

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
10/23/2016 – 11/06/2016**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes observed a car swerving in the roadway as he was on patrol in Ontonagon County and made a traffic stop. During the contact, the passenger was acting very strangely and yelling out the window that she was going to commit suicide. She then attempted to harm herself at which point CO Mapes stabilized the situation and radioed for assistance. EMS arrived on scene and transported the passenger to the hospital for further evaluation.

CO Ethen Mapes was on patrol near the Big Iron River boat launch when he encountered a subject who smelled like burnt marijuana. CO Mapes found a smoking pipe on the subject and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen was driving into the Village of Rockland when a vehicle traveling at a very high rate of speed passed him in a no passing zone. CO Lasanen conducted a traffic stop and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was patrolling in Dickinson County when he received a complaint regarding ORVs chasing deer at night in the field. CO Ferguson waited for the ORVs at dark and made contact with three juvenile males. The juveniles admitted they were riding the previous nights but were not chasing deer. CO Ferguson returned to the camp where they were staying and advised the adults at the camp that it was illegal to allow children under 16 to operate an ORV unsupervised. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call from a concerned citizen about a deer running around the neighborhood with an arrow stuck in the neck of the deer. CO Ferguson was able to track the animal down and humanely dispatch the animal. The meat was donated to a local soup kitchen for the needy.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy and PCO Nathan Sink attended the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council meeting in Iron Mountain.

CO Shannon Kritz received a complaint regarding a deer that had just been shot and the complainant believed the suspects were trespassing to retrieve the deer. CO Kritz arrived at the scene shortly after the complaint and located an untagged buck that had been field dressed. CO Kritz contacted CO Jason Wicklund to assist in locating possible suspects at a nearby camp. CO Kritz and Wicklund contacted a side by side near the location and interviewed the two subjects separately. A confession was obtained regarding the untagged deer and the trespassing issues. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Calvin Smith was on routine patrol when he came across an ORV operator who was checking his trap line. A check of the trapper's gun case revealed a loaded shotgun with a live round in the chamber and four rounds in the magazine. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith was on routine patrol when he made contact with a small game hunter driving his vehicle on a forest road. When CO Smith asked the driver if he could check his gun to verify that it was unloaded, the driver asked, "What are you looking for a loaded gun? I can assure you that this gun is not loaded." A check of the firearm revealed that there was indeed a live round in the chamber. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith assisted a MSP trooper with a domestic assault in a rural part of the county.

CO Calvin Smith made contact with a duo who had made the trip to the U.P to do some scouting for the upcoming firearm deer season. Unfortunately for the two eager hunters, they had committed several violations consisting of ORV trespass, riding double on an ORV manufactured for a single operator, over baiting, operating an ORV with no helmets, and failure to immediately notify of carrying a concealed pistol. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch responded to a call of four duck hunters who got thrown overboard from their boat. On scene three of the hunters made it back to shore safely and one was still missing. CO Chris Lynch, along with a MSP trooper, located the shaken man in a marsh about a quarter mile away from where the other three hunters were. The man having difficulties walking was assisted to a waiting ambulance by CO Lynch and the trooper where he was taken to the hospital for hyperthermia and other minor injuries.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he observed a truck operating the wrong way down a one way road. A traffic stop was conducted and upon contact the odor of marijuana was coming from the cab of the vehicle. When asked for a driver's license the driver stated he didn't have one. Gladstone Public Safety was called to the scene to assist. A search of the suspect's vehicle turned up burnt marijuana residue. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling for shining activity when he met an ORV on the road. The operator was stopped because he was not wearing a helmet. While speaking with

the individual on safety issues, it was found the ORV was also unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling an area frequented by bird hunters. While driving down a trail, he noticed an individual walking away from the CO with a shotgun in his hands. When stopped and asked why he wasn't wearing orange, the older hunter stated he thought he didn't have to. An orange vest was given to the hunter so he could keep hunting, as well as a current hunting digest and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was following up on an illegal timber cutting on state land when he heard an ORV approaching. The rider was not wearing a helmet. Upon contacting the individual, CO Busken found that the ORV had no registration sticker. The individual was returning from baiting an illegal deer blind on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma followed-up on a complaint of a dog being caught in a trap. CO Postma retrieved the trap from the complainant who advised that his dog was nearly killed by the conibear trap. After examining the trap it was determined that the trap set was legal for private property. The dog owner was encouraged to keep his dog on a leash, at least through the end of trapping season. The trap was returned to the owner without incident.

CO Kevin Postma assisted wildlife with tagging and collaring a wolf that had been trapped by a coyote trapper.

CO Kevin Postma was called to the scene of safety zone violation involving duck hunters. The complainant advised that he thought the hunters were too close and that this was a residential neighborhood. CO Postma arrived and determined that the hunters were actually just outside of the safe zone by about ten yards (160 yards). Contact was made with the complainant who advised he didn't like that they were hunting ducks since they are like pets and they feed them all year. Contact was made with the hunters who advised they didn't mean to ruffle any feathers. When the hunters were advised of the home owner's concerns about this being a residential neighborhood and that he had fed the ducks all year. The hunter's responded, "Well that's why hunting was so good a couple of weeks ago." There were no violations.

CO Mark Zitnik was checking waterfowl hunters when he observed a motorboat without registration decals. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the vessel was not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn received a call from a local trapper regarding a wolf in a trap that was already collared. CO Freeborn responded and assisted the trappers in releasing the wolf.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint of dead loons washed up on the Lake Michigan shoreline in Charlevoix. CO Erratt located four dead loons that were collected and taken to Wildlife Division personnel in Gaylord and will be sent to the disease lab for testing. There have been numerous cases of dead birds washing ashore on Lake Michigan that have died from botulism.

While patrolling the Chandler Hill area in Charlevoix County, CO Andrea Erratt was stopped by a subject who reported an SUV was intentionally tearing up the gravel roadway. CO Erratt followed the tracks of the vehicle and was able to locate the suspect vehicle and the 19 year old driver. A warning was given to the driver, a rake was obtained from the complainant, and the driver raked out the area of the roadway that he had torn up.

CO Matt Theunick contacted several anglers at the Cheboygan Dam after getting complaints of snagging. From his surveillance position, the CO was able to observe the individuals fishing; however, he observed no signs supporting snagging. Upon contact, both anglers were fishing without a license. The CO asked why they didn't purchase a license and both replied they thought they would not be caught. Citations were issued for failing to possess a fishing license.

COs Nick Torsky and Kelly Ross made contact with property owners in Montmorency County that had reportedly been baiting. The COs located several locations on the property that had illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki was dispatched to an individual who had accidentally shot himself in Cheboygan County. The individual was target practicing with a .45 caliber handgun on state land when it appears the gun discharged into the individual's hand. Upon arrival, the CO provided first aid and was assisted by Cheboygan EMS. Through an investigation, it was determined no criminal action was found.

CO Eric Bottorff was dispatched to a larceny of pine boughs occurring in Cheboygan County. The citizen who reported the incident provided a license plate. The license plate led the CO to a location in Cheboygan County where he made contact with a subject who confessed to taking the pine boughs with the intentions of making Christmas ornaments. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew was dispatched to a lost hunter in the Pigeon River Country. The hunter was able to make a cell phone call to area dispatchers who then were able to get

the latitude and longitude of the hunter. The CO arrived in the area locating the hunter who was visibly shaken however not injured. The CO transported the hunter back to his vehicle which was over three miles away.

COs Paul Fox and Brad Bellville were patrolling the Ocqueoc River near the lamprey weir late at night. They observed a group enter the weir and attempt to snag salmon. Using night vision optics, COs were able to observe the individuals easily. A citation was issued for fishing in a closed weir.

CO Paul Fox contacted a bow hunter in the field in Presque Isle County with multiple violations including hunt over illegal bait, fail to possess kill tags, no name on tree stand, and transport uncased bow. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox attended a hunter safety class at the Onaway Schools. Approximately 30 kids were in attendance. CO Fox covered safe hunting practices, ethics, and basic game laws.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol after dark when he observed an ORV drive past him onto a closed area of state land. CO Fox got behind the ORV and activated his emergency lights. The subject continued until the CO activated his siren. Upon contact with the operator, it was apparent he was under the influence of alcohol. Sobrieties were performed and failed. The operator was arrested and lodged for operating an ORV while intoxicated.

