

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
10/22/2017 – 11/4/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen made contact with a group of bird hunters who were driving back to their cabin. As CO Lasanen was talking with the driver and passenger, two uncased shotguns were visible in the back seat. CO Lasanen checked licenses and asked why the shotguns were not in a case. They replied that they had gotten wet and did not want them to rust. CO Lasanen asked the hunters what they do with their firearms after a day of hunting. They advised they wipe them down and clean them. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Ethen Mapes and Nathan Sink were on patrol when they came upon a truck stuck in a ditch. Upon contact, the driver was found to be highly intoxicated. The COs assisted the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office control the scene and also determined that the driver was driving while also in possession of open intoxicants.

CO Ethen Mapes was patrolling the ORV trail near Ontonagon when a juvenile on a three wheeler approached the trail from his back yard. When the juvenile saw CO Mapes, he stopped his machine. CO Mapes and the juvenile had a good safety talk and discussed the laws, rules and regulations pertaining to three wheelers.

CO Doug Hermanson was traveling on M-28 in Houghton County when a vehicle overtook his patrol truck at high speed. CO Hermanson attempted to pace the vehicle, but it exceeded the patrol truck's maximum speed. CO Hermanson continued following the vehicle east for over 12 miles until the vehicle was caught up in traffic and CO Hermanson was able to stop it. The driver stated he was only trying to shorten his seven hour drive. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller was patrolling Baraga County for pre-firearm deer season activity when he came across some fresh vehicle tracks. CO Miller found where subjects had gotten out and he followed their tracks into their hunting location upon which he observed a large bait pile. CO Miller continued following vehicle tracks down the road until he found the suspects over-baiting a second blind. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes responded to a domestic violence in progress call in Ontonagon. COs Lasanen and Mapes assisted an Ontonagon County sheriff's deputy with the investigation and charges are being sought as the prosecutor reviews the case.

Sgt. Grant Emery was first on scene at a structure fire in Marquette County. An automotive center along M-28 sustained severe damage from the fire which was caused from a spark igniting a vehicle that was being worked on. Sgt. Emery assisted the shop

workers getting as many vehicles and equipment out of the building before the smoke and heat from the blaze became too intense. No one was injured as a result of the fire.

Following a commercial deer processor inspection, CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy made contact with a subject who had tagged a spike horn with a combo tag. Following an interview with the subject, the officers suspected that the deer was actually shot by his son. The son was interviewed and he admitted to shooting the deer with a crossbow and then tagging it with his dad's tag. The officers were able to locate the blind where the deer was shot and found a .22 mag rifle propped up in the blind. When confronted with this the son admitted that he had killed the deer with the rifle and not a crossbow. The firearm and deer was seized and charges are being sought with the Iron County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Jared Ferguson were patrolling Dickinson County when they located a vehicle stopped along a two track. Contact with the occupants found open intoxicants in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Jared Ferguson were patrolling when they contacted two subjects in a timber sale cutting fire wood. The subjects were in an active timber sale and didn't have state land wood cutting permits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Jared Ferguson were patrolling when they observed a UTV operating down the state highway at a high rate of speed. When the operator noticed the officers, he quickly turned down a side road. The COs stopped the UTV and addressed the violation.

CO Brian Bacon assisted an older gentleman walking down the roadway after his tractor ran out of gas. The subject was very thankful for the ride back to his residence.

CO Nathan Sink assisted CO Ethen Mapes with an OUIL that was turned over to Ontonagon County Sheriff's Department.

CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted Cpl. Dave Painter with a hunter safety field day in Dickinson County.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint of a deer with just its horns cut off in a residential yard. Further investigation found the deer was killed by an automobile and died in the yard due to the collision.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon assisted DNR Forest Management Division with the removal of a gate blocking an easement agreement with the state of Michigan and local land owners.

CO Nathan Sink received a complaint of a dead deer in an individual's yard. The caller was unsure of the cause of death and CO Sink responded to investigate. A check of the deer determined it was struck by a vehicle and died in the caller's yard.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint from a frustrated hunter that another hunter was hunting too close to his blind. CO DeLonge talked with the hunter and explained that the other hunter was hunting public land and that he couldn't force the hunter to move. CO DeLonge decided to investigate the other hunter's location and found that the hunter had cut down a number of live trees for shooting lanes and that the stand was not marked properly. CO DeLonge returned a few days later in attempt to contact the hunter and observed the hunter parked in his running vehicle preparing to go hunting. CO DeLonge made contact with the hunter and obtained a confession about cutting trees and not having his stand properly marked. A quick license check was completed and it was found that the hunter also had a revoked driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a safety zone complaint, CO Brett DeLonge observed a 3-wheeler being operated on the shoulder of a paved road against the flow of traffic. CO DeLonge contacted the operator and also found that the ORV was not registered and that the operator was not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell located several traps set along a county road behind no trespassing signs. After checking with the property owners, it was determined that no one had permission to trap their respective properties. A suspect was identified and confessed to setting the traps. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling state land when he came across a truck parked off the two-track. CO Dell peered through the window of the truck and noticed two opened beer cans in the cup-holders. Two deer hunters walked up shortly afterwards. CO Dell made contact with the hunters. When asked for their licenses, one hunter produced a printout sales receipt. When asked where his kill tag was the hunter stated it was in the mail. When asked how he would tag a deer if he shot one. The man stated he would use the sales receipt. The hunter could not explain how he would validate the sales receipt. CO Dell then noticed that the other hunter had moved the open intoxicant back behind the seat. When asked about the beers, the man stated they were from last night. CO Dell informed him that the beer can was over half full and that it was illegal to have open intoxicants within the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken for hunting without a valid kill tag in possession.

CO Jeremy Sergey was talking to an individual when he noticed an uncased 12-gauge shotgun in the back seat of the person's truck. CO Sergey asked the guy if he had a case for the gun; he said no. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey received a complaint of a large bait pile at a camp. Investigation into the bait pile led to the discovery of several violations including illegal ORV trails, and blinds on state land as well as over an acre of state land being clear-cut. A suspect was contacted and confessed to the over bait which was enough sugar beets to fill a truck bed, the ORV trails, illegal blinds and clearing the state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell located a hunter in an illegal blind on state land. When asked about the illegal ORV trail that the subject had made through state land, the subject stated he didn't think anything was wrong because he had been doing this for years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell came across a man riding an ORV on a county road. The man was not wearing a helmet and had an uncased crossbow on the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell contacted a father and son hunting grouse on state land. The son was approximately ten years of age and was carrying a small pellet gun. When asked if they had gotten any birds, the father said no. The son said, "Well, we got that one". When asked where that bird was, the father explained that they had shot a chickadee with the pellet gun but had not killed it. The father was educated on the differences between game and non-game species.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint from a hunter who believed his blind was destroyed by other nearby hunters. CO DeLonge was able to get to the location of the complainant's blind and investigated the area. Several tracks were observed in the snow that appeared to have been made by other hunters but it was determined that snow and high winds had actually knocked the blind over. During the investigation CO DeLonge noticed that the complainant had a very large bait pile near the blind that highly exceeded the legal two gallon limit. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

CO Brett DeLonge was investigating an illegal deer blind and an illegal ORV trail on state land when he observed an ORV pull up next to the blind on the illegal ORV trail. CO DeLonge made contact with the individual who was baiting the blind along with several other blinds in the area. CO DeLonge addressed the illegal ORV trail, the illegal blind, and the unregistered ORV the hunter was operating. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Tom Oberg was on patrol near Sault Ste. Marie in the early hours of the morning when a call from central dispatch came in about a suicidal gunman behind a local business. CO Oberg responded to the location and met with Sault Ste. Marie Police Department, Michigan State Police, and Sault Tribe Police. The suicidal individual was inside a house and believed to have had a 12-gauge shotgun and was threatening to shoot at police officers. Moments later after the officers had surrounded the house, the suspect exited unarmed and was placed into custody.

