspection in Ogemaw County and located two sets of whitetail deer antlers from Kansas. Both sets of antlers still contained brain matter in the skull cap. Kansas is a known chronic wasting disease (CWD) state. Both sets of antlers were seized for violating importation bans in Michigan restricting the movement of cervids and associated parts from states confirmed to have CWD. The owners of the antlers were interviewed and charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kyle Bader participated in a presentation to 125 whitetail enthusiasts who are working on setting up a Whitetail Deer Management Association co-op in Ogemaw County. Other speakers at the meeting included a representative from Quality Deer Management Association, a representative from Ogemaw Conservation District, Ashley Autenreith from the DNR Wildlife Division, and food plot expert Ed Spinazzola.

COs Phil Hudson and Ethan Gainforth were on a foot patrol along the Rifle River when they observed a loud vehicle pull into the parking lot on the other side of the river. The driver exited the vehicle and began hollering at the COs. Apparently, the driver of the vehicle could see the glare of their badges on the other side of the river and thought it was a good idea to yell at them. After shouting at COs, the driver began fishing along the river. COs Hudson and Gainforth made the long hike back to their patrol vehicle and then drove to the other side of the river to locate the subject. Upon contact, the man was unable to produce a valid ID or fishing license. After further investigation, it was discovered that the subject had several outstanding arrest warrants and no valid operator's license. He was arrested on the outstanding warrants and for driving while license suspended. When asked why he yelled at COs Hudson and Gainforth, drawing attention to himself, he replied in hindsight that it was "kind of dumb". He was lodged in the Arenac County Jail.

CO Steve Lockwood was patrolling rural Gladwin County in the early morning hours when he noticed a vehicle being operated on the roadway without working taillights. After initiating a traffic stop, CO Lockwood noticed several indications of intoxication with the driver. At the end of the investigation, the 17-year old driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated as well as being in possession of open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. He was lodged in the Gladwin County Jail.

COs Steve Lockwood and Josh Wright recently assisted the Clare County Sheriff's Department in locating the subject with several outstanding arrest warrants. The COs waited for the subject to leave a residence they suspected her to be at and initiating a traffic stop. The subject attempted to hide in the back seat of the vehicle and pretended to be unconscious in order to avoid arrest. The joint effort between agencies ended with the subject being arrested and transported to the Clare County Jail.

DISTRICT 6

While on foot patrol on public land, CO John Byars noticed an area heavily used for target practice where many trees were used for the back stop. The area was littered with target paper and other items of litter. CO Byars conducted an investigation of the area, collected evidence and cleaned up the litter. The investigation is pending.

CO John Byars conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle pulling into a parking area on public land. The suspect noticed the CO's vehicle and tried to back out to leave. The CO made contact and found a cased long gun weapon and a pistol that was not properly cased. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Byars checked anglers in coves off of the Saginaw Bay. One of the groups was fishing with too many lines. The anglers could not account for the extra lines and

told the CO that their kids must have put them in the water and then went inside the house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers received a complaint of an injured great horned owl in north Gratiot County. The CO responded to the area and turned the owl over to a certified transporter and rehabber for the owl's recovery.

CO Joe Myers patrolled Gratiot County on Hunter Access Program (HAP) lands. The HAP program allows for hunters to access private land for increased opportunities for recreational activities. There are several properties in Gratiot County enrolled in this program.

CO Joe Myers attended a Career Exposure Fair at Swan Valley Public School. CO Myers spoke to the youth about career opportunities within the Department of Natural Resources. The CO was able to focus on what COs do on a daily basis and answered questions regarding laws and safety.

COs Kyle Bucholtz, Ken Lowell, Joe Myers, Seth Rhodea, and Josh Russell attended training for boating under the influence which is a certified course put on by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. The COs learned an advanced detection method for boaters operating under the influence of intoxicants while operating a motorized vessel.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint from a local land owner in Montcalm County regarding litter and deer carcasses in a ditch. On one of the deer carcasses, CO Lowell located a deer tag. A short interview with the owner of the tag resulted in a confession. The suspect who dumped the deer was issued a citation and ordered to clean up all the carcasses and other litter in the ditch

CO Josh Russell was patrolling the Flat River State Game Area when he witnessed a side-by-side driving down the road following a dog. The operator had an orange hat on and pulled over as CO Russell approached him. The CO then made contact with the operator who advised he was hunting, but was just getting started and had not had any luck yet. CO Russell noticed there was a gun case in the back of the side by side with the barrel pointing at the driver seat. When CO Russell asked if the gun was loaded, the hunter stated it was. CO Russell ran the hunter for DNR priors and found that this was not the first time this hunter had been caught with a loaded gun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell worked a question and answer booth with Wildlife Biologist John Niewoonder at Montcalm Community College. There were many middle school and high school aged children interested in what it takes to become a CO.

