“The newspaper for people who love the north”

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Debate intensifies over wolf hunting

The huffing and puffing continues over Michigan’s new “Wolf Management Law” and opponents of a hunting season are intensifying their efforts to blow the house down with a referendum in 2014. Keep Michigan Wolves Protected (KMWP)—a coalition of animal welfare organizations, conserva tion groups, wildlife professionals, ranchers and other Michigan citizens working to protect the state’s wolf population—hopes to gather 225,000 signatures by the end of March to put the issue on the ballot and let voters decide.

“We have been on the protected list for nearly 50 years,” the organization said. “There are fewer than 700 wolves in Michigan and their numbers are only now starting to recover. It’s not right to spend decades bringing the wolf back from the brink of ex tinction, only to turn around and allow them to be killed for sport.”

Public Act 520 of 2012 added wolves to the list of game species, which allows the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to create a limited public hunting season. The NRC is mandated to use sound science in making wildlife management decisions, and both it and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have committed to following the Wolf Management Plan—approved in 2008 as the basis for the federal government’s decision to turn wolf management au thority over to the state.

The plan authorizes the use of public hunting as a management tool when wolf densities are linked to human-wolf conflicts such as livestock, or pet depredation.

“(The Wolf Management Law) allows the NRC to do its job, which is to manage wildlife populations based on the best available science,” said Erin Mc Donough, executive director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC). “The NRC has not set any sort of wolf hunting season. It is coordinating ef forts within the DNR to provide the very data and... (Continued on Page 2)

Growing Windmills

Windmill farms are becoming increasingly prevalent across the United States, thrilling renewable en ergy advocates, but raising concerns among those who would rather the landscape remain unblemished by billboards, cell phone towers and, yes, windmills. This one is located near U.S. 127 in mid-Michigan, between St. Johns and St. Louis. Another has been proposed for the sprawling 11,000-acre Muskegon County Wastewater Treatment facility. Gemesa Energy USA, a subsidiary of a Spanish-based wind en ergy company, already has a lease agreement and has been testing the Muskegon County site to map wind speeds and directions, and weighing the environmental impact. If the project goes ahead, con struction is probably still about a year away, according to county officials.

The Great Lakes & harbor dredging

Long-term view is urged for water levels

While supporting Gov. Rick Snyder’s decision to use money from the state Waterways Commission Harbor Fund to dredge Michigan harbors before the summer tourist season, a Traverse City-based environmental policy group is urging the governor to consider longer-term strategies to minimize and adapt to low water levels in the Great Lakes.

The Flow for Water Public Trust Policy Center (FLOW), which seeks solutions to protect and save the Great Lakes in the 21st Century, said immediate dredging is necessary this spring, but more focused efforts are needed to address the critical condi tion of the state’s waterways and harbors.

The state needs to adapt to “the uncertainties of climate change, and erratic and less-predictable water levels,” according to Jim Olson, chair and president of FLOW.

Although there remains some heated debate over the causes of climate change, Olson—a leading water and environmental lawyer from Traverse City—said that “science overwhelmingly demonstr ates that global warming ef fects on climate have been dramatic and will become worse in this century.”

Global warming, which many are convinced is caused—in part, at least—by human activity, means increased evaporation, which means lower water levels. “Look at it this way,” Olson said. “Climate change caused by global warming is the single greatest human-caused devastation of the Great Lakes. If we can bet ter control the rate of flow out of Lake Huron into the St. Clair River, re-balance the allocation of water between the Great Lakes, and over the long term stop burn ing coal and so much petroleum, then we can plug the holes and get a handle on water levels. “We aren’t going to be able to throw billions of dollars every year to dredge without getting se ri ous about these other actions.”

