

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
3/11/2018 – 3/24/2018**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes was patrolling Lake Gogebic after the close of walleye and pike season when he discovered four unattended tip-ups. Eventually a subject came to check the lines and was found not to have a license. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license, fishing with more than three lines and failing to be in immediate control of his fishing lines.

CO Ethen Mapes and Sgt. Grant Emery were on their way to a late-night snowmobile patrol in Houghton County when they witnessed five snowmobiles operating on the highway against the flow of traffic. Sgt. Emery exited the patrol truck and was able to get one of the snowmobilers stopped. The other four tried to evade CO Mapes in his patrol truck even when emergency lights and sirens were activated. CO Mapes was able to track down two of the remaining four snowmobilers who were trying to get away. Two of the snowmobilers were found to be under the influence of intoxicating liquors and one was in possession of a controlled substance. In all, two subjects were lodged at the Ontonagon County Jail pending multiple charges and one was cited and released. The pending charges include operating a snowmobile on the highway, possession of a controlled substance, operating a snowmobile under the influence of intoxicating liquors, and refusing a preliminary breath test. The case has been submitted to the Ontonagon County Prosecutor's Office for review.

CO Brian Lasanen assisted Michigan State Police troopers with locating an escapee from the Ontonagon Hospital. The escapee was arrested a day prior for three felonies and was taken to the hospital for precautionary reason. While at the hospital, he decided to make a run for it. The suspect was located within a couple minutes and taken back into custody without incident and lodged in the Ontonagon County Jail.

CO Brian Lasanen contacted a fisherman on Lake Gogebic who had a couple of walleye lying in plain view. CO Lasanen asked the angler if he knew when walleye season closed, and the angler stated "today." CO Lasanen advised him that the season had closed the day earlier. A short time later, another subject arrived, and CO Lasanen overheard the fisherman state, "If I knew the DNR was coming, I would have hid the walleye." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Grant Emery conducted a snowmobile sound meter patrol in the city of Houghton near the waterfront. One snowmobiler was ticketed for failing to attach his trail permit.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to a 911 call where a woman heard her husband fall in the bathroom. When CO Mapes arrived, he found that the man was having a medical emergency and had fallen against the door of the bathroom which trapped him inside.

CO Mapes was able to gain entry and assist the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office and medical personal to extract the man from the bathroom.

CO Jeffrey Dell responded to a complaint of a dead eagle. The eagle was recovered and turned over to Wildlife Division staff for follow-up regarding the cause of death.

COs are spending some time on the lakes to address unmarked ice shanties. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, ice shanties will no longer be allowed to be left on the lakes overnight.

CO Brett DeLonge conducted a presentation to the Northern Michigan University Fish & Wildlife Club. CO DeLonge discussed the role conservation officers play in protecting Michigan's natural resources.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik received a call from Alger County dispatch advising of a snowmobiler who had hit a dog on Munising Bay. CO Zitnik responded to the residence and handled the complaint.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol in the Garden Peninsula when he observed an unlicensed ORV operating down the state highway. A traffic stop was conducted, and enforcement action was taken with the operator.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol on Little Bay de Noc when he noticed one ice shack where someone was recently fishing. A look through the window revealed a tip-up that was frozen into the ice. The tip-up was removed and observed to be baited with a live minnow. CO Lynch contacted the owner at his residence to return the tip-up, along with a citation for the unattended line.

CO Chris Lynch was on his way to check ice anglers when he observed a truck doing donuts around people who were ice fishing. The truck came up onto shore and headed towards CO Lynch. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with the driver was made. A strong odor of intoxicants came from the cab of the vehicle. The driver stated he was drinking, but he didn't think he was drunk. CO Lynch observed an open case of beer between the driver and passenger along with approximately twenty empty cans on the passenger side floor. The driver passed standard field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test and said he just had a long night of drinking. Enforcement action was taken for careless driving of a motor vehicle.

COs Chris Lynch and Michael Evink conducted an interview of a hunter who was suspected of shooting a buck and using a tag of another to tag the deer so he could keep hunting. The hunter confessed to the violations and enforcement action was taken for attempting to take an over-limit of bucks and using a kill tag of another.

CO Michael Evink received a complaint of a suspicious vehicle at the edge of a landowner's property. CO Evink identified the vehicle as belonging to a family that local

law enforcement officers are familiar with. CO Evink, along with a Forest Service officer, followed footprints and were able to locate an untagged snare on public lands. The investigation is ongoing.

COs Chris Lynch and Michael Evink are working ongoing complaints relating to crop damage deer permits in the Garden Peninsula.

CO Kevin Postma and Probationary CO (PCO) Nick Ingersoll conducted an ice fishing patrol on Lake George. The COs made several contacts with anglers and no violations were observed. The anglers were happy to see the COs out patrolling.

CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll were patrolling down a county road when they observed a 3-wheeler pass them heading in the opposite direction. The COs did not notice an ORV registration sticker and could not see the 3-wheeler's taillight. The COs initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver of the 3-wheeler. After the COs asked the driver for his license, the driver handed them his Michigan identification card. The COs asked him if he was suspended and he said that he was. Enforcement action was taken for driving while license is suspended.

CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll followed up on a complaint they received from the RAP hotline about someone throwing things at and harassing snowy owls. After a few days of patrolling the area where the complaint came in, the COs were able to identify a subject. The COs interviewed the suspect at his residence. The suspect was a photographer, who was trying to get shots of the snowy owls flying. The COs asked him if throwing things at the snowy owls was considered harassing. He admitted that it could be considered harassing if they flew away. The COs issued a warning for harassing snowy owls and told him to stop.

