

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/5/2017 – 11/18/2017**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes and CO Brian Lasanen noticed a truck parked alongside a road with a bow case inside the vehicle. It was after shooting hours and the hunter had still not returned to the vehicle. The COs tracked the subject down, who was struggling to carry all of his equipment and his harvested deer. CO Mapes and CO Lasanen assisted the man in the hauling everything back to his pickup. The hunter was very happy to receive helping hands after a successful, but chilly hunt.

CO David Miller and Sgt. Grant Emery checked a group of three hunters on ten acres. All three hunters were hunting over bait piles that were well over the two gallon limit. As Sgt. Emery was following one of the hunters back to camp to retrieve his hunting and driver's license, he watched as the suspect attempted to toss marijuana into the woods, while simultaneously calling his brother in an attempt to warn him that CO Miller was on his way. Enforcement action was taken with all three suspects.

CO David Miller made contact with an individual who was in full camouflage and operating an unlicensed ORV without a helmet. He did not have a firearm and claimed to not be hunting. After talking with the hunter, CO Miller followed the ORV tracks back to where the individual came from and located a deer feeder, a tree stand, and a very nice rifle that was left in the stand on public land. CO Miller collected his evidence and returned to the camp. The suspect admitted to hunting and explained to CO Miller that he got in late the night before from out-of-state and didn't have a chance to get a license yet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller conducted a commercial deer processor inspection and educated the owner on the licensing requirements and the CWD importation ban. While doing the inspection, CO Miller located a couple of questionable deer that were tagged improperly. Enforcement action was taken for tagging a spike horn with a combination tag and additional follow-up is ongoing.

CO David Miller received a complaint that an individual had an untagged deer hanging in his garage at camp. When CO Miller arrived at the camp, he observed the untagged deer hanging in plain view. As CO Miller exited his patrol truck, the suspect came running out the door waving his tag, saying that he forgot to attach it to the deer. CO Miller asked him when he shot the spike horn, and he said he shot it opening day. This was late afternoon on the 17th. While dealing with this violation, another hunting partner pulled up to the house with another untagged deer on his ORV. After dealing with both of the untagged deer, CO Miller waited for the third member of their hunting party to come back to camp. The third subject was carrying a loaded and uncased gun on his ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen investigated an incident in which a hunter shot a deer and bought a regular deer license after-the-fact. CO Lasanen made contact with the subject out at his blind and, after a short discussion, the subject admitted to the violation. CO Lasanen then asked the suspect whose tag he was he trying fill right then. The subject responded that he still had his daughter's tag. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Ethen Mapes interviewed a hunter who was in possession of a deer with his wife's tag on it. He claimed that his wife shot the deer. CO Mapes followed-up with the spouse at their residence by asking her if she had been sitting in a plastic chair or a metal chair. She said, "The plastic chair because the metal one was too cold." When CO Mapes told her that there were no chairs in the blind, she confessed that she had bought the license for her husband. Enforcement action was taken for using the tag of another.

CO Ethen Mapes and Sgt. Grant Emery worked a weekend patrol targeting deer hunting activity. A vehicle was parked along the road with a fresh drag trail coming out of the woods leading from a blind. Upon making contact with the hunter in the illegal blind on public land, it was determined that another brother had shot a deer earlier from the blind, and he and the grandfather had taken the deer into town. The deer was located a short time later hung up in the garage at home and was not tagged. Enforcement action was taken for the untagged deer and the illegal ground blind.

CO Ethen Mapes and Sgt. Grant Emery pulled into a deer check station after dark. An excited hunter told CO Mapes that she had just shot her first deer and had it had just been entered into a contest. Upon inspection of the deer tag, it was found that the tag was purchased after the deer had been harvested. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethen Mapes was investigating a safety zone violation in a trailer park when a hunter shot a deer with a rifle at the other end of the trailer park. Upon contact, the hunter told CO Mapes that he had shot a 4-point buck from his front porch. Upon investigation, the deer that the man had shot was a spike. The hunter possessed a combination deer license which requires at least three points on one side. Charges, including the safety zone violation and antler point restriction violation, were filed with the Ontonagon County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Nathan Sink was on patrol when he came across a pile of blood next to a parked vehicle. A check through Station 20 revealed that the vehicle owner only purchased a single deer tag. CO Sink followed the subject's footprints to a ground blind. As CO Sink approached, he observed a gun barrel sticking out of the window of the blind. Contact was made with the hunter, who quickly stated he was only sitting in the blind to take pictures of deer. CO Sink asked about the blood near his vehicle, and the hunter stated that he had shot a deer this morning. CO Sink asked the hunter for a deer license, and the hunter stated that his only deer kill tag was on the deer he shot and back at camp. Once CO Sink checked the rifle and found it to be loaded, the story of the hunter changed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink and CO Brian Lasanen stopped in at a deer camp to take a look at two deer that were hanging from a buck pole. It did not take long to notice one of the deer did not meet the antler point restrictions. After an interview with the hunter, he quickly confessed to shooting the deer even though he thought the deer looked small. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nathan Sink received a complaint of a possible trespass situation involving an untagged deer. CO Sink and Sgt. Marc Pomroy interviewed the subject who admitted to shooting a deer that traveled onto a neighboring property. The subject gathered help to attempt to recover the deer, and trespassed in tracking the deer. When the interview was completed, it was determined the original deer was gutted and dragged part way back to the suspect's residence, but was never tagged or recovered. The suspect left the deer due to the drag being difficult in a swampy area. Two days later, the suspect shot another deer in his yard, which he then tagged with his only deer tag. Enforcement action was taken to address the multiple violations and the original untagged deer was seized.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon walked into a blind and made contact with an individual making use of an illegal ground blind. During the contact with the individual, the COs smelled the odor of burnt marijuana coming from his blind. Further investigation found the subject to not be in possession of a valid deer license and had cut a large amount of trees for shooting lanes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon located an illegal camp site on state land in Dickinson County. The COs waited for the individuals to return from the evening hunt. At dark, the individuals returned and were found to have open intoxicants in the passenger compartment of a vehicle, possession of a rifle without a valid deer license, exceeding the 15 day stay on state land, litter, and leaving a fire unattended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon were on patrol in Iron County after dark and came upon a vehicle still parked 45 minutes after shooting hours. The COs waited for the hunter to return to make sure everything was ok. The COs made contact with the hunter, who was found to be in possession of loaded firearm after shooting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson, CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy were meeting up for a decoy patrol when they noticed several deer hanging behind a local hotel. Further investigation found the three deer were harvested in Wisconsin and transported to Michigan. Due to the concern of CWD and its transmission, the COs tracked the hunters down and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the complaint of a dead wolf on the evening prior to the firearm deer opener. The COs located the wolf hidden under a pine tree with evidence found to suggest the animal was shot. The COs located a trap site near the location of the wolf and evidence was gathered that suggested the wolf

was caught in a trap, shot and then hidden nearby. Through prior checks of trappers in the area, Sgt. Pomroy and CO Bacon narrowed a suspect list down and conducted interviews. Two days later, the COs obtained a confession from a subject who stated he had caught the animal in his leg hold trap and shot it. Evidence was seized and warrants are being sought with the Iron County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Jared Ferguson responded to a complaint in Iron County that was called in from the railroad company. The railroad company stated that they located a bait pile on top of the tracks and a blind located within the rail right-of-way. The COs responded to the location and found a hunter in the blind watching the over-sized bait pile. Enforcement action was taken for multiple violations. As the COs were clearing the initial complaint, the railroad company called with another similar complaint five miles away. The COs responded and again located a large bait pile on the rail tracks. Contact was made with the hunter who was not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was again taken.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Jaren Ferguson made contact with a hunter who was utilizing an illegal blind on state land. The subject failed to produce a valid deer license, was hunting over an illegal bait pile, and had illegal operated his ORV to get to his hunting location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Jared Ferguson stopped an ORV being operated during the quiet period. The ORV was found to be last licensed in 2012 and the operator was not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Brett DeLonge checked illegal blinds on state land that had been located before deer season. While following an illegal ORV trail into one of the illegal blinds, CO Leadman and CO DeLonge met an ORV returning from the morning hunt. The ORV was not licensed and the operator was not wearing a helmet. The trail went through a wetlands area where trees were being run over to avoid sinking in the mud. The operator admitted he had just left one of the illegal blinds and said they placed it out there several years prior. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Brett DeLonge checked several blinds/stands on state land off an ORV trail with fresh tracks on it. CO Leadman located one of the ground blinds with numerous pieces of trash that had been left year-after-year. Permanent tree stands and blinds were found along the trail. CO Leadman and CO DeLonge met an ORV a short distance down the road heading toward the illegal blinds. A short conversation with the operator led to him admitting he had placed the blinds on state land at various times over the last 20 years and never removed any of them. He said he planned to pick up the trash, but always forgot to bring a bag to place it in. Enforcement action was taken and the site ordered to be cleaned up or additional charges would be sought.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Ryan Aho discovered an un-validated tag on a doe which was hanging at a camp on state land. The COs decided to wait for the group of hunters

to arrive. When the hunters arrived in their trucks, several loaded uncased firearms were discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Ryan Aho received information that an individual improperly tagged a 3-point buck with a restricted deer tag. The COs seized the deer head and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell contacted multiple hunters on state land opening day; addressing violations ranging from illegal blinds, cutting of shooting lanes, illegal ORV trails, deer baits in excess of the two gallon limit, and hunting deer without hunter orange.