The annual boat show took place at the Birch Run Expo Center where COs Will Brickel, Bob Hobkirk, Jill Miller, Joe Myers, Sgt. Scott Brown, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly and Sgt. Tony Soave took various shifts to answer questions from the public regarding hunting and

fishing regulations and marine safety. The COs also operated the hunter education program laser shot trailer which was enjoyed by many youths.

CO Kyle Bucholtz transported a defendant from Macomb County Jail to Huron County Jail. After the subject's pretrial, CO Bucholtz then transported the subject back to Macomb County Jail where he is currently lodged.

Numerous perch fishermen have been fishing in the marinas, cuts, rivers and ditches on the west side of Huron County. CO Robert Hobkirk reports high compliance with fishing regulations with numerous fishermen asking about the new perch limit in Saginaw Bay and how it applies to where they are fishing. In all of his contacts, CO Hobkirk encountered one fisherman who was fishing with no license. The fisherman was issued a citation for the violation.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a call from an individual who owns a privately owned cervid facility in Huron County. The individual was upset because coyote hunters had been hunting close to his facility with hounds and as a result some of his deer had gotten seriously injured within the pens. CO Hobkirk met with the deer facility owner and determined that no hunting laws had been broken by the hound hunters. The facility owner informed CO Hobkirk that he may seek civil action against the hunters for his lost and injured deer.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling in Sanilac County when he observed a large plume of black smoke several miles from his location. Upon locating the source a subject was found burning a couch along with other items that are illegal to burn. A citation was issued for unlawful disposal of solid waste and a warning was given for an open burn site.

CO Mark Siemen received information from the Report All Poaching hotline about coyote carcasses being dumped in a ditch in Watertown Township in Sanilac County. CO Siemen responded to the location and located ten carcasses in the ditch. It appeared they had been skinned and dumped sometime during the winter. No other information was given and a possible suspect was investigated and questioned.

CO Mark Siemen handled a complaint involving coyote hunters trespassing in Sanilac County's Delaware Township. The caller advised CO Siemen that he had confronted the hunter on his property and a short conversation took place. CO Siemen was able to locate the hunter and questioned him about trespassing on the private property. The hunter advised that it was wrong and he knew better. After further speaking with the property owner, a warning was given to the hunter.

CO Mark Siemen and CO Seth Rhodea conducted a fur dealer inspection in Watertown Township of Sanilac County. During the inspection, multiple violations were present. Initially the owner did not want the COs to enter a building on the property fearing that hides would be damaged. Consent to enter was gained and a large number of furs were located in multiple large freezers. After the inspection was complete the subject was

given multiple warnings and was issued a citation for failing to complete his monthly reports and submitting them as required by the department.

CO Mark Siemen attended a court hearing for condemnation of a rifle that was seized during the 2016 deer season. The suspect was charged and pled guilty during the original court proceeding. The suspect did not appear for the condemnation hearing for the rifle and it was released to the department by the judge.

In Tuscola County, CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of fishermen trespassing in a local marina. Increased patrols were conducted in the area. The complainant issued a message on Facebook warning against trespassing and it appears that the majority of people have heeded the warning.

In Tuscola County, CO Joshua Wright responded to a trespassing complaint. The landowner called regarding someone trespassing and fishing on their private pond and catching and keeping their privately stocked fish. The investigation continues to try to apprehend the trespassers.

CO Chad Foerster assisted the Saginaw Valley State University Public Safety with an officer involved shooting. The shooting occurred prior to the COs arrival and first aid was already being administered. CO Foerster assisted with securing the scene for investigators.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson saw a 4-wheeler traveling toward him on an unmaintained county road. The CO could see that there were two people riding the quad and that neither of the riders were wearing helmets. After stopping the quad, CO Robinson spoke to the driver and informed him that they could not operate the ORV without helmets and safety goggles. In addition to the missing helmets, the ORV did not have a current ORV sticker and the operator had a suspended driver's license and therefore was not allowed to operate the ORV. The subjects were warned for riding double and enforcement action was taken for operating an ORV with a suspended license.