CO Kevin Postma and PCO Nick Ingersoll patrolled Drummond Island. The COs made several contacts with anglers on Scotts Bay. The COs gave warnings for fail to display ORV registration and fail to attach snowmobile registration. Overall the anglers were happy to see the COs out patrolling.

COs Colton Gelinas and Calvin Smith responded to a residential house alarm in Mackinac County. Upon further investigation it was determined that the homeowner was not in distress and accidentally pressed the 911 button on the telephone.

COs Colton Gelinas, Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik participated in a Cops vs. Robbers basketball fundraiser at Engadine High School. All proceeds went to the Engadine Senior Class.

COs Colton Gelinas and Calvin Smith were checking ice fishermen in Mackinac County. The COs contacted a group of anglers and it was determined the anglers were fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 3**

CO Paul Fox attended a job fair in Mackinaw City. Numerous contacts were made regarding the hiring process for future COs and other positions within the DNR.

CO Paul Fox and Sgt. Mike Mshar investigated a complaint in Montmorency County of an elaborate illegal ground blind, property fence, posted signs, and food plots being maintained on state forest property. The subject was contacted. During the contact, the subject claimed squatter's rights on the state-owned land. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba received a RAP complaint in Presque Isle County of snowmobiles operating in an area closed to vehicles. CO Sklba was able to contact a subject who admitted to driving his snowmobile in the area, but denied entering the closed area. CO Sklba explained the regulations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba responded to a complaint in Presque Isle County of an injured baby owl. After contacting the complainant, it was determined to be a screech owl that was not injured at all.

COs Jon Sklba and Paul Fox attended a Whitetails Unlimited banquet in Presque Isle County where they answered questions on numerous topics pertaining to hunting laws and changes to the ORV laws.

COs Jon Sklba and William Webster responded to a complaint of an ice shanty that was left out on Long Lake in Presque Isle County, after the deadline to remove them. After locating the shanty, the owner was contacted. The owner of the shanty removed the shanty the following day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster was given a tip about a person living in a tent on Alpena Community College property. CO Webster, along with a Michigan State Police Trooper, located the area where the tent was set up, but it appeared the person had just started packing up and moving. CO Webster followed the tracks left in the snow through a thick wooded area. CO Webster contacted the individual and recognized him from an incident two years ago where the subject was camping on state owned land. A file check came back with two local warrants. The subject was arrested and lodged on the warrants.

CO William Webster completed several minnow dealer inspections on the local sport shops in Alpena County.

CO William Webster handled a couple complaints of dead deer in the Hubbard Lake area. A DNR Wildlife Biologist determined the deer had died of starvation.

CO William Webster was patrolling the local snowmobile trails in Alpena County when he came across a snowmobile with no trail sticker. The riders on the sled said there

hasn't been enough snow to justify them purchasing a permit, so they decided to just ride without one this year. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Nathan Sink and Kyle Cherry were on patrol when a call came across central dispatch of a residential alarm. COs Sink and Cherry were checking ice fishermen and happened to be close to the call. The COs were first on the scene. As they approached, one CO checked the house while the other CO conducted an investigatory traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle leaving the area. Everything checked out, and the building was secure.

COs Nathan Sink and Kyle Cherry were dispatched to two different dead elk located in and around the Pigeon River County State Forest. The COs continue to investigate possible causes of death.

CO Kyle Cherry received notice that charges were authorized for an incident in Alcona County last firearm deer season. Charges included illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The case is still ongoing.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Nick Wellman responded to a complaint of several shots fired at night in Aloha Township near Little Canada Road. No suspect information was reported. Several residents in the area were interviewed, but no further information was revealed and there was no evidence of related violations in the area.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Nick Wellman located an ice shanty still left on Silver Lake on March 18. The owner was located and given a warning for failure to remove the ice shanty by March 15. The ice shanty was removed later that day.

As part of a recruitment and community outreach effort, CO Duane Budreau visited Petoskey Middle School for a Career Day event. CO Budreau spoke with the eighth-grade students about the position of a Michigan conservation officer. Information was provided to the students regarding the career path as well as many of the job responsibilities performed by Michigan conservation officers.

CO Nick Torsky and PCO Danielle Zubek are investigating a possible over-limit of deer taken during the 2017 season. Information was given that an individual had taken three bucks throughout the season last year. Interviews and evidence collection is currently ongoing.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped two quads that turned off a snowmobile trail and proceeded to speed down the middle of a paved road. The man passed his girlfriend as they sped down a road and stopped at her parent's house. When contacted, the ORV operators said they did not see either of the "No ORV" signs they had passed. One of which was as they entered the Jordan River Valley and the other as they turned south on Trail #4. They also commented that did not know the speed limit was 25 MPH on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert and PCO Stephen Butzin concluded a lengthy investigation involving a subject who had been obtaining reduced cost military hunting licenses when he was not eligible to do so. The subject had convinced a retail outlet to sell him the licenses even though he was not providing proof of or engaged in full time active federal military service. A warrant was issued for the violation and restitution sought for the fraudulent purchases of licenses.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sean Kehoe was contacted by a subject who reported seeing someone cutting live cherry trees on state land. The subject was able to get a license plate and passed it on to CO Kehoe. CO Kehoe followed up with the local business the plate came back to and they provided the information of the employee who was borrowing the trailer. CO Kehoe contacted that subject who admitted to cutting the trees. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Patrick McManus attended the "Huntin' Time Expo" at the Grand Traverse Civic Center. Each division of the DNR was represented at the booth, which saw close to 5,000 people over the weekend. The overall goal of the booth was education of regulations, laws and general questions from the public. As the District 4 Recruiter, CO McManus was also able to speak with interested recruit candidates.