Olson recently sent a letter to Gov. Snyder on behalf of FLOW, encouraging him to consider... (Continued on Page 2)
Our 60th Year: Looking Back to March 3, 1954

—Excerpts from The North Woods Call

“The Hannibal the Bear”

By Lee Smits

It was nearly 80 years ago that Lee Smits wrote in the north woods. He never lost his love of the woods—even though he moved from Detroit to become one of the state’s best-known newspapermen, before turning to radio where he is now news commentator for WXYZ. “I sure get a kick out of The North Woods Call,” Smits said in a letter to the publication. “I’m enclosing a story I did on a north woods character I never heard about until I started reading about him in the Jackson Prison Paper, The Spectator.”

While the Old West still flourishes, the Old North has almost vanished. The Old West has become a highly organized industry, paying bigger profits than it ever did in the days of the open range and placer mining. Whether we look, or whether we listen, the Old West is with us—in movies, television, radio, cowboy pants, shirts, boots and imitation six guns.

All that lingers of the Old North are a few Paul Bunyan legends, here and there a pair of big wheels in resort towns and tales of the ancient wickedness of Michigan’s sawdust cities. The Old North has left us no,homicidal heroes like Billy the Kid, Wild Bill Hickok, Jesse James or Dalton Gang. When the last pine logger has joined the Jordan River drive, the names of once famous in camp and barroom will pass from living memory.

Among those of few who found their way into print are Silver Jack Driscoll and Hannibal the Bear. Driscoll was at one time banished from the state of Michigan. That was after he had served five years in Jackson Prison for a strong-arm robbery. The judge gave her a two-year sentence; she stayed two and-a-half. Silver Jack tamed down in his later years and when he was past 60 got premium pay as a riverman. He died in L’Anse in the Upper Peninsula in 1895.

What finally became of Hannibal the Bear is not recorded, as far as I know. Edward Hannibal was 30-years-old when he arrived at Jackson Prison in 1888. Convicted of doing his best to kill a town marshal in Newaygo County.

Hannibal the Bear is described as a giant with superhuman strength and a willingness to do two men’s work, but subject to ma-
niactal outbursts of temper. It took more than a month of solitary con-
finement and frequent trips to the paddling room to convince The Bear that he had better accept prison discipline. When he had given his solemn promise to refrain from violence, he was assigned to the prisoner flour mill.

One day, a free-for-all broke out among the mill workers. The Bear had heard all the mill superintendent talked on him to help re-
store the peace. With a joyous yell, The Bear went into action. Peace was restored soon enough, with two men being carried away to the in-
firmary.

Then The Bear was put to work unloading coal cars. He was try-
ing hard to behave himself. When he saw members of the unloading crew preparing to go into battle with socks filled with coal, The Bear protested. Four men jumped on him. Four men were laid out, in quick order, and The Bear went back to solitary. He kept promising to put the boots to the troublemakers when he got out, which caused him to be locked up for quite a while.

Silver Jack arrived at Jackson Prison while Hannibal the Bear was an inmate. Had the two met at large—in town—a fight to the finish would have been inevitable. As it was, the prison population was in acute suspense, waiting for a collision between these men who were undoubtedly among the greatest rough-and-tumble fighters who ever lived.

The Bear plotted their encounter and came armed with a stool he had brought from the min. He claimed that he sawed the stool ready to knife a fellow convict in the back—an accusation indignantly denied by the followers of the great Driscoll.

At any rate, there was an explosive brawl, and Silver Jack and an-
other man were laid out with fractured skulls.

Another fighting man named Emery O’Toole challenged The Bear on St. Patrick’s Day, 1887. When O’Toole recovered consciousness, his nose was missing, bitten off by the Bear. The two men did not come to blows. The Bear left the sentimentalist behind. One night, a young, sweet- nose O’Toole found its way into the prison. The nightkeeper trusted the bird to Hannibal. Particularly, a guard reported The Bear for talking in his cell after lights out. Of course the guards were right, even though he went to re-

The Bear, having saved stew meat from his supper to feed the owl, was sitting on the edge of his bunk, protecting his friend the mouse, and profanely churring the screech owl.
Barry lawsuit against DNR inches ahead

Lawyers representing a Barry County citizens group in its lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are continuing legal discovery and preparation for the trial—which is expected to occur in late 2013 or early 2014 before Circuit Court Judge Amy McDowell.

