



**“News You Can Use”
from the office of
Sheriff Kevin S. Hoch**

FEBRUARY 2025

Congratulations Brandon Hunt!

On Saturday, December 16, 2024, Brandon Hunt completed the Northwestern Michigan Police Academy. Brandon is a fifth generation native to Northern Michigan. Prior to joining The Antrim County Sheriff’s Office, Brandon worked in title insurance and in the oil and gas industry. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Courtney, and his two daughters, Willow and Haisley. Brandon has always had a drive to do more in the community which is ultimately why he decided to join the Sheriff’s Office here in Antrim County. Currently, Deputy Hunt is in phase 2 of FTO training and we’re looking forward to having him serve the community of Antrim County.



Brandon Hunt pictured with Sgt. Devon Doucette and Sgt. Charlie LaPan

Sheriff

Kevin S. Hoch

Undersheriff

George R. Lasater

Admin. Sgt.

Devon Doucette

Jail Administrator

Sgt. Sherry Knight

911 Sgt. Michael Gank

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Thank you ALL for the Years of Service January & February 2025

Deputy John Morris - 26 years

Jennifer Veenstra - 19 years

Sgt. Sherry Knight - 25 years

Sgt. Victor Cicansky - 8 years

Jesse Fisher - 7 years

Corporal Rodney Stanichuk - 11 years

Sgt. Charlie LaPan - 6 years

Karen Otto - 6 years

Deputy Richard Raprager - 5 years

Deputy Shelby Brust - 5 years

Diana Brown, RN - 2 years

Jeff Kuziel - 1 year



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KidSmartz is a FREE child safety program that educates families about preventing abduction and empowers kids in grades K-5 to practice safer behaviors. This program offers resources to help parents, caregivers, and teachers protect kids by teaching and practicing the 4 Rules of Personal Safety using classroom lessons, at-home lessons, parent tips, and fun printable activities.





Please visit the following website for free lessons, tips and activities provided by <https://www.missingkids.org/education/kidsmartz>





Most parents are probably familiar with the social media apps, TikTok and Snapchat. However, they may not know about the apps Yubo and Monkey.

Sheriff Kevin Hoch is urging parents to be aware of the potential dangers associated with several social media apps popular among teens. In a series of posts on Facebook, The Sheriff highlighted concerns about Yubo, TikTok, Snapchat, and Monkey, emphasizing the importance of parental involvement and monitoring.

 Snapchat, is one of the most popular social media apps, especially among teens. It's an easy way to send photos and videos that disappear after being viewed. But while it seems fun, there are some important things you should know as a parent. Because photos and messages disappear, it can make risky behaviors like sexting seem less dangerous. Kids may accept friend requests from people they don't know. With Snap Map, it's easy for kids to unknowingly share their real-time location.

 Yubo, combines social networking and live streaming, allowing teens to connect with friends and strangers. Be cautious about the risks of exposure to inappropriate content, privacy concerns, and cyberbullying. The Sheriff advises parents to adjust privacy settings, monitor activity, educate children about “stranger danger,” utilize parental controls, and maintain open communication.

 Regarding TikTok, known for short-form video content, The Sheriff acknowledged its popularity but warned of inappropriate content, the potential for interaction with online predators, addiction, and cyberbullying. He recommended privacy settings, using the app's "Family Pairing" feature, discussing online behavior, monitoring screen time, and staying involved in their children's online activity.

 Monkey, an app that facilitates random video chats with strangers, drew particularly strong concern from the Sheriff. He stressed the risks of exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and privacy violations. Sheriff Hoch suggest keeping the app off-limits, discussing online safety with children, using parental controls to restrict access, monitoring usage if the app is used, and encouraging safe socialization with known friends.

Sheriff Hoch emphasized the importance of open communication regarding online safety. He encouraged parents to stay informed about the apps their children are using and to take steps to mitigate potential risks.