CO Patrick McManus was invited to attend the first annual "DNR Job Fair" at the Traverse City Customer Service Center. As the District 4 Recruiter, CO McManus was able to make over 40 contacts with individuals interested in the Law Enforcement Division, Parks & Recreation, Fisheries, Forest Resources and Wildlife Divisions were also represented at this overall successful event.

CO Patrick McManus received information on a dead bald eagle near the Leland Harbor. Upon retrieving the bird, CO McManus did not notice any initial signs of foul play. The eagle has been sent to Michigan State University for further investigation and testing.

CO William Kinney located several tree stands last fall on state land in Wexford County. CO Kinney also discovered illegal roads around the stands and a ground blind in violation as well. CO Kinney checked back after the tree stand remove date of March 1<sup>st</sup> and the stands had not been removed. Contact was made with the registered owner of the tree stands. CO Kinney addressed the violations he had discovered with the hunter. The hunter admitted to failing to remove the tree stands, mowing a path around the state land, and failing to completely remove the non-natural material from the ground blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski and PCO Cody Smith followed up on a RAP complaint of a deer harvested without a license. After interviewing the individual, they admitted to not having a license when the animal was harvested. The situation was discussed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Stephen Butzin worked a targeted marine safety patrol on the Pere Marquette River. While patrolling, CO Publiski and PCO Butzin issued citations for failing to have life jackets and stressed the importance of having life jackets readily accessible.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Stephen Butzin were patrolling Logan Township in Mason County when they encountered two dirt bikes trespassing on private property and tearing up some hills on federal land. The COs followed the two dirt bike operators back to their residence. The two dirt bike operators were teenagers and CO Publiski had recognized the father of the teens. The father had been cited two previous times for allowing a child under 16 to operate without supervision. Enforcement action was taken for the third time for allowing a child to operate unsupervised.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Stephen Butzin were patrolling Branch Township in Mason County. The COs observed a vehicle heading into an access site on the PM River with a burnt-out tail light. A traffic stop was conducted and the passenger of the vehicle had an open container of alcohol and was intoxicated to a point where he could hardly stand. The driver of the vehicle admitted to having marijuana and a marijuana pipe under the seat. A search of the vehicle found marijuana and marijuana paraphilia. The driver and passenger were cited for their violations.

CO Brian Brosky stopped an ORV that had just left an access site along the PM River in Mason County because the operator was not wearing a helmet. CO Brosky recognized the individual as someone CO Kyle Publiski had warned earlier in the month in another area of Mason County for similar violations and for trespassing along a railroad right-of-way. The operator was cited for not wearing a helmet.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was conducting surveillance on a group of fishermen across the White River. CO Van Gelderen saw one of the subjects hook and land a large walleye. The walleye was hooked in the belly of the fish, but the fishermen took the hook out, looked around, and then ran the fish to his truck. CO Van Gelderen went across the river and explained that he saw everything, and even showed the fisherman where the hook wound was in the belly. A ticket was issued for retaining a foul hooked fish.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was conducting surveillance on a small creek that contained spawning steelhead trout. A family of six people came down to look at the fish. After a while they sharpened sticks and began chasing the fish around in a group effort trying to spear and club the fish. CO Van Gelderen eventually made his presence clear and issued tickets for attempting to take fish illegally.

CO Brian Lebel responded to a complaint in Newaygo County of a subject homesteading on federal land living in a survival type hut. When CO Lebel made contact with the subject sleeping in the shelter, he was found to have four outstanding warrants for his arrest. Michigan State Police Trooper Nobliski came to the scene and located marihuana and various narcotics on the subject and amongst his belongings.

The subject was lodged on the warrants and a report is being reviewed by the prosecutor for additional charges.

CO Ben Shively and PCO Zachary Painter were on patrol when they observed three ORVs operating on the side of the road. One of the ORVs illegally had two riders on it. The COs initiated a stop and two of the ORVs stopped. The third ORV saw the COs and proceeded to speed up, pass the other two ORVs and fled. The COs obtained information on the operator of the third ORV from the other ORV operators and gave them a warning for riding double. After approximately 30 minutes, the COs located the third ORV on a Forest Service road. Enforcement action was taken for failure to stop for a law enforcement officer and for operating an ORV in a closed area. A warning was issued for careless operation of an ORV.

CO Ben Shively and PCO Zachary Painter were checking anglers along the White River on March 16<sup>th</sup> when they located two anglers who were done fishing and walking back to their vehicle. One angler was in possession of a walleye, wrapped in a sweatshirt and tucked under his arm. The walleye was seized and the subject was cited for taking walleye during the closed season.