CO Jeffrey Dell and Sgt. Ryan Aho checked a campsite where the hunters had taken several deer. One of the deer was found with an unvalidated deer license. Another was found to be in violation of the antler point restrictions. The COs went out looking for the hunters when they came across a blind in the road right-of-way they were patrolling. The hunter had multiple bait piles in both directions on the road. The COs addressed the safety issue as well as several ORV violations before continuing with the patrol. The COs next came across a hunter using an illegal blind who had recently shot a deer over illegal bait. The hunter was dragging out a deer without a validated deer license attached. Enforcement action was taken and the COs returned to the campsite to address the original violations. Multiple hunters returned to the campsite on ORVs with uncased and loaded guns as well as other ORV violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell addressed multiple illegal blinds. One hunter was found to be hunting without hunter orange. While speaking with another hunter regarding his illegal blind, the hunter stated he had shot an 8-point deer from the blind last year. CO Dell asked if he could see the antlers. The hunter agreed and led the CO back to his camp. CO Dell ran the hunter's license purchase history on the way to the camp and discovered that he had not bought a license in 2016 or the years prior. The hunter showed CO Dell the antlers and confessed to taking the deer without a license in the 2016 season. The antlers were seized and charges are pending through the Menominee County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling an old railroad grade when he observed a truck with its running lights on. As CO Dell approached the vehicle, it quickly backed up to a concealed position. CO Dell accelerated towards the vehicle, exited and found the driver with an uncased and loaded firearm inside. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and CO Mark Leadman followed up on an illegal blind complaint on a remote piece of state land. The COs hiked into the blind early on the opening day of firearm deer season and heard a gunshot near the blind shortly after the start of shooting hours. When the COs approached the blind, they observed the hunter's coat on the snow in an illegal shooting lane near the blind. After waiting at the blind, the COs observed the hunter dragging a dressed-out buck up the shooting lane towards the blind. The hunter hid the deer near some pine trees and returned to the blind, at which

time the COs made contact with him. After a license check, the COs found several violations, including fail to validate kill tag, fail to tag deer, illegal ground blind, no name on blind, illegal ORV trails, and illegal shooting lanes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and CO Mark Leadman located an illegal permanent deer blind on state land that had several illegal shooting lanes cut, equating to a total coverage area of around an acre. The COs made several attempts to contact the hunter and finally did when the hunter was going out on an afternoon hunt. Upon contact, the COs addressed the violations. The hunter explained that he didn't think he was doing anything illegal, and thought it was fine to trim shooting lanes. He was corrected and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and CO Mark Leadman observed several ORV tracks in the snow utilizing an illegal ORV trail. The COs hiked the illegal ORV trail through wetlands and creeks through a section of state land to a pop-up blind next to a parked ORV. The COs made contact with the hunter and observed several violations, including no hunter orange, unregistered ORV, no ORV helmet, illegal ORV trail, no name on blind, several illegally cut trees on state land, and excessive bait. The hunter was reminded of the rules on hunting state land and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge followed up on a complaint of an illegal deer blind on state land in northern Marquette County. CO DeLonge hiked into the area where the blind was supposed to be located, and was able to locate a fresh set of tracks in the snow leading towards the blind. When CO DeLonge asked the hunter to exit the blind, he found that the hunter was an unsupervised youth hunter. CO DeLonge followed the young hunter back to camp and was able to make contact with his father. CO DeLonge explained that several violations were being addressed, including allowing a youth hunter to hunt unsupervised, illegal ORV trails on state land, illegal permanent blind on state land, and no name on permanent blind. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

While patrolling the opening day of the firearm deer season, CO Bobby Watson checked a hunter in a permanent hunting blind that had been left out throughout the summer. CO Watson hiked into the blind and made contact with the hunter who claimed the blind was not his and this was the first time he had ever hunted out of it. When the hunter stepped out of the blind, CO Watson noticed he did not have any hunter orange in his possession. The hunter claimed he had forgotten his vest in his truck and didn't want to walk back to get it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson received a text message from an informant telling him he should check the American Legion buck pole on the opening day of deer season. Upon arrival, a 4-point buck tagged with a deer combo-restricted license was discovered, making the deer illegal. CO Watson and CO Calvin Smith made contact with the hunter responsible for harvesting the deer and discovered the hunter was a convicted felon. Not only was

the hunter a felon in possession of a firearm, but it was also discovered that the firearm used to harvest the deer was stolen. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Bobby Watson was travelling back to his residence at the end of his patrol when he observed a deer being hung up near a storage barn. CO Watson made contact with the two hunters. One of the hunters claimed his wife had shot the spike buck. CO Watson interviewed both subjects briefly and was able to obtain a confession that the husband had actually shot the deer that morning, then had his wife purchase a single deer license to tag the buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith and Sgt. Mike Hammill investigated a complaint of an individual who shot a deer on the opening day of archery season and purchased his license after-the-fact. A full confession was obtained and the deer was seized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith received information that an individual had shot a deer on opening day of firearm season, before he had purchased his license. CO Smith was able to track the suspect down and received a full confession. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg and Sgt. Mike Hammill patrolled Drummond Island on opening day of the firearm deer season. Despite the bad rainy weather, the COs checked several hunters on the island and issued multiple citations in regards to operating ORVs in closed areas and failing to remove deer blind at the end of each season.

CO Brett Gustafson received a RAP complaint regarding tribal fishing during the closure. The complainant stated there were two individuals in a boat setting a gill net near Pointe Aux Chenes in Lake Michigan. CO Gustafson met with the complainant in person and determined the exact location of the netting activity. CO Gustafson contacted Commercial Fish Specialist Shannon VanPatten and one of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) detectives. CO Gustafson began surveillance before daylight. The detective arrived as a single fisher, left the launch area, and began pulling the net. After pulling the net, another subject pulled into the launch area. The subjects met on shore and left in separate vehicles. The detective and CO Gustafson set up on either side of the launch area in order to follow the vehicles. Specialist VanPatten arrived and they determined the addresses of the subjects. After a short interview of each subject, it was determined that the subsistence fisherman was not on the vessel during the setting or while pulling the net. The net was large mesh gillnet – prohibited during the closure. The subject pulling the net only had a commercial helpers card. They had harvested 186 pounds of whitefish. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in western Mackinac County, CO Brett Gustafson encountered a hunter walking along a road, heading to his blind. It was soon determined that the hunter, from Ohio, did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a call involving two duck hunters whose boat sunk in Brimley Bay. The hunters were able to swim approximately a ½ mile to shore and warm up, only after they broke into a house. The owner of the house arrived home to find the duck hunters wrapped in blankets and standing in her living room. The police and EMS were called and the two hunters were treated for minor hypothermia and given a ride back to their vehicle.

CO Mark Zitnik was waiting for a hunter to get done with his evening hunt when he noticed drag marks and fresh blood coming from the hunter's blind to the road. CO Zitnik made contact with the hunter who was hunting twenty minutes past shooting hours and asked about the deer that had been shot. The hunter said his son or grandson had shot a spike horn the day before. When they arrived at their trucks, the hunter said "Well, maybe my son's mother-in-law had shot the deer." CO Zitnik followed the hunter to his residence for an investigation of the harvested deer. Once the investigation was complete, the CO went to the son's residence. CO Zitnik made contact with the individual who immediately confessed to his son shooting the sub-legal buck, without a license. The CO asked where the deer was located. The individual stated he took it out of the garage and put it in his basement. The sub-legal buck and gun was seized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he located a set of foot prints leading off into the woods. CO Lynch followed the tracks and located an untagged 5-point buck that was gutted and dragged to where it lay. CO Lynch waited for the hunter to return, made contact, and addressed the untagged deer. The hunter was ticketed for failing to immediately tag the deer. CO Lynch helped the hunter drag the deer nearly half a mile through a mud trail going through a swamp back to his vehicle and then load the deer into his truck.

CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon were on patrol on opening day of the firearm deer season checking hunters leaving the woods at night. Upon contact with one vehicle, it was apparent that the occupants of the vehicle had been drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. A search of one occupant of the vehicle turned a large amount of marijuana, a pipe, and a fifth of fireball whiskey that the occupant had been drinking while hunting. Three rifles were also located in the vehicle. The occupants were interviewed separately. One occupant said he got a 7-point buck that morning, but still had his single deer tag with him. The driver of the vehicle said he didn't get a deer yet, but was missing one of his tags from his combo deer license. The hunters admitted to loaning and borrowing deer tags. The COs went back to the camp and located the 7-point buck that had the driver's un-validated deer kill tag attached. The deer and rifle used to kill the deer were seized. Enforcement action was taken on the driver for loaning a deer tag and failing to validate his attached kill tag. Enforcement action was taken on the passenger of the vehicle for attempting to take an over-limit of deer, hunting without a valid license, borrowing a deer kill tag, possession of marijuana, intoxicated while possessing a firearm, and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle.

CO Chris Lynch arrested a subject on a 4-count warrant with the assistance of CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon. The arrest warrant included possession of marijuana, take deer with a rifle closed season, take deer without a license, and hunt/discharge a firearm within the safety zone. CO Lynch had received a complaint of the above poaching activity and obtained a search warrant for the subject's residence. With the assistance of CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, the search warrant was executed. A full confession was received from the subject on the poaching activity, evidence was seized pertaining to the poaching, and a report was turned into the prosecutor's office that then authorized on the arrest warrant. The subject was taken into custody without incident and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he observed a large group of hunters camping on state land. CO Lynch checked the successful hunter's deer that were hanging on the buck pole. While there, one of the hunters was returning to camp on an ORV. The only problem was the hunter didn't have a helmet on and had an uncased rifle slung over his back. When asked about a deer license, the hunter stated he didn't have one anymore. The hunter showed CO Lynch his buck hanging on the buck pole with his un-validated single deer kill tag attached. Enforcement action was taken for violations, including attempting to take an over-limit of deer, hunt deer without a valid license, failing to validate kill tag, uncased firearm on an ORV, and operating an ORV without a helmet.