While on patrol in Isabella County, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were made aware of a possible illegal burn. It was reported that a subject was burning what was left of a structure after a fire earlier in the year. The COs arrived on scene and investigated the complaint. It was evident that the subjects were burning materials that should have been taken to the dump. During questioning, the subjects stated that the dump was "too expensive". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson was on patrol when a call went out that a subject had escaped from a detention facility in Isabella County. CO Robinson realized that he had seen the subject walking along the road just before the call came out. After returning to the area where the subject was last seen, the CO and other county units worked the country block. CO Robinson located the subject running across a field and let the other units

know. The CO pursued the subject into the field and arrested him without further incident. The subject was turned over to the county units waiting at the road.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chuck Towns assisted Allegan County Sheriff, Michigan State Police, and other agencies on a fugitive search of a B&E suspect who lead a deputy on a pursuit then fled into a wooded area. The suspect was eventually apprehended with the assistance of local residents, who called in the location of the suspect as they were watching from inside their homes.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol working a dam in his area when he noticed a vessel with three anglers fishing in a restricted area, within the buoys below the dam. Contact was made with the anglers. Further investigation revealed that one of the anglers was fishing without a license. Citations were issued for operate a vessel in a restricted area, as well as, fishing without a license.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol when he was contacted by Station 20 of a possible illegal deer that was just taken. CO Bauer arrived on scene and made contact with the complainant, who stated that he saw three or four subjects drive back in a field in a truck, shoot a deer, and then load it up in the back of the truck and take off. Contact was made with the suspect who said the deer was hit by a car and they went and dispatched it. The deer was located and it was discovered that the deer was hit by a car; however, no law enforcement agency was notified about the subjects dispatching the deer, nor did they have a road kill permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page cited a subject for fishing a closed stream and seized two steelhead that were caught out of the closed stream. The subject who was fishing stated he didn't know the stream was closed because he was not local. His friend was local and was not fishing. CO Page made a comment to the friend "Let me guess, you don't have a pole because you knew that the stream is closed" and he nodded his head in agreement. The fisherman then admitted that his friend told him that the stream was closed. A citation was issued.

DISTRICT 8

CO Andy Monnich was patrolling in Lenawee County when he observed an ORV on a county road. The operator was not wearing a helmet. CO Monnich stopped the ORV and the rider stated that he was just heading out to cut fire wood on his farm. CO Monnich educated the operator on the laws and had him return to his home.

CO Chris Reynolds observed an area of roadway in Hillsdale County that was damaged by an ORV. He sat in a location to observe the area and, after a short wait, the ORV came back by. A stop was conducted with multiple violations observed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough completed an investigation that started in January 2016. CO McCullough received a complaint of deer carcasses being dumped at a local business just after the New Year. CO McCullough located evidence in the carcass pile that led to a business where the suspect and suspect vehicle were observed on security camera images. CO McCullough recognized the suspect vehicle from another trespassing complaint in the same area. In early October 2016 the suspect vehicle returned to the same area of the trespass and the suspect fled from CO Goss and CO McCullough on foot and was picked up by another vehicle. From the vehicle that was abandoned at the scene of the trespass COs Goss and McCullough were able to obtain the identity of the suspect, who was wanted on multiple outstanding warrants. The suspect was picked-up by the local fugitive team several days later. CO McCullough interviewed the suspect in county jail. The resulting interview revealed the suspect had not only dumped the deer carcasses in January but also shot one of the deer without a license in October of 2015. Additionally, CO McCullough was able to obtain a confession on another deer taken without a license in 2013. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk conducted a follow-up investigation with a hunter suspected of leaving litter on state land in Hillsdale County. Contact was made with the suspect who confessed to leaving litter under his tree stand. The litter was returned to the suspect along with a citation.

While patrolling the Charlotte State Game Area CO Troy Ludwig observed a man open the passenger door of the minivan he was sitting in and throw something on the ground. When approached the man exited the van and stated, "I should not have done that, it was stupid." Upon further inspection CO Ludwig located a beer can that was still cold that the suspect admitted to tossing out of the van. Enforcement action was taken

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol, heard a BOL for an ORV operating at high rates of speed on a local roadway. COs Reynolds and Carter Woodwyk responded and observed the ORV with the operator wearing no helmet. Upon stopping the ORV other violations were observed. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Carter Woodwyk and Chris Reynolds conducted multiple interviews related to possible illegal deer cases in Hillsdale County. During one interview a suspect admitted to hunting on November 15, 2016 without a deer license, and stated that he shot a nine

point deer on the morning of November 16, 2016. After the COs confronted the suspect about not purchasing his deer tags until late in the afternoon on November 16th, he attempted to revise his story saying he might have shot it in the evening. After further questioning the suspect admitted that "he was caught." Charges are being sought through the Hillsdale County Prosecutor's Office.

On a late night patrol in a local state game area, CO Todd Thorn observed a suspicious vehicle drive down the road and park nearby. CO Thorn observed two occupants of the vehicle start smoking what appeared to be an illegal substance. CO Thorn observed the subjects for several minutes before making contact. Upon contact he determined the subjects were both minors who had snuck out of the house without their parent's knowledge. CO Thorn contacted the parents who were extremely surprised the juveniles were out of the house without their knowledge. Enforcement action was taken and the juveniles were turned over to their parents.