COs Bobby Watson and Mark Zitnik were on an evening patrol at a local duck hunting hot spot. The two COs made contact with a pair of duck hunters. The COs conducted a routine check which revealed the duck hunters were not in possession of their hunting licenses. The two hunters also failed to produce the proper PFDs. CO Watson

explained the dangers of two grown men being in a small, flat bottom boat in inclement weather without having any flotation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Watson was on patrol during a recent storm, and was focusing his patrol on duck hunting activity. Many contacts were made along Lake Superior. One contact revealed that a group of duck hunters had in possession more than the allowed one firearm per hunter, one hunter had failed to purchase the correct licenses, and another hunter had failed to plug his shotgun. Throughout the contact, a local law enforcement officer backed up CO Watson. The local officer informed CO Watson he had witnessed this same group shooting at waterfowl while under power of their motorboat the day before through binoculars. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Watson was on patrol checking for evening deer hunters. CO Watson observed a lot of recent ORV activity on what he knew to be a dead end trail. CO Watson waited for the hunter to exit his hunting area and made contact with the hunter who was travelling back to camp on an ORV. It was discovered the hunter did not have his deer kill tag in possession, was not wearing a helmet, and had not registered his ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of a deer that was possibly illegally taken. Further follow-up on the complaint revealed enough information to obtain a search warrant. With the assistance of Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon and CO Pat Hartsig the search warrant was executed at the suspect's residence. Evidence was seized and a full confession was obtained from the suspect on what happened. The suspect shot a spike horn with a rifle, no deer license and within the safety zone. The search also turned up illegal drugs. The deer meat was turned over to a meat processor to be distributed to local veterans in need. A report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office for review.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he located a large litter pile on state land. A search of the pile and multiple interviews lead to the responsible party. The responsible party cleaned up the pile and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon assisted a State Trooper who was dealing with a conflict between a trapper and a dog owner. The owner of the dog was upset that his dog had spent the night caught in a leg hold trap that was set in a residential area where many people walk their dogs. The land is un-developed property that is uninhabited. The dog was taken to the vet with minor injuries to its foot. The trapper was advised to pull his traps as the landowner was not pleased to find out traps were set on their property. A ticket was issued for not having a tag on the trap that had been set.

CO Rob Freeborn represented law division on the DNR panel on the "Ask the DNR program" this past week. Many questions were answered on the live TV call-in show on TV 13 out of Marquette.

CO Michael Evink wrapped up an investigation into someone trapping during the closed season on neighboring property. With assistance from CO Mark Leadman, CO Evink

was able to locate the offending party. Contact was made, Enforcement was taken and education shared.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink were asked to talk with the local Rotary Club. The COs explained the daily job function of a CO and then opened it up to questions. The club members appreciated the pre-deer season rule refresher.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink received a complaint from the local fish hatchery regarding a subject hunting grouse around their facility. The hatchery manager was able to get a license plate. Investigation is ongoing.

CO Calvin Smith assisted with a local group of women who were participating in the Becoming an Outdoor Woman program through the DNR. CO Smith reviewed regulations pertaining to fishing inland trout streams and lakes. CO Smith also discussed typical fishing techniques used for trout and offered other tips to help the women expand their knowledge of the outdoors.

CO Calvin Smith assisted wildlife division and a local trapper with releasing a wolf that was caught in a leg hold trap.

COs Kevin Postma and Calvin Smith did a late-night shining patrol in an area of past complaints. The COs just finished hiding their patrol truck when a vehicle came into view. The COs watched as the vehicle started shining fields for deer. A stop was made on the suspects and not only were they shining for deer after 11 p.m., they also had a 12-gauge shotgun with a box of slugs in their possession. The COs asked the suspects if they were going to shoot a deer and they all responded, "Oh no, we would never do that." Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig along with Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon contacted a group of duck hunters just finishing their hunt on a local lake. As the COs approached in their boat, one of the hunters threw a duck into the weeds and they returned to their blind. After recovering a badly shot duck from the weeds, the COs addressed the party. One hunter had not purchased any licenses, though they all said he wasn't hunting. They had an extra gun for him. Enforcement action was taken for the extra gun while duck hunting and the wanton waste of discarding a duck that they had shot.

CO Kevin Postma assisted with a snowmobile safety class in Sault Ste. Marie put on by Soo Snowmobile Association. Over 30 students were issued snowmobile safety certificates.

CO Kevin Postma watched a group of waterfowl hunters for roughly an hour and a half. CO Postma then contacted the hunters and checked licenses, guns and birds. The hunters were happy to show CO Postma their bag of waterfowl for the day which included Canada geese, mallards, pin-tails and (3) snow geese. The one hunter advised that this was total of (8) snow geese for the year so far.

### **DISTRICT 3**

While on her way to Gaylord, CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County watched a lady park her car, walk across M-32 through the ditch with a bag and scissors in her hands, and start cutting from the edge of a farm field. CO Erratt stopped and asked the lady what she was doing and she said she was cutting alfalfa for her rabbits. CO Erratt asked if she knew who owned the property and if she had permission from the farmer and she responded no. CO Erratt explained that she needed permission to cut alfalfa out of the field. The lady claimed she was in the road right-of-way and when CO Erratt explained the trespass laws she disagreed, swearing at the CO. When CO Erratt explained she was just trying to warn her, the lady agreed to leave but told CO Erratt she was wrong. CO Erratt turned around and ran her plate to document who she had warned and it came back expired. CO Erratt initiated a traffic stop and issued a ticket for the expired registration. As CO Erratt approached the car, the lady threw out her cigarette butt so she encouraged the lady to pick it up so she would not have to receive a littering ticket.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County observed a man operating an unlicensed ORV on M-66. CO Erratt pulled him over after he turned on a county road. The man said he did not have a driver's license because it was suspended and that he just lived around the corner. CO Erratt issued him a ticket for operating an unlicensed ORV and warned him for operating an ORV while his driver's license was suspended and on M-66. CO Erratt followed him home where he agreed to park the ORV until he got his driver's license back.

On Halloween, CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County attended the Boyne City community trunk-or-treat sponsored by the Presbyterian Church where over 800 children attended. CO Erratt gave out fishing tape measures, bat posters, Smokey Bear pencils and stickers and, of course, candy.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County spoke to 25 snowmobile safety students at the East Jordan Snowmobile Club. CO Erratt explained the DNR laws pertaining to operating snowmobiles and the importance of safe snowmobile operation.

COs Chad Baldwin and Steve Speigl were part of a large search and rescue operation in which an elderly man who suffers from dementia walked off from his home. Officers worked with the Antrim County Sheriff's Office, Mancelona first responders and the Michigan State Police. The effort took several hours and eventually the man was found in good condition several miles from his house.

COs Chad Baldwin and Steve Spiegel responded to a late night 911 call since they are each only a few miles away. A woman heard a noise outside of her house and her fiancé went outside to check and claimed to have seen a man run through the woods. During additional questioning the man said that he had seen glowing reflective eyes

when he shone his light in the woods. The officers then confirmed that what the man had seen was actually a deer.

Sgt. Mark DePew and CO Tim Rosochacki worked duck hunters on Burt Lake in Cheboygan County. Numerous contacts were made with hunters, and several violations were observed, including hunting without proper licenses and various marine violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Torsky made contact with a bear hunter who failed to register his bear within the 72-hour requirement. The hunter arrived at the DNR Gaylord Customer Service Center with the bear over one week after killing it. The hunter explained he merely forgot to register the animal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Theunick was dispatched to a complaint in Cheboygan County where the homeowner explained to the dispatcher that his home was shot by a high-powered gun. The CO arrived and completed an investigation noting the suspected bullet hole was in the roof of the residence. Upon inspection, the CO determined a bullet did not make the hole and in fact was merely a leaky roof. The homeowner was relieved and thanked the CO.

CO Eric Bottorff assisted the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department on a personal injury accident occurring in a remote location on state land. Having thorough knowledge of the area, the CO was able to find and assist with the rescue.

CO Tim Rosochacki received a Report All Poaching complaint of an individual in Otsego County, Hayes Township that had failed to tag a buck. CO Rosochacki made contact with the suspect who admitted to shooting the deer but was unable to track it the evening he shot it. When he returned the following morning, he located the buck which had been mostly consumed by coyotes. The subject retained the head of the animal and left the rest for the coyotes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki assisted the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department with the investigation of a fatal ORV accident in Mullet Township, Cheboygan County. The crash appeared to have been caused by a medical emergency. The investigation is still open.

CO Tim Rosochacki worked the Cheboygan Dam in the City of Cheboygan. CO Rosochacki observed several anglers attempting to snag salmon; upon witnessing several fish retained that were not hooked in the mouth CO Rosochacki made contact with the anglers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Torsky was contacted by a landowner in Otsego County who had photographs from a trail camera of two individuals hunting from a motor vehicle. Leads were developed from the photograph, which resulted in tickets being issued to both the operator and passenger for hunting from a motor vehicle.