“(They’re) preparing a list of interrogatory questions, examining Freedom of Information Act documents and putting together a list of expert witnesses,” Steve Losher, president of the Michigan Land Air Water Defense (MLAWD) said in mid-February.

The lawsuit, filed October 24 in Barry County Circuit Court, is aimed at reforming DNR practices in auctioning and leasing oil- and gas-drilling rights in state-owned parks, and recreation, game and wildlife management and hiking trail areas.

The nonprofit group sued following the DNR’s Oct. 22 denial of its request to remove the right to use huge quantities of water and surface resources.

“It focuses on mineral rights and the ORR suggested that the state designate as “non development.”” said Jack Schmitt, an attorney with Olson, Resnick & Howard, the Traverse City based law firm representing MLAWD.

“We seek to protect these special lands from unavoidable damage from fracking; the noise, fumes and dust from hundreds of trucks per day; the smell of methane gas venting; and the millions of gallons of water taken and left with chemicals—things that are incompatible with the special areas that are the jewels of our state land system,” Losher said.

“The DNR has responded that it doesn’t have to treat these special lands differently from anything else, and that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality reviews for impacts at the time (permit applications) are made to drill each oil and gas well,” he said. “But this ignores the fact that when the DNR leases these special lands, it transfers certain rights, including the right to use huge quantities of water near lakes or streams, (and to construct) roads, pipelines, production facilities, and storage and waste disposal areas on the surface—even when the land is designated as “non development.”

It is not unusual for the state to reclassify nondevelopment leases after they have been issued, according to MLAWD, and those holding leases on adjacent lands can “bore under and develop the minerals with explosive pressures,” and use so-called “nondevelopment” lands for industrial type activities.

“This renders DNR promises meaningless,” Losher said. “It’s inexusable for the state to open up its special parks and recreation areas—and hunting and fishing grounds—for this industrial type oil and gas development when (such areas) represent only a small fraction of the millions of state lands in Michigan.”

Boosting fees in a bad economy

In case you’re wondering—as The North Woods Call has been—are Michigan officials talking about raising license fees and gasoline taxes at a time when so many citizens are struggling with a bad economy, here’s a little perspective.

Ed Golder, public information officer at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), agrees that it’s a legitimate question and one that the DNR takes seriously.

“Then something to talk about,” he said in response to a recent Call inquiry (See editorial on Page 4). “It has been 17 years since we had a license increase. Inflation alone has eroded the buying power of fishing and hunting license revenue by 45 percent. Consequently, the DNR is considering every avenue of revenue to maintain our ability to manage resources.”

In addition, Golder said, the north coast among conservation officers in the field, and the DNR’s ability to manage hunting and fishing habitats has declined.

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) has expressed concern over at least one recommendation in a suggested plan for streamlining the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The state Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) released its report in February with 16 separate recommendations that covered topics ranging from youth off-road vehicle use to rescinding outdated rules, according to MLCV officials.

A number of the recommendations would not have a direct impact on natural resources protection or conservation, they said, but one has caused some hesitation.

It focuses on mineral rights and the ORR suggested that the state develop a management plan “that will optimize the value to the state of its mineral resources.”

“That sounds like pretty broad language to me,” said Jack Schmitt, the MLCV political director, “and I would certainly prefer that the focus of mineral resource extraction policy be on preserving our natural resources for generations to come. . . . The authors of our constitution strongly believed that natural resources management should balance both conservation and development, as opposed to focusing solely on optimizing value.”

Bid-fixing inquiry continues

The Michigan Attorney General’s office is still declining to reveal investigations details about its illegal activity allegations that two of North America’s largest natural gas companies colluded in an effort to fix bids in the state’s oil and gas market.

The investigation reportedly began last fall at the urging of two Michigan representatives—Dian Slavens (D-Canton) and Charles Smalley (D-Benton). Requests by The North Woods Call for comments from these representatives and for more information from the attorney general’s office have gone unheard.