CO Kelly Ross and PCO Scott MacNeill received a complaint of a private hunting camp in Montmorency County. The complainant said the property is surrounded by state land and the people at the camp have extended their shooting lanes onto the state land along with making trails through the state property. The COs patrolled the area on foot and made contact with six men out hunting. The COs located two men hunting with rifles, two hunters didn't have any hunting licenses, none of the hunters had licenses on their person, one deer was shot with a crossbow and the hunter borrowed a license from another hunter to tag the deer because he didn't have a license. In addition, a couple of the hunters were hunting over bait (baiting in a closed county). The deer was seized along with two rifles and one crossbow. In all, seventeen citations were issued for violations at the camp; other charges are being filed for cutting timber on state land.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of large bait piles in Montmorency County. When CO Ross arrived at the camp he located multiple baited blinds; CO Ross issued a citation to the camp for feeding deer in a closed county.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

While patrolling public land in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews located an illegal deer hunting site that was actively being hunted. The site had bait that was placed in a feeder where the bait was concentrated and not being spread in a 10x10 area on the ground. In addition to the bait, the hunting blind at the site was not labelled with the

name and address of the hunter. Several days later, CO Andrews contacted the hunter at the site and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Cherry received a complaint from RAP advising that a hunter had a Facebook posting indicating that he had killed a deer and later made a license purchase. Retail sales records indicated that the hunter purchased his license at 7:23 pm and hunting hours had ended at 7:15 pm that date. CO Brosky and CO Cherry went to talk to the subject about the situation and confirmed that he did not have a license when he shot the deer. The 46 year old hunter stated that his dad had given him money to buy the tags, but realized after he shot the buck that he really didn't have them yet and must have forgotten to make the purchase. The 8-point deer was seized and enforcement action was taken for taking a deer without a valid license.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski stopped behind a vehicle blocking the road only to see a man who had been urinating get back in the driver's seat. They stopped to talk to the subject about impeding traffic and found that he had an open beer in the center console. The driver admitted that he was driving home from his friend's house and was having a beer. Enforcement action was taken for the open intoxicants in the vehicle.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky investigated and followed-up a complaint of a deer that was poached from the 2015 deer season. The complainant advised that the suspect had taken an over-limit of deer and had used another hunter's tag to put on the 12-point buck. The COs were able to first make contact with the man who had loaned out his tag, who admitted that he had given his tag to the suspect "to help a buddy out." When they contacted the hunter who was in possession of the illegal 12-point, they received a full confession. The hunter claimed he was hunting that particular deer for years and continued hunting into muzzleloader season after he had already taken two 8-points. He advised he shot the 12-point and then asked his friend to bring him a tag. The two immediately took the deer to a taxidermist where the license holder logged it in and paid cash for the services to ensure that they were not caught and to "make it look good." Unfortunately their plan failed and warrants are being sought.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky drove past a parcel that they had been working for a few years where it had been reported that their suspect was hunting without a license. The COs saw a vehicle parked and decidedly stopped to investigate. Both COs witnessed their suspect as he came out of the woods and put an uncased crossbow in his vehicle. The COs performed a traffic stop of the vehicle and found that the man not only had an uncased crossbow, but that he was also suspended and hadn't purchased a deer license since 2014. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was travelling on a roadway in Mason County behind a pick-up truck where he could see two deer heads lying in the bed. CO Publiski could not see tags on the deer and stopped the vehicle to investigate. Once the vehicle stopped, CO Publiski talked to the driver and was able to locate tags for both deer. The man driving advised that one 8-point was his and the other 8-point was his wife's deer. Upon further investigation, it became apparent that the wife had purchased and given her tag to her

husband, and had not taken the deer herself. Enforcement action was taken for the lend-and-borrow tagging violations present.

CO Steve Converse had a complaint of over-bait and illegal blinds where several bags of bait were dumped and shooting lanes were cut on federal land, off the Big Manistee River. CO Converse was able to find the spot where the hunters were launching their boat and decided to wait them out after his complainant advised they were out again. CO Converse witnessed one subject in his blind and then witnessed the men operating on the river after dark with no navigation lights and no personal flotation devices. The USFS had been trying to make contact with the same hunters for over a month for storing their boat in a federal campsite. CO Converse contacted the hunters and ran file checks. One hunter had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest and also had three DNR priors. Enforcement action was taken and the information will be provided to the USFS for follow-up.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking deer at a local processor when he came across a 7-point buck with a kill tag that was purchased and killed on the same day. Acting on a hunch that the deer may have been taken before the kill tag was purchased, CO Killingbeck contacted the hunter who the tag belonged to and inquired about the deer. The hunter said that he had decided to go hunting the same day he bought the tag and was lucky enough to shoot the buck an hour later. CO Killingbeck was shown a photo of the deer and the timestamp revealed that the hunter would have had to kill the deer 20 minutes after the kill tag was purchased. After pointing out to the hunter that it was nearly impossible to go to the store, return to the stand, and kill a deer, the hunter then confessed. He told CO Killingbeck that he had shot the deer early in the morning and only after confirming the deer was dead, he went to the store to purchase his license. Charges are being sought.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed two adults and four juveniles afield in Lake County who were all small game hunting. CO Killingbeck stopped to check the hunters and discovered none of the juveniles had hunting license and had never taken hunter safety. The fathers of the juveniles told CO Killingbeck that the kids were just along for the hike, even though all of them were in possession of loaded firearms. CO Killingbeck explained hunter safety requirements and license requirements. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was first on scene of an ORV accident in Lake County where two subjects riding on a quad had lost control and struck a tree. One victim was seriously injured and CO Killingbeck was performed the necessary 1<sup>st</sup> Aid to assist the victim breathe. CO Killingbeck provided first aid to the victims until EMS arrived.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he checked a tree stand that had been left out all year and had no name or address on it. CO Killingbeck pulled into the area and found an ORV parked nearby where it is illegal for ORV operation. CO Killingbeck walked into the stand and made contact with a hunter who admitted to

leaving the stand out all year and also to operating the ORV. Further investigation showed the subject's driver's license was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking a deer carcass complaint on the Pere Marquette River when he observed three subjects trespassing on posted private property. CO Killingbeck stopped the subjects and asked if they had observed the "No Trespassing" signs. The subjects said that they had but did not want to wade the river as required. CO Killingbeck reminded the subjects of the recreational trespass laws and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he received information that a subject he had cited in 2015 for illegally taking deer was out hunting again while possibly revoked. CO Killingbeck determined that the subject was legal to be hunting however they had not purchased a hunting license for 2016. CO Killingbeck tracked the hunter down in his hunting blind and found them in possession of a loaded crossbow and a loaded .22, along with spot lights. The hunter initially told CO Killingbeck that he was watching deer for his wife to shoot and eventually admitted to hunting without a license and with a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and Sgt. Mike Bomay were inspecting meat processors and located two suspicious deer that had been delivered to the meat processor by a third individual. Upon further inspection, it was determined that both the female hunters were related and harvested deer without licenses. One hunter failed to take hunter safety and the deer were transported without licenses attached. Both hunters purchased their licenses the evening after they shot the deer. The antlers from a buck were seized for evidence and citations were issued.

CO Jeff Ginn received information of a deer that was improperly tagged. Upon a lengthy investigation, CO Ginn was able to make contact with the individual that harvested the deer. He admitted to harvesting a deer earlier in the season and didn't want to use his last tag on this deer so he talked his sister into purchasing a deer license and used her license to tag his second deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Van Gelderen received a complaint that a female suspect had killed three turkeys. The suspect was checked through the retail sales system and it was discovered she had just started purchasing hunting licenses this year and never completed a Hunter Safety course. The suspect had only purchased two OTC Turkey licenses. CO Van Gelderen located the suspect residence and after an interview she handed the CO two unused turkey licenses that were never attached to her first two turkeys. She admitted never having a license for her third turkey she had taken. All of her turkey licenses and the remaining meat out of her freezer was seized. Enforcement action was taken on the various violations.

CO Mike Wells from Newaygo County received information that a fishing guide was making use of a DNR access site without the required commercial use permit. CO Wells waited for the fishing guide to return back to the boat launch to make contact. CO

Wells was able to confirm that the guide had failed to obtain the necessary permit to use the access site for commercial purposes. A citation was issued to the subject for the violation present.

CO Casey Varriale received information from CO Brian Lebel of a suspect who killed a deer illegally in Osceola County. The suspect purchased a deer combo license the day after he killed the deer. When questioned about the date of the kill and the date of license purchase, the suspect admitted to purchasing a deer license after he had harvest the buck. The suspect was issued a citation.