CO Ben Shively and PCO Zachary Painter were checking anglers at the Hesperia dam. One angler could not provide the COs with a fishing license and was adamant that he was checked just the day before by the COs. The COs had not checked any anglers at the location the subject gave. A fishing license check through DNR LED Station 20 revealed that the subject did not have a 2017 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol in Newaygo County when he received a call from a local fire department asking for assistance with an investigation into a grass fire. CO Wells arrived on scene, and after interviewing the property owner, he discovered that the property owner had been burning diapers and other plastics in a burn barrel without a proper cover over the barrel. Ashes from the barrel had in turn escaped and burned about a ¼ acre of land. A ticket was issued for not having a proper cover on the burn barrel, and warnings were issued for allowing the fire to escape and burning plastics in an open burn.

CO Casey Varriale received a tip from Evart Police Department Officer Pat McClure about an untagged deer outside of a residence he visited. CO Varriale went to the residence and found the untagged deer and spoke with the owner of the house. The owner of the house said the deer belonged to a roommate. During an interview with the roommate, it was determined that the deer was killed without a license in October. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted local law enforcement in Newaygo County in locating a subject who was seen attempting to cut off his tether with a hacksaw at a hardware store in Fremont. The suspect fled from police in his vehicle into the Huron-Manistee National Forest where he struck a Newaygo County Sheriff Department patrol vehicle while

attempting to lose the officers. The suspect continued to flee from the officers until he struck a tree on a rugged forest road, causing his vehicle to become disabled. The suspect then ran into a swamp where he was tracked by the Newaygo County K9. CO Ginn assisted the Newaygo County Sheriff Deputies with the tracking and locating the suspect. The suspect was found in possession of controlled substances at the time of the arrest. He was transported and lodged in the Newaygo County Jail.

## **DISTRICT 5**

Upon receiving information of suspicious fishing activity, CO Mike Hearn and PCO Jeremy Cantrell responded and set up surveillance on an angler on Manistee Lake in Kalkaska County. For two hours the angler was observed fishing with six tip-ups well after dark. Upon leaving the lake, the subject was stopped on his ORV while traveling home. He was found to be in possession of two walleye during the closed season, as well as operating the ORV with a suspended driver's license. The subject was arrested for the multiple offenses.

CO Mike Hearn and PCO Jeremy Cantrell responded to a residence in Kalkaska County to investigate a shooting complaint. The homeowner was concerned over reckless shooting that had occurred near his property. Upon arrival, the COs were shown evidence where multiple firearms were used to shoot at trees and beer can targets on the homeowner's property. A tree had also been destroyed by an explosion. The COs collected evidence and a possible suspect was identified. The case remains under investigation.

CO Matthew Zultak conducted multiple ORV patrols in Roscommon County. With the improvement in weather conditions, many contacts were made. Multiple violations were enforced including careless operation, driving while license suspended, and ORV licensing violations.

While patrolling at a state boat launch in Ogemaw County, CO Brad Bellville and Sgt. Bobbi Lively witnessed a driver of a vehicle not wearing a seatbelt. After following the vehicle around the launch to the exit, the COs observed what appeared to be a marijuana cigarette being passed back and forth between the driver and passenger. A traffic stop was conducted. As a result, the driver was found to have a suspended driver's license, transporting open intoxicants, and in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader and PCO Justin Vinson attended the registration for the first annual wild game dinner at Calvary Baptist Church in West Branch, Michigan. There were approximately 175 attendees at the event and the COs answered numerous questions throughout the evening.

CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Charles Jones were observing anglers fishing on the Tittabawassee River when two of them began to leave the river. As CO Lockwood and PCO Jones approached them, one of the anglers spotted the COs and turned to walk in

a different direction. Contact was made with both anglers and it was determined that both anglers had outstanding arrest warrants and they were subsequently arrested. Both anglers were arrested. One angler was lodged at the Gladwin County Jail and the other was transported to the Bay County Jail. One of the anglers also received a citation for possession of a northern pike during the closed season.

CO Nick Atkin and CO Phil Hudson were watching anglers fish when they saw one of them throw down a fishing pole and take off running. The suspicious angler went over to a nearby angler and said something to him. The second angler immediately walked over and reeled in the first angler's fishing rod for him. The COs figured that the angler had spotted them, so they drove down the road to make it appear as though they were leaving the area. The COs hid their patrol truck and continued watching the subjects on the dock. The second angler continued fishing, while the suspicious angler kept looking around cautiously. After approximately thirty minutes, the suspicious angler picked up a fishing pole and started fishing again. After watching a sufficient amount of time, the COs drove up to the anglers, who were now sitting in a truck getting warm. The suspicious angler exited the truck first. Before being asked any questions, he exclaimed, "I am not fishing, I am just keeping my buddy company." The COs advised both subjects of their surveillance and observations. The suspicious angler was issued a citation for fishing without a license.

CO Josh Wright received information that an angler was fishing in a closed trout stream in Clare County. Upon arrival to speak with the reporting party, information was provided that the angler had continued fishing further upstream. The complainant provided a photo that contained a description of the angler as well as showing the angler fishing within the closed stream. CO Wright began searching upstream when he received another call that the subject was back in the original area. CO Wright returned to the initial location and was able to observe the angler fishing in the stream. When CO Wright contacted the subject, the angler stated that he knew the trout stream was closed to fishing, but he "loved to trout fish." In addition, CO Wright was able to locate several illegal trout that the subject had caught. The trout were seized and the angler was cited for taking/possessing trout during the closed season.