CO Robert Freeborn responded to a one car rollover near his current location. CO Freeborn was first on scene and was the only officer on in the area. The driver was issued a citation for driving too fast for the condition, since the roads were in poor shape and they had tried passing a vehicle when they lost control.

While working the rifle deer season opener, CO Robert Freeborn, CO Michael Evink, Cpl. Shannon VanPatten, and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell addressed a complaint that CO Freeborn had received prior to season opener. CO Freeborn received a complaint of an ARGO crossing a river and traveling cross country for over a mile to three permanent blinds on public land. Each blind had over a thousand pounds of bait on the ground. When the officers made contact with the blinds, two of the three were occupied. CO Freeborn made contact with the ARGO owner at his blind and issued him a citation for operating an ORV in a closed area and exceeding two gallons of bait. Cpl. VanPatten issued a citation for exceeding two gallons of bait to other occupied blind.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling on the firearm deer opener and noticed a fresh set of ORV tracks in the snow going around boulders that were blocking a road, and tracks going up and over a berm that closed off a road. After following the tracks on foot for several miles, the tracks led to an ORV parked in the middle of the forest. A brief search revealed a hunter in a blind a few hundred yards from the ORV. The hunter was contacted and it was found he had no case for his rifle on the ORV, no helmet, and a concealed pistol without carrying his proper CPL. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon were patrolling Delta County during the

firearm deer season when they observed a truck driving down the road slowly. The COs contacted the occupants of the vehicle. Upon walking up to the truck, CO Hartsig noticed an uncased rifle sitting in between the driver and occupant. The rifle had a home-made silencer attached to the muzzle and a laser sight. After securing the rifle, the COs placed the rifle on the tailgate of the pickup truck. While opening the tailgate, fresh blood was noticed. When the driver was asked about it, he stated it was from a deer he had shot last night. The driver was asked for his kill tags, but he stated he had lost them. A file was run, and it was found that the driver had an active felony warrant out for his arrest. The suspect was placed in custody and lodged at the Delta County jail on the warrant and for having an unregistered silencer (a felony). CO Chris Lynch assisted by transporting the subject to the jail. CO Lynch followed-up by going to a local processor and documenting the un-tagged deer that had been taken there that morning by the suspect.

DISTRICT 3

CO Duane Budreau received a complaint of a subject that had posted his successful harvest of an 8-point on social media prior to purchasing a hunting license. Through social media investigation, a RAP dispatcher discovered that the subject had made several posts while hunting, as well as pictures with the deer prior to purchasing a hunting license. During the initial interview, the subject denied the allegations. CO Budreau then informed him that he already had enough evidence to pursue an arrest warrant on the matter. CO Budreau seized the deer and issued a citation for taking the deer without a license.

While patrolling the seasonal roads of northern Emmet County on opening day of Michigan's firearm deer season, CO Duane Budreau encountered a vehicle pulled off the roadway with the driver's side door open. CO Budreau stopped to talk with the hunter sitting in the driver's seat of the vehicle. As CO Budreau approached the vehicle, he observed a rifle leaning against the seat of the truck with the muzzle on the floorboard. After discovering that the firearm was loaded, CO Budreau advised the hunter of the law regarding firearms in a motor vehicle. It was also determined that the hunter did not have a case with him for the firearm. The hunter was cited for the firearm violation.

After doing a bait survey flight over Emmet County, CO Duane Budreau followed-up on a few of the excessive bait sites on private property in northern Emmet County. CO Budreau contacted a subject with an estimated two tons of bait in front of his hunting blind. Upon contact, the individual told CO Budreau that he did not know the law. He stated that he never bothered to read it. The subject was also hunting in full camouflage, as well as without a license. After an educational moment, enforcement action was taken.

CO Duane Budreau responded to a recreational trespass complaint in which a deer had been illegally taken from the roadway. The suspect vehicle description was given as a white Ford Explorer. Two subjects were observed dragging a deer from the field and

loading it into the back of the vehicle. While CO Budreau was investigating the scene, another witness advised they observed a white SUV driving slowly down the dead-end road and obtained the license plate number from the vehicle. The license plate number came back on a Ford Explorer. CO Budreau attempted contact the registered owners of the vehicle, however, the registration came back to a place of business and no one was around. The following morning CO Budreau received a text message from the original complainant stating that the suspect vehicle had returned to the scene. It was occupied by two bearded males and a female. While refueling his patrol vehicle at a gas station in Petoskey, CO Budreau observed a white Ford Explorer pull up to the air station. The bearded male driver exited the vehicle and began to put air in the tires. CO Budreau approached the vehicle and confirmed the registration to be the same as the possible suspect vehicle. CO Budreau immediately observed several drops of blood on the bumper of the vehicle. After collecting identification from all occupants, CO Budreau individually questioned them. Sgt. Michael Feagan responded to assist and placed the female occupant under arrest on a civil warrant for child support. CO Budreau and Sgt. Feagan followed the suspects to their residence to investigate the deer at that location. After long interview sessions, it was determined that the deer hanging in their garage was illegally tagged with a borrowed tag and was in fact the deer taken from the complainant's property. The deer was seized and multiple tickets were issued.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a call in Antrim County of recreational trespass where a landowner confronted another hunter for being on his land. CO Speigl gathered the information from the victim landowner then found the suspect next door at a pole barn. During the interview, the suspect claimed he got 'lost' and wound up on the neighbor's property, disregarding the well posted property lines. CO Speigl pointed out that the property where the suspect had permission to be on was only 100 feet wide and it would be pretty hard to get 'lost', especially given the posted signs every 15-20 feet. The case has been turned over to the prosecuting attorney for review.

CO Andrea Albert and CO Steve Speigl deployed a deer decoy in Antrim County on the opening weekend of the firearm deer season. After a couple hours of vehicles not seeing the decoy, one truck stopped. The driver slowly backed up to get a better view. CO Speigl relayed to CO Albert (waiting in a nearby patrol truck) that the driver rolled his window down and was plugging his ears. CO Speigl watched as the rear passenger shot the decoy from inside the truck. The suspects tried to make a hasty getaway only to be met by CO Albert stopping them for the violations. The shooter's firearm was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While checking deer hanging at a local buck pole contest in Antrim County, CO Andrea Albert noticed a suspicious tag on a 10-point buck. A follow-up investigation with the hunter found that the large buck was taken without a license. The hunter had shot the deer, then went and bought a license and entered the deer into the buck pole contest. The hunter was cited for the violation and the deer was seized. The potential restitution for taking a 10-point without a license is \$7,000, plus fines and costs, and hunting privilege revocation.

CO Andrea Albert observed a truck going down the wrong side of the road in Antrim County in the afternoon on the opening day of deer season. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver said he was just going to his blind to make sure there was a chair in it. The driver of the truck, who was dressed in full hunting clothing and had a rifle with him, said he had yet to purchase a deer license and he was not hunting. Then the driver stated he could not afford to buy a license. CO Albert found the subject had a back pack full of beer and marijuana illegally in his possession. Citations were issued for the violations.

On the third day of the firearm deer season while checking a hunter in Antrim County, CO Andrea Albert asked how his hunt went. He stated he had shot a nice 8-point on the morning of the opener. CO Albert checked the subject's deer licenses and found he still had his combo tag in his possession. When asked if the deer was tagged, the subject stated he put his uncle's tag on it because his uncle wanted a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert contacted several firearm deer hunters on property owned by a local ski lodge in Antrim County. None of the hunters were wearing hunter orange, and one of them was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm who did not buy a deer license and had marijuana on him. CO Albert issued several tickets for no hunter orange. The felon in possession of a firearm was arrested and lodged in jail for possession of marijuana and for hunting deer without a license. Charges will be sought through the prosecutor's office for felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

While talking to a neighboring land owner on the roadway in Antrim County, CO Andrea Albert heard a very close rifle shot on the next property. A little while later a subject was dragging out a deer with an ORV. Contact with the hunter was made. The doe was not tagged and the hunter did not have an antlerless tag for the deer - only combination tags. A citation was issued and the illegally taken deer was seized.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County spoke to a criminal justice class at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey. The professor, Eric Kaiser, was the assistant prosecuting attorney for Cheboygan County when she worked there. CO Erratt discussed DNR laws, conservation officer's duties, the hiring process, and told stories about unusual cases she has encountered working as a CO.

On opening night, CO Andrea Erratt received a self-report complaint about a hunter who had accidentally shot a doe when he thought it was a buck. The hunter stated he saw a buck with large antlers, noticed his scope was fogged, cleaned it off, and then shot. When he walked up he found a doe, however he did not have an antlerless permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint from a hunter about a tree stand on state land with no name that had been left up over three years, causing the tree to grow around the straps. After checking it several times, CO Erratt walked in on November 16th and watched a hunter putting out more bait and check the trail camera. The hunter told CO

Erratt he took the tree stand down at the end of the season. When CO Erratt told him she knew it had been left out all year, he admitted he had left the stand up for five years. CO Erratt ticketed the hunter for the illegal tree stand and warned him for baiting deer with more than two gallons.

While patrolling on back roads after dark on November 16th, CO Andrea Erratt observed a small deer hanging in plain view in a lighted pole barn. CO Erratt talked to two hunters at the camp who said the owner had shot the button buck and showed her the un-validated tag lying nearby on a trailer. When the hunter returned to camp, he explained he had shot the button buck last night and had not put the tag on yet. Enforcement action was taken.