CO Casey Varriale received information of a subject taking deer with a rifle during bow season. CO Varriale was able to locate the suspect at his residence, conduct an interview, and locate evidence of illegal activity. CO Varriale was able to recover the firearm used, a 4-point head with antlers still attached, and a large 8-point in the same condition. All the meat from these two animals was also seized. Enforcement action was taken for taking deer with a firearm during the closed season.

CO Angela Greenway received an anonymous complaint that a subject shot a 9-point buck out of the window of his house with a rifle over a bait pile. CO Greenway followed-up on the complaint and made contact with the suspect at his residence. After a short interview, a full verbal and written confession was obtained. The deer and firearm were recovered from the house and enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Van Gelderen and Deputy Hansen from the Oceana County Sheriff's Department received a complaint from the Silver Lake Sand Dune pedestrian area that subjects had driven a Jeep up the dune in the pedestrian area and set up a tent above Silver Lake. The COs followed the vehicle tracks through the sand and found three males sitting around their Jeep and tent. The suspects said that they drove from Ohio and realized the ORV area was closed for the year, so they decided to get on the dunes; however, they could find a way. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was patrolling a federal forest two-track after dusk when he was met by a quad with four subjects on it. None of the occupants were wearing helmets, and they were in an area closed to ORVs. Also, three of the subjects had uncased bows on the quad, and one of the subjects did not have her deer license with her. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Josh Wright and Ethan Gainforth spent several weeks investigating reports of a suspended hunter that was reportedly continuing to hunt contrary to court order. Fortunately, after several attempts, COs Wright and Gainforth were successful in checking blinds on the suspect's property. The suspended hunter was located in a deer blind armed with a crossbow. If that wasn't bad enough, as CO Wright contacted the original suspect, CO Gainforth went for a short hike and located the suspect's father in

another blind. Unfortunately, the father was also hunting with a crossbow and did not bother to purchase a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken on both subjects.

COs Ethan Gainforth and Josh Wright recently checked a parked vehicle with nobody around. The investigation eventually led to a trapper who returned to his vehicle and a lot of troubles. To start, the trapper was operating an ORV contrary to regulations on state land. Additionally, the trapper had set numerous traps without the necessary tags attached. Last, but not least, the trapper had failed to purchase his fur harvester license. COs Gainforth and Wright took enforcement action.

CO Josh Wright was called to assist the Clare County Sheriff's Department at a traffic stop. Deputies had made a traffic stop on a vehicle and located a subject with a suspended driver's license. CO Wright was called when it was also discovered that the driver was in possession of an uncased shotgun, slugs and a mag light. Enforcement action was taken by both the sheriff's department and CO Wright.

While patrolling with CO Nick Atkin, CO Phil Hudson received a complaint from an anonymous caller stating that a subject possibly shot a deer after legal shooting hours. CO Atkin and CO Hudson responded to the area and conducted surveillance on the residence. The CO's observed a deer hanging near the residence with no visible tag. The COs contacted the home owner and it was determined that the deer was shot during legal hunting hours but the subject failed to place a kill tag on the deer. Enforcement action was taken for failure to immediately attach and validate a kill tag.

CO Mark Papineau completed an investigation regarding a subject that shot a deer without a license. CO Papineau had received information that a subject in Gladwin County had shot a spike buck during the morning hours of the archery season opener. After investigating license purchases, CO Papineau learned that the subject purchased a hunting license in the afternoon hours. An interview was conducted and CO Papineau quickly obtained a confession to the illegal deer. Charges were sought through the prosecutor's office and an arrest warrant was obtained.

During late September, CO Mark Papineau discovered an abandoned camp on State Forest Lands in Gladwin County. While investigating the campsite, CO Papineau discovered signs of illegal methamphetamine production. With assistance from the Gladwin Sheriff's Department, the illegal meth lab and all of the contaminants were cleaned up. Additional evidence recovered from the scene led CO Papineau to numerous suspects. After a lengthy investigation and numerous search warrants, CO Papineau and the Gladwin County Sheriff's Department were able to locate the suspects and obtain confessions regarding the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine. Criminal charges are being sought for felony drug manufacturing.

CO Steve Lockwood and Sgt. Jon Wood recently investigated reports of subjects shooting deer out of a pole barn in the middle of the night. It was not the first time that complaints had been received on the same pole barn. A late night investigation led COs to some interesting findings. Upon checking the area, officers located a bait

station approximately 35 yards behind the pole barn. There was blood located on the back side of the bait pile. An extension cord was run through a small window to a clamp-on flood light. A motion sensor was located at the bait site that would trigger an audible alarm inside the pole barn anytime an animal broke the beam. Additionally, a large 12-point buck was located in the back of a truck parked in the driveway. Contact was made in the early morning hours and interviews were conducted. The 'successful' hunter's story did not match the story from the rest of his group. In the end, a confession was made for shooting the large trophy buck prior to legal hunting hours the morning before officers arrived. Enforcement and restitution are being sought for the illegal killing of the 12-point buck.

COs Bobbi Lively and Casey Pullum conducted a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle during a shining patrol in Oscoda County. After interviewing the occupants and checking the vehicle, it was determined that the passenger was under the age of 21 and in possession of open alcohol. The adult driver was also operating with a restricted driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a stationary shining patrol in a remote part of Oscoda County, CO Casey Pullum noticed a vehicle approaching his location. The vehicle stopped approximately 40 yards from his patrol truck, but the occupants didn't notice him. They switched drivers and continued down the trail. CO Pullum pulled out behind the vehicle and followed for a short distance undetected. After noticing suspicious driving behavior, a traffic stop was initiated. After interviewing the occupants, it was determined the young driver was the employee of the passenger. They were out playing "Pokémon Go". They did not have any weapons or shining equipment in the vehicle, but did have marijuana and an open alcohol container. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader and PCO Colton Gelinas followed up on a complaint involving a turkey with an arrow through it in Ogemaw County. They made contact with a subject nearby and determined that he was responsible for shooting the turkey with his crossbow. Since Ogemaw County is closed to fall turkey hunting, PCO Gelinas asked to see the hunter's license. It was determined he had purchased a license for Otsego County instead of Ogemaw County. Further investigation also revealed that he was baiting deer in excessive of the 2-gallon limit and the turkey had been shot with the aid of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near St Helen. He could smell burnt marijuana in the car, as well as see a cocked and uncased crossbow in the back seat. The back seat passenger showed CO Bader the bolt with a broadhead sitting under the back window. CO Bader asked if the bolt had been loaded in the crossbow prior to the traffic stop. The occupants admitted it had been. CO Bader asked the three individuals if they were driving around trying to kill a deer. The driver answered, "Yes that's what we were doing, but we were going to do it legally and get out of the car." The driver was issued a citation for the uncased crossbow and the back seat passenger was arrested and lodged in the Ogemaw County Jail for an unrelated warrant.

CO Kyle Cherry assisted U.S. Forest Service LEO Justin Repine on a dumping complaint in Iosco County. They located a large amount of garbage and debris from an old trailer that had been dumped out on federal land. They were able to follow a trail of garbage all the way back to a residence. While interviewing the homeowner, he confessed to dumping the garbage on federal land and figured it was ok because "everyone else dumps stuff there." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer observed a Jeep Wrangler traveling on a Crawford County Road with an unreadable license plate. A traffic stop was initiated and the occupants of the vehicle appeared to be very nervous. CO McAteer asked the driver if there were any weapons in the vehicle, the driver quickly stated "Okay, we have a loaded pistol in the back seat." None of the occupants in the vehicle had a concealed pistol license. When asked what they were doing with the gun, they stated that they had just fired off shots into the ground minutes before being pulled over. Enforcement action was taken for the loaded uncased pistol and open intoxicants in the motor vehicle.

CO Mike Hearn and PCO Ryan Andrews responded to a Fife Lake residence to investigate a complaint of a deer taken with a firearm out of season. The investigation determined that the unlicensed hunter had shot the deer over an illegal bait pile from the house. The 9 point deer was located and seized as evidence. The officers also seized the firearm used to illegally take the deer. A warrant request has been submitted to the local prosecutor for charges.

Following up on a complaint from the spring, CO Mike Hearn made contact with a group of hunters in Boardman Township. The group had established several permanently constructed blinds upon state land, failing to remove them at the end of last year's hunting season. They were also illegally using ORV's to establish their own trails and baiting excessively. Multiple camping violations were also identified within the group. They were subsequently cited for the various violations.

