

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Report
11/18/2018 – 12/1/2018**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Cody Smith was on patrol when a call came in stating that there were lights on in a house with the sound of glass breaking and they knew the owners were out of town. CO Smith responded to the scene along with three Keweenaw Bay Indian Community tribal officers. Upon getting to the house it was observed that a window had been broken out from the inside. Upon entering the house, an individual was seen laying on a mattress. It was found the individual entered the house through a basement window and broke nearly everything in the house. The individual was highly intoxicated and was taken into custody without incident.

CO Jared Ferguson and Sergeant (Sgt.) Brian Bacon were working on Thanksgiving Day in northern Dickinson County near the Marquette County line when they came upon a vehicle parked in the middle of a county road. CO Ferguson contacted the driver and found an uncased crossbow lying on his lap. Further investigation found he had a suspended driver's license, no insurance, and an unregistered vehicle. A quick file check from central dispatch found the driver had a felony warrant out of Wisconsin and three misdemeanor warrants in Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was following up on complaints in Iron County when he located an ORV trail leading to a tree stand on state land. CO Ferguson contacted the hunter who stated he had hunted there for over 50 years and the same guy keeps driving by his stand at prime time. CO Ferguson followed the truck tracks in the snow to the suspect's stand and found he had no name and address on his blind, operated an ORV in a closed area, was cutting trees on state land, and had no hunting license in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jason Wicklund noticed a photo in an Iron County newspaper of a subject posing with a 10-point buck. The article was very detailed and even said when the subject harvested the buck. A check of the subject's license history revealed that he did not purchase a deer license until the day after the deer was harvested. Corporal (Cpl.) Dave Painter and CO Zach Painter followed up on the deer and tried to locate the subject that was in the paper. While trying to locate the subject, the officers located a 7-point buck hanging without a tag. Further investigation revealed that it belonged to the father of the subject in the paper and he had not purchased a deer license. The COs then located the subject from the paper and after a short interview, obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken on both deer.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers responded to an incident in which a hunter on private property had shot at a buck with a 30-06 and the bullet penetrated his neighbor's truck door. When the officers arrived on scene, they discovered the bullet had gone through the back door of a truck and became embedded

in the trucks back seat. The officers also discovered another bullet had gone through a very large metal fuel tank next to a barn. There were several children at the residence when the shooting occurred. After conducting several interviews, the hunter confessed to riding on a four-wheeler with a loaded firearm, shooting from the four-wheeler several times, hunting within a safety zone and hunting without a license. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Boudreaux gave a presentation at the Marquette County Sheriff's Department Youth Academy. The presentation covered the various duties and equipment of a Michigan conservation officer and gave young men and women with an interest in law enforcement an opportunity to interact with a CO and ask questions. The presentation was very well received and numerous individuals requested information on how to pursue a career as a conservation officer.

COs Brett DeLonge and John Kamps paired up to contact a hunting camp regarding illegal activity taking place during the firearm deer season. CO Kamps located an illegal deer bait that belonged to one of the hunters from the suspect camp at the same time CO DeLonge contacted members at the camp to check deer hanging in the front yard. CO DeLonge checked several deer shot by camp members and found that one small buck had a used/unvalidated tag zip-tied to one of the hind legs. While discussing the violation with the camp member, CO DeLonge was able to confirm that one of the hunters was currently sitting in the blind hunting over the illegal bait on state land. CO DeLonge relayed the information to CO Kamps where he then contacted the hunter at the illegal bait. COs DeLonge and Kamps issued multiple citations to the camp members including failing to tag and hunt over excess bait.

While conducting license checks on ice fisherman near the Gwinn area, CO Brett DeLonge contacted a non-resident angler who had purchased a resident fishing license. Through interviewing the angler and a Retail Sales System (RSS) history check, CO DeLonge found that the angler had purchased several resident fishing licenses as a non-resident. CO DeLonge explained the violations to the angler and charges are pending on multiple counts of the non-resident purchasing resident fishing licenses.

COs Josh Boudreaux and Cody Smith participated in the 10th annual Shop with a Cop event in Marquette County. COs joined officers from different agencies around Marquette County to bring at-risk foster children to shop for Christmas gifts at Walmart. Around 50 kids participated and both officers and kids thoroughly enjoyed the event.

DISTRICT 2

COs Stephen Butzin and Mark Zitnik checked two hunters who were packing up from their morning hunt. One hunter did not have the required hunter orange clothing and the second had just finished smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Stephen Butzin and Mark Zitnik observed a hunter walking to his vehicle. The COs asked if he had gotten a deer yet and the hunter showed the COs a 6-point buck on his