CO Tim Rosochacki responded to a complaint of a dead elk in Forest Township, Cheboygan County. The elk had been deceased for quite some time. CO Rosochacki performed a necropsy of the old bull and determined its death to have been natural. CO Jon Sklba was patrolling after dark in Presque Isle County when he was passed at a high rate of speed by a vehicle without headlights on. CO Sklba conducted a traffic stop and contacted the driver. The driver's excuse was that he was in a hurry. The driver admitted that he was driving carelessly. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster was patrolling in Alpena County when he checked a successful archery hunter coming from the field. CO Webster spoke with the subject about his deer and noted that the story was not making sense. CO Webster examined the deer head and kill tag that was attached to the deer and noticed the tag was purchased several hours earlier. After a short interview the hunter admitted to shooting the deer prior to buying his license. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster made contact with a hunter in Alpena County who asked to have his deer aged. CO Webster followed the hunter to his vehicle and while walking to the car the hunter explained to the CO that he had shot the deer the night before and decided to bring it in and get a patch and have it checked. CO Webster examined the buck and then looked at the kill tag. The kill tag was purchased 40 minutes prior to the deer getting to the DNR check station. CO Webster asked the hunter why he waited to buy his tag and he said he just kept putting it off. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster and CO Brad Bellville put on a hunter safety field day at the Alpena DNR Field Office for students that had taken the online test.

CO Brad Bellville was on a late-night patrol in Montmorency County when he observed a pick-up truck traveling at a high rate of speed down a power line. CO Bellville observed the truck run a stop sign and do several "burn-outs" in the intersection. CO Bellville conducted a traffic stop on the truck resulting in several tickets issued including open intoxicants and careless operation of a motor vehicle.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint in Montmorency County of a subject who found a coyote in a trap. The subject stated that when he attempted to release the coyote, that the coyote bit him. CO Ross explained to the subject that it was unlawful for him to try and remove an animal from a legally set trap. The trap was returned to the trapper with an explanation of what had transpired.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Colton Gelinis and CO William Kinney responded to a deer that had been shot by a rifle. The COs arrived on scene and spoke with the suspect. The suspect had a DMAP license to harvest the buck, however there were other numerous violations present on scene. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinias met with a farmer in Leelanau County and toured his property. The farmer is allowing hunters the right to access his property via foot and hunt his property. The farmer enrolled his land into the HAP program. CO Gelinias became familiar with the property in case of any future calls to this property.

CO Rebecca Hopkins was the first responder to a 'hit and run' bicycle/car crash. A 16 year old male was riding his bike home in the dark against the flow of traffic down a rural road and a vehicle traveling the same direction crossed the center line and hit the boy from behind. The boy sustained minor injuries and did not see the vehicle to get a good description. On the scene with MSP Trooper Jeff Crofoot, the officers recovered parts of a vehicle and secured them hoping more evidence would surface in the daylight. The following day, Trooper Crofoot located a damaged vehicle in a driveway approximately two miles from the crash scene. CO Hopkins assisted Trooper Crofoot with securing the vehicle. The vehicle parts recovered the night before matched some of the damage on the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle admitted to hitting "something" the night before and continuing to drive home. Alcohol was believed to be a factor in the crash. The case was submitted to the county prosecutor by Trooper Crofoot, and warrants have been issued.

COs Will Kinney and Rebecca Hopkins observed an ATV parked off a forest road on a section of state land where CO Hopkins had previously documented an illegal tree stand. While checking the area, the COs observed the ATV did not have any ORV stickers attached. The COs checked the illegal tree stand and found it occupied by a hunter with a crossbow. The hunter admitted to operating the ATV without the proper stickers and without a helmet. The hunter was directed to the illegal tree stand by a family member, who was nearby and arrived on scene. The family member admitted to failing to remove the tree stand after the 2016 season. The current hunter was unable to produce a valid hunting license for 2017, and RSS search revealed no license had been purchased by the hunter. Citations were issued for the tree stand violation and hunting without a license. Warnings were given for the ORV violations.

CO Rebecca Hopkins was given information from Report All Poaching dispatch that a subject had posted taking an 8-point antlered whitetail on social media. A RSS search of the subject revealed the subject had not purchased a deer license for 2017. Further investigation by CO Hopkins revealed a friend of the subject bought a license on the same day the deer was taken. It was the only purchase in RSS for the friend. An interview revealed the friend did purchase and give the subject the deer license for the deer posted on social media. A warrant request was made to the County Prosecutor's Office for taking a deer without a license and using the license of another. The subject is currently evading police and is wanted for nine other court warrants.

CO Ryan Andrews discovered an 8-point buck at a processor with an un-validated date on the tag. The logbook and receipts from the processor showed that the deer was dropped off the same day the license was purchased and the license was purchased an hour after shooting hours ended. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews came across two side-by-side ORVs driving on M-37. The state highway is closed to all ORV use. A traffic stop was conducted and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews and Federal Forest Service Officer Doug Behringer located four individuals who had been target shooting on federal land and were preparing to leave the area when the officers arrived. The shooters had left their targets, empty ammo boxes and water bottles on the public land. During the investigation of the above infractions, the officers also discovered the individuals had been using marijuana and one of them was still in possession of it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed a dirt bike operating on M-37 after dark with only a head light and no working tail light. CO Killingbeck stopped the ORV and was informed by the operator that he was just driving the bike home for a friend who had crashed and been injured and was unable to keep riding. CO Killingbeck determined that the original rider did not want EMS and also had failed to report the accident. Further investigation revealed the subject that CO Killingbeck stopped was driving on a suspended license and with no eye protection. The ORV had been purchased approximately eight to ten years ago and the title had never been transferred. CO Killingbeck educated all parties involved on ORV regulations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed an ORV parked off the roadway and into the woods on public land. CO Killingbeck positioned himself down the road and at dark was able to observe the ORV leaving the woods. CO Killingbeck made contact with the operator and discovered he was in possession of an uncased crossbow. The subject told CO Killingbeck he did not believe he needed a case for his crossbow. CO Killingbeck educated the subject on regulations pertaining to crossbows. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck made contact with a subject hunting in a tree stand in Lake County that had spikes driven into the tree, no name and address on the stand and the subject's bait pile exceeded the two gallon limit. The hunter told CO Killingbeck that he knew it was illegal to have spikes in trees, but he believed it made it harder for people to steal tree stands. CO Killingbeck provided the subject with regulations pertaining to tree stands on public land and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking a tree stand in Lake County where he had earlier found cut limbs and no name or address on the stand. CO Killingbeck located a vehicle parked near the stand and observed an open beer in the driver's cup holder. CO Killingbeck made contact with the subject in the stand and discovered the subject did not have his hunting licenses with him. The hunter also admitted the open intoxicants in the vehicle were his. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he heard deputies being dispatched to a deer camp in Cherry Valley Township of Lake County for a subject who was unresponsive and not breathing. CO Killingbeck used his knowledge of the area to quickly locate the deer camp and was first on scene. CO Killingbeck did CPR for over 30 minutes before EMS personnel arrived. CO Killingbeck then assisted EMS personal with their attempts to resuscitate the victim. All efforts were exhausted and the victim did not survive. CO Killingbeck assisted the Lake County Sheriff's Department with the death investigation which appeared to be natural causes.

CO Josiah Killingbeck got an early morning call from Lake County Central Dispatch advising that deputies were out with a hunter who was in possession of a spike horn deer in an APR restricted area. CO Killingbeck responded to the Olga Lake area and met with deputies. The hunter had been giving the deputies several different stories of how he had come into possession of the deer, but upon CO Killingbeck's arrival, the hunter confessed that he shot the spike horn because he was not seeing any other legal deer to shoot. The hunter admittedly knew it was illegal to shoot the spike. CO Killingbeck also found the hunter to be baiting with more than two gallons and also had no name or address on his stand. The crossbow and deer was seized and enforcement action was taken. The deer was donated to a needy family.

CO Brian Brosky responded to a text Report All Poaching complainant where the complainant advised he had a subject on camera trespassing. The caller recognized and knew who the complainant was and explained the situation to CO Brosky who was also familiar with the trespasser. CO Brosky interviewed the suspect and asked him if he could look at the crossbow and bolts that were being used to hunt with. Noting that the crossbow and bolts were identical to the ones in the photo, CO Brosky asked the suspect if he had been trespassing on the property in question. At first, the suspect denied that he had trespassed, but when shown the photograph taken from the game camera, the suspect admitted to being on the property and apologized. The suspect was cited and later plead guilty to the recreational trespass violation.

CO Brian Brosky was inspecting a commercial processor when he noted there was a deer in the cooler that had the antlers sawed off with a 4-point restricted combination tag attached to the deer carcass. Noting that the deer was small in size and figuring it was only a year and a half old spike horn buck, CO Brosky decided to interview the subject. Upon contact, CO Brosky asked the suspect if he knew why he was there and the suspect stated that he did not. When questioned about the deer that he had dropped off at the processor, CO Brosky told him his tag was marked and the processor forms were filled out to record it as a "zero point" deer. CO Brosky stated that he thought it was a spike horn and asked him where the antlers were. The suspect eventually admitted that it was in fact a spike horn that had five or six-inch antlers, and he knew he wasn't supposed to shoot it. When questioned why he actually shot the deer, the suspect stated he felt it was getting pretty late in the season and he had only been seeing spike horns and four points so he decided to fill the tag that way. The suspect was cited for killing an illegal deer in a QDM area that required at least three points on one antler. The suspect is currently awaiting an appearance date in court.