CO Schluckbier responded to assist local law enforcement agencies who had a breaking and entering suspect run from them. CO Schluckbier, Kalkaska Sheriff's Officers and the Michigan State Police were able to track the individual to a nearby abandoned cottage. The suspect was found with a television in his possession and was highly intoxicated. The suspect was taken into custody for home invasion, assault/battery and flee and elude.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz served an arrest warrant on a Midland County resident as a result from a residential search warrant where an illegal Black bear, illegal bobcat and two illegal white-tailed bucks were seized. The arrest stemmed from a four month investigation of the suspect hunting in Missaukee County.

CO Chris Bowen located two subjects that had cut down standing trees on state land. The subjects stated they didn't know it was illegal to cut standing trees. CO Bowen showed them the laws on their fuel-wood permit that specifically says only dead and down trees are allowed to be cut. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While on patrol in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed the operator of an SUV commit a traffic violation before finally stopping in the roadway of the Verona State Game Area. CO Bucholtz approached the vehicle and spoke with the occupants. CO Bucholtz observed two uncased bows and a pistol in the vehicle. One occupant stated he intended to use the pistol to put any wounded deer down he may have hit with the bow and not immediately killed. CO Bucholtz educated the hunters on conservation law before taking enforcement action.

COs Kyle Bucholtz and Robert Hobkirk responded to the Fish Point Waterfowl Management Area for numerous complaints of subjects shooting at swans and sandhill cranes. The COs arrived to the area and determined in which zone the suspected hunting party had been hunting. A check of registration cards at the main office allowed the COs to identify the possible violators. CO Bucholtz called one of the individuals and found that they were at a cabin a few miles from Fish Point. Both COs interviewed four subjects and determined that the alleged violations were committed by two of the hunters. Enforcement action was taken for attempting to take a non-game bird species.

PCO John Byars noticed a suspicious vehicle driving on state land. PCO Byars observed the vehicle for a short period of time. Upon contacting the driver, it was determined that he was driving while his license was suspended and was in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO John Byars followed up on a complaint about an untagged deer on Facebook. CO Byars met the suspect and he admitted to not tagging the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

PCOs John Byars and CO Jason A. Smith were checking fishermen when they found a subject with a suspended driver's license sitting in his truck drinking a beer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a complaint from the Report All Poaching Hotline in reference to a complaint about a subject shooting ducks at the Nayanquing Point State Game Area past the legal shooting time. CO Foerster was not far from the location when the complaint was received and was on scene within several minutes. Although the suspect hunter was gone, several witnesses were able to give the field number in which the suspect was hunting. CO Foerster was able to get a name and phone number off the card the suspect filled out for the afternoon draw kept at the office. The suspect was contacted by phone and agreed to meet the CO at a local business. A confession was received for shooting after published hours and enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock and PCO Troy Ludwig received a call regarding subjects who had poached a doe the previous night. The COs responded to the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office and obtained the suspect's information from a deputy. The COs were advised the land owner made contact with the suspects after they shot the deer and

called 911. CO Ludwig obtained a confession from both individuals. Both suspects advised they wanted some venison and decided to drive around and shine in an attempt to shoot a deer. They located a large doe and as one subject held the flashlight the other shot it with a 30-30. When the shooter got out to retrieve the deer he noticed it was still alive so he shot it with a shotgun. Enforcement action was taken

CO Mike Haas received a Report All Poaching Hotline complaint which stated a woman had numerous raccoons in her home. CO Haas responded to the suspect's house and located a raccoon in an enclosure in the backyard. The woman admitted to collecting and caring for numerous raccoons over the past few years but was currently only in possession of the one. The raccoon was seized and a citation was issued for rehabilitating/possessing a wild animal without a permit.

CO Mike Haas was conducting a late night patrol in a remote part of Isabella County when he witnessed a truck driving very slowly down the middle of the road. CO Haas stopped the truck for improper lane use and discovered fresh blood in the bed of the truck. The driver admitted to receiving an untagged deer from a friend a few hours prior. He stated that he transported the untagged deer home, processed it and then disposed of the carcass in a ditch. The deer carcass was recovered and the meat was seized. The man was issued a citation for possessing and transporting an untagged deer and was warned for littering.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly worked a waterfowl patrol in the Shiawassee River State Game Area and wrote several tickets for possessing over the 25 shot shell limit. Tickets were also issued for unregistered watercrafts.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of hunters operating ORVs on the Edmore State Game Area as well as an illegal ground blind. CO Lowell was able to walk the state game area and locate the illegal blind. The CO also located where the blind had previously been. Through the investigation the CO located litter from the original blind location and an illegal ORV trail that went back to the new blind location. The CO was able to follow the ORV trail back to a local residence. The owner admitted that he had just moved the blind that morning and he believed that he could operate his ORV on the state land with his ORV sticker. The owner of the ORV was ticketed for illegal operation and was advised that a ticket for litter would be issued if it was not picked up. The litter and illegal blind were removed from state land.

While on patrol, COs Ken Lowell and Josh Russell received a trespassing complaint in Montcalm County. When the COs arrived on scene they made contact with two individuals who had just shot a deer. Their investigation revealed that the deer was tagged with a base license and was shot on property the subjects did not have permission to be on. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg targeted his patrols on deer hunters over the weekend and upon checking three separate hunters afield, CO Lundberg was able to determine that all three hunters had unused deer kill tags on their person but had all three harvested deer

since the start of the archery season. All three hunters were issued citations for failing to tag their deer.

CO Jill Miller attended an event in Bay County at a local marina for the Waterfowl for Warriors where avid duck hunters volunteer their time to take veterans out waterfowl hunting. The event is in its fourth year and the DNR Law Enforcement Division has played an integral part in the program by showing support to veterans and by helping educate some first time waterfowl hunters on waterfowl identification.

While on patrol in Bay County, CO Jill Miller received a complaint from the Report All Poaching Hotline that a subject shot a deer with a shotgun. CO Miller went to the subject's house to interview the suspect and located an 8-point buck in the back shed. The subject was not cooperative at first but after some questioning, CO Miller obtained a confession. The subject shot the buck with a firearm in a closed season and had not purchased a deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jill Miller investigated a complaint in Bay County about a subject who shot a 9-point buck and then purchased his tag after the fact. CO Miller interviewed the suspect and received a confession. Education and enforcement action were taken.

PCO Joe Myers and CO Josh Russell attended the annual banquet for the Chesaning Conservation Club. The COs educated the club on changes in the laws and answered questions from the members. There were 300 club members in attendance.

PCO Joe Myers and CO Josh Russell were patrolling the Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area in Gratiot County when they noticed a vehicle with defective equipment. The COs conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and found a loaded and uncased firearm in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers late at night in Port Sanilac, CO Seth Rhodea contacted an angler and asked to check his fishing license. The angler said he was only 17 and didn't think he needed one. CO Rhodea advised the angler that he needed a fishing license at the age of 17. Upon asking for the angler's identification the angler apologized to the CO and said he was actually 18 and knew he needed a license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson received a complaint of a subject who purchased his license after hunting and shooting an antlerless deer. CO Robinson made contact with the subject who admitted he was hunting without a license and harvested an antlerless deer with his bow. The deer was seized and donated to a local food bank and enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson received an anonymous complaint that an individual had several untagged deer in his garage. CO Robinson arrived at the house and did not see anyone at the residence, but blood and deer hair were noticed on the cement approach leading to the garage. CO Robinson walked around the garage and walked past a window and

saw an individual sitting at a table cutting up a deer. After startling the subject, CO Robinson made his way around the front to the other door where the subject let him inside the garage. CO Robinson found that the subject had taken an antlerless deer and two antlered deer so far this season. The last antlered deer harvested, a 4-point buck, was the deer being cut up in the garage. The subject led CO Robinson to the head of the deer and provided the tag which had not been attached or validated to the animal. The other two deer were found to be legally tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting an inspection of a deer processing facility, CO Dan Robinson noticed a discrepancy on a tag attached to a 7-point buck. The buck had been brought to the processor the same day the tag was bought in the early afternoon. CO Robinson made contact with the subject who admitted he was hunting without a license, harvested the buck, left it overnight and purchased the license the next day before taking it to the processor. The deer was seized and the meat was donated to a local family. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell was first on the scene of a call where a suicidal subject was in possession of a firearm. CO Russell met with Troopers from the Michigan State Police and made contact with the individual. After a few minutes of speaking with the individual, he agreed to go with the officers to the hospital for an evaluation.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a subject in Elmer Township of Sanilac County who had shot a deer with his bow before buying a deer hunting license. CO Siemen responded to the subject's residence and after speaking to him for a short period of time, he confessed to shooting the 8-point buck without a license. The subject stated he got scared and called his father to bring him a tag for the deer. The subject stated he used his father's tag to tag the deer. Enforcement action was taken and all evidence was collected.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a subject that had shot a deer during bow season, and after shooting the 8-point buck went to a store and bought his deer license. CO Siemen responded to the subject's residence and first spoke with the subject's wife. She showed the antlers to the CO and advised him her husband was not home at this time. After leaving CO Siemen received a call from the subject stating that he just got home. CO Siemen responded back to the residence and the subject confessed to shooting the 8-point buck with a bow that he borrowed from a friend. He stated he did not have a tag for the deer, but after shooting the deer bought one. Enforcement action was taken and all evidence was collected.