phone that he had taken that morning. When asked to see his hunting license, the hunter gave CO Zitnik his base license. The CO advised he needed to see his deer hunting license and the hunter produced a single deer tag. Upon further investigation it was discovered the hunter had shot the 6-point that morning and had a friend put his tag on it so he could keep hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik was dispatched to Traunik late one night for a shining and trespass complaint. The CO patrolled the area and observed a vehicle at a residence matching the description of the suspected vehicle. A skinned deer was seen hanging in the garage. After a brief discussion the CO realized this was not the person he was looking for. The officer took a minute to check out a deer that was hanging in the garage. When the two were looking at the deer, the CO noticed there was no tag on the spike horn buck. The owner advised his father shot it and must have forgotten to tag the deer. Upon further investigation it was found the subject had also shot the deer with a .22 caliber rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink received a complaint from local dispatch regarding a large fire filled with building materials. Once the COs arrived on scene it was determined a father and son had bulldozed an old house and started to burn it. The COs located large amounts of treated wood, insulation, shingles, and tar paper in the burning pile. The fire department was called to put out the pile and the father received a citation.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint of a subject driving a quad behind a locked Grouse Enhanced Management Site gate. COs Freeborn and Michael Evink went out the following day and located a quad trail on the wood line and followed the trail locating a parked quad. The COs followed a foot trail to a tower blind built on state land and a hunter, hunting over more than two gallons of bait. Enforcement action was taken. COs Chris Lynch and Stephen Butzin were on patrol when they came across a couple road hunting for deer. The COs observed pine boughs that were cut and stacked into the back of the couple's truck. The couple stated they just got done cutting those trees down the road. The couple was asked for their permit since the trees were on federal forest land, which they didn't have. It was discovered the female passenger had a warrant out for her arrest and the driver didn't have insurance on his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken on the female for her warrant and on the driver for cutting boughs without a permit and operating his vehicle without insurance.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint about an untagged deer hanging at a camp. COs Lynch and Stephen Butzin went to the camp and located the deer hanging. Upon closer inspection the deer had a 2017 deer tag attached to it. Contact was made with a hunter at the camp who stated it was his buddy's deer. The COs contacted the responsible hunter who was walking back to camp from his hunting blind. Upon checking the hunter, he didn't have a deer license in his possession. After a short investigation it was discovered the hunter had current unused 2018 deer licenses. The hunter received a citation for improperly tagging the deer.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of two subjects who have been taking multiple illegal deer for several years. After a three-month long investigation, three suspects were developed along with a long list of violations. The suspects were a father, son and uncle. CO Lynch and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon interviewed the father at his residence. Multiple pictures of illegally taken deer were located along with one set of 6-point antlers. The investigation led to another nearby residence which resulted in the discovery of three untagged deer (two 8-points and a 7-point.) This led to additional interviews which ultimately uncovered multiple instances of failure to tag, borrowing/loaning tags, hunting without a license, take deer with firearm out of season, aid and abet and improperly tagged deer. A report has been submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for a review of 10 different charges.

CO Stephen Butzin received a complaint that a subject was bragging about shooting a deer at night. CO Butzin interviewed several subjects regarding the matter. One subject was found to have shot a deer at night while using an artificial light with a .22 caliber rifle. A report has been submitted with the Delta County Prosecutor's office. CO Calvin Smith was patrolling a very secluded two-track when he came across a vehicle and began to converse with the driver. CO Smith observed an uncased firearm in the passenger seat. When CO Smith checked the firearm, he found it was loaded with four rounds of ammunition. CO Smith asked the driver of the vehicle why he was driving around with a loaded firearm. The driver replied, "I didn't think I would run into anybody way back here." Law enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mark Leadman and Cpl. Trey Luce patrolled an area south of Newberry and located a fresh deer gut pile. Upon further checking, the COs located the hunting blind where the deer had been killed. Numerous violations were encountered including litter at the site where the deer was cleaned and an illegal blind with over two gallons of bait. A suspect was identified and was contacted that evening as he was returning to the blind with more bait. The suspect still possessed both his kill-tags and after a short interview confessed to having killed a 6-point buck and not tagging it. The untagged deer was located in a friend's garage and was seized. Enforcement action was taken, and the litter was cleaned up.

CO Calvin Smith was conducting a commercial deer processor inspection in Chippewa County when he observed a suspicious deer that was shot in Mackinac County. CO Smith turned over the investigation to Mackinac County CO Colton Gelinas. CO Gelinas followed up with the case and interviewed a husband and wife. After a short conversation the husband admitted to shooting the deer and tagging it with his wife's tag. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinas and Sgt. Mark Leadman were on patrol in Mackinac County when they stopped a vehicle for several violations. During the contact it was determined the driver and passenger were both possessing open intoxicants. Law enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Duane Budreau investigated a complaint of recreational trespassing involving the taking of a deer. CO Budreau responded to the scene and met with the property owner. After following a bloody drag mark from the shoulder of the road into the section of private property, CO Budreau identified what appeared to be the area in which that deer had been shot and field dressed. The suspects were part of a large deer drive party that had been observed on the property by an adjacent neighbor. CO Budreau interviewed all parties involved and was able to identify the two subjects that entered onto the private property while tracking the injured deer. The deer was shot on public land but ran onto private property. The two individuals tracking the deer failed to obtain permission from the property owner. They entered onto the property, dispatched the injured deer, and dragged it out to the nearest road. Both subjects admitted they knew the property was private but thought it was more important to recover the injured deer than to take the time to get permission. CO Budreau informed the subjects that charges were going to be sought through Prosecutor's office for recreational trespass and that warrants for their arrest could be pending.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office in ending a chase near Boyne City. The driver was met by CO Mapes after fleeing down a narrow seasonal road. The driver was lodged on a prior warrant as well as fleeing and eluding.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office with a complaint involving three pigs along a busy road. The pigs were safely put back in the pen where they belonged.

Sgt. William Webster and CO Ethen Mapes discovered a couch dumped along a dirt road near Boyne City. CO Mapes dug through the cushions and was able to find mail, recipes, and a Valentine's Day card belonging to a local subject. CO Mapes interviewed the subject in Boyne City where the individual admitted to dumping the couch along the road after he found the dump to be closed. The subject was given 24 hours to pick up the couch and one week to provide a receipt from the dump; proving that he took care of the couch. A citation for littering was also issued.