While parked along a two-track road on US Forest Service land in Mason County, CO Brian Brosky noticed an ORV arrive at his location in front of him. The operator of the ORV recognized the patrol truck, backed up, and proceeded to go north. CO Brosky stopped the individual who was operating the ORV in a closed area with a passenger, neither of whom had helmets or eye protection, and the ORV was unlicensed. The operator stated he knew he wasn't supposed to be operating the ORV without an ORV license and knew he had to have helmets and eye protection. The operator was given several warnings and received a citation for operating an unlicensed ORV.

While checking a recreational trespass complaint in Mason County, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky noticed an oversized bait pile on the adjacent property. Upon checking the bait and ground blind, the COs were met by an individual who had been previously cited for other wildlife violations. Further investigation revealed a blind associated with the bait, occupied by a second person, and two bows inside the blind. One subject ultimately admitted to hunting without a license and both were also in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

While working Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski was leaving his residence when he heard several shots being fired. CO Publiski found the location of the shots as there was a group of goose hunters shooting in a field. CO Publiski hid his patrol truck from sight of the hunters and was able to hide in a woodlot and watch the hunters. After several more geese were shot, CO Publiski checked the group of hunters and determined the group had taken an over-limit of geese. The hunters were also in possession of multiple firearms per hunter and one of the hunters failed to purchase a waterfowl hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott MacNeill received a complaint from an individual who stated a deer had just died in the back yard of his residence in a small subdivision near Portage Lake in Manistee County. CO MacNeill had been informed that a hunter, who was tracking the deer, had come and picked up the deer and took it back to a residence a couple of doors down. CO MacNeill located the suspect's address, arriving just as the hunter was loading the deer into the trunk of his car. CO MacNeill found the deer to be a 2x2 buck which was untagged. The hunter did not have any tags in his possession and Manistee County has an Antler Point Restriction of three or more points on one side. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott MacNeill responded to a complaint of rifle shots after dark near Copemish in Manistee County. After approximately an hour of patrolling the area, he was able to find fresh vehicle tracks leading down a powerline onto Consumer's Energy property. After following tracks, CO MacNeill found lights at a small camp in the woods with a small 2x2 buck hanging from a tree. Upon investigating, it was found that the deer was tagged with a restricted combo tag and was not validated. When interviewing the individuals in the cabin, he also discovered the tag was purchased after the individual harvested the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the south end of Manistee County, CO Scott MacNeill observed a vehicle driving erratically near Brethren. After observing several traffic violations, he performed a traffic stop and found the driver to be intoxicated. After performing a series of standardized field sobriety tests, the individual was taken into custody and lodged at the Manistee County Jail for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

CO Jeff Ginn and Sgt. Michael Bomay responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject shooting swans with a sling shot. The COs responded and conducted surveillance of the subject on a paddle boat shooting at a flock of swans multiple times. Upon making contact with the individual, he turned his paddle boat away from the COs and dropped the sling shot in the water. Once on shore, the subject denied shooting anything at the swans even after locating a pocket full of marbles on the subject. CO Ginn advised the subject of the multiple charges he planned on issuing a citation for including attempting to take a protected species and littering. While issuing the citation, CO Ginn was able to contact a member of the Newaygo Dive Team that was available and willing to attempt to locate the evidence. The diver was able to locate the sling shot in the water near the shoreline. As the diver was returning to shore with the sling shot, another neighbor approached the COs and advised them that he had a valid Personal Protection Order against the suspect and that he is not to possess any weapons within 1000 feet of this person. The PPO specifically mentioned and included a sling shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and Sgt. Michael Bomay contacted a subject who was caught on a trail camera trespassing. The individual removed multiple SD cards from several trail cameras, but did not see the one who caught him. The subject admitted to trespassing and returned the SD cards to the property owner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway, along with CO Josh Russell and Wildlife Division Biologist John Newander, attended an outdoor event for the public. The COs answered questions about hunting and fishing, as well as provided information on the CWD issues that have come to light in the area. The event was attended by over a 100 participants, including the local radio station.

CO Ben Shively was working a shining patrol in Oceana County in the rain when he observed multiple lights coming from a vehicle travelling down the road. CO Shively was able to follow the car and after watching them shine two other fields conducted a traffic stop on the Newaygo County line. Both the driver and rear passenger had spotlights sitting next to them and when asked why they were shining in November both subjects just put their heads down. Both subjects were cited for shining in November.

CO Ben Shively backed up an Oceana County Deputy on a traffic stop and learned that the vehicle had just left a local bar. The subject stated he left because there was a large fight inside the bar. CO Shively went to the bar and as he was pulling up, observed a second large fight about to begin in the parking lot. CO Shively was able to disperse the groups and called for additional officers. CO Shively assisted in interviewing multiple subjects and found the suspect who had assaulted two females and two males had fled

the scene, but had been positively identified and a 4-count warrant for assault will be sought.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a subject who posted a picture of himself posing with an 8-point buck on an outdoor website. Comparison of the time and date of the posting to the time and date he obtained his license was suspicious to CO Wells. Interview with the subject resulted in his admission to the harvesting of the deer without a license and the purchase of his license shortly after the harvesting of the deer. CO Wells also discovered that the subject failed to validate the kill tag used on the deer. Citation was issued for the over limit of deer and the fail to validate violation.

CO Mike Wells was off duty when a neighbor contacted him regarding a trespass and downed deer across the street from the CO's residence. Interview of a witness revealed that the witness was in his stand hunting when he heard the discharge of a bow and observed an antlered deer running from the area. A short time later, a subject in camouflage clothing and a crossbow was observed leaving the area. A blood trail was tracked by the complainant leading to an 8-point buck. Also located on the blood trail was a hat on a branch which appeared to be a marker for the blood trail. CO Wells returned early the next morning, and after a short wait, the subject was contacted on the complainant property without permission. Interview resulted in admission that the subject was trespassing when he shot the deer at around 6:20 p.m. and that he did leave his hat as a marker on the blood trail. It was also discovered that the subject purchased his deer license several hours after he harvested the deer. Citation was issued for the over-limit of deer and the trespass. The deer and archery equipment was seized.

## **DISTRICT 5**

Following up on a complaint received in July, COs Mike Hearn and Sam Schluckbier contacted a group of hunters in Kalkaska County. The group was using their neighbor's private property and adjacent state land to build permanent elevated blinds. They were also posting state land with no trespassing signs, baiting early, baiting excessively, making their own trails with ORVs, transporting bows and crossbows uncased on ORVs, as well as building a structure over a creek without DEQ approval. While being interviewed by the COs, the hunters admitted to harvesting two deer the day before. Upon returning to camp to check the deer, one of them was found to be untagged. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Brian Olsen responded to a complaint of a dead deer in a field in Crawford County. The complainant obtained a license plate number off a nearby vehicle after noticing flashlights outside his residence around 1:00 a.m. Sgt. Olsen used prior forensic training to determine the time of death for the deer to be around 10:00 p.m. Sgt. Olsen and CO Ben McAteer interviewed the registered owner of the vehicle along with his girlfriend. Initially, they told the COs they were out looking at the stars. However, after being confronted with additional evidence, they quickly confessed to shooting the deer

around 10 p.m. and returning at 1 a.m. with the intent to retrieve it. Charges are being sought through the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Ben McAteer and John Huspen conducted a November shining patrol in Crawford County. Shining to locate deer in November is illegal. The COs tucked in and observed a truck driving unusually slow down a two-track. It wasn't long before a spotlight was observed illuminating the tree line out the passenger side window of the truck. A traffic stop was initiated and the COs discovered a cocked, uncased crossbow next to the driver and a bolt sitting between his legs. A search of the vehicle also yielded open intoxicants, a jar of marijuana and other drug paraphernalia. During an interview, the driver stated, "honestly, if I had seen a deer, I would have shot it!" The spotlight, crossbow, and bolt were all seized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier was patrolling state land in Kalkaska County when he located a vehicle parked just off the roadway. It was nearing the end of hunting hours, so CO Schluckbier waited for the driver to return to his vehicle. After a 15-minute wait, the hunter arrived back at the vehicle. While conducting a hunting check, CO Schluckbier discovered the man had not purchased a 2017 deer hunting license. The hunter was also using a tree stand that was not properly marked with his identification. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier closed out an open case involving an abandoned trailer located on state land in Kalkaska County. After removing the trailer and having it towed to a local impound lot, a registered owner was identified. Interviews were conducted and it was determined the trailer was stolen from a dealership and left out on state land. However, the registered owner failed to notify local law enforcement of the theft when it occurred. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier located a hunting site on state land in Kalkaska County. The area contained approximately 20 gallons of sugar beets and illegal screw-in steps the hunter used to climb into his tree stand. CO Schluckbier followed up a few days later to locate the hunter who was responsible for the violations. Upon contact, the man admitted he knew the bait amount was illegal, but he lived downstate and wanted to make sure it didn't run out. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking archery hunters on state land in Ogemaw County, CO Kyle Bader was given some slightly suspicious information from a hunter regarding a deer he had killed earlier in the year. CO Bader followed up with the taxidermist that was mounting the deer for the hunter and checked the license that was attached. The information on the hunting license conflicted with the story given by the hunter. In addition, CO Bader determined the hunting license on the deer belonged to the hunter's son and the hunter had purchased his licenses after the deer was killed. CO Bader interviewed the hunter and his son and obtained confessions for the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in Ogemaw County while exiting the woods nearly two hours after the close of hunting hours. The driver claimed they were tracking a deer, but were unable to locate it. Further investigation revealed that the driver did not possess a valid driver's license, did not have valid insurance, and had a fraudulent plate on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken and the vehicle was towed.