COs Mark Siemen and Jason A. Smith doubled up and watched four individuals illegally net 11 Atlantic salmon in Lexington Harbor. Tickets were issued.

CO Joshua Wright received a Report All Poaching complaint that a person who shot a deer in Tuscola County and posted it on Michigan Buck Pole had not purchased a license. CO Wright met with the suspect and found that the suspect did not have a

license. Further investigation revealed that another person at the same residence had shot a deer but did not tag it either. Enforcement action was taken.

While working shiners in Tuscola County, CO Joshua Wright heard a call on the radio regarding a domestic violence situation in progress only a couple miles from him. The caller reported that an "ex" was breaking out windows of a house and trying to get in. When CO Wright arrived, the suspect was outside and took off running from CO Wright into a boat storage area. CO Wright waited for backup to arrive and after fifteen minutes they were able to find the suspect hiding in a boat. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. There were also narcotics found in the suspect's belongings. The suspect was lodged and local charges are pending.

CO Joshua Wright received a Report All Poaching complaint of trespassing in progress in Tuscola County. CO Wright arrived at the location and found the suspect's vehicle. About 15 minutes later, a hunter came down the road and said that the vehicle was his. He said he had parked there and went hunting across the street where he had permission. During the conversation with the hunter it was discovered that he had already shot a deer this year but still had all of his deer tags in his pocket. Further investigation revealed that he also had three warrants for his arrest. The suspect was taken to Tuscola County Jail for his warrants and issued a citation for failing tag a deer immediately.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While patrolling the Three Rivers Game Area, CO Brad Brewer contacted two hunters as they pulled into one of the parking areas. Upon contact, CO Brewer observed the driver of the vehicle was carrying a pistol in open view on his hip. While talking with the pair, an uncased crossbow with a bolt loaded onto it was located in the back seat of the vehicle. The passenger claimed ownership of the crossbow claiming that he didn't have a case for it and they had been out hunting in the morning and just forgot about it. The driver was a CPL holder but did not have his permit on him at the time. CO Brewer ticketed the owner of the crossbow for possessing an uncased crossbow and the driver was warned and released for the CPL violation.

A group patrol was conducted targeting nighttime shining and shooting activity in St. Joseph County. During the patrol, CO Jeff Robinette and CO Matt Page observed a vehicle with the occupants shining. A stop was made and a loaded .22 caliber rifle was located in the vehicle. Both subjects were ticketed for the violation.

Sgt. Zach Doss was on patrol in Van Buren County and drove up on an accident that had just occurred. A farmer had been driving a farm truck loaded with picked corn when the brakes failed as he came to a "T" intersection and the vehicle subsequently flipped, ending up on the passenger side of the vehicle just off of the road. The driver was able to get out of his seatbelt and climb out of the broken windshield. Sgt. Doss checked the driver for injuries and secured his neck, as he was complaining of back and neck pain. Unfortunately, the driver's dog was thrown from the vehicle as it rolled and was pinned

by the truck and subsequently died. The driver was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

CO Matt Page attended a career fair at Hopkins High School on 11-3-16 and talked to students 8-11th grade about job opportunities as a CO. CO Page spoke to approximately 100 students throughout the day.

CO Andy Bauer inspected a deer processor and discovered a deer that had been brought into Michigan from Illinois, which is a CWD positive state. CO Bauer made arraignments to meet the subject in Michigan and after meeting with the subject, the subject was cited for importing a deer carcass from a CWD state in violations of the importation rules, as the deer was still whole.

CO Andy Bauer spoke to a hunter safety class of approximately 15 students in New Troy about hunting regulations and ethics.

CO Andy Bauer gave a recruitment talk to an Introduction of Law Enforcement class at Lake Michigan Community College. The instructor was retiring after teaching the class 30 years and CO Bauer has been speaking to the class for the last 25 years.

CO Andy Bauer stopped a dirt bike that was being operated on the road with a small child riding on the gas tank of the dirt bike. Both the operator and the child were not wearing helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney responded to a complaint of a grass carp being caught in an inland lake in Berrien County. CO Mooney took possession of the fish and it was turned over to Fisheries Division for testing.

CO Mike Mshar was contacted by a subject who was hiking in a nature preserve in the City of Saugatuck that is closed to hunting and trapping. The subject had located a very large whitetail buck that appeared to have been shot recently and hidden in some brush. There was also a sweatshirt lying on top of the deer. The caller noticed an individual who was anchored off shore in the channel and was watching the caller intently and acting suspicious. CO Mshar responded to the area and while driving there he contacted a sergeant with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department. CO Mshar provided him with a description of the potential suspect who was leaving the area. The sergeant responded to the boat launch and watched as the suspect made a U-turn at the launch and pretended to not notice the sergeant standing there. The sergeant was able to intercept the subject at the next bridge and eventually stop him. CO Mshar arrived and made contact with the suspect. The suspect admitted he had shot the deer. He went on to advise that he did not know it was a nature preserve. He stated that he didn't see the signs until after he shot the deer and got back to his boat. He then panicked and anchored offshore trying to decide what to do. Enforcement action was taken and the deer along with the suspect's bow were seized.

While conducting a processor inspection, CO Chris Simpson found a 6-point buck tagged with a kill tag that was validated for 11/01/16. The tag had been purchased on 11/03/16. CO Simpson checked the record book and found that the deer had been brought in on 11/04/16. The record showed a male's name crossed off and replaced with a female's name which matched the tag. After interviewing the female she admitted to purchasing a license and loaning it to her son. The son was interviewed and found to still be in possession of his combo regular kill tag. The son admitted to already killing an 8 point buck and stated he borrowed the tag so he could kill three deer for his family to eat. The son was cited for failing to immediately tag the deer he killed and borrowing a license.

CO Greg Patten responded to a complaint of a subject who shot an 11 point buck without a license, using a bow. The suspect was reported to be revoked. On follow up CO Patten found that the deer was at a local processor. The deer was tagged by a female who did not shoot it. CO Mike Wells and CO Patten conducted follow up interviews and obtained a full confession from the deer killer as well as a cell phone photo of him with the deer. The suspect had no deer license and his hunting privileges are revoked through the end of 2016. An arrest warrant request will be sent to the prosecutor for disposition.

CO Greg Patten responded to a complaint from Muskegon City Police Department of a subject hunting in the city, on city property. CO Patten located the suspect hunting with over 20 gallons of bait. The suspect also had no name or address on his tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

In Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers received information that several bags of garbage were dumped on state land in the Portland State Game Area. CO Beavers located a piece of mail with the name and address of a person among the six bags of garbage. CO Beavers met with the subject who stated that his daughter had come by to drop off garbage but he told her she could only put out three bags with his garbage and she must have dumped the rest on state land. The subject called his daughter and allowed CO Beavers to speak with her. She admitted to dumping the garbage and met CO Beavers at the game area and was issued a citation for littering. She then picked up all garbage that was dumped.

While on patrol in Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers received information that a subject was illegally baiting deer with sugar beets. Baiting is currently prohibited in the county due to CWD. CO Beavers was told that even if baiting were not prohibited, the subject would still be in violation due to the amount of the bait used. CO Beavers, along with CO Cary Foster went to the location reported. Once there, the COs located a large pile of sugar beets, far exceeding the two gallon limit. The COs searched the area and located a tree stand and trail camera. No other bait was located while searching the area. Without much information to go on, the COs left a card and requested contact. Close to a week later CO Beavers was contacted by a subject stating he found his card and explained that he did not know that baiting was banned in the county but after speaking to some people had discovered that baiting was not allowed. CO Beavers told

the subject that even if baiting were allowed he would still be in violation due to the amount used. The subject stated that he does not live in the area and used a large amount because he would not be able to replenish it for at least a week at a time. CO Beavers was able to make contact with the subject in person and issued him a citation for baiting in a county where prohibited.