Slavens, Smiley and their staffs have ignored the inquiries and Judy Yearout, acting director of communications for Attorney General Bill Schuette said the attorney general’s office does not comment on the details of ongoing investigations.

“Feel free to check back,” she said cheerfully when follow-up questions have been raised on at least two occasions.

The two companies in question—Encana and Chesapeake Energy—came under scrutiny after Reuters News Service intercepted at least a dozen e-mail messages that suggested top company officials discussed a plan to divide up Michigan counties that were up for auction for prime oil and gas acreage in order to avoid a costly bidding competition.

Golder, the attorney general had been opened regarding anti-trust allegations raised in the media reports.

“The merger was a lemons to the Wisconsin fox—it was blacknowledged that an investigation had been opened regarding anti-trust allegations raised in the media reports. . . . The attorney general had ‘requested information from the companies.”

“It’s not clear how such investigations typically last,” said North Woods Call editor Mike VanBuren, “but it seems reasonable to assume that the Attorney general has learned something from the inquiry. We trust that he will be forthcoming with some information soon. Michigan citizens need to know what occurred in this case.”

Last June, Reuters reported that the two business rivals plotted during 2010 to avoid bidding against each other in a state auction and in at least one prospective deal with private land owners.

Both companies have denied the allegations; and Golder, reportedly admitted to talking about some kind of joint venture in Michigan.

Making the pilgrimage

Not to be outdone, as many as 3,000 raptors pass by Whitefish Point at the southern edge of Lake Superior—along with a range of other species—from mid-March to mid-May.
When I was a boy, my grand- 
mother sent me a postcard from 
Arizona. It was covered with pic-
tures of desert plants and animals. 
There were cacti, jackrabbits and 
rattlesnakes—each kind well adapted 
to the harsh climate.
My grandmother was well 
adapted, too, and so, in Phoenix for many years. But her needs were different from the coy-
otes and roadrunners that popu-
lated the countryside. They'd 
learned to get by on less. She— 
like the rest of us—is depend-
ent on generous supplies of clean, 
fresh water.

The Southwest, you see, is a 
thirty day. The sun is bright and 
hot. And the land is dry. It's en-
ough to send a Gila monster out 
for a tall glass of cold sarsaparilla. 
And it has made many misguided 
public servants cast greedy eyes 
on the Great Lakes.
The reasons are simple. Water 
provides transportation and so 
many so-
cial and economic activities. In 
some areas—such as Arizona— 
water is in short supply.

The Great Lakes Basin con-
tains about twenty percent of the 
freshwater on the surface of the 
earth. Why not just redistribute it so everyone has enough?

Yes, profligates—and politi-
cians with dry tongues—like this 
idea. But I don't.

We need to have to prioritize expenses and do without things that we can’t afford. Why can’t the government do that—espe-
cially during times when burgeoning taxes and user fees only add to their handouts to so many people already experiencing? 

Yes, hunting, fishing and trapping fees fund the lion’s share of 
conservation in Michigan and license fees are a significant part of the DNR's operating budget. Inflation and a devalued dollar have eroded the agency’s buying power—as they have for most citi-
zens—and some proponents of the governor’s plan say that 
Michigan residents have been paying some of the lowest license 
fees for any state for decades, so it’s time to pony up some more. But at the right time?

Sometimes we aren’t able to do the things we’d like to do be-
cause our budgets will not sustain the spending. Is it too much to ask government to cut back like everybody else, or for citizens addicted to public spending to realize that—in the words of the 
Rolling Stones—you can’t always get what you want?

Stealing from Michigan’s future
For those who tell us that they don’t mind “paying their fair share” in taxes and that politicians and bureaucrats can be trusted to use monetary resources wisely, we point to Michigan’s Natural Resources Trust Fund, as one case study.
The fund was intended to be used for special activities that pre-
serve the beauty of Michigan for future generations, but man-
gers of our public resources have routinely attempted to raid it for pet projects, or to shore up the state’s general fund whenever a budget shortfall occurs and spending continues unabsorbed.