COs Casey Pullum and Kyle Cherry responded to a Report All Poaching complaint in Ogemaw County. The complaint alleged a man had shot a deer with a firearm after dark during the archery deer season. The COs interviewed the suspect and received consent to search the premises. They located a shooting bench consisting of straw bales in the loft of a barn with two rifles leaning against it as well as two spent rifle casings lying on the floor. The COs continued their search and prior to entering a garage, the suspect confessed to shooting a buck with his rifle. The COs located an eight-point buck hanging in the garage with a bullet hole in it. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Cherry, Casey Pullum, Jeff Panich, and Sgt. Bobbi Lively deployed a deer decoy after dark in Alcona County targeting violations for shining in November. The decoy deployment was successful. The COs cited two individuals for shining in November and another subject for transporting an uncased crossbow.

COs Ethan Gainforth and Joshua Wright were patrolling Northern Clare County when they encountered two 3-wheelers operating through an area of public land that was prohibited to ORV traffic. After following them a short distance, a traffic stop was made. The two 3-wheelers were being operated by two adults with two very young kids riding in front of the drivers. While talking with the operators, CO Gainforth noticed dried blood on the wheel of one of the 3-wheelers. After some discussion, the subjects stated they stored the 3-wheeler at their cabin all the time and they had not taken any deer yet this season. CO Gainforth asked them why they had blood on their 3-wheeler if no one had harvested any deer. Both subjects had a look of shock on their faces. After further investigation, it was determined that one of the subject's wives had harvested a 5-point buck without a license. After receiving statements from the wife and getting pictures of the deer, CO Gainforth secured assistance from CO Ray Gardner in Wayne County to meet the subjects at their downstate residence. CO Gardner secured the antlers of the illegally killed deer for evidence. The subjects were issued citations for the ORV violations and charges will be sought through the prosecutor's office for the deer that was killed without a license.

CO Ethan Gainforth checked a group of waterfowl hunters in a popular area of Clare County. One of the hunters had lead shot mixed in with his steel shot rounds. CO Gainforth asked the subject if he hunted any other species like grouse and the subject replied, "No, all I hunt is waterfowl". CO Gainforth explained the severity of using lead shot and what a detriment to the population it can be when ingested by waterfowl. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson responded to assist the Arenac County Sheriff's Department with a call of a 'breaking and entering' in progress. CO Hudson, along with the Arenac deputy, arrived in time to catch the burglar inside the caller's home. The burglar was not cooperative and after a short struggle, he was taken into custody. When asked about his activities, the suspect simply stated, "It's Sunday, that's when I break into houses and steal things."

CO Steve Lockwood was checking a deer that was hanging in a shed when the female hunter proudly announced she had shot the buck the previous evening. The only problem was that the deer license had just been purchased that morning. The hunter admitted to shooting the deer prior to buying a deer license. In addition, the hunter did not properly validate her deer kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau received a tip regarding a Gladwin County resident that had reportedly shot a buck without a license. CO Papineau located the subject in the Retail Sales System (RSS) and discovered that he had consistently purchased licenses every year except for 2017. CO Papineau conducted an interview and ultimately obtained a confession for shooting the eight-point buck without a deer license. The antlers were seized and a warrant request was submitted to the Gladwin County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg were on patrol when they noticed pieces of animals in the back of a truck at a local gas station. CO Lockwood struck up a conversation with the driver of the vehicle. The man immediately claimed that the turkeys and squirrels were road-killed animals. However, the COs located a loaded .22 caliber firearm in the back seat of the truck. Stories soon changed and the suspect admitted to shooting the animals without any licenses. COs Lundberg and Lockwood followed the suspect back to his residence where even more problems were discovered. In addition to the other violations, two untagged bobcats were discovered in the suspect's freezer. Further investigation also led to the discovery of an over limit of white-tailed deer. This was definitely not what the suspect expected to happen when he pulled in the gas station to fuel up his truck!

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars assisted in the search for a missing 15-year-old female with autism. CO Byars tracked the female into the corn field but lost tracks as she turned into the road. The CO was assisted by two State Police K-9 units and several sheriff's deputies. The female was found later with no injuries.

CO Josh Russell received a complaint from the Carson City Police Department regarding a subject hunting in the cemetery. Carson City PD located the subject and detained him until CO Russell arrived on scene. CO Russell interviewed the suspect and found multiple other violations. The subject did not have his hunting licenses on him, was trespassing on private property, attempted to take game without a license, and was discharging a bow within city limits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Gowenlock received a complaint of subjects fishing the Cheboyganing Creek and taking over limits of crappie. CO Gowenlock responded to the area and observed an elderly couple fishing from the bridge. CO Gowenlock made contact and found nothing out of the ordinary. However, while speaking with the older man, CO Gowenlock asked if he had seen any illegal activity in which the older man motioned to look underneath the bridge. CO Gowenlock went under the bridge and found three individuals attempting to hide. During his investigation, 30 crappies were found in one of the suspect's vehicle along with another 11 under the bridge. The suspect was cited for taking an over limit of crappie.

While on patrol, CO Kyle Bucholtz offered to assist an area county sheriff's department with an intoxicated driver. The driver had reportedly driven off the road and into a field. While in route, a sheriff's deputy located the suspect vehicle as it pulled back onto the roadway. The deputy attempted to stop the motor vehicle but the driver fled. Moments later, when CO Bucholtz met the pursuit, the suspect pulled over and ceased the chase. The driver was arrested and lodged on local charges.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline of a vehicle driving in the Rush Lake State Game Area in Huron County. The vehicle was located approximately 1/2 mile from the road. When the owner was located, he advised CO Hobkirk that he had parked it there while scouting for a place to hunt. A citation was issued for the violation.

CO Mark Siemen received multiple complaints about fishermen snagging and netting Atlantic salmon in the Lexington Harbor. While working a late night shift in the harbor, CO Siemen watched four subjects for a period of time fishing by the boat ramps. CO Siemen watched the subjects put large nets in the water, and after a short period of time saw them net a fish and pull it up on shore. At this time CO Siemen made contact with the subjects and an argument took place with one of the subjects, who was upset about being caught for fishing by an illegal method. CO Siemen called for backup from Lexington Police Department, who arrived quickly to assist. All four subjects were issued citations for multiple offenses and evidence was seized and photographed.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a large 10-point buck that may have been taken illegally by a subject who was hunting in the village of Lexington. After several hours of investigation and speaking with multiple subjects, it was determined the deer was shot with a crossbow over a very large bait pile. When CO Siemen made contact with the suspect, he stated he paid a local guy to bait the blind and that he had also dumped too much bait at the blind. Contact was made with CO Kris Kiel from Macomb County about picking the deer up at a deer processor in Macomb County. A short time later CO Kiel made contact with CO Siemen and advised that he located and seized the deer, and that it was tagged with a different subject's tag, not the subject that actually killed the deer. CO Siemen photographed and collected evidence, with assistance from CO Kiel from Macomb County. A report is being generated and enforcement action will be taken.

CO Joshua Wright was checking deer hunters in the Fish Point State Game Area and came upon a hunter by his vehicle just after shooting hours. CO Wright could smell the odor of intoxicants coming from the hunter and see open alcohol containers in the truck. After questioning the hunter and doing tests it was determined that he was not intoxicated but a citation was issued for open alcohol container in a vehicle.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint through the Report All Poaching hotline of an illegal bait pile in the Vassar State Game Area. CO Wright located the bait and checked the area for a hunter several times. Four days after the complaint came in CO Wright found a hunter sitting over the bait pile still with approximately 20 gallons on the ground. It was discovered that the hunter drove to that location on a suspended license and a search of the vehicle produced an illegal knife. Enforcement action was taken and the hunter cleaned up the bait.