On Sunday, November 19th, CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County and CO Andrea Albert of Antrim County deployed a deer decoy on posted private property in Charlevoix County. CO Albert watched as a truck stopped, a driver's side passenger got out, loaded his rifle, leaned his rifle with a bipod on the truck bed cover, and shot onto the private property toward the decoy. CO Erratt initiated a traffic stop as the truck tried to leave. The backseat passenger had unloaded the rifle and it was lying on his case. CO Erratt ticketed the shooter. The driver of the truck had a muzzle-loading handgun in a cardboard box lying next to him on the truck console and said he had shot a doe on the 17th. CO Erratt followed him to his home and checked an untagged doe hanging in his shed that he said he had shot on his property. CO Erratt ticketed the driver for failing to immediately tag the deer and warned him for shooting an antlerless deer on private land with a public land permit and transporting an uncased gun in a motor vehicle.

Sgt. Mark DePew and CO Tim Rosochacki were traveling on I-75 near Vanderbilt paying special attention to wildlife violations. During one of the traffic stops, a loaded .30.30 rifle was located in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking hunting activity on the opener of firearm deer season in Otsego County, Sgt. Mark DePew conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for erratic driving. Upon contact with the operator, a strong smell of burning marijuana was noted. An operating while impaired (OWI) investigation was conducted indicating the operator was intoxicated. He was arrested and transported to the Otsego County Jail.

After receiving a complaint of drug usage while hunting on private property in Otsego County, Sgt. Mark DePew contacted three hunters. Two of the three hunters were determined to be or have been smoking marijuana while hunting. One of the hunters was extremely intoxicated and arrested for hunting while being intoxicated. A second hunter was found to be a felon in possession of a firearm. Both hunters were arrested and lodged in the Otsego County Jail.

While checking for trespassing on private property, Sgt. Mark DePew located a hunter who was in violation of the trespass law. Upon contact with the hunter, Sgt. DePew immediately noted the hunter appeared to be extremely intoxicated. The hunter performed field sobriety evaluations, and was determined to be intoxicated. He was

arrested for hunting while intoxicated and transported to the Otsego County Jail. While at the jail, the hunter's blood alcohol was .17%, which is almost double the legal limit to drive.

Sgt. Mark DePew reports Otsego and Cheboygan County Conservation Officers and Michigan State Police Troopers conducted their annual joint enforcement detail, paying special attention to I-75 in northern Otsego County, southern Cheboygan County, and along M-68 near the Village of Indian River. Conservation Officers and MSP Troopers conducted traffic stops looking for violations of Michigan Motor Vehicle Code, and paid particular attention to conservation violations. Over 30 traffic stops were conducted and the officers checked over 40 deer. Several violations were found, including a loaded .30.30 and warrant arrests.

CO Nick Torsky received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint in Cheboygan County making contact with an individual who confessed to shooting a deer with a .30.30 rifle several days before the opening of firearm season. The Cheboygan County Prosecutors Office is reviewing the case.

CO Eric Bottorff made contact with a hunter who appeared to be in his early 20s. When asked his age, he stated he was born in 1969, then showed the CO a hunting license with that date of birth. The CO requested the hunter's identification used to purchase the license, but he could not produce it. The subject finally confessed to hunting with his father's hunting license because he did not want to purchase an out-of-state license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki finally made contact with a downstate hunter from the 2016 deer season that shot a large buck in Cheboygan County and never purchased a deer license. When contacted by the CO, the hunter confessed to shooting the deer and using a friend's deer license to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

While working late in Presque Isle County, CO Tim Rosochacki and CO Brad Bellville were dispatched to a shots-fired complaint. Upon arrival, the COs met with the landowner, who showed them a freshly killed deer in his field. While the COs were investigating the scene, a vehicle was observed driving slowly, then stopping near where the landowner advised the shot had come from. The COs contacted the occupants of the vehicle and obtained a confession from both the driver and the passenger. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster was working Alpena County when he contacted a hunter hunting over bait. When he produced his hunting license, CO Webster noticed it had a sports card ID number on it. CO Webster asked the hunter to produce his driver's license. The hunter nervously fumbled through his wallet acting like he couldn't find it. CO Webster asked the man where he was from and he said Ontario, Canada. CO Webster then asked the hunter why he had resident hunting licenses. The hunter said he had grown up in Michigan but he fell in love with a woman in Toronto, so he moved 30 plus years ago and has been coming back to Michigan to hunt. The hunter admitted to using his

parent's address as his own to purchase hunting licenses as a resident. His licenses were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster had done some preseason scouting on a piece of state land in Alpena County when he came across a small one acre clearing in the middle of a cedar swamp. The clearing had a tree stand and a permanent ground blind, along with trees cut and many branches cut off to use as cover. CO Webster contacted the hunter at this location on the second day of rifle deer season and the first words out of the hunter's mouth were "How did you find me?" CO Webster explained that he had known about the area for quite some time. The issues mentioned above were being addressed when CO Webster noticed a blue jay flying back and forth from within a food plot area the hunter had made. When CO Webster asked the hunter if he was using any bait, and the hunter admitted to putting down some corn and apples. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster was checking a hunter in Alpena County when he noticed the hunter not wearing any hunter orange (during firearm deer season) while in his tree stand. CO Webster asked for the hunter to come down, and when he climbed out of his stand, CO Webster noticed the man was wearing brown pants and a black jacket. When CO Webster asked the hunter where his orange was, the hunter said he didn't think he needed it on private land. CO Webster asked for his hunting license and the man said he did not have one and planned to purchase it if he shot a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Bellville handled multiple baiting/feeding complaints in DMU 487 where it is illegal to place bait or feed. Enforcement action was taken on each complaint.

CO Brad Bellville and CO Kelly Ross assisted Michigan State Police with an incident in Montmorency County where an individual accidentally discharged his 40-caliber pistol into his leg. The subject was transported to an area hospital with a non-life-threatening injury.

CO Brad Bellville, CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Michael Mshar responded to a complaint in Montmorency County where a deer hunter shot a large bull elk. The hunter was hunting over a bait pile in a no-bait county, and shot the elk from 50 yards, after she mistook it for a whitetail buck. The elk was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Bellville, CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Michael Mshar contacted a state land camp in Montmorency County after Sgt. Mshar conducted a traffic stop resulting in the discovery of multiple loaded firearms in a motor vehicle. After conducting several interviews, the COs discovered multiple tagging violations. Enforcement action was taken and seven deer were seized.

CO Adam LeClerc and CO William Webster responded to an illegal baiting complaint in Alpena County. Five hunters were found hunting around the property, all hunting over different bait. Other violations were also found such as hunting deer without a license,

failure to wear hunter orange and a non-resident buying resident licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc was working a possible felon with a firearm complaint in Alpena County. While searching the complaint area, three hunters were found hunting over illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc and CO William Webster followed-up on an illegal bait found during archery season in Alpena County. Contact was made with two individuals in the blind. One had just shot a 7-point buck over the illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint in Montmorency County where a dispute between two adjacent landowners resulted in one of the landowners stepping from his blind and firing several shots in the other's direction. A report has been submitted to the prosecutor's office for review and charges.

CO Kelly Ross assisted a very lost and disoriented hunter in Montmorency County. The hunter had become turned around and gotten cold and extremely hungry. CO Ross had several bags of deer bait in the bed of his truck that were recently seized. The hunter asked CO Ross if he could eat some of the bait as he was very hungry. The hunter was returned safely to his camp.

CO Jon Sklba received a complaint of a non-resident subject with property in Presque Isle County who had been purchasing resident hunting and fishing license for the past few years. After an investigation and confession, the subject was charged and ordered to pay the difference that the state was shorted. The total restitution ordered to be paid back to the state of Michigan was over \$1,700.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a subject in Alpena County who was out placing bait on state land. The subject took his ORV through a closed area wetland, littered, failed to purchase an ORV license, did not have a helmet, had a suspended driver's license, had too much bait, failed to put his name on his blind, had cut shooting lanes, and had been drinking. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a subject near a tree stand on state land in Presque Isle County that had been heavily baited. The subject admitted it was his stand, and that he had placed too much bait. The subject stated that he didn't have time to place bait frequently so he dumped too much bait out, when he did. The subject had shot a 9-point buck that morning. Enforcement action was taken for the excessive bait, and illegal tree stand.

DISTRICT 4

While patrolling state land in Benzie County, Sgt. Dan Bigger noted a vehicle that he had passed earlier in his patrol was still parked well after legal shooting hours. Sgt. Bigger set out on a foot patrol in the direction of the boot prints located near the vehicle.

Within 15 minutes, Sgt. Bigger observed flashlights in the woods, slowly backed away and followed as the individuals made their way back to their vehicle. Upon reaching their vehicle, Sgt. Bigger made contact and found that both individuals still had loaded firearms. Enforcement action was taken.

While operating under a night flight patrol, CO Justin Vanderlinde and Sgt. Dan Bigger noted a vehicle pulled off to the side of the road adjacent to state land, nearly an hour after legal shooting hours. CO Vanderlinde let Sgt. Bigger out and continued down the road to avoid being detected. Sgt. Bigger made his way to a cedar tree line and moved towards where boot prints in the snow indicated the vehicle occupants had headed. Within approximately 200 yards, Sgt. Bigger observed the subjects making their way through the woods and noted that one appeared to not be wearing hunter orange. Sgt. Bigger stayed among the cedars and allowed the two subjects to make their way back to the vehicle. Upon reaching their vehicle, Sgt. Bigger made contact. The two subjects were shocked that he was there and that they had not seen him. CO Vanderlinde made his way to the vehicle and worked with Sgt. Bigger to identify that both firearms were still loaded. One hunter had no hunter orange and the other hunter had been afield without a kill tag in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinis and CO Casey Varriale were on patrol in Wexford County when they were dispatched to report of a 14-year-old hunter unsupervised. The COs made contact with the hunter who has not taken hunter safety, nor was under the supervision of an adult. The COs made contact with the young hunter's father who was under the impression that his son was allowed to hunt by himself. The COs took this time to educate both father and son of the laws pertaining to the apprentice license. The father was issued a citation for allowing a minor to hunt unsupervised.