Does anybody ever heard of the Social Security Trust Fund, 
which has been victimized by federal politicians in much the same 
manner? 

Michigan residents were so concerned about such irresponsi-
bility that they voted in 1984 to put the Natural Resources Trust 
Fund into the state Constitution and under control of an inde-
pendent board to keep it away from the Legislature. But that hasn’t stopped the politicians from trying, as evi-
denced in several bills introduced recently (see commentary by 
Drew Young, defrocked in the last issue of The North Woods Call).

Curiously, many of the same individuals who generally say 
they trust politicians to do the right thing—and have even criti-
cized The Call for suggesting that our leaders follow the constit-
tutional rule of law more faithfully—see apparently things 
differently when it comes to the Natural Resources Trust Fund.

They point to the unconstitutional violations that have occurred and demand that the trust fund be thieve.

We couldn’t agree more. Since its inception some 36 years ago, the popular trust fund has collected more that $1.15 billion. Of that, $757 million went to buying land and $212 million reportedly went to 
develop outdoor recreation facilities.

This is a good thing that needs to continue. All we have to do 
is keep praising it.

If Michigan residents are going to set aside money to be used for the specific purpose of protecting Michigan’s natural resources for future generations, it is reasonable to expect that politicians will honor this intent.

Water wars: Hands off the Great Lakes

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mother sent me a postcard from 
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tures of desert plants and animals. There were cacti, jackrabbits and rattlesnakes—each kind well adapted to the harsh climate.

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Rolling Stones—you can’t always get what you want?
Reader Comment

Low Great Lakes water levels and the St. Clair River

Great Lakes water levels and the St. Clair River

Editor:
I have recently written a letter to Gov. Snyder concerning the low water levels in Lakes Michigan and Huron. I have enclosed the letter and its enclosures. I am sure the report by Mr. Heuck is too long to reprint in its entirety, but you might be able to print a shorter story about the problem (See related story on Page 2 of this edition). As a conservation topic, it has brought up some of the most important issues we are currently facing.

I have a second request and one in which you have complete power to correct. I have recently received the ranks of your readers (I had subscribed to Shep's editions for years) and have great difficulty reading the extremely small print. I suspect that I am not the only one who would appreciate a larger font.

Russell Reister
Chelsea, Michigan

Thanks, Russell. We will consider your suggestion, although we hesitate to enlarge the font because it reduces more space and leaves less real estate for news, etc. The only way around that is to add more pages, which significantly increases printing and distribution costs. For the record, the 10-point font in our body text is the same size as Shep was using. We'll explore this further.

—Mike

Following is the letter that was sent to Governor Snyder:

Dear Governor Snyder:
I know you are aware of the low water levels in the Great Lakes. Your proposal to dredge the harbors along our shorelines will be helpful, but it represents only a short-term solution. A long-term solution cannot address the excessive outflow through the St. Clair River.

We have enclosed a letter from a summer resident of the Upper Peninsula, which states the opinion of many Michigan citizens. A second enclosure from the Corps of Engineers supports the conclusion that the amount of water flowing through the St. Clair River is in fact a major cause of the low lake levels. You will note that the lake of Lake Erie is 16 inches above low-water datum, while Lakes Michigan and Huron are 18 inches below low-water datum.

The Corps of Engineers has not been responsive to our pleas to slow the outflow into Lake Erie. Instead, they claim that lack of precipitation and warmer weather are the culprits. They are certainly partially correct, but not the only one.

The solution recommended in Mr. Heuck's letter (See Page 2 of this edition) could be implemented in a reasonably short time and doesn’t appear to be excessively expensive. In addition, it could be reversed if conditions change and there was a need to increase the outflow through the river.

I and many other Michiganders would appreciate your using the influence of your office to help slow the depletion of our lakes and hopefully restore the health of the lakes.