Sgt. William Webster received a complaint of a dead spikehorn deer that was found in Antrim County. Sgt. Webster responded to the location and met with the caller who explained how he found the deer. Sgt. Webster started investigating the scene and recovered a bullet from the deer. A bait pile was located a short distance away that had blood in it. Sgt. Webster followed footprints through the snow and right back to where the caller's vehicle was parked. After a short interview the caller admitted to shooting the spike thinking it was a doe. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. William Webster investigated a Hunter Access Program (HAP) land issue in Antrim County. One of the neighboring property owners took it upon himself to post his property against trespass but he also posted the land way onto the HAP land property trying to extend his own property lines. Sgt. Webster met with the suspect and he admitted to posting the property to keep people out of the swamp and his land. The suspected agreed to move the signs and post only his property.

CO Chad Baldwin was dispatched to a house fire in Charlevoix County. The home was being demolished and everything from inside the home was stripped off and cleaned out. However, the dumpster that the suspects were using to discard the contents from inside the home was nearly full, so the suspects decided to burn whatever was in the dumpster. CO Baldwin found several different materials being burned that are illegal as well as not having the fire contained in a burn barrel. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Baldwin responded to a complaint about several deer hunters shooting deer from their boat while on Wilson Lake in Antrim County. CO Baldwin located the suspect's vehicle and trailer at a state boat launch in the area. Upon their return to the boat launch by the suspects, CO Baldwin realized they had been waterfowl hunting and not shooting deer from their boat. The suspect stated that they had shot and wounded a duck on the river and fired several other shots to kill the duck before retrieving it. A deer hunter was hunting on private property nearby and heard the boat and gunfire and assumed the suspects were illegally hunting from a motorboat. CO Baldwin checked the waterfowl hunter's licenses, ducks, gear, and equipment. No violations were found, and the waterfowl hunters continued their hunt.

COs Tom Oberg, Kyle Cherry, Tim Rosochacki, and Cpl. Nick Torsky attended the Shop with a Cop event at Walmart in Gaylord. The COs along with other local law enforcement participated in the program. For the event, a child was paired with an officer who walked with them around the store while the child picked out Christmas gifts with money that was donated for the event.

COs Tim Rosochacki and Eric Bottorff conducted a follow-up investigation of a deer that was shot prior to the hunter purchasing a deer license in Cheboygan County. After several interviews, it was confirmed that the hunter shot an antlerless deer on the firearm deer opener and purchased a kill-tag after the fact. During the investigation, it was also discovered that the hunter had three warrants from downstate. The hunter was arrested on the warrants and the illegal deer.

CO Kyle Cherry and Sgt. Mark DePew conducted a traffic stop on I-75 in Otsego County. During the stop, the operator was found to have an illegally taken 8-point buck, a loaded rifle in his passenger seat as well as a handgun concealed in his backpack that he did not have a license for. The deer and handgun were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to the scene of a two-car accident on M-68 Highway in Cheboygan County. The CO assisted with traffic control and getting injured motorists to ambulances.

COs Eric Bottorff and Tim Rosochacki interviewed a subject who had been advertising as an unregistered commercial deer processing business on the internet. While making contact, it was discovered that another subject, who lived at the residence, was in possession of a button buck and had two warrants out for his arrest. The subject was

arrested on the warrants and charges are pending through the Cheboygan County Prosecutor's office.

Sgt. Mark DePew was contacted by a trapper who advised he had caught a badger in a foothold trap in Otsego County. The trapping season was closed for badger and the law requires a trapper to release any animals that cannot be legally possessed. The trapper said he had no idea how to release such an aggressive animal and asked the Sgt. for help. The Sgt. and trapper arrived a short time later and located a very upset badger. After some finagling, the badger was released unharmed.

CO Sidney Collins received a complaint about two bull elk found dead in Montmorency County. CO Collins searched the area for evidence of a poaching incident. The investigation is still ongoing.

CO Sidney Collins received a complaint of recreation trespass from a property owner. The hunter shot a deer on his own property but trespassed on neighboring property farmland to retrieve the deer. The hunter used his tractor to pick up the deer to take back to his house. The farmland owner wanted to press charges. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sidney Collins and Jessica Curtis worked shiners and road hunters on the last night of firearm deer season. While on patrol, COs Collins and Curtis received a complaint about road hunting in Cheboygan County. The complainant heard a shot and watched subjects drag a deer into the bed of a truck. The truck then took off. COs Collins and Curtis took pictures of the scene and retrieved blood and a beer can. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Jessie Curtis participated in 'Shop with a Hero' along with other local police, firefighters, and military personnel. 'Shop with a Hero' allows kids to go through the store with the local heroes and select presents for Christmas that normally they probably would have not been able to get.

CO Jessie Curtis received a complaint of a possible sick or injured bear that had been sitting on top of a deer carcass for a week. The complainant said they had gotten five feet from the bear and it never moved, so it was obviously injured. CO Curtis found the deer carcass, and upon further investigation saw that the bear had pulled the deer carcass right in front of its den. The bear was inside its den and was just eating food preparing for hibernation.

CO Jessie Curtis assisted MSP troopers on a domestic violence complaint. The two subjects had been arguing over how their kids were being raised; the subjects then got into a physical altercation and that's when the police were called. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rebecca Hubers attended a double eagle release public event put on by a local raptor rehabilitator, with approximately 150 spectators in attendance.

CO Rebecca Hubers responded to a stolen trap complaint from private property. CO Hubers and the landowner followed foot tracks back to a neighboring property and contacted the owners. It was discovered that the neighbor's dog had ran loose the previous night gotten caught in the trap. The owners found the dog after dark and did not know the best course of action, except to take the dog and the trap back to their residence. The dog appeared uninjured and the trap was returned to the complainant.

CO Rebecca Hubers received a call on her pass day regarding an overdue hunter. The hunter was in a party of three and the caller was an unavailable relative. The caller was nervous that the whole hunting party was elderly with medical conditions and there was no one fit enough to track the overdue hunter. CO Hubers responded to the area and began searching, shortly thereafter the overdue hunter walked out of the woods.