CO Jill Miller attended a women's waterfowl hunt class to talk about hunter safety and the rules and regulations around waterfowl hunting. Seven women were in the class to learn about waterfowl hunting and were going to go on their first waterfowl hunt the next morning at the Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area.

COs Jill Miller and Chad Foerster were checking anglers on the Saginaw River when they checked two subjects they observed fishing along the shore. They had four lines out and when contact was made, one subject said he wasn't fishing. After informing the anglers that the COs had observed them fishing, the one subject continued to deny that he was fishing. When the other subject was informed that he would be getting a ticket for fishing with too many lines, the subject admitted he was really fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jill Miller and Chad Foerster were checking anglers on the Saginaw River when they checked a subject who was fishing for walleye from the shore. He stated he had one fish and he caught his limit earlier in the day. After realizing what he just said, he tried to change his story and then finally admitted to having an over limit of walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

During a late evening patrol, CO Mike Haas passed a truck on a secluded road in northern Isabella County. As the CO passed the car, he noticed it was traveling slow and did not have any license plate lights. While turning his patrol truck around, the truck sped up and attempted to leave the area. CO Haas was able to catch up to the truck and initiate contact with the operator. CO Haas notified the driver that he was speeding and that his license plate lights were broken. When the operator of the truck began to speak, CO Haas immediately smelled a strong odor of intoxicants. CO Haas located an open, half consumed beer near the driver's feet and additional open cans in the back seat. The operator failed all of the standard sobriety tests and his breath-alcohol test revealed the driver was twice the legal limit. The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated, 3rd offense.

CO Josh Russell received a complaint that there were subjects with uncased firearms operating a side-by-side in northern Isabella County. CO Russell met with CO Mike Haas and the two patrolled the complaint area. The COs witnessed a side-by-side operating down the middle of the roadway and initiated a traffic stop for improper lane use. Upon making contact with the men in the vehicle, it was discovered that one passenger had an uncased shotgun near his feet and another passenger had a shotgun on his lap half stowed in a gun case. The subjects received citations for having uncased firearms in a motor vehicle.

While performing deer processor checks, CO Dan Robinson found several deer with tagging discrepancies. After investigating each of the cases, CO Robinson interviewed the subjects. Three of the deer were found to be taken without proper licenses and were seized. One of the subjects was written a citation that could result in \$6,000 in reimbursement, loss of hunting privileges and forfeiture of the antlers. Another case involved cooperation with the Texas Fish and Game service and is still on-going. That subject could also face forfeiture of the deer and antlers, as well as reimbursement and loss of hunting privileges.

CO Dan Robinson and his ride-along for the day were called to the site of a litter complaint. The litter pile consisted of 12 bags of trash and some clothing dumped alongside the road. The pair was unable to interview the subject that day, but CO Robinson returned to the suspect residence the next day for an interview. The subject at first denied that he had anything to do with it and that it must have fallen out of his pick-up when he took it for disposal. CO Robinson pointed out that the tire tracks at the scene matched the suspects truck and that he was the only able driver that lived at the residence and that the trash did not likely fall out and pile up on its own. The suspect finally admitted he put it there and when asked how he got the trash over the ditch without getting wet, the subject said, "I have a good arm." Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson was called to the area for a neighbor issue. An individual had shot a buck and it ran onto a neighboring property and the hunting party had been told they could not go on the adjoining property without permission. CO Robinson arrived on-scene and tracked the deer to the property line and into the field as the first hunter reported hearing a single gunshot shortly after the deer disappeared into the woods. Unable to immediately find the buck, CO Robinson went to the neighboring property where a second hunter said he shot the deer as it came past his stand. The second hunter tagged it, cut the antlers off and brought it in for processing. The next day, CO Robinson went to the butcher and found the deer only had one trauma path from one arrow. After re-interviewing the second hunter, he admitted that he did not shoot the buck. The antlers and meat were returned to the first hunter, enforcement action was taken on the second hunter.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood pulled into a gas station and were filling the patrol truck shortly after dark. COs Lundberg and Lockwood were discussing a vehicle at the gas station they believed had a turkey in the truck bed. The COs contacted the

driver and passenger of the truck as the COs walked by. CO Lockwood discovered a loaded rifle in the cab of the truck that had an illuminated night scope mounted on it. The driver finally admitted to shooting the turkey with the rifle, without having a license and along with shooting the five squirrels in the truck also without a license. The COs followed the driver back to his house where the COs located two illegal bobcats and four illegally killed/possessed antlered deer. The interviews with the driver ultimately led to the confession of killing some nice bucks with a rifle out of season and taking the bobcats without a fur harvester license. The bobcats, squirrels, deer, turkey and gun were all seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted a hunter on state land that was illegally smoking marijuana as he was walking into his blind. CO Lundberg asked to do a consent search of his vehicle and the hunter agreed. Even though the hunter stated nobody had gotten a deer yet this year, CO Lundberg located a bloody handbag under the tonneau cover on the bed of the truck. CO Lundberg followed the hunter back to a cabin, the same cabin CO Lundberg seized deer from two years ago. The hunter advised CO Lundberg about a deer at the cabin, but when he arrived, there were two bucks hanging in the barn. Both bucks had tags on them that had been purchased just hours before (midday) and one deer had a tag on it that was borrowed from a relative. The deer were seized and enforcement action was taken. The individuals stated they were "done hunting because they keep getting tickets."

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Chuck Towns was contacted by the Allegan County Sheriff's Department and the City of Portage Police Department to assist in locating the possible remains of a murder victim in the Allegan State Game Area. The suspect had left behind a handwritten map of two-tracks and trails located in a remote location of state land prior to committing suicide. CO Towns was able to recognize the pattern of the trails on the map and lead investigators to the location. The remains were located within two minutes of the start of their search.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling Barry County and responded to a "Be on the Look Out" (BOL) complaint, dispatched by Barry County Central Dispatch. The BOL described a wanted felon fleeing from police, and who recently stole a white truck from a residence near the Kalamazoo/Barry County line. The suspect was believed to be armed and dangerous and was the suspect in an officer involved shooting at one point. CO Cardenas located a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle. Upon obtaining additional details of the stolen truck and confirming it was indeed the suspect vehicle, CO Cardenas initiated his patrol truck's emergency lights and siren. The fleeing suspect failed to stop, and speeds quickly reached above 90mph. CO Cardenas pursued the suspect down rural roads and eventually ended up on M 222 heading towards the city of Allegan. Allegan County Sheriff's Department was able to set up stop sticks and the suspect hit the strips with his passenger side tires. The suspect lost control of the vehicle shortly after making contact with the stop sticks, and went into the ditch. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody without further incident. He is

wanted on several felony counts by several different jurisdictions. Assisting agencies: Barry County Sheriff's Dept., Allegan County Sheriff's Dept. and Michigan State Police.

While on patrol, CO Greg Patten encountered an ORV operating on a public roadway where prohibited and against the flow of traffic. The operator was riding with his five-year-old son on the seat in front of him, on an ORV not designed to carry passengers. Neither father nor son had helmets on. Enforcement action was taken.

While inspecting a deer processor in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg located a suspicious deer that had been dropped off. While looking at the tag, CO Ulberg noticed that it had been purchased by the hunter approximately 30 minutes before being dropped off at the processor. CO Ulberg interviewed the hunter and the hunter's father regarding the deer. After a brief interview, it was determined that the son had never been out hunting and the father had shot the deer. The father had shot a second buck earlier in the year and did not want to be done hunting, so he had his son go purchase the deer tag for him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg stopped a vehicle for shining after hours in Kent County. While the minor subjects were not in possession of any weapons, they were in possession of alcohol and had been drinking. Enforcement action was taken.

While on an evening patrol in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg observed a vehicle sitting at a four-way stop for a lengthy period of time. A subject then exited the vehicle and urinated in front of CO Ulberg. A traffic stop was conducted and it was determined that the driver of the vehicle was operating under the influence of alcohol. The subject was lodged at the county jail for OWI.

CO Jeff Robinette was conducting surveillance during a group patrol geared at shining/shooting in November enforcement. CO Robinette observed a vehicle stop in the roadway and begin backing up and going forward, turning the vehicle slightly each time. CO Robinette observed that the vehicle operator was using the vehicle headlights to illuminate fields on both sides of the road. CO Robinette made a traffic stop on the vehicle and verified that the operator was using the headlights to shine the fields. The operator also stated that he knew he wasn't supposed to be shining in November. CO Robinette conducted a check of the vehicle and did not find any weapons. The vehicle operator was issued a ticket for shining in November.