CO Colton Gelinis and CO Casey Varriale were first to arrive on scene to a call in Wexford County of a missing hunter. The COs talked to the son who had the last knowledge of the father's whereabouts and discussed a plan to locate him. Apparently, the father and son were hunting on state land they knew very well. Using tactical tracking skills from that the COs were previously trained in, helped determine the route of travel the hunter took. After approximately an hour of tracking in the rain, the COs observed a small dim light off in the distance. After making it to the source of the light, the COs found the hunter. The hunter was disoriented, cold, and fatigued.

CO Rebecca Hopkins was called to a missing hunter complaint in Benzie County around 8:00 a.m. on November 15th. The dispatch center receiving the 911 call forwarded CO Hopkins the location of the call through Smart 911 mapping software. CO Hopkins was familiar with the area and found the location of the hunter's vehicle. She then called the hunter and located him within approximately five minutes of responding to the call.

Warrants for taking a deer without a license and borrow a license of another were issued for a subject from an investigation conducted by CO Rebecca Hopkins. The original complaint came from a RAP dispatcher of a hunter who posted a photo of an 8-

point deer on social media and did not purchase a license. The subject had a friend purchase a license, which he attached to the deer after it was harvested. The MSP Fugitive Recovery Team located and lodged the subject on the original DNR warrants and nine additional local court warrants.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Justin Vanderlinde checked three blinds on private property on opening morning of the firearm deer season. The blinds had been heavily baited and spotted during a bait flight in the area. Upon checking the blinds, it was discovered that each blind was occupied with an adult and a youth hunter. During the check, the property owner came out and was informed of the investigation. The property owner took full responsibility for the baiting and received a ticket for the baiting violations.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Justin Vanderlinde checked a hunter in a tree stand on opening day of firearm deer season that local COs had been checking all bow season due to ongoing violations of no identification and failing to remove it in the off season. The hunter denied it was his despite baiting the site and admitting that he was considering putting his name on it the day before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney and Lt. John Jurcich responded to call in the Manton area where a bear had been reported caught in a trap. The call was placed by a local trapper who found the cub bear caught in one of his coyote traps. CO Kinney has responded to two similar cases and was familiar with how to remove the trap off the bear. CO Kinney and Lt. Jurcich were able to pin the bear with catch poles and the trap was safely removed from the bear's foot.

CO William Kinney and CO Sgt. Dan Bigger followed-up with a suspect that was in violation of the bait law. The COs found large quantities of bait scattered on state land with a ground blind overlooking it. The COs were able to make contact with the individual and also discovered additional violations with the ground blind. Enforcement action was taken for the over-limit of bait. It was also found that the individual had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The COs arrested the individual for the warrant and escorted him 3/4 of a mile to the nearest road to be picked up. As they escorted him to the roadway, the COs passed through the individual's deer camp. At camp, the COs found an individual returning from the evening hunt with an uncased gun in the car. Enforcement action was also taken.

While patrolling Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews and Sgt. Carla Soper were notified of a possible APR violation on the opposite side of the county that they were working. The caller advised that a hunter had just killed a spike horn and was in the process of loading it up. CO Andrews and Sgt. Soper were able to catch the hunter as he was leaving a parcel of federal land and discovered he indeed had the deer in the bed of his vehicle. The small buck was only a spike horn and did not meet the APR regulations. The hunter admitted to knowing that other nearby counties had APR regulations, and that he had even read the hunting and trapping guide, but he claimed he did not know that they applied to Lake County. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

While looking for an illegal stand and bait site, CO Ryan Andrews and Sgt. Carla Soper discovered a hunter sitting against a tree in Lake County. As the COs approached from behind, the hunter he had no idea they were behind him less than ten feet away. The COs could smell the strong odor of burned marijuana as they approached even closer and eventually made contact. After questioning the hunter about the marijuana, he eventually admitted to smoking it and still being in possession of some. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Andrews and Sgt. Carla Soper were investigating a possible APR violation that had been brought into the DNR Baldwin Field Office in Lake County. While investigating the APR violation, the COs checked the hunter's tag and discovered it had been purchased just prior to the hunter arriving at the field office. The hunter stated that he had been "extremely lucky that day" and had bought his tag that morning and only hunted for five minutes before the small buck came into his back yard. After further questioning, the hunter finally admitted that he was hunting without a license when he shot the sublegal deer and then went to the nearest license retailer to purchase his deer tag. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake County during the firearm deer season, CO Ryan Andrews discovered a small buck on the rooftop of an SUV on public property. The deer did not meet the APR regulations for the area and was also untagged. Shortly after, three hunters emerged from the woods. CO Andrews contacted the three hunters. One of them admitted to killing the deer in that area and not tagging it. The illegal deer was then confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky received a RAP complaint of a subject shooting two 8-point bucks in Mason County without licenses during bow season. The COs were able to acquire pictures of the two bucks along with dates of when the hunter shot them. A quick interview of the suspect lead to a confession and both 8-points were seized.

On the second day of firearm deer season in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky were headed to an area where they had been working a large bait complaint all season. On the way to the complaint, the COs were informed by a complainant that the suspect hunters were out and had fired two shots. As the two COs arrived on scene, two hunters were dragging two untagged antlerless deer their truck. It was determined that the hunters had shot two antlerless deer without licenses, had too much bait, were trespassing, were not wearing hunter orange, and one was a felon in possession of a firearm. The antlerless deer were seized along with their firearms and enforcement action was taken.

Working a complaint from last year, CO Kyle Publiski checked a camp in the north part of Mason County where two out-of-state hunters were shooting sublegal bucks without buying any licenses. CO Publiski arrived on scene and located two untagged deer carcasses with the heads and hides removed. After a lengthy interview, it was

determined that that a Tennessee resident shot a spike buck without a license using an assault rifle with a 30 round magazine. Enforcement action was taken.

While following-up on a bait complaint in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky located a hunting blind with excessive bait. The two subjects that had been hunting in the blind together both admitted to putting out the excess bait. The COs both decided that only one ticket was sufficient for the violation and advised the hunters only one of them would be written. For the first time in their careers, the COs watched as the two hunters played high-low with a deck of cards to determine who was going to receive the citation for too much bait. The loser graciously accepted his citation.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky located a questionable deer at a taxidermist in Mason County. Upon investigation, the COs learned that a husband had already shot one buck on his property and did not want to be done hunting so he sent his wife out to purchase tags so that he could keep hunting. The husband was in fact successful in shooting a second deer using his wife's recently purchased tags and fortunately for him he had not shot a third deer upon contact by the COs. The husband/wife team was cited for lending/borrowing tags of another.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski responded to a complaint of a coyote that was in a trap that had not been checked in several days in Mason County. The COs located the trap that contained a large adult coyote. The COs released the coyote and were able to track down the trapper who admitted that he thought he had check all of his traps but must have forgotten the one the COs located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski spent 2017 firearm opener in Mason County following-up on bait complaints received prior to the deer season start. Over the course of the day, the COs issued over 15 citations for various baiting violations. While checking two adjacent properties, one of the suspects drove into his bait as the COs were taking photos of it. They also discovered he had a loaded firearm in his motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken. A suspect on the adjacent property had been in court earlier in the season after he plead guilty on to a trespass charge. He told the COs that he was on probation for the prior offense and was not supposed to violate any further laws. Enforcement action was again taken for the baiting offense.

While CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski were inspecting a processor in Mason County, a hunter arrived to drop off a deer. The hunter nearly placed the deer at the feet of CO Brosky, who was inspecting other deer at the location. Upon inspecting the deer that the subject had just dropped off, CO Brosky noted that the license had been purchased just short of two hours prior to dropping off the deer. Upon interviewing the subject, he eventually admitted that he shot the deer at lunchtime and had not purchased a license prior to hunting. The subject was issued a citation for taking a deer without a license.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski responded to the Baldwin Field Office after wildlife division employees called them to report a subject who arrived with 10 deer