CO Rebecca Hubers submitted an extensive report and obtained approved charges from the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's office for case that involved a subject who allegedly took a 10-point antlered deer from a business park area in September using a crossbow and artificial light.

COs Patrick McManus and Amanda Lake attended an annual snowmobile safety class held at the Hill Toppers Snowmobile Club in Cedar. They gave a presentation on the safety and legal responsibilities involved with snowmobiling and answered questions from the class. This class afforded COs the opportunity to build a relationship with the community and have a positive impact on young members of the public.

CO Troy Ludwig responded to a 'shots fired' complaint of a hunter trespassing and taking a deer on private property. The CO responded to the area and located the hunter a short distance from scene at a friend's residence, along with a deer. The hunter had taken an antlerless deer without a valid license, admitted to trespassing, failed to tag the deer, and had two loaded firearms in his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Patrick McManus was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle in front of him driving erratically. After following the vehicle for a short time, CO McManus decided to conduct a traffic stop due of the careless way the vehicle was being operated. Once contact was made with the driver, it was immediately apparent that they were highly intoxicated. After roadside sobriety tests were completed, CO McManus placed the driver in custody for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. Further investigation showed that the driver was over three times the legal limit, and this was the second time they were arrested for the same offense in just the last two years. The case will now move to the Leelanau County Prosecutor's office for review.

CO Justin Vanderlinde investigated a hunter who had killed a large 8-point buck without purchasing a deer hunting license. The case was referred to the Benzie County Prosecutor's office for review.

While on patrol in Manistee County, CO Steve Converse encountered a subject driving slowly on the two-track roads. CO Converse contacted the driver and discovered the subject had an uncased and loaded rifle lying across his lap. The subject admitted that he was driving around looking to shoot a deer. CO Converse discovered that the subject did not have a hunting license, no gun case in the vehicle, and no hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a RAP complaint in Osceola County of several deer hanging in a yard and the complainant was concerned that the hunter was taking too many deer. CO Killingbeck located the residence and observed three deer hanging in the yard. CO Killingbeck contacted a subject at the residence and learned that CO Troy Mueller had been at the residence several days ago and enforcement action had been taken on a buck that did not meet Antler Point Restrictions (APR). While talking about where the deer were harvested, CO Killingbeck noticed the subject getting nervous when asked how much bait was at his blind. CO Killingbeck was shown a blind where there was a bait pile consisting of sugar beets that was well beyond the two-gallon limit and was not spread out. CO Killingbeck also located a pile of sugar beets out the back door of a cabin that the hunter claimed was "storage" but admitted the deer were eating them as well. The subject was educated on baiting regulations and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky were working a rural part of Mason County when they noticed a vehicle with an unreadable plate that failed to use its turn signal. CO Publiski stopped the truck and contacted the driver while CO Brosky located an untagged deer underneath a tarp in the bed of the truck. Along with the untagged deer, it was determined the driver failed to insure the vehicle, had an improper plate, a loaded rifle in the back seat, and the driver had not purchased deer hunting license in the past two years. Enforcement action was taken.

While responding to a poached deer complaint, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky observed a vehicle just leaving an area in which vehicle traffic was prohibited. The driver was contacted at which point CO Publiski noticed the butt end of a hand gun sticking out from underneath the arm rest of the truck seat. Upon further investigation, it was also determined that the subject also had a loaded rifle in the back seat of the pickup truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski assisted the Mason County Sheriff's Department with securing and moving students from Mason County Central School after a bomb threat was made by one of the students. The threat was determined to be hoax after MSP's bomb dog secured the school. The teachers and students did a great job moving quickly and efficiently while evacuating the school making the law enforcement efforts proceed smoothly.

CO Ben Shively was getting fuel in Oceana County when he observed a subject walk out of the gas station with a gallon of milk, open the rear door of his crew cab pickup to put it in and inadvertently expose an uncased rifle. CO Shively stopped the vehicle as it left and retrieved an unloaded and uncased rifle from the vehicle. The subject was cited for transporting an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Troy Mueller responded to a RAP complaint in Mecosta County involving a subject that was baiting deer at multiple locations on his property. CO Mueller was able to contact the hunter during firearm deer season and issued a citation for baiting deer where prohibited. The hunter stated he didn't think the rule applied until next year. The hunter went on to say that he picked up a 2018 hunting digest when he purchased his license in the summer months, but a subsequent fact-check with RSS revealed the hunter had purchased his license in late September.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was patrolling public land in Oceana County when he saw a vehicle that he had not noticed all season long. CO Van Gelderen checked the license plate and discovered that the registered owner never bought a 2018 deer license. CO Van Gelderen waited until dark and found the owner coming out of the woods after deer hunting. The suspect admitted to never buying a license.

CO Troy Van Gelderen investigated a complaint of a large bait pile in a field. CO Van Gelderen walked the field and found three truck load sized piles of carrots. CO Van Gelderen checked the field at dusk one evening and found a hunter at each pile. The hunters said that since the field was so big, they did not want to consistently carry out bait, hence the big piles.

CO Mike Wells had received a complaint of a subject that was baiting with a truck load of carrots in Newaygo County. CO Wells inspected the location described and observed a large area that had been pawed over by deer with a few sugar beets scattered around. CO Wells was in the process of documenting the illegal bait when he heard an ORV approach. CO Wells quickly concealed himself a short distance from the bait and watched as a subject arrived with two bags of bait on the ORV. CO Wells watched as this subject sliced both bags open with a knife and then stepped out of the bushes and identified himself. The subject was completely surprised and when advised that baiting was illegal, responded that he did not know.