CO Jeremy Beavers responded to a complaint of a subject attempting to shoot deer with a firearm in the Lowell Saranac State Game Area. Surveillance was conducted in the area and a suspect was identified. CO Beavers attempted to question the subject, but he didn't speak English. CO Beavers discovered an empty gun case in the vehicle while attempting to question the subject. CO Beavers made contact with CO Ivan Perez who speaks Spanish. CO Beavers used CO Perez as a translator over speaker phone and learned that two of his friends were still in the woods. The subject stated that one of his friends was in possession of a .22 rifle that he was using for hunting squirrels. Eventually the two made their way out of the woods but neither subject had a rifle. Again with the assistance of CO Perez, the COs were able to get one of the subjects to admit to stashing a gun. None of the subjects would admit to shooting a deer. During the course of questioning it was discovered that two of the subjects were unlicensed. Two citations were issued for hunting without a license and one for failing to wear hunters orange. CO Beavers spent an additional two hours looking for the deer in question but was unable to locate it.

CO Jeremy Beavers received information that a person illegally killed an antlered deer without a license. CO Beavers obtained a picture of the subject posing with the deer after dark, while still in the woods. Upon contact, the subject said he shot the deer during a morning hunt at the Ionia State Recreation Area the morning of October 25th. CO Beavers then explained that he had a picture of him that appeared to be shortly after he killed it and it was after dark. At that point the subject stated he wasn't being honest. He went on to say that he shot the deer on October 24th and purchased a deer kill tag afterwards. He said that he took the shot knowing he didn't have a tag for the deer. After obtaining a confession from the subject, CO Beavers cited the subject for taking and possessing a deer without first purchasing a valid kill tag.

CO Ken Lowell and CO Justin Ulberg worked an area that was receiving complaints of subjects shining after legal hours and shots being fired from vehicles. The COs observed a vehicle shining with a spot light at approximately 4:30 AM. A traffic stop was conducted and enforcement action was taken for the violation.

While checking for anglers along the Rouge River, CO Justin Ulberg observed two subjects underneath a bridge that is frequented by anglers. Upon further investigation, CO Ulberg discovered that the subjects were not fishing, but rather smoking marijuana. A check revealed that one of the subjects was just cited for the same offense less than a month prior. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a processor inspection, CO Justin Ulberg noticed an 8 point buck did not have a tag attached. After speaking with the owner of the processor, it was

determined that the subject who dropped the deer off never tagged the buck. A license check revealed that the subject had not purchased any deer licenses for the 2016 season. CO Ulberg had the owner contact the hunter advising him that he needed to tag the deer. CO Ulberg waited for the subject to respond to the processor and questioned him about the deer. The subject first claimed that someone else had given him the deer. After a short interview, the subject confessed to shooting the deer without a license. The deer was confiscated and donated to charity. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

While at a local deer processor, CO Justin Ulberg noticed a deer tag that appeared suspicious. Further investigation revealed that the deer tag was the only license that the subject in question had ever purchased. CO Ulberg spoke with the female subject and after a short interview it was apparent that the female had not shot the deer that the tag was on. The female advised that her husband had shot two small bucks and had her purchase a license so he could continue hunting for another buck. The wife was able to contact the husband, who was out hunting, and had him return to the residence. A full confession was obtained and the husband's remaining buck tag was confiscated. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Pete Purdy received a complaint of dumping on state land from Livingston County 911. The complainant witnessed a male and female unloading items from a truck and trailer in a State Game Area parking lot. The complainant asked the two subjects what they were doing and they stated they were just tying down the items in the trailer. When asked why they unloaded a mattress, television, and computer monitor they became verbally hostile and blocked the complainant from obtaining the license plate from their truck. CO Purdy responded to the area and located the above items and a garbage bag with several pieces of mail in it. CO Purdy made contact with the registered owner of the trailer who explained he loaned the trailer to a neighbor to haul trash to the dump. He was very upset to hear what actually happened and provided CO Purdy with the suspect's name and address. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy received a RAP complaint of two illegal tree stands in the Brighton Recreation Area. The complainant showed CO Purdy one stand that had no name and address on it. A tree was cut down to set up the second stand. It was discovered the same person owned both stands. CO Purdy made contact with the owner of the stands who admitted to cutting down the tree on state land in order to put up one of the stands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben assisted the Michigan State Police at the scene of an assault on an elderly gentleman at a property that he owns in Salem Township. Interviews were conducted at the scene with the victim and the suspect. The Michigan State Police will be seeking charges for assault through the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Mike Drexler and PCO Eric Smither were called to assist the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department on a traffic stop of a subject who was trapping hawks. The subject was found to be a licensed falconer and no laws were being violated.

CO Rich Nickols and PCO Eric Smither checked a suspicious vehicle at the Mill Lake access site in the Waterloo Recreation Area. The vehicle was backed in a corner of the lot and covered with tarps. CO Nickols made contact with a woman in the passenger seat and observed another woman reclined in the driver's seat. The women were a mother and adult daughter that were temporarily homeless and living in the vehicle. CO Nickols made sure the women were safe but informed them that they could not live at a State access site.

CO Jeff Goss conducted a processor inspection and located an eight point buck with a suspicious tag attached. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was discovered that he shot the deer and purchased his licenses the next day. Further investigation revealed that he did the same thing last year. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Jeff Goss investigated a trespass case that was called in a day after the violation occurred. Upon talking with the complainant, a description of the suspect was developed. A neighboring property owner was able to help identify the suspect. Later when the suspect arrived home, he confessed to the trespass. Multiple other violations were found including fraudulent license purchases. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Jackson and Isaac Tyson were patrolling late at night and spotted a large fire from miles away. As they neared the fire they noted very dark smoke. As the COs pulled up to the residence they observed tires rolling across the yard. Two truck tires were burning in a fire pit, and a small trailer had multiple more tires waiting to be burned. The individuals admitted responsibility. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Jackson attended a monthly meeting with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi. The tribe had recently made a land purchase in Branch County and wanted to meet with the CO to discuss enforcement actions and other common questions regarding COs.

COs Josh Jackson and Isaac Tyson were invited to the Branch Intermediate School District to talk to 30 cadets enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program. The students had many great questions and were very interested in a CO's daily work. The two COs brought an ATV, a patrol boat, a kayak, and other tools for a brief show and tell.

CO Isaac Tyson and CO Josh Jackson gave a presentation at the Branch Area Career Center to high school criminal justice students. About 40 students were in attendance. Many good topics were covered and students seemed very interested in the CO career.

PCO Carter Woodwyk and CO Jason McCullough were conducting a shining patrol in Hillsdale County when they observed a vehicle doing doughnuts in the middle of the road. A traffic stop was conducted and multiple violations were discovered including

alcohol violations, drug violations, and motor vehicle code violations. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO Troy Ludwig received a possible poaching complaint via the RAP hotline of a hunter taking a deer without a valid hunting license, then posting it on Facebook. The suspect's grandmother stated that her grandson had shot a deer on her property. When interviewed, the suspect admitted to taking a deer without buying a license and giving the meat to a needy family. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO Troy Ludwig received a trespass complaint via the RAP hotline of a hunter having a tree stand on his neighbor's property. While walking the complainant's property with the owner PCO Ludwig was met by the suspect near the property line. The suspect admitted to having a stand on the property and to cutting down 8 trees on the property. The complainant did not wish to press charges and the suspect agreed to take down the stand and stop cutting trees.

CO Shane Webster investigated a suspicious license purchase of an 84 year old woman with no previous license history found during a processor inspection. Upon being interviewed, the woman quickly stated that she didn't know anything about it and definitely did not hunt. Her son quickly admitted that he had taken her driver's license and purchased a license for a deer that a friend had shot for him. He used her information because she got a senior discount. The friend was contacted and interviewed and confessed to taking the 5 point buck, not tagging it, and giving it to the son who was supposed to get a tag for the deer. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster investigated a complaint of an 8 point buck that was located in a field near a roadway. The buck was clearly shot with a high caliber rifle through the head. Neighbors stated they had heard a single shot late the evening prior. The investigation is continuing.

CO Matt Neterer responded to a complaint of a hunter taking a buck over bait in the CWD core zone. Upon arrival, CO Neterer discovered a climbing tree stand with the suspect's name, a bait pile and a blood trail leading away from the bait. A confession was obtained from the suspect. Charges are pending with the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

While on the way to a complaint in Jackson County, CO Chris Maher witnessed an ORV operating on a road. The county is closed to ORVs on the roadway and the individual did not have a helmet or an ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Slick and Jason King responded to a complaint of baiting in the Rose Lake State Game Area. The COs surveilled the area and contacted a hunter who admitted to baiting. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Jason Becker assisted the Oakland County Sheriff's Department on a call in the Highland Recreation Area of a man who fell to the ground and could not get up. The deputies located the man but had no way of getting him out. CO Becker was able to get through the gate and drive his patrol truck to the man. CO Becker helped the EMTs and deputies hoist the man into the back of his patrol truck. CO Becker transported them out to the main road where the man was loaded into an ambulance and taken to the hospital.