COs Josh Wright and Ethan Gainforth observed untagged traps in the bed of a pick-up truck that was parked on state land near the Missaukee/Clare County line. The COs conducted a foot patrol to locate the trapper. Once contact was made with the trapper, it was revealed that all the traps in his possession were also untagged. After further investigation, the trapper admitted to trapping a bobcat without a kill tag in December. He then had a friend tag and seal it for him. The COs interviewed the friend and the story was corroborated. The friend admitted to sealing the bobcat under his name and falsely claiming it was taken during hunting season in Osceola County. Charges for the violations are being sought for both parties through the Missaukee County Prosecutor's Office.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars responded to a “be on the lookout” (BOL) from Gratiot County Central Dispatch about a vehicle driving erratically on S/B US-127. The CO was the closest unit and the vehicle was approaching his location. The CO noticed two vehicles matching the description and noticed one vehicle was driving down the shoulder. As the CO approached closer to the suspect vehicle, it swerved into the patrol vehicle, almost striking it and forcing the CO to go off the road. The CO then conducted a traffic stop along with field sobriety tests. The CO determined the driver was under the influence of drugs. The CO arrested the driver for operating under the influence of drugs and lodged her in the Gratiot County Jail.

CO Josh Russell was on patrol in Montcalm County when he noticed a very dark plume of smoke. The CO located the cause of the smoke in Gratiot County. A field was on fire as well as a horse trailer and other miscellaneous household trash. The CO contacted central dispatch and had the fire department put the fire out. The investigation revealed the subject who started the fire and a ticket was issued for the illegal burn.

COs Josh Russell and Michael Hass were patrolling the Flat River State Game Area when central dispatch came over the radio with a vehicle ramming a house complaint. The COs weren’t far away and assisted Montcalm County Sheriff’s department, as well as MSP, in locating the subject after they fled the scene.

CO Will Brickel and PCO Josh Boudreaux were patrolling in Saginaw County for activity during the walleye closure. Multiple anglers were contacted that were using artificial lures during the closed season. Some of the anglers also had warrants for their arrest. Tickets were issued for the fishing violations and the warrants were dealt with.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint that an individual who was perch fishing on Mud Creek had caught and kept two walleye. The complainant informed the RAP dispatcher that he had told the fisherman that the season for walleye was currently closed and also that the walleye was undersize. Once the complainant had informed the fisherman of his violations he quickly left the area, but not before the caller had written down his license plate. Upon receiving the complaint, CO Hobkirk went to the suspect’s address and contacted him as he arrived home. The walleye were still in a pail in the bed of the suspect’s truck. A citation was issued to the individual for taking walleye during the closed season.

CO Mark Siemen was patrolling in Sanilac County and observed a dirt bike pass him on a gravel road. As the bike passed, CO Siemen did not see a valid ORV license on the bike. The bike was stopped, and contact was made with the operator. The operator stated he did not purchase an ORV license for the bike; that he did not live in the area; and was just up visiting a friend. CO Siemen explained how to purchase an ORV license and issued the operator a citation.

CO Mark Siemen assisted the Sanilac County Sheriff’s Office in locating a vehicle and a suspect that was wanted for an assault that had just occurred. After locating the vehicle and speaking with the suspect, he was arrested by a Sheriff’s Deputy.

CO Joshua Wright had a nine hour jury trial for a person that he arrested in the beginning of September for OWI in a vehicle in Tuscola County. On the day of the trial the suspect claimed that he was not driving, but rather his girlfriend was. He further stated that he was just trying to cover for his girlfriend as she had been drinking. The jury seen through his lies and found him guilty.

While on patrol, CO Jill Miller was at a boat launch checking angler's coming in from the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River when she heard a cry for help. Investigation revealed a subject that got stuck inside a pit toilet. CO Miller and another subject at the boat launch were able to get the door open. The individual was embarrassed, but very happy to be rescued from the confines of the pit toilet.

CO Jill Miller received a complaint about an unlicensed wildlife rehabilitator in Bay County. CO Miller and CO Jason King contacted the subject at her residence. She was advertising on Facebook and had accounts set up for donations. She admitted that she has been doing it for a few years and knew she needed a permit. Education and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Jill Miller was at a boat launch checking angler's coming in from the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River. She checked two subjects who had their limit of walleye. While counting fish, two walleye were found to be 12 ½ inches (13 inches is the minimum length for walleye on the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River). The subjects used a rolled-up paper measuring tape that is known to shrink in the sun and warm weather. Giving the benefit of the doubt to the fishermen, CO Miller used their measuring tape which still showed the walleye being too short. Education and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in northern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas witnessed a group of ORVs operating down the middle of the roadway. When the group saw CO Haas, they turned down another road and attempted to hide near a garage. One of the gentlemen was not wearing a helmet while operating on the public roadway and was operating an unlicensed ORV. The man received a citation for his violations and the group was warned for operating in the middle of the roadway.

During a patrol in southern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas located a large pile of garbage and trash bags near the Pine River a short distance off the roadway. Further investigation revealed a suspect and contact was made. Initially the man stated he had no idea how the trash ended up there and then suggested that the garbage bags must have flown out of the back of his truck. The man was issued a citation for littering and he also retrieved his garbage from the river.

CO Josh Russell and CO Mike Haas were patrolling through the Flat River State Game Area when they came across a group of trucks operating through the trails. After witnessing one of the trucks perform "doughnuts" in the middle of a road intersection and speed down a narrow trail, the COs caught up to the truck and initiated a traffic

stop. The driver was issued a citation for careless operation and warned for causing erosive conditions.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Matt Page and Zach Bauer worked a patrol targeting fishing on closed streams and the walleye closure. During the patrol, the COs contacted a subject who was in possession of a five pound walleye out-of-season. The fish was seized and a citation was issued.