CO Mike Wells had received information of subjects that were baiting on a section of US Forest Service (USFS) property in Newaygo County. CO Wells conducted foot patrol of the area and did locate one pile of carrots with no stand in the area. During this foot patrol, CO Wells heard a gunshot from across the roadway on another section of USFS property. CO Wells located a vehicle and tracks in the snow leading out toward the direction of the gunshot. CO Wells set surveillance on the vehicle and a short time later he observed a subject dragging a small deer out of the woods toward the vehicle. CO Wells made contact and discovered that the deer was not tagged. Law enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn received a complaint from Camp Grayling Range Control regarding fresh foot-tracks in the snow where someone had climbed a fence and entered their tank range. CO Hearn responded and set out on foot following the foot tracks. After nearly a mile, the trespasser was located seated in full camo under a pine tree with a rifle in hand. The hunter was arrested and transported off the government property.

With the assistance of DNR dispatchers, CO Mike Hearn responded to a South Boardman residence to follow up on a complaint of a possible illegally harvested 10-point deer. Contact was made with the hunter, who recounted the events of the hunt to CO Hearn. The hunter was vague about the specifics of the hunt, and when questioned further began making contradicting statements to earlier previously mentioned details. Further questioning determined that the deer was harvested illegally. The head and meat were seized, and a warrant is being sought through the Kalkaska County Prosecutor's office.

CO Micah Hintze and Sgt. Brian Olsen observed multiple deer in the bed of a pickup in Missaukee County. The vehicle had several equipment violations including a burnt-out brake light. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle to address the equipment violations. The driver explained he was returning from a week of hunting in the Upper Peninsula and had borrowed the trailer with the defective light from his father. The deer in the back of the pickup all possessed validated kill-tags; however, the owner of one of the kill-tags was not present and the timing of that license purchase was suspicious. Further interviewing of the occupants, as well as a phone interview with the owner of the tag, determined the driver had shot the small buck in an Upper Peninsula county with an APR. Then the driver had contacted his father to purchase a tag after the fact to be used on the deer. Evidence was seized, and charges are being sought through the Missaukee County Prosecutor's office.

CO Micah Hintze received an anonymous complaint from the RAP hotline of an individual who had taken two bucks in one morning. The suspect asked his girlfriend to purchase a license in order to put it on one deer. CO Hintze was able to contact the woman and hear her side of the story. When asked she was unable to produce a kill-tag before claiming to have lost it. When the deer heads were reviewed there were uncharacteristic signs of a tag that would have been a week old in the elements. After explaining the circumstances to the woman, she admitted that she had purchased a license on her way to pick up the deer shot by her boyfriend. When they heard a CO was attempting to contact them, they removed the woman's tag from the antlers and placed the remaining tag of the boyfriend on the buck. This story was confirmed by the boyfriend through a subsequent interview. Evidence was seized, and enforcement action was taken.

During an evening patrol, CO Jon Warner was working areas known for shining deer in Iosco County. He saw a light sweep across the sky and started closing in to locate the origin of the light. CO Warner found the vehicle that cast the light and watched it shine

several more fields. Upon stopping the vehicle and further investigation, CO Warner located three firearms, two of which were loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Bellville was conducting a commercial deer processor inspection when he located an 8-point buck with a kill tag that was purchased after dark on November 18th and validated that same day. After a short interview with the hunter, a full confession was obtained. The man admitted to taking a deer without a license and buying a tag later that night. Enforcement action was taken.

COs James Garrett, Casey Pullum, Sgt. Bobbi Lively, and USFS Law Enforcement Officer Mike Phillips conducted a group decoy patrol targeting shining activity. They contacted one vehicle for shining the decoy and located a loaded 9mm handgun. The owner of the handgun did not have a Concealed Pistol License. Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Garrett received a RAP complaint on Thanksgiving morning regarding a possible recreational trespass in progress. When CO Garrett contacted the complainant, the suspects had already left the scene, but the complainant was able to get a license plate number from the truck. CO Garrett attempted to contact the individual at the residence registered to the vehicle but was unsuccessful. CO Garrett and CO Casey Pullum were able to make contact and interview the individual on a later date. The suspect confessed to the COs that he was hunting in the area that morning without a license but had never shot at a deer on the private property. The COs obtained a confession from the man for commercially processing deer without a permit and seized one untagged deer shot without a license. Charges are being sought through the Oscoda County Prosecutor's office.

CO Craig Neal received a complaint of two young kids wandering around state land in Arenac County with a crossbow during rifle season. CO Neal responded to the area and with the assistance of the caller was able to locate the two young kids. The older of the two youths was only 12 years old. CO Neal located the father who stated he thought the kids were hunting a short distance from him and his other son. CO Neal explained the potential severity of the situation of leaving young kids to hunt alone. Enforcement action was taken for allowing youth to hunt without supervision.

While driving past a private land deer camp, CO Steve Lockwood observed two subjects in camouflage who appeared to be packing up to head home. CO Lockwood contacted the subjects to see how their season was going. CO Lockwood noticed several deer in the bed of the truck just as he arrived. One subject immediately started reaching for his wallet and stated, "I was just getting ready to tag those deer." A closer look into the bed of the truck revealed three deer, only one of which had a tag on it. CO Lockwood issued citations for the two, small untagged deer.

CO Steve Lockwood received a tip about a subject that had possibly killed a bobcat. A check in RSS showed the subject had purchased a fur harvester license November 17th after shooting hours. CO Lockwood, along with CO Joe Myers, contacted the subject at

his residence. After a lengthy interview, he admitted to having shot a bobcat without a license. Warrants are being sought against the hunter for the illegal killing of a bobcat, as well as an unlicensed taxidermist who had taken possession of the illegal bobcat.