While patrolling a closed section of the Black River in Van Buren County, CO Tyler Cole observed two subjects attempting to snag salmon. One subject had hooked into a salmon and after two minutes of fighting the fish, his line snapped. The subjects then discussed if the walk back to the car to retrieve more treble hooks was worth the time. One subject decided it was not worth the time and picked up a large stick from the edge of the river. The subject proceeded to enter the river and attempt to take salmon by hitting the fish in the head with the stick. After failing at this venture for a few minutes, the subjects left the area to retrieve more treble hooks. Contact was made with the

subjects at their vehicle and citations were issued for fishing in a closed stream and using an illegal method of take.

While patrolling near the Crane Pond State Area, CO Tyler Cole observed a pickup truck travelling extremely fast down a main road. CO Cole followed the vehicle for approximately two miles, noticing that the vehicle did not use proper turn signals, and was paced at nearly 80 mph in a 55 mph zone. A traffic stop was conducted and it was found that the operator of the vehicle was driving on a suspended license and had an active warrant out of Cass County. The subject was lodged at Cass County Jail on the warrant.

CO Matt Page, while conducting a meat processor inspection, observed a small buck tagged with a restricted combo tag. The buck did not have 4 points on one side; additionally the tag was wrapped around the antler in an effort to hide the tagging violation. CO Page made contact with the hunter who stated he has been hunting for over 20 years and claims he did not know. A citation was issued for the tagging violation.

CO Matt Page observed a vehicle behind him leave its lane of travel on three separate occasions. While travelling on a curve, the vehicle crossed the double yellow line with oncoming traffic and nearly caused a collision. CO Page pulled off to the shoulder to allow the operator to pass and observed a female operator looking at her phone. CO Page initiated a traffic stop and made contact. When asked why the operator could not keep her vehicle in the right lane the driver stated that she was texting. A citation was issued to the operator for texting while driving and given verbal warnings for no proof of insurance and driving left of center.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler responded to a Livingston County complaint where hunters shot a bobcat that was attacking their dog. The hunters rushed the dog to the vet after shooting the bobcat. When they returned (with CO Drexler) they discovered the bobcat was caught in a foothold trap that likely resulted in the conflict with the dog. Due to the circumstances, no enforcement action was taken. The dog was released with minor injuries to its head.

CO Dan Prince investigated a possible hunter harassment complaint in Livingston County. A crossbow hunter reported that a subject who lived nearby his hunting property drove by and gave him the middle finger while he was waiting for a hunting partner. The hunter and the subject then got into a verbal argument. CO Prince explained the laws to the hunter. CO Prince is attempting to make contact with the driver of the vehicle.

CO Daniel Prince assisted a DNR park ranger with a deer baiting issue in the Pinckney Recreation Area near one of the cabins. CO Prince and the park ranger made contact with the hunters at their camp site. The hunters stated the bait accidentally spilled near

their parking area and that they were not hunting over it. The park ranger requested they clean up the area.

CO Daniel Prince assisted an elderly couple in the Brighton area with a dead deer they found in their back yard. The deer skeleton was dragged into their yard by pack of coyotes. CO Prince was able to remove the deer remains for the homeowners.

CO Eric Smither was contacted by CO Andrew Monnich about a possible trespass complaint. CO Smither arrived and both suspects stated they had gone onto the property to retrieve hunting dogs. Upon further investigation, it was found that they kept their firearms with them when they went onto the property and had parked their vehicle in the field as well. CO Smither made contact with the caller who stated when he arrived they both were hunting in his field. CO Smither will be sending a report to the Lenawee County Prosecutor's Office for review.

CO Brandon Hartleben was talking with Waterloo State Recreation Area Rangers along Loveland Road when he heard an ORV approaching. CO Hartleben flagged the subject down. The operator was wearing a safety helmet, but was completely oblivious to the fact that the roadway was closed to ORV use. The owner of the brand new Polaris was following behind the operator in a pick-up truck, as they were just out for a "test ride" on the new machine. CO Hartleben provided the new ORV owner with information on ORV laws and enforcement action was taken.

On patrol in Calhoun County, CO Jason McCullough observed lights in some trees bordering a cornfield. CO McCullough positioned his patrol vehicle on the road close enough to be able to hear a hunter yelling at his dog. After several minutes, CO McCullough heard an ORV start up and drive around the property. A short time later, CO McCullough observed the ORV pull out onto the road. Contact was made with the hunter. In addition to multiple ORV violations, the investigation revealed the hunter was trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss received a hunter harassment complaint stating that the complainant had trail cam photos of someone dumping an unknown substance on his bait pile. When CO Jeff Goss made contact with the suspect, he admitted to tampering with the bait pile because he was upset about how close the other man was hunting to his stand. When asked what he dumped on the bait, the suspect replied, "Deer be gone." After explaining that it is a misdemeanor violation to harass someone who is legally hunting, CO Goss didn't have the heart to tell the man that his attempt to scare off the deer didn't work anyway. According to the complainant, deer were observed licking the substance off the bait. Charges are being sought through the Calhoun County Prosecutor.

CO Josh Jackson responded to a trespass complaint where the suspect was allegedly trapping a ditch line. During the investigation he located two conibear traps with the suspect's information on them, but placed on land he does not have permission to be on. The investigation is on-going.

CO Troy Ludwig responded to a report of road hunters shooting out of a vehicle near Grand Ledge. CO Ludwig made contact with one of the suspects at his residence after his vehicle was identified in the shooting. The suspect admitted to driving the vehicle and advised his friend had taken the shot. The suspect was lodged on a valid felony arrest warrant. The case is currently ongoing.

CO Troy Ludwig conducted a number of interviews about a road hunting case from the previous week. A search warrant was also served on the suspect's phone. Charges are being sought with the Eaton County Prosecutor.

CO Carter Woodwyk observed a deer hanging in a yard in Hillsdale County. Before making contact, CO Woodwyk discovered the homeowner was on probation and was not allowed to have any weapons. CO Woodwyk made contact with the homeowner and asked to see the crossbow that was used to take the deer. The subject went into a shed and got the crossbow and handed it to the CO. The CO advised he would not be getting his crossbow back because he was in violation of his probation conditions. A report has been submitted to his probation officer.

CO Rich Nickols finished contacting commercial deer processors in Clinton County and updating them on recent changes in the law. A total of 15 processors were contacted, five of which were not yet registered as required.

CO Rich Nickols was first on scene of a roll over property damage accident. The driver had swerved to avoid hitting deer crossing the roadway and ended up rolling her vehicle. She was uninjured in the crash but the vehicle was totaled.

CO Rich Nickols spoke to a hunter safety class at the Rose Lake Shooting Range on November 4, 2017. There were approximately 50 people in attendance between students and parents.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a complaint of a hunter bragging on Facebook about shooting a nice 8-point buck in the Okemos area. The suspect's RSS history showed that he had not purchased a 2017 deer hunting license. Upon arriving at the suspect's residence, CO Neterer noticed several sets of antlers lying in the grass next to a barn. CO Neterer began his investigation while waiting for the suspect to return from work. CO Neterer discovered that two of the bucks were taken in the core CWD zone but had not been CWD tested. A 12-point rack from the 2016 season was tagged with his wife's tag but his Facebook page showed him posing alone with the buck. CO Neterer discovered that his wife has been buying licenses for several years but has never taken a hunter safety course. Another untagged 8-point rack was said to have been a roadkill, but a roadkill permit was never requested or issued. The hunter stated he thought he was a law abiding hunter, but now that the CO was at his house pointing out violations, he realized that he needs to pay closer attention to the laws. He went on to say that he hasn't read the hunting guide in several years. Charges are pending with the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Matthew Neterer received a Report All Poaching complaint advising that a man from the Stockbridge area was bragging on Facebook about killing a nice buck early that morning. A check of the hunter's RSS history showed that he purchased his deer hunting licenses two hours after he admitted to killing the buck. CO Neterer arrived at the residence a short time later to find a 9-point buck that was not tagged or field dressed and still had the arrow sticking out of it. The hunter gave a full confession and stated that the deer wasn't tagged or field dressed because he was too tired and wanted to take a nap first. CO Neterer took the deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer made several attempts to contact a hunter who had placed bait near a ladder stand in the Stockbridge area early in the archery season. The hunter placed bait and a trail camera just over the fence line on property that he didn't have permission to hunt. CO Neterer was finally able to catch up to someone sitting in the stand and discovered that they were hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Joseph Deppen and Sgt. Todd Szyska worked a Report All Poaching complaint concerning trespassing on private property and a possible over limit of deer in Macomb County. COs responded to the address and spoke with a hunter leaving the property with his crossbow and self-climber in hand. The hunter did not have any hunting licenses on him and he had multiple bags of carrots and apples in his truck. The COs followed the hunter to his stand and he was found to be over the 2-gallon bait limit. The hunter was educated on ethical hunting and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Sgt. Todd Szyska responded to an ORV complaint in Macomb County and made contact with two ORV operators trespassing in a local gravel pit. The subjects admitted they knew they should not be in there. Both subjects failed to transfer the title into their name. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a late-night patrol in southern St Clair County, CO Ken Kovach observed a vehicle slowing at different fields as it travelled down the road. After a while, CO Kovach witnessed the occupants of the vehicle start to shine select fields. A traffic stop was conducted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach observed an ORV travelling at a high rate of speed down a gravel road. The operator looked back at CO Kovach several times before finally pulling over. The operator was driving on a suspended license, not wearing a helmet, the ORV was not licensed and he was speeding. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a complaint from a boater who had come across duck decoys left out Saturday night. The boater got his prop entangled in the decoy lines and ended up pulling all 36 decoys knowing they were not legally set after 9 pm. CO Lasher spoke to the caller and then called the local police department to see if anyone had reported the decoys stolen. A subject had called and reported his decoys being stolen and the

name matched the name on the bottom of the decoys. Contact was made and the decoys will be returned and enforcement action will be taken.