CO Todd Thorn received a complaint of two subjects shooting over-limits of bucks and borrowing tags from other family members. The investigation led CO Thorn and CO Troy Ludwig to a deer processor who has intentionally been manipulating his records to avoid paying federal income taxes. The investigation revealed all five of the illegal deer were taken to the processor and never recorded. CO Thorn and CO Rich Nickols conducted follow-up interviews of the subjects involved in the loaning of kill tags and confessions were obtained. The subjects who killed the deer were not buying proper licenses, in addition to the over limit of bucks. Charges are being sought on multiple individuals through the local prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 9

While conducting a taxidermy inspection in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen found an antlered deer rack, which had three points on either side tagged with a restricted tag. When the hunter was contacted, he claimed that he did not know he tagged the deer improperly. The hunter was educated and enforcement action was taken.

While on general patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was passed by a vehicle driving well over the speed limit. In addition to speeding, the motorist was tailgating and weaving in and out of traffic. A traffic stop was conducted and the motorist claimed he was in a hurry to get home. A verification of his driver's license revealed the driver also had outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joseph Deppen was conducting fisheries checks in Macomb County when he noticed a vessel coming into the launch. Upon a safety check, the vessel had no life jackets, no fire extinguisher and the owner had not transferred the title of the vessel over since his purchase. Enforcement action was taken.

While working information about short walleye being kept by anglers in boats on the North Channel, CO Ben Lasher checked two anglers at an access site and found them to be in possession of 12 walleye (two angler limit in this area). Unfortunately 4 of the 12 walleye were 1 to $\frac{3}{4}$ of inch short. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey received a text-to-RAP complaint from dispatch of an individual who posted video of himself intentionally running over a coyote. Upon contact with the subject he immediately denied that it was intentional. Once CO Silorey informed the subject that he has the video footage of the incident, the subject changed his story. The video shows the subject driving to the left side of the roadway and hitting the coyote. The subject admitted to intentionally striking the coyote with his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken, and a report will be submitted to the county prosecutor in which the incident occurred.

CO Travis Dragomer located an individual fishing on the downstream side of Holloway Dam in Genesee County. CO Dragomer made contact with the individual and located four walleye on the stringer. The individual stated that one of the walleye may have been small. CO Dragomer measured the walleye and located two undersized walleye. One walleye measured 14 Inches and one walleye measured 14.5 inches. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Christopher Knights got a call from a ranger at Bald Mountain State Park. He stated they found a vehicle that was stuck in the game area and looked like it had been there for a day or so. The park ranger wanted assistance with finding and interviewing the individual. CO Knights ran the plate and got a possible match who lived in Troy. CO Knights went to the residence of the individual, and interviewed him. He stated it was his truck and he drove back in the game area to reach a fishing spot he heard about from a friend. CO Knights advised him it was illegal and at no time are motorized vehicles allowed in the state game area. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking boaters and anglers at a local boat access site, COs Raymond Gardner and James Zellinger encountered a vessel missing a wearable PFD, a type IV PFD, and audible signaling device. Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Zellinger assisted CO David Schaumburger investigate a RAP complaint of anglers snagging in a local river. CO Schaumburger approached two subjects fishing inside of a fenced in area around a fish ladder. One of the subjects was fishing without a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger found a large pile of litter at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. He opened up one of the bags and among the litter he found numerous pieces of mail. The CO followed up with the suspect who stated that he went out hunting, left his mom in the vehicle, and when he came back, he noticed his vehicle was clean. He elaborated further that he did not think twice about leaving the garbage bag of trash because of all

the other litter scattered about. The suspect was told to clean up his mess and enforcement action was taken.

BELLE ISLE

While on general patrol on Belle Isle, CO Joseph Deppen noticed a vehicle parked in the bushes off Oakway trail. Upon walking up to the vehicle, the driver exited and began speaking very quickly about why he was there and he was just relaxing. CO Deppen asked for the driver's identification. Without being prompted, the driver began telling a story that all his tickets were paid and he just lost his job, as well as other miscellaneous information. While checking his license, the driver had two outstanding warrants and the vehicle also had no insurance. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher had numerous contacts during a Belle Isle patrol. CO Lasher ticketed a subject who drove past him with a 4-year-old girl sitting on the driver's lap. The vehicle was also found to have expired plates and no insurance. The driver also had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a recent Belle Isle shift, COs Jeremy Beavers and Kyle Bucholtz spoke with three young suspects who had been "off-roading" near Central Avenue. The subjects still had mud dripping from their vehicle at the time of the stop. Enforcement action was taken.