While on patrol, CO Steve Lockwood checked a subject wearing hunter orange inside a parked vehicle overlooking a ridge. The firearm was on the passenger seat with a case folded over top. When asked if the gun was unloaded, the subject's answer sounded more like a question, "It should be?" A check of the firearm revealed the magazine was inserted into the firearm. When CO Lockwood manipulated the action on the firearm, a live round was ejected from the chamber. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of trespassing where a dead deer was found on the complainant's property. Upon arrival, the CO contacted the complainant, who advised he walked back on his property to hunt in the morning, when a guy came walking out of the woods on his property. The suspect told the land owner that he had a federal permit to hunt deer and just shot a doe. The landowner told the suspect he was trespassing on private property. The suspect then fled the scene. A large doe was located on the complainant's bait pile. A check of the federal reserve hunt permits revealed a possible suspect. CO Gowenlock remembered arresting this same suspect in 2012 for the same issue. The suspect was contacted and admitted to being in the area but denied leaving federal property. The CO explained to the suspect that he had shot a doe on private property. The suspect stated that there were no signs posted and asked how he was supposed to know. CO Gowenlock pointed out to the suspect that there were two signs not more than 10 feet away marking federal property. However, the suspect indicated that the private land should also have been posted. The deer and the suspect's shot gun were seized, and warrants are being sought in Saginaw County for the violations.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint through the Report All Poaching Hotline of a suspect hunting deer without a license and shooting two bucks. During the investigation, CO Gowenlock located social media posts with pictures and a video of one five-point buck and one seven-point buck being shot. When the suspect was questioned, he denied hunting without a license. When asked if he used social media, the suspect put his head down in shame. The CO told the suspect that he had seen his posts, pictures and the video on Facebook. The CO advised that they were all time stamped with a date of two days prior to the suspect purchasing a license. Knowing that he was caught, the suspect finally admitted to shooting the two bucks prior to having a license. The antlers were seized, and warrants are being sought in Bay County for the suspect's violations.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint that a person was putting pictures on social media of 10-point deer they shot and for which they did not have a license. CO Wright met with the suspect and he was more than happy to show CO Wright pictures of the deer. CO Wright learned the deer was at the processor and the suspect said that it was

tagged properly. CO Wright went to the processor and found the 10-point with the suspect's girlfriend's tag on it. CO Wright returned to the suspect's house and the suspect explained the he lost his deer license and when he found it that it was unreadable, so he used his girlfriend's tag. CO Wright looked at the suspects "old" tag and it was unreadable. When CO Wright asked the suspect if he were to check the suspect's license history, if he would see that it was bought before the deer was shot. The suspect admitted the he went and bought the license when CO Wright went to the processor and destroyed it. The deer, destroyed license, and the firearm used to take the deer were seized. CO Wright will be requesting charges through the Tuscola County Prosecutor's office.

CO Joshua Wright received a call from Tuscola County Dispatch of a person that witnessed a vehicle shinning for deer and then heard gunshots. CO Wright was only a mile away and could see the vehicle coming towards him. CO Wright stopped the vehicle and could see two antlerless deer in the back of the vehicle. All four of the occupants were uncooperative. The driver was arrested for operating under the influence and the vehicle was impounded. A rifle and spotlight were located in the vehicle and seized. After CO Wright was done at the jail, he was assisted by a Tuscola Sheriff Sgt. on locating two other deer that were shot where the witness saw the vehicle. Ballistic samples are being sought and will be matched to the firearm that was seized. All four occupants are facing multiple charges and the potential of losing all their hunting privileges for the next five years. Charges are being sought through the Tuscola County Prosecutor's office.

During a Thanksgiving Day afternoon patrol through Midland County state land, CO Mike Haas encountered a vehicle driving slowly on a back road. CO Haas pulled alongside the vehicle and spoke with the occupants. The passenger stated he had just received his permit allowing him to hunt from a standing vehicle. CO Haas pointed out that they were traveling and not "standing" and asked if the man had his rifle encased and unloaded. The man stated his rifle was in a case and not loaded, however when CO Haas exited his patrol truck and checked the vehicle, he saw an uncased rifle in the front seat. The man had the rifle buttstock on the floor between his legs and the end of the barrel was rested against his chest and pointed up at his head. The man stated the gun was loaded but the safety was on. CO Haas explained the major safety concerns and hunting violations. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Sam Schluckbier received a complaint of an individual who had shot three large bucks during archery season and was still hunting deer with a firearm. The hunter also posted two of the deer on Facebook, indicating at least two deer were harvested this season. CO Schluckbier interviewed the subject at his residence and located a third set of antlers. During the interview the subject admitted to shooting a young 5-point and a large 8-point in October. Further investigation revealed that in early November he shot an additional 12-point buck with his crossbow. The subject claimed that he didn't tag them because he wanted to continue hunting with his father. The deer antlers and meat

were confiscated, along with the crossbow used. Charges are being sought through the Allegan County Prosecutor's office.

CO Matt Page responded to a complaint of a subject shooting two bucks, one of which did not appear to meet the restricted tag requirements. Upon contact, it was found that the hunter was in possession of one untagged buck at his residence and the other buck was tagged with his mom's tag. When asked why his mom's tag was on his deer, he responded "because that's how we work." Both deer were seized, and charges are being sought through the Prosecutor's office.