Sincerely,
Russell W. Reister

Low water levels and the St. Clair River

Russell Reister
Chelsea, Michigan

Some Michigan residents have been calling for a proposed limestone quarry in Mackinaw County south of Newberry. Among them are David Gorenflo of Traverse City and his brother, Tom Gorenflo of Brimley, who have hunted that area of the Upper Peninsula of Lake Superior State Forest for many years. Both men have written letters published in The North Woods Call challenging the project being explored by Graymont, one of North America’s leading lime producers. They are concerned about the environmental impact of such a strip mine and the loss of public land to mining.

Dear Tom:
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Low water levels and the St. Clair River

Russell Reister
Chelsea, Michigan

You can buy one for yourself, or buy one for a friend, but either way the feeder can only be used in the service of something else. Selfishness doesn’t become it.

Sometimes, after I zoned out for an hour or so, I’d glimpse an alternate reality. I’d begin to see the feeder as more than a humble food dispenser. It was a nexus of fluid interaction, a sort of metaphor in the service of something else. Selfishness doesn’t become it.

Thank you for your correspondence, and thanks for all the help you provide to birders. It’s always a comfort to imagine them asleep under a snowy spruce bough, the fragrance of their tiny hearts fueled by the good seed that will keep them warm and alive till morning.

And such is the altruistic nature of a bird feeder. You can buy one for yourself, or buy one for a friend, but either way the feeder can only be used in the service of something else. Selfishness doesn’t become it.

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龃齿的表达以及它的用途

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Perils at the Rural Mailbox

Sometimes, just strolling out to your own rural mailbox leads to trouble. Besides the usual assortment of painful bills and unwanted advertisements, nastier surprises may await.

On several occasions over the past ten years, we’ve found our standard metal box beaten into a crumpled mass by the multiple impacts of a small, sharp object—a baseball bat or iron pipe, I usually assume.

The event is often noted during the wee hours of the morning as a series of metallic-sounding “thunks” coming from somewhere nearby. As this square mile is home to about a dozen horses, everyone assumes the noise is due to a shoed hoof bouncing repeatedly against a barb wire. Skittish or restive horses tend to do that when startled by small animals or possibly a bad dream. No big deal.

Then, the next morning, you notice your Federally-sanctioned pigeonhole is badly mangled and completely unusable. Many of the neighbors find themselves in the same boat.

Most of us keep an extra mailbox in the garage, basement, or shed. The replacement is installed within hours, amidst much grumbling and cursing, and a discussion with your spouse about renting a P.O. box in town “the next time this happens.” Eventually, you’ll stop by the hardware store and pick up a new box, just to be prepared.

One pleasant afternoon last summer, I was shuffling through a pile of mail out at the box when two young men (riding very small bicycles) accosted me. I nodded and smiled, not paying them too much attention. One of the boys suddenly hurled a rather derogatory comment in my direction. The other joined in. Both began to circle around on the road in front of me on their little bikes, uttering obscenities and unkind remarks.

In an era of heavily-armed Americans and growing numbers of concealed weapons permits, this behavior could only be considered unwise, if not bizarre. My mind strayed back to my own youth, trying to recall occasions when I’d acted so stupidly. Couldn’t think of one.

The boys, probably in their mid- to late-teens, finally tired of their protest. They were still shouting and laughing as they vigorously pedaled their clown bikes down the road. Gee, when I was about their age, I was serving in a nuclear weapons unit on the German-Czech border. Standards of maturity and responsibility may have shifted somewhat since those days.

Earlier this winter, before the snow got deep, I was again out at the mailbox. A car approached at high speed from the south. Surely the driver would slow down as his vehicle crossed a herd of turkeys that had crossed. Nope. Birds scattered and squawked as the car buzzed through their formation. Miraculously, of the 20 or so turkeys, none appeared to have been marked.