While on patrol, CO Matt Page was nearly struck head-on by a vehicle traveling in the wrong lane. After making contact with an elderly woman, it was apparent that the subject was not fit to be operating a motor vehicle. Arrangements were made for the subject to get home safely and the driver was petitioned for driver evaluation testing.

CO Tyler Cole was patrolling along the Black River when he came across two subjects fishing in a closed stream. Both subjects stated that they were from out-of-town and had no idea that the stretch of river they were fishing was closed. After further questioning, it was found that neither subject was from out of town and that one of the subjects had actually been issued a citation last fall for fishing in the same spot. Citations were issued to both subjects for fishing in a closed trout stream.

CO Tyler Cole was patrolling a location along the Black River known for having many violations such as snagging fish and fishing within a closed stream. CO Cole observed a subject walking along the river with a fishing rod. CO Cole watched as the subject attempted to snag and fish in a closed stream for approximately ten minutes. Upon contact, the subject threw his pole into the weeds and stated that he was not fishing. It was found that the subject was a repeat offender and had been issued three prior citations for fishing in this same location. Citations were issued for attempting to snag fish and fishing in a closed stream.

CO Zach Bauer located an individual along a closed stream. Once the angler saw CO Bauer, he ran onto the other side of the creek. As he was running, CO Bauer noticed him throw a pitch fork into the woods. After the angler threw the pitch fork, he returned to the river where CO Bauer made contact with him. The pitch fork and one steelhead that the angler speared were seized. Citations were issued for the violations.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling the Barry State Game for illegal ORV activity. CO Cardenas observed a vehicle driving on the road way at a high rate of speed which had a broken windshield, no front bumper; hood was not latched, and was covered in mud. CO Cardenas contacted the driver and asked the driver to produce registration and insurance for the vehicle. The subject informed CO Cardenas that a firearm was in the vehicle. After further investigation, it was found the subject was in possession of loaded/uncased handgun in the motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten finished working on a complaint from MDOT. An unknown suspect had been dumping magazines in the US-31 Muskegon rest area since last December. The rest area attendant saved some of the magazines with names on them. CO Patten was able to track the magazines back to the Selby Library. Further investigation revealed that a woman was taking large numbers of magazines from the library and dumping them at the rest area. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Greg Patten spotted a subject burning a large brush pile in their yard. CO Patten noticed black smoke coming from the fire and stopped to check on it. CO Patten saw that the resident had placed some refuse in with the brush. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten received a complaint of a coyote that had been in a trap for two days. A local nuisance animal control operator was called by another person about the animal. The nuisance animal trapper was given permission to let the coyote out of the trap. He also dug up the trap and turned it over to CO Patten. Follow-up investigation revealed that a subject was trapping on Muskegon County property with permission. The trapper said that he had already pulled out all of his traps, but must have missed that one. CO Patten submitted the information to the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office, and they issued a warrant for failing to check traps daily.

While patrolling closed trout streams in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg located a subject wading in the stream with a spear. CO Ulberg contacted the subject and he advised that he was just trying to spear some suckers. CO Ulberg informed the subject the stream was currently closed to fishing and that spearing was not allowed. CO Ulberg told the subject that he has checked the stream multiple times in the past week and hasn't seen any suckers, but has observed numerous steelheads. The subject admitted that if he saw a steelhead he probably would have speared it. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler and PCO Tyler Sabuda received a trapping complaint where a pet dog had been caught in a foothold trap a few days prior. The COs conducted a foot patrol of the area and located three untagged foothold traps surrounding a bait site. During the investigation, the COs followed ORV tracks from the trap site to a local residence and identified the trapper. Contact was made and the subject admitted the untagged traps belonged to him. A citation was issued for use/possess untagged traps.

CO Mike Drexler and PCO Tyler Sabuda checked several anglers along the Huron River in Ypsilanti Township. After conducting a short surveillance of one angler, they observed several drug paraphernalia items on the front seat of what they believed was the angler's vehicle. After contacting the angler, he admitted to having a marijuana bong and a small amount of marijuana oil in his vehicle. The COs received consent to search the vehicle and located several other items used to smoke marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Prince, Sgt. Jason Smith, and Livingston County Sheriff's Deputy Cory Sokol responded in Howell to a complaint of a wild turkey being shot and killed out of season. The complainant reported hearing two gunshots and saw a turkey flopping, mortally wounded in a corn field behind their home. The complainant went out to investigate the situation and scared off the poacher, who was trying to recover the turkey. Officers were able to follow the suspect's foot prints in the snow and flooded timber back to the suspect's home. The subject made a full confession to shooting and killing the gobbler with a high powered rifle. A report is being submitted for a warrant to the Livingston County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Daniel Prince investigated an abandoned canoe which was left on private property since 2016. The canoe was located along the Red Cedar River, presumably during flooding. CO Prince was able to locate the owner who was thrilled to be getting his canoe back.

CO Eric Smither assisted Lenawee County Sheriff's Deputy on a possible overdose that was at the same residence as a possible assault between two families. CO Smither helped keep everyone calm while medical personnel checked on the victim and helped keep the families separated while the deputy investigated the incident. The victim was transported to Bixby Hospital and no charges were brought for the assault.