CO Travis Dragomer and Sgt. Stephen Mooney contacted a subject in a pickup truck with waterfowl in the bed in Berrien Springs, Berrien County. The COs found two geese and two ducks. It was determined the driver did not have a waterfowl license and had been given the waterfowl from an unknown person. The waterfowl were not properly labeled with the hunter's information. The individual was in possession of marijuana, had an expired driver's license, and an improper plate on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tyler Cole was contacted by Van Buren County dispatch about a deputy who was out with a possible poaching incident. The deputy contacted three subjects at their residence in response to a shining complaint and found them to be actively field dressing a spike white-tailed deer. CO Cole responded to assist and was able to gain confessions from all three for shining, taking game from a motor vehicle, and hunting without a license, along with many other violations. The deer and firearm were seized, and charges are being sought for multiple violations.

DISTRICT 8

CO Andrew Monnich received a call from a landowner about a truck parked at their property with Indiana plates. CO Monnich arrived at the location to meet the landowner and the out-of-state hunters who were just arriving at the vehicle. The hunters were unaware the land had changed hands and a warning was given for trespassing. While CO Monnich was checking licenses, he noticed blood on the tailgate of the vehicle which the hunter stated was from two deer he killed in Indiana. Three uncased rifles were also found in the vehicle. After a quick call to Indiana it was discovered that the hunter did indeed check two whitetails in through Indiana DNR but failed to have kill-tags for them. Enforcement was made on the firearms in the motor vehicle and the hunters were turned over to Indiana DNR for the other violations.

CO Jeff Goss received a call from an MSP trooper about a complaint of someone shooting after legal hunting hours. The trooper advised that the man had an untagged doe in his barn. When CO Goss arrived at the complaint the trooper briefed him on the situation and mentioned that the man said he shot an 8-point buck earlier in the week. After discussing the untagged doe with the man CO Goss asked about the buck. The man freely showed CO Goss the photos of the buck on his phone. CO Goss noticed the photos were taken Sunday night and knew that the man didn't purchase his tags until

Monday. When confronted with the discrepancy, the man eventually confessed to shooting the buck without a license. While the man was scrolling through the photos, CO Goss noticed a large bait pile in one of the pictures. CO Goss asked if the man had any bait out and the man said a little. CO Goss informed the man that it was illegal to bait in Calhoun County and that the pile in the picture looked like it was quite substantial. The man claimed that he put out about 300 pounds of corn. Further investigation of his phone revealed a video of the man dumping a dump truck load of corn in front of his blind. Multiple charges are being sought through the Calhoun County Prosecutor's office.

CO Jeff Goss was conducting a processor inspection when he located a deer with a suspicious tag. He noticed the name on the cutting order was the same man that he wrote a ticket to three weeks ago. The ticket was for loaning a buck tag to another person. Turns out that he should have kept his buck tag for himself. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was discovered that he shot a buck but didn't have a buck tag, so he had his father go and purchase a tag for the deer. Charges are being sought for taking deer without a license and borrowing and loaning tags.

CO Nick Wellman responded to call of someone who found a bullet had gone through their home. After taking several pictures, CO Wellman used a laser through the entrance hole in the house to see where the projectile was shot from. After getting a good idea of the location, CO Wellman went for a walk and was able to locate a pop-up deer blind in a field across the road. Inside the deer blind was an empty 12-gauge slug casing, which matched the approximate size of the hole in the house. Upon entering the blind, CO Wellman looked out the front window and saw the home was very visible in the back drop. The next night CO Wellman went to the area to see if the hunter had returned to hunt his blind. Sure enough, the subject was out hunting again and admitted to shooting at a deer the night before but thought for sure he had let the deer clear the house before he shot. CO Wellman asked the hunter what shells he was using, and the hunter produced a slug that matched the one he had found the night before. CO Wellman seized the hunter's gun for evidence and a report will be sent to the Branch County Prosecutor's office.

CO Katie Stawara responded to a complaint of a hunter being peppered with shotgun pellets by a group of neighbors shooting clay targets. She located a family shooting at clay pigeons on their property in the direction of the complainant. Unaware of the neighbors hunting on the other side, they were asked to cease activities and made aware of local hunters and property lines. The complainant was escorted out of the blind safely after firing had ceased.

CO Katie Stawara received a complaint from DNR dispatch regarding a suspect who posted on social media that she shot her first deer. The suspect did not have any 2018 deer licenses. An interview with the suspect resulted in her saying she posted the pictures as a joke to make her ex-husband jealous. She stated it was her boyfriend who had shot and tagged the deer. Not sold on her explanation, CO Stawara contacted Sanilac County officers to conduct an interview with the boyfriend. CO Seth Rhodea

later interviewed the boyfriend where he was able to gain a full confession that his girlfriend shot the deer and used his kill-tag to tag it to drop it off at the processor. The suspect was re-contacted where she too admitted to shooting the deer. A warrant is being requested by CO Rhodea in Sanilac County with the assistance of CO Stawara.

CO Katie Stawara was parked on a street in Ovid when she observed a vehicle pass her at a high rate of speed and turn into a residence just down the street. She watched as a male passenger exited the driver's side of the vehicle and rushed into the house. Shortly after, CO Stawara was contacted by a Clinton County sheriff's deputy who was looking for the subject she watched exit the vehicle. CO Stawara assisted the deputy in contacting the individual to conduct an interview regarding a theft case. Once the interview was complete, the deputy issued the subject a citation for operating an unregistered and uninsured vehicle based on CO Stawara's observations.

Sgt. Rich Nickols received a RAP complaint about a turkey that had been shot in Ingham County. The complainant heard three shots nearby and then drove around his property to locate the source of the shots. The complainant found two subjects on his property, one of which was holding a dead turkey. When the suspect was confronted, she reportedly said "it's Thanksgiving." Sgt. Nickols responded and located evidence of two turkeys being shot and followed a trail of turkey feathers to a nearby residence. No one was home at the time. Sgt. Nickols returned the next day and spoke with a female at the residence that matched the description of the suspect provided by the complainant. The female subject and a male living at the residence continue to deny any involvement in the illegal taking of the turkeys. The investigation is continuing.