“Dream job: Cops in the north woods

Michigan Conservation Officer Shannon VanPatten with poached salmon from a commercial fishing operation she investigated on Little Bay de Noc in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. (Michigan DNR photo)

'There is no better place to raise a family than Michigan,' said Michigan Conservation Officer Shannon VanPatten, with poached salmon from a commercial fishing operation she investigated on Little Bay de Noc in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. (Michigan DNR photo)

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‘There is no better place to raise a family than Michigan,’ said Michigan Conservation Officer Shannon VanPatten, with poached salmon from a commercial fishing operation she investigated on Little Bay de Noc in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. (Michigan DNR photo)

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Snowmobile madness: Injuries, deaths and sunken machines investigated

DISTRICT 1
CO Marvin Gerlach reports that a snowmobile has died in Mission in Dickinson County. The male subject was 36 years old and the snowmobile was a total loss. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a great Dane from a road on Schoolcraft County. They both had many extra tip-ups set up. They explained that the fishing was good and they didn’t expect to see a CO at that lake in the middle of the day on a Thursday, so they took the chance. They accepted the extra tip-ups.

CO Mike Evink contacted an angler on the ice with six tip-ups. When the CO spoke with the subject, he advised he had not one. He went on to say his son would be right back and that the son was a tribal member and was allowed to have all six tip-ups. When the son arrived a short time later, CO Evink found that the son was not a tribal member and did indeed have a Michigan fishing license. The father was ticketed for fishing without a license.

DISTRICT 3
A complaint was received about a subject who has set up cones and signs on the ice of Burr Lake. Responding to the area, COs discovered a skeet shooting range set up on the ice of Burr Lake. The cones, signs and equipment were removed and the area was investigated.

CO Andrea Albert handled two snowmobile injury accidents this past week on the snowmobile trails. In one accident the operator was traveling too fast for conditions and rolled the machine and hit a tree while traveling down the wrong trail. The operator was transported to the hospital for his injuries and the snowmobile was a total loss.

In a second accident, the operator of a snowmobile was a deer while traveling on a trail in the Jordan Township in Meekon County. The operator had minor injuries and the snowmobile was not d\ncritically. The deer was dispatched at the scene.

CO Andrea Albert was a first responder to a snowmobile accident in Antrim County which resulted in a fatality. The snowmobile collided head on with a logging truck on a one-lane road. The operator was pronounced dead at the scene. It is believed alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

DISTRICT 4
CO Jeff Ginn assisted with the investigation of a snowmobile personal injury accident that took place near Croton. The operator lost control and was ejected from the snowmobile causing injuries. The operator was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

CO Mike Wells was checking ice fishing activity on Anchor Lake and observed two subjects tending eight lines. CO Wells contacted the two subjects and obtained identification. A record check revealed that one of the subjects had an outstanding arrest warrant. The scene was left and the suspects advised they were going to level the Beal City High School.

CO Jeremy Payne and local deputies responded to the school and provided security. After all the students were secured, the CO assisted the deputies with the arrest of the subject.

CO Jeremy Payne received a complaint of a two subjects hunting deer in Houghton County. CO Payne contacted the hunters and their bleeding beagle. The CO provided first aid to the beagle’s owner and proceeded to develop the tipping off case of hunting on a federal highway.

Central Dispatch in Isabella County put out information that a suspect had advised they were going to level the Beal City High School. CO Payne put out a spit about that situation.

DISTRICT 5
CO Brian Olsen responded to a snowmobile accident where a subject lost control of her snow- mobile and hit a tree while traveling on a county road in Harbor Springs. The subject was transported to the hospital for his injuries and the snowmobile was a total loss.

CO Logan Reinhart was assisting sheriff’s deputies in a search for a subject who owners of flooded h\nciles on state land when Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez observed a pickup truck heading toward the vehicles and what appeared to be a snowmobile on the road. Several occupants got out of the truck and ran into the woods carrying objects and then came back out of the woods fully clothed and handed. As luck would have it, the owners of the abandoned vehicle were spotted on the road and the subject was lodged in jail.