CO Jason Becker received a call from CO Tim Rosochacki with a tip of a subject keeping under sized bass at Kensington Metropark. CO Becker responded to the area and located the subject. The subject stated that he had not caught any fish. CO Becker located his stringer tied underneath a dock with a 10 inch bass on it. CO Becker asked the subject if the stringer was his and the man stated it was not. CO Becker pointed out that he was the only one fishing in the area and the stringer was tied up near his vehicle, which was the only vehicle in the parking lot. The man admitted that the stringer was his. CO Becker photographed the fish and was able to release it. Enforcement action taken.

COs Jason Becker and Jacob Griffin conducted a processor inspection and noticed a strange wound on one of the deer being processed. The deer had a hole in the skull, and upon further inspection had metal fragments around it. The COs took the head to the Michigan State Police and had the skull x-rayed. The images definitely showed that the deer had been shot in the head with a firearm. COs Becker and Griffin interviewed the subject that tagged the deer and he stated that he shot it with a bow at his father's residence. When confronted with the evidence, the subject stated that his father shot the deer and he just tagged it. The COs conducted an interview with the father and the man stated that he shot the deer with a .22 caliber rifle in the head. The man convinced his son to tag the deer and take it to the processor. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jacob Griffin received a complaint of a deer left in the woods. The complainant stated that he noticed a couple people leaving the area. He thinks they were going to get tags to tag the deer. CO Griffin dragged the deer out and waited for the two subjects to return. Upon their return and after interviewing them both, CO Griffin discovered that the deer was taken legally and congratulated the two on their success.

COs Brad Silorey and Jacob Griffin were on patrol when they were requested by an Oakland County deputy to assist them with a complaint involving the shooting of a Sandhill crane. After arriving, the COs found two subjects who had been waterfowl hunting near a private pond. The subjects had 13 ducks already in their possession. Two more ducks were located while walking to the area where the subjects had been hunting. The COs walked the perimeter of the pond and found two additional ducks that had been shot. During their search, the COs also found an excessive amount of corn in the pond. Before the investigation was complete, a Sandhill crane and one more duck were found. In total, the two individuals had shot 18 ducks, of which nine were drake mallards, six were hen mallards, and three were wood ducks, and a Sandhill crane. The COs informed the subjects that they were in violation of hunting waterfowl over bait,

taking an over limit of ducks, an over limit of mallards, an over limit of mallard hens, and taking a protected species. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he heard that a fellow CO was in the area on a stop. CO Griffin went to the location of that stop to assist. While concluding the assist to the other officer, a subject on a dirt bike drove past CO Griffin without a license plate on a public roadway. Upon stopping the dirt bike, the operator informed the officer that his plate had fell off the bike so he fastened it to the inside of the rear fender. CO Griffin explained why the plate cannot be attached to that part of the bike as it was covered in mud and not displayed. CO Griffin also pointed out to the subject that he was missing a rearview mirror. Enforcement action taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser investigated a man who posted pictures on a Michigan buck pole posing with an 8 pt. buck. A check of the retail sales system revealed that the man had not purchased a hunting license for 2016. When CO Muehlhauser made contact, the man stated that he did not shoot the deer and that it was his uncle. The man showed CO Muehlhauser around his property and several hunting sites. CO Muehlhauser noticed a trail that the man passed up. CO Muehlhauser checked the trail and located a pop-up blind and a bait site. Ultimately, it was discovered, it was the site the deer was taken from. The man insisted that he did not shoot the deer. CO Muehlhauser left the residence to follow up with the uncle. Approximately 20 minutes later the man called CO Muehlhauser and requested that he return to the residence. When CO Muehlhauser returned the man stated that he couldn't continue to lie about it. He said that he shot the deer and that he didn't have a license. He knew that was why he was being investigated but tried to get away with it because that was the biggest buck he had ever shot. Charges are being sought with the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Justin Muehlhauser checked an angler returning to his vehicle at Holloway Dam with a bucket of fish. The man stated that he only caught a couple of crappie and catfish. As CO Muehlhauser inspected the man's catch, the man paused and said "oh yeah, there's a walleye in there that I caught yesterday." As CO Muehlhauser checked the fish it was found to be over an inch short. The CO explained that whether he caught it that day or the day before, he was in possession of a short fish. Enforcement action taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser patrolled Mott Lake in Genesee County for waterfowl activity. Several hunters were contacted including a man who was in possession of a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shells. The man stated that this was his first time waterfowl hunting and that he borrowed the gun from a friend. He was told that the gun was plugged. When the CO unloaded the gun there were only 3 shells loaded in the gun. A check of the man's license history revealed that this was the first year he had purchased a waterfowl license. The group also did not have any waterfowl in possession and there were no other violations to address. The CO explained the violation to the group and issued a warning for the unplugged gun. The group said that

they would pack up and leave. They also agreed to plug the gun before they returned for the evening hunt.

A Burton man was investigated for taking a deer without tagging it then self-processing it to avoid detection. When CO Muehlhauser interviewed the man he immediately said that he did not shoot anything this year. CO Muehlhauser asked for the man's tag and he produced his 2016 deer license. During the investigation, CO Muehlhauser also discovered some pictures that suggested the man had been waterfowl hunting without a license. When faced with evidence and the possibility of waterfowl charges, the man confessed to taking the deer without tagging it. The man stated that he was hunting state land in Gladwin sometime in early October. He said he shot the deer and didn't tag it because he couldn't afford to buy the combo license and intended to take another deer. Charges are being sought.

After receiving a RAP complaint of a man who posted pictures on social media of an 8 pt. deer taken without a license, CO Justin Muehlhauser contact the man at his residence. The man initially said that there was nothing illegal about the deer. He said that he shot the deer on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at about 5:00 pm. He indicated he had hunted state land off of Barron Rd. in Groveland Twp. CO Muehlhauser advised the man that the tag was purchased on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:51 pm. The man said that he really thought that he had a license. He said that he always buys his license on his birthday in September and he went to tag the deer but he couldn't find the tag. It wasn't until he went to the store for a replacement that he found out that he hadn't bought a license yet this year. The CO informed the man that the deer was taken illegally. CO Muehlhauser seized the antlers as evidence and charges are being sought out of Oakland County.

While patrolling Bald Mountain State Game Area, CO Christopher Knights came across a hunter walking into the woods. CO Knights stopped next to him and the hunter stated he had just shot a 6 point buck. CO Knights asked if he needed assistance dressing it and dragging it out and the hunter stated no. CO Knights advised he would walk with him to check out the deer. CO Knights located the deer with the hunter and a tag was attached and legal after checking ID. CO Knights asked where he shot it from, the hunter pointed to his stand about 60 yards away. CO Knights walked to the stand and noticed it was not marked with his name and address. CO Knights questioned the hunter and he admitted to not putting the information on it. CO Knights advised him of the law and enforcement action taken.

PCO Travis Dragomer received a complaint of an untagged deer that had been shot with a crossbow. PCO Dragomer responded to the area of the complaint and located an antlered deer without a kill tag attached. PCO Dragomer waited near the area for the suspect to return to the location of the deer. The suspect arrived to drag the deer out from the woods and contact was made. It was determined that the suspect did not have a valid hunting license to take the antlered deer. Enforcement action taken.

Sgt. Todd Szyska patrolled the evening into the morning hours with PCO Joseph Deppen. While working various game areas, the two happened upon a careless driver

in which a traffic stop ensued. The driver not only lied to the COs about his identity, but he had two warrants, and was suspended several times over. The subject was taken into custody, live scan finger printed/processed at Chesterfield Police Department, and was released with notice to appear on the charges.