CO Troy Ludwig was patrolling Eaton County when he observed an ORV coming towards him operating on the roadway. Eaton County is closed to ORV use on the roadway. The CO flagged down the ORV and asked the rider why he did not have a helmet on. He stated he didn't know he needed one and that he had one back at the barn. A check of the rider's driver's license showed he was revoked from driving, which would include operating an ORV on the road. The CO escorted the rider back to his residence where they discussed the violations and enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Reynolds and Andy Monnich conducted an interview of a subject in Hillsdale County who had a suspicious hunting license purchase during the 2017 deer season. The hunter was reluctant to talk about the deer taken, but the COs used some information gained from a local contact and the hunter finally admitted the deer was taken without a license. A report will be submitted, and charges sought on the hunter for hunting and taking an antlered deer without a license.

COs Chris Reynolds and Andy Monnich conducted an interview following-up on a tip of a hunter in Hillsdale County who trespassed and hunted in a residential area closed to hunting. During the interview, the hunter stated the deer taken was a road kill and he had put his Michigan deer tag on it. Upon being presented with the facts the hunter confessed to trespassing and hunting in a closed area. A report will be submitted and charges sought on the hunter for trespassing and shooting the deer.

While patrolling Hillsdale County, CO Carter Woodwyk observed a vehicle operating on the roadway with one working headlight. The CO conducted a traffic stop and discovered the driver had an expired driver's license, expired registration on the vehicle,

and no insurance. With assistance from the Hillsdale County Sheriff Department, the driver was arrested for not having insurance on the vehicle. A search of the driver revealed drug paraphernalia and suspected methamphetamine. Additionally, the vehicle was searched, and marijuana was located. The suspect was lodged, and charges will be sought through the Hillsdale County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Adam Beuthin were requested by CO Steve Converse to contact a Livingston County resident about a 6-point deer and processor paperwork that was discovered during a processor inspection that showed the suspect took the deer before shooting hours. The investigation determined that the processor paperwork was a misprint on their part; however, it was discovered that the hunter didn't have a license at the time of kill and purchased her combo tag after taking the deer. A written confession and photos of the hunter with the untagged deer were obtained and turned over to CO Converse.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Adam Beuthin were contacted by a State Game Warden with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and asked to interview a Livingston County resident who was believed to be purchasing resident licenses in Pennsylvania. The subject was contacted and interviewed, and the information was turned back over to the Pennsylvania State Game Warden.

CO Johnathan Kamps and CO Jason McCullough finished a deer carcass dumping complaint. The deer was found with a tag still attached. Further investigation showed that the individual who shot the deer was cited by CO Jeff Goss for taking the deer illegally during the previous deer season. A full confession was obtained for dumping the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Johnathan Kamps and CO Jason McCullough were patrolling a local state recreation area for fishing activity. CO Kamps observed an occupied vehicle parked in a secluded parking lot near a popular hiking trail. CO Kamps observed some illegal drug activity occurring. Upon contact, CO Kamps determined both individuals had valid arrest warrants, no driver's licenses and had neglected to purchase a recreation passport. Bond was accepted from one individual and the other was taken into custody and transported to the county jail.

A "Be on the lookout" (BOL) was received for an erratic driver in Eaton County. CO Sam Schluckbier was able to locate the vehicle and a traffic stop was made resulting in the driver being arrested for operating while intoxicated. The driver advised that he stopped for a few drinks after work and was on his way home. The driver registered a blood alcohol content of .21 and was lodged at the Eaton County Jail.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale County when he observed a subject get on an off-road vehicle (ORV) without a helmet. The ORV operator decided to drive down the road in the COs direction with a passenger. When the operator approached the CO and his parked patrol truck, the CO displayed his emergency lights signaling the ORV operator to stop. The ORV came to a sudden halt and was rear-ended by the vehicle

following closely behind them. It turned out that the driver of the motor vehicle was the ORV operator's father. Multiple issues were addressed with the father; allowing youth to operate on the roadway, allowing two people to ride on a single seated ORV, and allowing youth to operate without helmets amongst other violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was en route to training at Camp Grayling when he heard Clinton County 911 broadcast a BOL about an erratic driver headed in his direction. CO Nickols located the vehicle stuck in the median of US 127 in Gratiot County. CO Nickols stopped to check on the driver who appeared very confused and disoriented and believed she was still travelling on the roadway. CO Nickols determined the driver was having a diabetic emergency and gave her some fruit snacks while waiting for EMS. The driver was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

CO Rich Nickols and PCO James Garrett conducted follow-up on a complaint of a subject chasing down a fox with a snowmobile. The subject had unknowingly been photographed committing the violation. When the COs arrived to interview him, he was wearing the same coat and boots as he was photographed in. The subject admitted to the violation because the fox appeared to be diseased. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson encountered a vehicle that failed to yield them the right-of-way while patrolling Jackson County. As they began following the vehicle, it took off at a high rate of speed, topping 80 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone. They followed, pacing the vehicle as it went over the center line several times, and rounded corners at unsafe speeds. A traffic stop was conducted and the operator simply stated he was late to his St. Patrick's Day party. The operator was issued a ticket for careless driving.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson followed-up on a suspicious deer license purchase from the 2017 deer season. When PCO Hanson questioned the suspect on his deer season, he immediately confessed that he had shot an antlerless deer and bought a license for it the next day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson followed-up on a case of a subject who had taken a deer prior to purchasing a license. PCO Hanson interviewed the suspect who admitted to buying the tag after the antlerless deer was killed. However, a second subject who was present, the suspect's future son in law, realized he couldn't let him take the blame and confessed that he had actually killed the deer and had the first subject purchase the license. Charges are pending through the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jennifer Hanson spotted a hunting dog wandering near a roadway in the Sharonville State Game Area. Checking the area, they noted that no hunters were nearby. Retrieval of the dog revealed a phone number on the collar and the owner was called. He stated he had lost the dog while running rabbits that morning.