heads to check in at the deer check station. Upon arrival, the COs interviewed the subject and it was determined that he had shot a 4-point buck in Mason county which is regulated under the antler point restrictions. Other violations included antlered deer that were inappropriately tagged with restricted tags. The subject was cited for his offense and the COs are investigating the additional tagging violations further.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol during the firearm deer opener when he observed a slow moving vehicle whose window was down while it was raining. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle for a traffic violation and made contact with a very nervous driver. CO Killingbeck asked the driver if he had a gun in the vehicle and the subject said "Officer, I have a confession." The subject told CO Killingbeck that he had an uncased firearm. CO Killingbeck located a loaded and uncased rifle behind the driver's seat. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he was in a hurry to get to his hunting spot and forgot to case his gun. CO Killingbeck educated the subject on regulations pertaining to firearms in motor vehicles and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck took a trespassing complaint where the property owner was complaining that his neighbors have trespassed on his property in the past and he believed they were trespassing again. CO Killingbeck observed the neighbor's deer blind was occupied and went to talk to them about the allegations. An untagged deer was found in the blind. CO Killingbeck also discovered that there were five bait piles associated with the blind, all over two gallons. The hunters told CO Killingbeck that they had nothing to tag the deer with, but would tag it when they got home. CO Killingbeck advised the subjects of laws pertaining to placing the kill tags immediately on the deer and baiting regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Ryan Andrews made contact with four hunters on private property where bait piles exceeding the two gallon limit. The COs had located the piles prior to the opener. Each bait pile was significantly over-baited. One subject was hunting without a license and another subject was sitting in a tree stand in full camo, with no hunter orange. Numerous violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Ryan Andrews were on patrol in Lake County when they observed a vehicle with a spike horn sticking out of the bed of a truck. Due to Lake County being an APR county, the officers conducted a traffic stop and contact was made with the occupants. CO Killingbeck discovered that the spike horn had an antlerless license attached to it. The subjects admitted to knowing that the deer was illegal and that they had not put the correct tag on it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck took a complaint of a felon who was rifle hunting in Wexford County and had shot several deer that were hanging in a garage. With the assistance of CO Steve Converse and Sgt. Carla Soper, the COs made contact with several subjects at the residence. It was determined that a 6-point buck had a tag attached that was purchased at dark on November 16th and was notched out for the 16th. It was determined that the tag belonged to a female who initially said she shot the deer. After

further investigation, a male subject soon admitted that he had shot the deer so that he would not be out of tags for the remainder of deer season. The only tag the male subject had left at that time was his restricted tag, making the 6-point illegal to shoot. Another male subject on scene was also determined to be a felon and also was in possession of a buck that he had shot with a rifle. He also had a suspended driver's license and admitted to driving a vehicle that was in the yard with two loaded and uncased firearms in it. A second car at the residence had a loaded and uncased crossbow in it belonging to a female at the residence. Numerous citations were issued and warrants are being sought for the felon who was in possession of the firearms.

While on patrol, CO Steve Converse and Sgt. Carla Soper received a call from an off-duty Manistee County Sheriff's Department deputy advising three subjects were suspiciously dragging their deer out of the woods. The COs arrived and it was discovered that all three deer had been shot two days prior and hung on a buck pole back in the woods where they hunt. One of the deer was a clear violation of the local APR and other violations of over-limits of bait were discovered.

CO Steve Converse and Sgt. Carla Soper were working an area on the border of Lake and Manistee County checking for road hunting activity. Sgt. Soper had just advised CO Converse that she had two uncased and loaded firearms in motor vehicles on the opener last year, approximately a mile from where they were currently situated. They continued toward that location, and as they neared that exact same spot, they noted a vehicle sitting stationary off the shoulder of the roadway. The COs stopped to check it and Sgt. Soper looked in the back seat of the vehicle and again found two loaded and uncased firearms.

CO Scott MacNeill cited an individual hunting deer on opening morning of rifle season after observing her hunting over an over-limit of bait and without wearing hunter orange. After further investigation, the hunter indicated that she had already shot an 8-point, but she still had all of her tags in her possession. She admitted to using her husband's deer license to tag her deer. Both individuals were cited for the lend/borrow violation.

While at a buck pole in Manistee County, CO Scott MacNeill confiscated an 11-point deer after investigation uncovered it to be illegal. After speaking with several members of the hunting party, it became apparent that the deer was harvested before the hunter had purchased his license. The tags had been purchased only hours before the deer had arrived at the buck pole, and the deer had been harvested early that morning. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller and CO Will Kinney assisted a trapper release a small bear caught in a leg hold trap designed to catch coyotes. The small bear was released without injury.

CO Troy Mueller received a complaint from a hunter that witnessed a subject shoot and kill a spike buck that violates the antler point restrictions in Osceola County. CO Mueller responded to the scene and observed tracks in the snow leading to a local residence. The homeowner advised CO Mueller that the subject that shot the buck, immediately

left the area and traveled to Ottawa County. CO Mueller contacted CO BJ Goulette in Ottawa County that was able to locate the suspect. Upon interviewing him, CO Goulette received a confession of shooting the APR violation buck in Osceola County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a complaint in Oceana County of non-residents purchasing resident licenses. CO Shively went to the property and located the couple. After checking their Tennessee driver's licenses, CO Shively cited them both for non-residents purchasing resident licenses.

CO Ben Shively conducted a meat processor inspection in Oceana County and located two suspicious deer. The kill tag on the first deer, a 4-point, showed that the license had been purchased at 10:33 a.m. that morning and the deer was at the processors before noon. The hunter who brought the second deer in was adamant that he wanted the head removed so no problems would occur. The processor observed a restricted tag on the hunter's 6-point deer. CO Shively interviewed both subjects and received confessions for taking a deer without a license, and taking an over-limit of antlered deer. The hunter had already shot a 4-point earlier in the season, in addition to the 6-point buck that was illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was patrolling federal land when a vehicle approached from the opposite direction. CO Shively made contact with the subjects in the vehicle. While asking how their hunting was, CO Shively asked if their firearms were unloaded. A check of the case on the back seat of the pickup truck revealed that the hard gun case was open and both rifles were loaded. Citations were issued for loaded/uncased firearm in motor vehicle.

CO Ben Shively received a complaint of two subjects dumping a carcass on federal land in Oceana County and the complainant was able to obtain a license plate number from the truck. CO Shively located the deer carcass, and with Sgt. Bomay, made contact with the owner of the truck who admitted to dumping the carcass. The subject was cited for littering and ordered to clean up the carcass.

CO Brian Lebel received a complaint that a subject had shot a deer with a rifle during the archery season from a truck in Mecosta County. Upon arriving at the scene, CO Lebel recovered an antlerless deer that was shot with a rifle. A suspect was developed and upon interviewing the suspect, it was also found that he had shot five more deer throughout the season, including two small bucks not meeting the antler point restrictions. The suspect was using other people's licenses and had not met the required CWD mandatory testing. Enforcement action was taken and all the violations were addressed, including seizing three of the deer.

CO Brian Lebel received a tip that a subject had shot a large buck in Mecosta County late into the archery season and did not have a license. A follow-up interview revealed that the suspect had bought a license the following day to put on the deer before taking

it to a processor and taxidermist. The deer was seized and the subject was cited for the violation.

CO Brian Lebel was on patrol opening night of the firearm deer season in Newaygo County when he checked two subjects coming out of the woods with two antlerless deer in a trailer. The deer had been shot earlier that morning and were not tagged. When asked for licenses, one subject produced an antlerless tag for the wrong county and the other subject, who was an Arizona resident, produced his mother's license. It was found that the out-of-state hunter had not purchased any hunting licenses. Both deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Mecosta County, CO Brian Lebel drove by a hunting camp as a subject walked outside. CO Lebel observed the subject quickly turn and go back to the door after seeing the patrol vehicle. CO Lebel quickly turned around to observe a second subject running out of the front door toward a barn behind the camp. CO Lebel quickly made contact with the subjects and found three untagged deer in the barn. A third subject was found out back hunting in a blind while drinking beer and not wearing any hunter orange. In the end, it was found that two of the deer were shot three days prior and had not been tagged. The third deer was shot by a subject without a license. The deer were seized and citations were issued for the violations.

CO Brian Lebel made contact with two subjects hunting in Mecosta County. Neither hunter had a license and one had a warrant for his arrest for stalking and intimidation. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was lodged in the Mecosta County jail for his warrant.

CO Brian Lebel received several complaints for two days of subjects hunting waterfowl in a highly populated area, violating several safety zones while shooting at ducks and geese. CO Lebel was finally able to catch up with the suspects and found them to be in violation of safety zones, no waterfowl licenses, and were unable to provide any floatation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway participated in an outdoor activity day for the Crossroads Charter Academy 5th grade class on November 6th. CO Greenway presented the fur kit and talked about the animals we have here in Michigan, and how hunting and trapping helps manage the populations for the habitat. There were about 45 students. She also talked about hunter's safety and why it is a good to take the class, even if you are not planning on hunting.

CO Angela Greenway and Sgt. Mike Bomay responded to a complaint of two deer hanging in a garage and one was not tagged. When the COs arrived, there were two skinned out deer. One deer was tagged properly, but the other was not. After conducting interviews, it was discovered that one deer was shot before the subject obtained his license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Varriale noticed a man burning sections of carpeting in two burn barrels in his backyard. CO Varriale made contact with the individual. During the contact, the suspect admitted to burning his trash on multiple occasions, because he did not think it was against the law. CO Varriale educated the individual on proper waste disposal techniques. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn conducted surveillance of a charter boat captain who was allegedly chumming on the Muskegon River. CO Ginn was able to observe this subject fishing with clients and later observed him broadcast loose eggs into the river with a large serving spoon. CO Ginn eventually made contact with the suspect as he returned to the boating access site. After a brief interview explaining his observations, CO Ginn was able to obtain a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells checked an illegal ground blind and large illegal pit blind on public lands on the opening day of the firearm deer season. CO Wells was able to make contact with one subject in the ground blind with an over-limit of bait at the location. Interview of this subject led CO Wells to believe that this subject's son was responsible for the illegal pit blind that was a short distance away. The son was contacted later that day and he admitted to using the pit blind several times. CO Wells advised him that since he is using the blind that he is responsible for it. Enforcement action was taken against both subjects involved and CO Wells advised both subjects that he would check the blind locations in the near future to make sure that they are brought into compliance.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of a subject that had taken several antlerless deer. Upon making contact at the residence, several subjects were in the process of skinning out two antlerless deer with a third antlerless deer on standby. All three deer were untagged. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was discovered that the suspect had only one antlerless license for the area and had harvested a second antlerless deer claiming that he thought it was antlered when he shot it. The subject responsible for the third deer was only able to produce an antlerless license not valid for the area. CO Wells located both of the firearms used to harvest the deer in the front seat of a vehicle loaded and uncased. Enforcement action was taken with citations issued to both subjects involved.