COs Ben Lasher and Sgt. Todd Szyska patrolled an area of Consumers Power property for complaints of shining and shooting in the early morning hours in St. Clair County. After sitting for a while, a vehicle was seen casting a light into the field the officers were staked out on. The suspect vehicle was followed for a short distance and shined other fields belonging to Consumers Power. A traffic stop was made and the driver and passenger were found to be in possession of open alcohol containers, no driver's license and the shining violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher observed a truck turning around in the St Johns Marsh Game Area parking lot. The driver put the front end of the truck in a low lining area opposed to backing out and turning in the road. As the vehicle approached, CO Lasher rolled his window down and the driver stopped to talk to him. An open beer could be seen in the console of the truck. Upon further investigation, the drivers' license was revoked/denied and the plate was expired. CO Lasher had a family member respond to pick up the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey received an in-progress trespassing complaint from the Great Lakes Water Authority this week. The complainants stated that a subject approached the gate saying he shot a deer and it died on the Water Authority Property. However, due to the nature of the facility, the hunter was not allowed to retrieve the deer. According to the guards, the subject was becoming agitated, and was seen attempting to find access into the property. CO Silorey responded to the area and spoke with the guards of the facility. After speaking with the guards, CO Silorey made contact with the subject at his property. The subject showed CO Silorey where he shot the deer and where it crossed through the fence onto the Water Authorities property. CO Silorey could not find the deer due to lack of blood. The subject stated that he was willing to pay for a deer tracker to locate the deer. With the Water Authorities approval, CO Silorey requested the deer tracker to respond. CO Ken Kovach also responded to the complaint to assist. The subject stated he shot the deer the previous evening around 7:00 p.m.. After several hours of tracking, the K9 located the deer that was shot. After retrieving the deer, COs Silorey and Kovach asked to see the hunters kill tag to tag the deer. The subject presented a license that was purchased that same day. COs Silorey and Kovach questioned the subject, who immediately admitted to shooting the deer then purchasing the kill tags afterwards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was checking anglers fishing in a marina when he contacted one angler who stated that he had caught a few fish. The man stated he caught a rock bass, and held up the rock bass. He also stated that he had caught some perch, and held up an undersized largemouth bass. CO Silorey measured the bass to be 11 inches. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner responded to a complaint of waterfowl hunters using an electronic duck call on Sturgeon Bay Island. CO Gardner contacted Lake Erie Metro

Park Officer Greg Fiorentino to request confirmation of the hunters still being on the island while CO Gardner picked up his boat. Officer Fiorentino was able to confirm that the hunters were still on the island. CO Gardner then met with Officer Fiorentino and went to the island by boat. Upon making contact with the hunters, the officers found two hunters who were trespassing on Lake Erie Metro Park property. CO Gardner also found that the hunters were in possession of an electronic call that the hunters admitted to using. Other violations that were found included the possession of an additional loaded shotgun, lead shot and an unsigned Federal Duck Stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Schaumburger observed a group of waterfowl hunters placing decoys in the water approximately 10 minutes before the end of shooting hours. With only a couple minutes to spare before hunting hours were up, they sat and waited for ducks to come in. The hunters remained in place with loaded guns actively looking for birds for 30 more minutes after the close of shooting hours. When the CO made contact with the hunters, he asked if they knew what time hunting hours were. The hunters replied with 7:34, which were shooting hours in the AM. They did not read the PM column next to it. The hunters admitted to having years of experience between the two of them and CO Schaumburger asked why they didn't realize they were wrong when it was pitch black out. They could not provide an answer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger investigated an eye witness report of a vehicle shining the previous night in Monroe County. When the CO made contact with the suspect, he admitted that they were coming home from dinner and wanted to show his wife, who was driving, how whitetail deer eyes glow when they are hit with a spotlight. The suspect also showed the CO the large spotlight he was using because he thought it was no big deal to shine for deer in November. The suspect was educated and enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a complaint of subjects shooting at a cormorant at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, CO Dan Walzak and CO Ray Gardner made contact with two anglers. One of the anglers was observed to be in possession of a cast net and when the subject saw the officers he quickly tried to stuff the net out of sight. While checking the subjects, the COs found that they had fish in their possession that they admitted to taking with the illegal net. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was patrolling Oakland County and observed an erratic driver following too close to the vehicle ahead of it and attempting to pass in a no passing zone. CO Becker stopped the vehicle and asked why the driver was in such a hurry. The driver stated that she was late for an appointment. CO Becker pointed out that her driving was endangering other drivers on the road, and the infant she had in the vehicle. A LEIN check revealed that the driver was suspended and had two warrants for her arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer investigated a complaint of a possible illegal deer. The suspect had a blood tracker locate an 8-point antlered deer. After his investigation CO Dragomer

was able to determine that the 8-point was taken without a license. The suspect bought his deer license after he shot the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he passed a hunter at his truck with ducks and a firearm on the tailgate. CO Griffin pulled into the drive to discover that two subjects were returning from a morning duck hunt. CO Griffin conducted a hunting check and discovered the two subjects were over their limit of wood ducks. Additionally, one of the subjects did not possess a signed Federal Duck Stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was patrolling Oakland County when he approached two waterfowl hunters at a local access site. CO Griffin conducted a waterfowl check and discovered one subject did not have a signed Federal Duck Stamp, one subject had a loaded firearm in the motorboat, and the boat was not equipped with any personal flotation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin received a complaint of suspicious activity from an Oakland County farm involving the taking of several deer. CO Griffin investigated the complaint to discover that the farm held several DMAP deer permits. After multiple interviews CO Griffin discovered that one subject hunting the farm was in violation of the DMAP permit restrictions regulating the taking of deer on the farm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser received a call from The Metro Police Authority of Genesee County regarding a suspicious vehicle located at the closed down Swartz Creek Raceway. The CO located a vehicle which appeared as though it belonged to a hunter. The property was clearly posted against trespassing and is patrolled regularly. CO Muehlhauser and CO Dragomer were tied up on another complaint at the time. After a short while, the officer called back and said that he had a suspect detained. The officer was able to track down the hunter and checked his license status. The COs cleared their original complaint and met up with the officer. The suspect stated he was just looking for a good place to hunt and the raceway looked very promising. He scouted the area the day before and setup to hunt on this particular evening. He admitted that he did not have a hunting license and disregarded the no trespassing signs. Enforcement action was taken.

Due to an ongoing complaint of waterfowl hunters on Shiawassee Lake, CO Justin Muehlhauser patrolled the area and located two vehicles parked at the bridge on Cole Rd. in Argentine Twp. The vehicles appeared to belong to waterfowl hunters. The property the hunters used to access Shiawassee Lake is posted as private property but is commonly used to illegally access the lake. CO Muehlhauser set up on the complainant's property and monitored the hunting activity. Eventually the hunters returned and were met by CO Muehlhauser. The hunters stated that they were in possession of two geese and two hen wood ducks. The hunters said they were set up right where the Shiawassee River opens up into the lake. The CO then asked the hunters how they know the property owner. Both paused briefly and said they thought it was a public lake. The CO informed them that they were hunting over private property

and trespassing. The CO explained that hunting rights are exclusive to the land owner which includes submerged bottom lands. The CO searched the vessel and found no other violations. Enforcement action was taken on both hunters for recreational trespass.

## **BELLE ISLE**

COs Josh Jackson and Travis Dragomer worked a Belle Isle shift and were flagged down by an elderly man on a scooter. His scooter battery had died and he was getting cold. The officers were able to load the scooter into a patrol truck and bring the gentleman back to an assisted living home in Detroit.

CO Joshua Wright worked a Belle Isle shift which resulted in a citation being written for speeding. The driver was paced at 52 mph after passing CO Wright's patrol vehicle.