and had planned to come back out and search again. The dog was delivered to the owner without incident.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO David Schaumburger was stuck in a traffic jam on I-94 in the left lane when he spotted another vehicle passing cars on the shoulder of the highway approximately 20 cars back. The CO let the vehicle catch up to him and conducted a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle stated that if he came to a complete stop, his vehicle would shut off. The CO suggested the driver should not be operating a defective vehicle on the highway and issued a citation for improper lane usage.

CO David Schaumburger responded to a rollover accident and contacted the driver who was standing outside his vehicle. The driver stated he was doing 25 miles when suddenly, his vehicle hit a pothole and he rolled over. The driver was found to have a suspended license and a warrant for operating a vehicle while intoxicated from the previous year. The vehicle was towed, and the driver was arrested on his warrant.

While on ORV patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen encountered a group of riders. They were operating their ORVs, trucks, and dirt bikes in a prohibited area. They also setup and lit a bonfire that included spare tires, auto parts, pallets and an old tent. The group was educated on local burning laws and trespass laws. Their violations included ORV trespass, railroad trespass, unregistered ORVs, and minors in possession of alcohol. The riders packed up their ORVs and enforcement action was taken.

While on ORV patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen caught multiple vehicles trespassing on private property. The riders said they heard it was a great area to ride, however CO Deppen informed them it was private property and they were not allowed to be there. One rider was arrested and lodged on outstanding warrants, and further enforcement action was taken with regards to the multiple unlicensed ORVs and ORV trespassing issues.

CO Raymond Gardner was on patrol in the Lapeer State Game Area, in an ORV problem area on Byers Road, when he noticed two people trying to get a truck unstuck from the mud. When CO Gardner got out of his patrol truck to make contact with them, he could hear another motor running. CO Gardner then found a third person using an old 4-wheel drive lawnmower to ride throughout the game area. CO Gardner told the man to get off the lawnmower and go over to the truck, where his friends were. CO Gardner met with the group of men at the truck and noticed that the front driver's side tire was off the rim. When CO Gardner asked the driver of the truck how that happened, he said that he was just driving normally and hit a log. CO Gardner explained the laws that had been broken to the men and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was requested to assist Michigan State Police on an accidental shooting. A female was shot while sitting in her home, while talking with her husband. It

was unknown where the shot came from. CO Kovach located a possible suspect who had been out target shooting and, along with St Clair County Deputies, the subject was interviewed. The subject was turned over to the State Police.

CO Ben Lasher participated in the Harvest to Table 4-H program showing youths how to clean, process, and cook wild game. Deer, rabbits, fish and pheasants were processed during the event. CO Lasher talked about laws and ethics while hunting during the break-out sessions. This year's programs had approximately 50 youth and numerous parents.

CO Pat Hartsig and CO Brad Silorey were on the Black River in Port Huron checking anglers. A boat approached them at a high rate of speed in a slow no wake zone. The wake caused boats on the docks to crash into pier heads. The boat was stopped, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joseph Deppen, CO Patrick Hartsig, CO Brad Silorey and Sgt. Todd Szyska worked a group patrol targeting boaters and anglers on the St. Clair River from Fairhaven to Port Huron. Multiple vessels and anglers were contacted. Most walleye limits were coming from the Port Huron area of the St. Clair River. A few Atlantic salmon were also spotted in angler possession limits. One vessel contacted by Sgt. Szyska yielded that the persons on board had zero life jackets. Further checking through LEIN found that the vessel's owner also had a 10-9 warrant out of Waterford for operating a snowmobile on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was conducting a taxidermy inspection when he discovered a deer that was likely taken without a license. Further investigation revealed that the subject claiming to have harvested the deer did so without purchasing a deer license. Furthermore, the subject used another person's deer license to tag the deer and have it mounted. CO Griffin spoke with the subject who admitted to taking the deer and using his friend's kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser and CO Jacob Griffin monitored fishing activity at the Holloway Dam. One of the fisherman advised CO Griffin that someone was keeping walleye and currently had two in his vehicle. He pointed out the fisherman and the vehicle that contained the fish. CO Griffin made contact with the individual who stated that he didn't have any fish. CO Griffin accompanied the angler back to his vehicle and noticed a bucket in the back. The CO inquired about the bucket and the angler offered it for inspection. There were two walleye, which were taken out of season. Further, the angler's rod was equipped with a jig head and a white twister tail. CO Muehlhauser asked the angler if he was aware of the gear restrictions on the Flint River. He advised that he knew there were restrictions but didn't know if the Holloway dam was included. He said he doesn't usually fish there. The angler was cited for the violations and the fish were released back in the water.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Josh Jackson and CO Chris Holmes worked a weekend Belle Isle patrol. Near the end of their shift, dispatch notified the COs that there may be a boat in distress on the river. A four-person rowing team capsized on the Detroit River. Coast Guard was quick to the rescue. CO Holmes boarded a vessel with Detroit Police Department and CO Jackson rushed to the shoreline. The four rowers were transported to the hospital, but expected to be okay.