CO Mike Wells received information regarding a subject that had taken two antlered deer, both of which were less than 4-points on one side. Contact was made with this subject and his wife. CO Wells had checked and discovered that the wife had obtained deer license for the last several years and could not find any record indicating she had taken hunter safety. Upon speaking with the wife, she initially stated that she had taken one of the antlered deer and even displayed the antlers and her kill tag to CO Wells. Further interview with the wife revealed that she had not harvested a deer this season. The husband gave admission to the harvesting of both antlered deer and that he used his wife's kill tag on one of the deer because of the antler point restrictions involved. Enforcement action was taken with both subjects and citations were issued to the husband for the illegal deer.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a large bait pile. CO Wells made contact with one subject near the bait wearing camouflage clothing and hunter orange. The subject advised CO Wells that he was not hunting, but was in a blind with a crossbow and a loaded rifle. The subject continued to state that the blind and the firearms are the property of the landowner. CO Wells determined that this subject was a non-resident and that he had not obtained a deer license in Michigan. CO Wells pointed out to the subject that it is the firearm deer season, that he is displaying hunter orange, that he is inside a blind with a loaded firearm, and that he is looking out over an illegal quantity of deer bait. The subject still advised that he is not hunting. The subject was issued a citation for hunting without a license and bait violation. The firearm was seized as evidence.

CO Mike Wells responded to a trespass complaint that a vehicle full of sugar beets removed a gate by lifting it off of the post and entered the property. CO Wells responded and located the vehicle a short distance into the property full of sugar beets and unoccupied. CO Wells made contact with three subjects in the hunting blind with two loaded firearms. None of the subjects were displaying hunter orange and two hunters did not have a deer license. Citations were issued for the no license and hunter orange violations. One of the subjects was arrested and transported to jail due to an outstanding arrest warrant.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a subject that was hunting, heard a gunshot, and observed a 4-point buck run onto his property a fall. The subject could see that the deer was deceased and the hunter waited for several hours for someone to claim the deer. Late that afternoon, the complainant contacted CO Wells and explained the situation. He advised that he believed that the deer may have been shot by someone on the property to the west of his property and did not want the deer to go to waste. CO Wells attempted to make contact with the neighbor to the west just to advise them that this deer was found and to have the hunter come and claim it. When CO Wells approached the side door of the residence to make contact, he observed a truck with a deer in the back driving toward a pole barn area behind the residence. CO Wells made contact with these subjects and observed a large antlered deer in the bed of the truck with no kill tag on the deer. CO Wells asked who harvested the deer and where the kill tag was; a subject spoke up stating he had shot the deer and was going to tag the deer inside the building. CO Wells advised the subject that the deer must be tagged upon its recovery and the subject stated he did not know this. A citation was issued for the tagging violation and the subject stated that he had no idea who may have harvest the 4-point on his neighbor's property. The 4-point buck was recovered and donated to the needy for consumption.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn located a hunter in Kalkaska County who had shot a doe on the opening day of the firearm deer season without the proper license. The hunter had tagged the doe with one of his combination deer licenses. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken for the violation.

CO Mike Hearn received a complaint from a Kalkaska County resident regarding a pile of trash that had been dumped on their property. CO Hearn responded to the area and located a small piece of paper with a partial name on it. Using local resources, a Mancelona resident was located with a similar last name. Contact was made with the subject, who advised he had paid a friend to haul the debris away. The new suspect was located, interviewed and admitted to the illegal disposal. The suspect was ordered to clean up the site and issued a citation for the violation.

While afield, a Kalkaska County hunter was contacted by CO Mike Hearn shortly after successfully harvesting a deer. Unfortunately, the hunter had failed to properly identify his target and had harvested the buck in violation of the region's antler point restriction (APR). The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen contacted two subjects operating their UTV during the closed hours for firearm deer season in Crawford County. Neither of the subjects was wearing their seatbelt or a safety helmet. Upon further investigation, one of the subjects had a loaded firearm in the UTV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen observed a subject operating an ORV while dragging a deer off state land in Crawford County. Upon contact, the subject asked CO Huspen if he had a spare zip tie. As the subject asked the question, he was digging in his wallet to find his hunting license. The subject stated he had forgotten a zip tie, so he could not tag the deer. An inspection of the license also showed it had not been validated yet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen contacted two subjects hunting from the road in Crawford County. One of the hunters was a resident of another state, but had purchased resident licenses for Michigan. Further investigation determined that the non-resident had been buying resident licenses since 2012. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Brian Olsen came across a hunter sitting in his vehicle during the pre-dawn hours of November 15th in Roscommon County. Sgt. Olsen contacted the hunter who was sitting in the driver's seat with a loaded rifle in his lap. The suspect advised that due to the bad weather, he was just going to stay in his vehicle. Sgt. Olsen educated the driver on the safety concerns of hunting from a motor vehicle and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer watched as two hunters exited the woods and began driving away from their hunting spot in Crawford County. CO McAteer contacted the occupants of the vehicle and observed an uncased bow in the back seat of the truck. After requesting a deer hunting license, CO McAteer discovered that the subject had also failed to bring his hunting license with him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer located two vehicles parked on state land two hours after legal hunting hours in Crawford County. CO McAteer tracked two sets of footprints deep into the woods and observed two hunters as they were making their way back to the roadway.

Upon contact, both hunters were in possession of loaded firearms and neither had a hunting license in their possession. After returning to the vehicles, it was confirmed that one of the hunters had not purchased a hunting license since 2015. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson responded to a complaint of a subject tearing down an old ground blind and constructing a new blind in the same spot on state land in Roscommon County. CO McPherson contacted the hunter who was not wearing hunter orange, did not possess his kill tags, had no name and address on the blind, and had placed over two gallons of deer bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson and Sgt. Brian Olsen located a truck blocking a two-track on state land in Roscommon County. The COs followed foot tracks approximately a half mile to a permanent constructed tree blind. The subject had placed more than the two gallons of bait allowed and had cut numerous trees to create large shooting lanes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal and CO Matt Liestenfeltz were patrolling Missaukee County when a vehicle with a deer on a trailer slowly passed them going the opposite direction. Neither of the COs could see a tag on the deer and a traffic stop was conducted for further investigation. The owner noticed the COs looking at the deer and made a comment that he forgot to do something. When asked what he had forgotten, the owner replied, "to put a tag on my deer." Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Missaukee County, CO Craig Neal received a complaint of a dead spike deer located near a bait pile and ground blind. Missaukee County, located in the antler-point restriction (APR) area of Michigan, requires antlered deer to have at least three points on one side. CO Neal located the deer and the blind that it was clearly shot from. CO Neal contacted the responsible hunter who stated he heard a gunshot out in front of him and then the spike deer came running and died right next to his bait pile. After a lengthy series of questioning, the hunter admitted to shooting the deer, but did not realize it was a spike when he shot it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz responded to a "shots fired" complaint at 4:45 am on Veteran's Day in Roscommon County. CO Liestenfeltz located three intoxicated suspects at the location. After interviewing the men, a 7-point buck was located that had been shot with a firearm after dark. CO Chuck McPherson responded to the scene to assist and located a second deer that had been taken with a crossbow, but had not been recovered by the men. Charges are being sought through the Roscommon County Prosecutor's Office for taking the two deer after hours without licenses and possession of a firearm while intoxicated.

CO Sam Schluckbier responded to a trespass complaint in Kalkaska County. A sheriff deputy had located a parked vehicle and foot tracks leading into a posted piece of private property. CO Schluckbier located deer tracks and a blood trail that the foot tracks were following in the snow. After tracking for several miles through a swamp, CO

Schluckbier and the deputy located the suspects. One of the hunters took responsibility for shooting a 9-point buck and convincing his two friends to recover it with him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier was called to a lost hunter in Kalkaska County. After speaking with the subject's hunting partner, CO Schluckbier located a set of footprints in the snow. CO Schluckbier followed the tracks for several hours through state land. It appeared the lost subject was confused as he backtracked several times throughout the night. CO Schluckbier was assisted during the search by CO Chuck McPherson and CO John Huspen, along with a Kalkaska County sheriff deputy. After wandering around for approximately 12 hours, the subject was located within a few miles of the hunting camp. He was confused and showed signs of hypothermia. The subject was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

CO Kyle Cherry and Sgt. Bobbi Lively contacted a vehicle with multiple passengers on a remote section of road in Iosco County. A brief investigation revealed multiple violations, including multiple loaded and uncased guns, open intoxicants, and concealed weapons violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Pullum received a RAP complaint in Oscoda County claiming an individual had shot a deer with a rifle during bow season. CO Pullum interviewed the suspect and he confessed to shooting the deer described in the complaint. CO Pullum requested CO Joseph Deppen of Macomb County to make contact with another hunter in Warren, Michigan who was in possession of the deer. CO Deppen contacted the individual and located two additional gunshot deer. CO Deppen received a full confession which implicated two other hunters, one being the original hunter contacted by CO Pullum. Three bucks, a 10-point, 8-point, and 6-point were all taken at night with rifles during the bow season. Charges are being sought through the Oscoda County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Casey Pullum contacted a hunter in Oscoda County who was standing next to his vehicle prior to the start of the evening hunt. They walked into the hunter's blind where they located bait, which is illegal in Oscoda County. After CO Pullum explained the baiting laws for the area, the hunter stated, "I watch Woods of the North." CO Pullum asked if he was talking about "North Woods Law." The hunter said, "Oh yeah...that's it! I watch it all of the time, so I know about the laws." CO Pullum informed him that show was filmed in Maine, not Michigan, and offered advice that he probably shouldn't get his knowledge of laws from a television show. CO Pullum pointed the hunter toward the DNR Hunting and Trapping Digest and took enforcement action for the baiting violation.