CO Greg Patten was conducting an inspection of a taxider- mist in Meekon County when he observed an 11-point rack with a license purchased opening day of the firearm season. CO Patten contacted and inter- viewed the hunter to learn he was in possession of two valid antler- licenses on that day. He was also returned from an out-of-state trip where he had taken two other whitetail bucks. The hunter admitted to illegally taking a deer while holding a Michigan deer or combination license until after taking the buck on opening day, as he was so busy out-of-country he didn’t realize where he normally takes bucks every year. CO Patten requested the warrant charging the hunter for taking the buck without a valid deer license.

DISTRICT 6
CO Ken Lowell received a call regarding a man found unattended on private land on the CO. The operator located an illegal snare that had a coyote caught in it. After pulling the traps and counting along with the extras in a set of snowmobiles, the subject was pursued on foot and apprehended with the help of multiple other violations and safety concerns. Everyone was transported back home safely.

DISTRICT 7
CO Dan Biggerstaff investigated a complaint resulting from deer season. The deer had been illegally taken and tagged with a family member’s kill tag. Through phone calls with a CO in the U.P. confirming information regarding details surrounding the complaint, the case was moved forward and investigation con- ducted. After interviews with the subject and his wife, conflicting stories began to pile up, leaving them with no choice but to admit what untruths had been told. After over an hour of interviews, confessions were obtained, the subject was cited and a warrant re- quest is pending for several charges, including an illegal deer.

CO Rich Nichols assisted the local police department with the investigation of reports of loud explosions in the township. After obtaining a possible suspect vehi- cle description, CO Nichols located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Through a conversa- tion with the driver, the subject was able to determine that several people had been target shooting with var- ious firearms and water bottles. The subject voluntarily admitted to the exploding targets. It appears all activities were legal.

CO Shane Webster followed up on the taking of a six-point antlered deer during the firearm season in Manistee County. CO Webster con- tacted and after a lengthy inter- view it was revealed that he had taken the deer three days prior to presenting the complaint.

While on patrol, CO Jeff Goss came across a 15-year-old operat- ing an ORV in the curves of an icy dirt road. The teen was towing his four-year-old brother and seven- year-old sister on sleds and none of them were wearing helmets. Upon stopping the teen, he ad- vised that his parents probably didn’t know where he was. CO Goss had him call his parents to come to the scene. The father was ticketed for allowing a minor to operate an ORV while unattended lines. The subject was cited for multiple other violations and safety concerns. Everyone was transported back home safely.

DISTRICT 8
CO Ken Kovach and CO Ben Lasher made good use of the re- cent snowfall and conducted a snowmobile patrol on Anchor Bay. They located a total of 11 snowmobiles and issued 10 tickets for various violations. Numerous machines were riding without a license, operating too fast within 100 feet of a shanty, expired registrations, drag racing and no helmets.

While on foot patrol in Cap- tain’s Cove Marina, CO Todd Szyska checked one angler who had his bass illegally taken and tagged with a family member’s kill tag. The angler was ticketed and issued a possible suspect vehicle.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Brandon Kieft responded to a re- port of an ORV that had gone down into the ice on Lake Huron. While enroute, the report was up- dated to add that a snowmobile had gone through near the ORV. There were no injuries and all vic- tims returned to their homes to dry off and warm up. The ORV was eventually removed from the water after another ORV drove past. They started yelling at the driver and then a group of people around to see what they were yelling about, his ORV went through the ice, too.

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Young Hunters
Keeping Michigan’s rich hunting tradition alive—and helping it thrive—involves giving young people opportunities to create lasting memories. That’s why the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its conservation-minded partners continue to develop programs aimed at giving youngsters the chance to try hunting—and ensuring enough success so that they’ll stick with it.

Lately, the DNR has been teaming with sportsmen’s groups to encourage kids to give small-game hunting—a once-a-popular pastime among young hunters—a try. Here, Mitchell Neeb (left) and Justin Meyers, both of Clarksville, along with dog Sadie, admire a rabbit taken during the Belding Sportsman’s Club Youth Rabbit Hunt. It was the first rabbit Neeb had ever bagged and he said the experience was “exciting” and “more fun than I thought it would be.” To learn more about opportunities to involve young people in hunting, check out www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting.

—Michigan DNR Photo