DISTRICT 9

While checking hunters on Thanksgiving Day, CO Joseph Deppen received a call from Macomb County Dispatch about goose hunters discharging their firearms in the north end of the county. CO Deppen arrived and found a group of hunters hunting just outside the safety zone of a local fire station/police substation. Macomb County sheriff's deputies and CO Deppen conducted a joint investigation relating to the hunting activities. The hunters had been hunting in the field and during the hunt, multiple shots were in the direction of the fire station/police substation. There was vehicle damage to many of the vehicles on scene, including patrol car windshields. CO Deppen and sheriff deputies conducted interviews with the hunters and started an on-scene investigation of the field. Multiple shell casings were located, and the evidence pointed to a reckless discharge of a firearm by one or multiple hunters. Multiple pieces of evidence were recovered, and the firearms were confiscated. An investigation is pending, and reimbursement will be sought for damages caused.

While on marine/waterfowl patrol on Lake St. Clair in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen and Sgt. Todd Szyska observed a single hunter in a rowboat close to shore, well within the safety zone. The COs contacted the hunter and he immediately confessed, "I don't have a waterfowl license." Further checks revealed the hunter had not purchased a license for the past five years. The hunter informed the COs he was a

member of the Audubon Society and could not stand to see crippled diver ducks, so he was simply trying to clean up the cripples. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner responded to a complaint about a house being hit by a bullet. Upon arrival, CO Gardner met with Dryden Township police officers and the suspect shooter. After interviewing the subject, CO Gardner confirmed that the hunter shot a deer. He also found out that the hunter was trespassing on Dryden School property and had an illegal bait site. It was confirmed the bullet that was fired hit the neighbor's house. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Lieutenant Joe Molnar were patrolling Lake Huron for duck hunters, when they came upon a group of hunters. CO Hartsig observed the group shoot birds then attempt to net them. While watching them pick up the birds, the group dipped the net in the water then immediately left the bird to float in the lake. CO Hartsig then noticed the bird they left was floating towards the patrol vessel. The bird, a loon, was picked up by the COs. The group was contacted and found to also be in possession of a pied billed grebe, in addition to having loaded guns while underway. The protected birds were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig noticed five duck decoys scattered in the water of Lake St. Clair very close to a restaurant and homes. CO Hartsig did not see any hunters nearby and waited over an hour with nobody hunting near them. CO Hartsig surmised the decoys must have been lost from a group when seven minutes after shooting hours, a volley of shots came from an island near the decoys. The hunter was contacted, and enforcement action was taken for hunting waterfowl after shooting hours, no navigation lights on their boat, and safety zone violations.

CO Schaumburger stopped a vehicle for a shining violation and contacted two occupants who admitted they were looking for a secluded place to be alone. While the CO was checking the pair through LEIN, he observed the passenger reach under his seat, grab a fifth of Bacardi rum, and take a large drink. The CO made contact again and took possession of the bottle. The passenger was cited for the open intoxicants.

CO David Schaumburger received a RAP complaint of a subject shooting a shotgun out of his second-floor window on Thanksgiving Day. The complainant did not know if he killed anything, but thought the events were suspicious. The CO investigated the complaint and upon arriving at the suspect's residence, he viewed a deer hanging in the suspect's garage thru the garage windows. While speaking with the suspect, the suspect admitted to shooting an 8-point deer out of his window on Thanksgiving Day. He stated that it was an impulsive decision and stated that "he felt like a kid again." Later in the day the gravity of the situation set in and he knew he was in the wrong. On top of shooting within the safety zone of all his neighbors, he also did not have a deer license at the time. The hunter admitted to buying his license the day after because it was the "right thing to do to tag your game." A report will be submitted for taking a deer without a license and hunting within a safety zone of another without permission.

CO Christopher Knights was patrolling Oakland County in an area where trespassing occurs. CO Knights observed a vehicle parked along the road adjacent to private property posted with no trespassing signs. After a few minutes, two subjects walked out to their vehicle, right past the signs. CO Knights contacted the two hunters and pointed out the signs. One of the subjects stated that the signs were not there when they walked into the woods. CO Knights advised the subjects that the signs had been there for years. CO Knights checked the subjects for hunting licenses and one of the subjects stated he did not have his with him. After checking RSS for license purchases, it was found that the subject had never purchased a license in Michigan. CO Knights issued citations for trespass to both subjects and one to the hunter who did not have a license. CO Jacob Griffin was the first at the scene of a crash on I-75 involving one subject who was unresponsive on his arrival. The subject crashed into the center wall of the highway. CO Griffin removed the subject from the vehicle and deployed his automated external defibrillator. MSP arrived along with emergency medical services (EMS) and administered Narcan. MSP secured the scene and EMS transported the subject to the hospital.

The Grand Blanc Township Police Department contacted CO Justin Muehlhauser regarding a situation near the middle school. The Police Department advised that they had a situation where two individuals were seen in the area possessing long guns. The caller thought they were walking toward the school. The school went into lock-down and local police responded to the area. Officers from the Grand Blanc Township Police Department started a track with a canine and located two individuals who appeared to be hunting at a nearby golf course. The canine tracked the hunters through multiple properties including city property which was clearly fenced to keep out trespassers. When contact was made with the subjects, multiple violations were found, including hunting without a license, recreational trespass, and failing to wear hunter orange. Multiple charges are being sought through the Genesee County Prosecutor's office.