CO Kris Kiel was patrolling across the north end of Macomb County when he noticed two vehicles on a hunting property two-track in the middle of the day. Thinking that was an odd time to be archery hunting on such a nice weather day, the CO decided to investigate further. As CO Kiel turned his patrol truck around, he observed two subjects in camo walking up the two-track towards the vehicles. One subject angled off into the tall weeds. CO Kiel made contact with the other subject, with a bow, and checked his license. A bag of bait and a crossbow cocked with a bolt were located on the ground where the other subject entered the weeds. He was located near a ground blind on the other side of the property. When asked for his hunting license, the subject could not produce one. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was waterfowl hunting on his pass day when he observed the hunting party next to him shoot eight minutes before published hours. CO Silorey contacted CO Kris Kiel to assist. Upon making contact, the subjects admitted to shooting early at a mallard but did not get it. One subject had an unplugged gun and another had an unsigned federal stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was arriving at one of Macomb County's Courts when he heard and observed a disturbance in a nearby parking lot. CO Silorey heard loud banging and saw people running out of the building. CO Silorey immediately went over to the location and observed a man breaking and jumping out of a window of the building. CO Silorey was able to quickly detain the subject, who was later found out to be a suicidal patient of the clinic. Local law enforcement arrived to assist CO Silorey and the subject was returned to the facility.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol and stopped at a red light when he observed a vehicle approaching from behind that was not slowing down. The vehicle crossed into oncoming traffic over a double yellow line, and passed 6 vehicles stopped at the light. After observing the vehicle recklessly run the red light, CO Silorey conducted a traffic stop on the subject. The driver stated that he "had a long day at work, and didn't feel like waiting." Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land in St. Clair County, CO Ken Kovach and PCO Joseph Deppen came across 18 bags of household trash. Upon further investigation, they were led to a subject from various articles strewn across the pile. The subject had multiple addresses on file and was able to be located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Joseph Deppen were checking waterfowl hunters in St. Clair County when they contacted hunters trying their luck. CO Kovach and PCO Deppen approached a vessel coming into the launch and conducted an inspection on the boat

and waterfowl hunters. Two of the hunters had unsigned waterfowl stamps. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Joe Deppen conducted a processor inspection in northern St. Clair County. Several violations were addressed along with a hunter who purchased a license after successfully harvesting a deer. CO Pete Purdy was requested to assist with interviews and a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of an ORV trespassing on a farmer's property to hunt deer in St. Clair County. CO Kovach was able to locate the hunter and the ORV and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling northern St Clair County, CO Ken Kovach found an ORV coming off of the Avoca to Wadhams Trail. A traffic stop ensued, and CO Kovach discovered that the operator of the ORV had a suspended license since 2004. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Zultak interviewed a mother and daughter regarding taking a whitetail buck without a license. The two confessed that the daughter shot the deer without a license and the mother purchased one for her after the fact. A ten point rack was seized, and charges are being requested through the county prosecutor's office.

CO Matthew Zultak received a complaint of subjects driving around the gates in the Lapeer State Game Area to hunt out of their vehicle. CO Zultak responded to the location and located tire tracks going around the gate, but the subjects had departed. CO Zultak continued to patrol the parking lots in the game area. CO Zultak located a truck matching the suspect vehicle, and contacted the occupants. CO Zultak obtained a confession for driving in the closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lapeer County, CO Matthew Zultak stopped a motor vehicle for running a stop sign. Upon contact, CO Zultak learned that the driver also had an expired registration and was failing to wear their seatbelt. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen encountered an angler at the Clinton River cutoff boat launch. The angler said that he had caught twenty perch and one walleye. Upon further inspection, the angler was in possession of more than fifty perch and he also had a fire extinguisher that was empty. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers at the Hall Road access in Macomb County, PCO Joseph Deppen saw a boat being pulled out of the water. Upon finishing his checks with shore anglers, PCO Deppen spoke with the boater and noticed fishing equipment in his boat. After conducting a safety check, a bucket containing bluegills was discovered. The angler was in possession of thirty nine sunfish. The angler admitted he knew he was over the limit, but insisted he was going to put some back after he pulled his boat out. Enforcement action was taken.

While on general patrol in Macomb County, Sgt. Todd Szyska and PCO Joseph Deppen noticed a vehicle slam on its brakes at a red light, skidding into the intersection. COs followed the vehicle and its speed increased above 80mph. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was found to have a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak received a complaint of waterfowl hunters that were possibly hunting within a safety zone. Responding to the area along with CO Ray Gardner and CO Dave Schaumburger, the vessel used by the hunters was located in a canal behind a home. The resident was contacted and agreed to show the COs the boat. CO Walzak asked the subject if he was waterfowl hunting earlier and he stated that he was not and added that it would have been his brother and two others who were no longer there. The cooperative resident provided his brother's phone number to the COs and CO Walzak made contact. The CO explained to the subject that he would like to meet with him to discuss his morning hunting activities and the hunter agreed to meet up. When CO Walzak and CO Gardner met with the subject, CO Walzak showed the 17 year old hunter an aerial view of the marsh he was hunting. The young hunter showed the CO the point where he and his partners were hunting from and where his decoys were set. The area was on state property in the very northern part of the Pte Mouillee State Game Area. There were homes in the area but the hunters were backed up against an overgrown dike that separated them from view of the homes. The dike was overgrown with trees and phragmites and they were hunting toward the open marsh. The hunter went on to explain that he spoke with a biologist at the game area office and was told that the area was legal to be hunted but precautions did have to be taken to stay outside of safety zones. CO Walzak asked the hunter if he knew the distance he needed to maintain and the subject stated that he knew that it was 450 feet. CO Walzak employed a measuring function on the aerial map to show how far away the hunter and his partners were from homes in the area and in doing so the hunter could clearly see that he was just within a safety zone. Considering the following facts of which the subject had never been in trouble before, had made the effort to contact the DNR to verify that the marsh could be hunted legally, that he set himself up to be hunting in a safe direction (shooting toward open marsh and not in the direction of homes behind him), and there were no other violations present, the young hunter received a verbal warning stressing the importance of the safety zone law.

While finishing a waterfowl patrol on the Detroit River with CO Dave Schaumburger, CO Dan Walzak received a complaint of a subject shooting two swans near state property along Lake Erie in Monroe County. The COs responded to the area to investigate and CO Walzak met with the complainant who showed him a vehicle being a full size pickup that he thought could belong to the suspect, along with the swans that were still floating in the water. After seeing the swans, CO Walzak told the complainant that he wanted to get back to the vehicle before the subject(s) had a chance to return and leave. Just as the CO was returning to the vehicle he observed it turning around and leaving the area. The CO stopped the pickup and observed two adults in camouflage clothing inside. CO Walzak approached the vehicle and asked the driver what he and his passenger had been doing out in the area. The driver responded that they were out deer hunting. CO

Walzak told the driver that he was there on a complaint and was looking for someone hunting waterfowl. The driver told the CO that it wasn't them but while they were hunting deer they were hit by falling pellets from shot-shells. Because the CO was looking for a waterfowl hunter he asked the driver if he had any firearms in the vehicle and the driver stated that he did not – just archery equipment. To make sure, CO Walzak asked the driver to show him the equipment in his pickup. The driver and passenger both exited the vehicle and opened the back door to reveal an uncased crossbow with bolts in the quiver and an uncased compound bow with arrows in the quiver laying on the back seat. When asked why the equipment was not in a case, the driver stated that they only lived five minutes away. Enforcement action was taken for the uncased equipment and the complaint is still under investigation.

COs Dan Walzak and James Zellinger contacted two subjects, a father and son, in connection with a complaint where a swan was shot on opening day of the waterfowl season. Both subjects have admitted responsibility to the incident and are cooperating with the investigating officers.

CO David Schaumburger made contact with individuals operating ORVs on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger received an anonymous complaint that somebody had shot a deer the previous night and bought the license the day after. CO Schaumburger met with the suspect who said he never saw a buck on the property or on his trail camera. He stated that he never thought he would ever shoot a buck so he did not buy the license. CO Schaumburger seized the 8 point deer and will be writing a report for referral to the county prosecutor for charges.

CO Raymond Gardner and CO James Zellinger conducted a waterfowl patrol in Pt. Mouillee SGA. Several hunters were contacted. One waterfowl hunter was found to be in possession of a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shot shells. Enforcement action was taken.

In response to a RAP complaint; CO James Zellinger encountered a subject archery hunting on utility company property without permission with an excess amount of bait out at the site. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Tyler Cole was working a shift at Belle Isle when a complaint of a subject threatening another subject with a knife was received. CO Cole located the suspect and after interviewing the complainant, requested a warrant for the suspect.

COs Jill Miller, Christopher Reynolds, Andrew Monnich, and Sgt. Todd Szyska worked the "Color Run" on Belle Isle on Saturday evening maintaining traffic points and assisting the marathon attendees. The "Color Run" is a 5K course which sprays the runners in non-toxic glow in the dark paints which they also have black/UV lighting

throughout the course to show off the glow. There were over 3,000 runners present. COs Reynolds and Miller responded to a runner who had fainted on the race course and EMS was contacted. The female was transported to the hospital to be checked out. The race concluded without incident.