While attempting to locate a hunter who shot at a bear in self-defense with his crossbow during deer season in Ogemaw County, CO Kyle Bader stopped at the wrong address. CO Bader explained the situation to the person at the house and discovered it was not the hunter's address he was looking for. During their conversation, the man told CO Bader about a spike deer he had killed earlier in the season. Before CO Bader left the house, he asked to see the man's hunting licenses. The man handed him both tags from his combination deer license. The individual confessed to not tagging the spike

deer he killed. Charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kyle Bader saw a jeep parked alongside M-65 after dark in Iosco County and the man inside had his headlamp turned on. CO Bader stopped and asked the man if everything was all right. The man had a map out and was trying to locate the cabin he was travelling to. CO Bader gave directions to the driver and while doing so, observed an uncased rifle wedged in between the center console and the passenger seat. CO Bader asked if the rifle was loaded. The hunter said, "Yes, but the safety is on." CO Bader retrieved the lever action rifle and discovered the hammer was back and a live round was in the chamber. The driver was cited for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Kyle Bader, CO Casey Pullum, and Sgt. Bobbi Lively, along with USFS LEO Mike Phillips and Oscoda County sheriff deputies responded to the Maltby Hills area in a search for an overdue hunter. During the planning stages of the search, members from a nearby hunting camp asked the COs what was going on and if they could help. The hunter was located a short time later by officers. CO Bader went back to the camp to advise the men they no longer needed to look for the lost hunter. While knocking on the camper door, CO Bader witnessed one man quickly hide multiple items in a small black bag. After a short conversation, the man allowed officers to search the bag where they located cocaine. The individual was arrested by USFS LEO Phillips and federal charges are being sought for the violation.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol during firearm deer season when he witnessed an untagged deer hanging at a residence. In addition to the deer not having a tag attached, CO Atkin caught the suspect attempting to get his uncased and loaded firearm out of a vehicle before it could be noticed. Further investigation led to a very large bait pile just outside the kitchen window of the residence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau discovered an illegal ORV trail through state land in rural Gladwin County. CO Papineau walked the trail which led him across a river to a secluded area with a large bait pile. Over the course of several days, CO Papineau checked the site and eventually made contact with a hunter. In addition to the bait, the hunter was using illegal screw-in tree steps and had no name on the tree stand. A citation for excessive baiting was issued and a warning was issued for the illegal ORV usage, screw-in steps, and the un-named tree stand.

CO Mark Papineau received a complaint through the Report-All-Poaching Hotline regarding a problem deer camp on private land in Gladwin County. According to the complaint, the campers were shooting guns at all hours of the night and recklessly driving around. CO Papineau made contact at the camp to investigate the complaint. There were two deer hanging on a buck pole. It was determined that one of the deer was tagged with an un-validated kill tag and the other untagged deer was a result of a traffic collision. According to statements, the untagged deer was run over by a car on November 15th and never reported because the vehicle was not insured and the driver did not have a valid driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood checked a vehicle with two hunters and listened as they bragged about killing a deer. When CO Lockwood asked if the deer was back at camp, the occupants of the vehicle hesitated. It turns out the spike-horned buck was wrapped up in a large piece of plastic in the back of the vehicle and untagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood was patrolling along a back road when he came upon a hunter walking down the edge of the road. During the check, CO Lockwood noticed the man was having trouble speaking and was slurring his words. The hunter stated he had been drinking earlier in the day. CO Lockwood put the hunter through field sobriety testing and subsequently arrested him for hunting while intoxicated. The hunter was lodged in the Gladwin County Jail.

Sgt. Jon Wood checked a hunter as he was leaving his hunting location in rural Clare County. When asked about his hunting license, the hunter stated that he could not find his wallet. Sgt. Wood followed the hunter back to the camp where he also noticed an antlerless deer hanging from the buck pole with an invalidated tag upon it. The first hunter was still unable to locate his hunting license for a good reason... he never purchased one. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

CO Ethan Gainforth and CO Josh Wright checked a suspicious camp after dark when they noticed a bright glowing light back in the woods. Upon checking the area, the COs located two subjects sitting in an elevated blind overlooking a lit bait pile. The bait pile was enormous and the subjects were in possession of two loaded firearms and one cocked crossbow. The subjects claimed to be hunting coyotes and then later claimed to be filming wildlife. Neither story was credible and enforcement action was taken for hunting deer after hours and excessively bait.

DISTRICT 6

CO John Byars was called to locate a lost hunter in the Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area. CO Byars began a search with the lost hunter's family members, along with calling for additional COs and a MSP K9 unit. The search was ended when the lost hunter found another hunter, who led him to the road and back to his camp where the staging area for the search was formed. Several hunters helped in the search patrolling the roads and yelling in the woods for the lost hunter.

CO Joe Myers received information regarding a hunter within the city limits of Alma. CO Myers worked with Alma Police to locate the bow hunter. The hunter was found to be hunting well over the allowed limit of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers located a hunter that was hunting from an unlabeled tree stand. CO Myers had been following the hunter for over a year trying to locate him. When the hunter was found in the tree stand he was in possession of a concealed handgun without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers received information regarding a hunter that had taken a buck with a doe license on opening day. When CO Myers arrived, the hunter confessed to harvesting the buck. The hunter's adult son had also taken a buck, but did not have a valid license for the buck, transported and hung the deer next to the father's deer. CO Will Brickel assisted by interviewing the property owner and also gained a full confession to the actions that had taken place on the property that evening. Suspects were cited and lodged in the county jail for the offenses.

While CO Joe Myers was patrolling the Maple River State Refuge, a truck pulled up to the CO's truck. Upon the truck stopping, it was discovered that the driver had an uncased and cocked crossbow in the front seat of the pickup. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers received a complaint of a hunter trespassing. CO Myers was able to find out who the suspect was and where he was hunting. Sgt. Ron Kimmerly and CO Myers interviewed the suspect. It was discovered that he was not alone on the property. After a lengthy interview and review of a trail cam video, the COs discovered that the brothers were in fact trespassing, were not wearing hunter orange and had a friend purchase extra deer tags for them to use. Tickets were issued for the trespassing and the illegal use of a license by another. The 8-point buck was seized.

While on patrol on opening day of firearm deer season, CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of a neighbor dispute over a deer. CO Lowell made contact with both parties and it was determined that the deer in question was only shot by one hunter. However, while interviewing one of the parties, another buck was located on a tractor which was not tagged. The hunter was issued a citation for failing to immediately tag his deer. While patrolling Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell stopped and checked a hunter walking down the edge of the road. When CO Lowell asked the hunter to see his license, the hunter handed him his father's deer tags. It was determined that the hunter had not purchased his own licenses and instead was just going to use his father's. A citation was issued for hunting deer without a license.

While responding to a sick or injured deer complaint, CO Ken Lowell located a hunter along a wood line, skinning out a deer head. CO Lowell made contact with the hunter and it was determined that the deer was from Iowa. The hunter claimed that he was not aware that he could not bring a deer from Iowa back to Michigan. The 8-point deer was confiscated and the hunter issued a citation for importing a deer into Michigan from out-of-state.

CO Josh Russell and CO Ken Lowell received a complaint regarding two illegal deer hanging at two separate residences, which both COs had previous history with. CO Russell made contact with a subject at one of the residences who was burning a couch. CO Russell located two untagged deer. CO Lowell checked the other residence, but found no deer. The COs obtained confessions and tickets were issued for the untagged deer and illegal burning.

CO Josh Russell received a complaint that someone was hunting in a safety zone during the evening of the opening day of gun season. The CO made contact with the suspect who did not have his deer licenses in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell arrived on scene at a traffic accident to assist Michigan State Police. A witness to the accident told the CO there was a gun in the vehicle somewhere. CO Russell located the firearm in the back seat with an untagged spike white tail deer. The CO interviewed the driver of the vehicle who admitted to shooting the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell received a complaint regarding an untagged deer in a garage. The CO made contact with the subjects and found an untagged doe hanging. The subject claimed they found it on the state game area where they were hunting. The subject did not have a valid license to hunt on the state game area. Enforcement action was taken. CO Josh Russell located a deer and tag at a local deer processor that was suspicious. The CO made contact with the subject and asked about his hunt. The subject admitted to shooting the deer before he bought his licenses. The subject advised he did not see what the big deal was because it ended up getting tagged. The big deal was explained and a ticket was issued.

While on patrol in Saginaw County, CO Will Brickel was observing a truck from across a mile section that continued to stop in the middle of the road. The vehicle was stopped and during contact with the subject, CO Brickel noticed an uncased firearm in the vehicle. Later, a second firearm was located that was still loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Saginaw County, CO Will Brickel noticed a vehicle parked in the game area well after dark. After watching the vehicle for over an hour, the subject came out of the woods. After contact was made, it was discovered that the subject still had a loaded firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Will Brickel was in the Shiawassee River State Game Area and noticed a vehicle slowly rolling through the area. CO Brickel observed the vehicle tearing up the roadway and noticed that they were shining the area for deer. Contact was made and the suspect stated that he was trying to be cool for his girlfriend while tearing up the roadway. A shotgun with a crudely mounted red laser on it was located in the cab. After talking with the subject, he stated that he was not shining and shooting, but he was just hunting behind his residence earlier in the day. After running the subject through LEIN, the CO found that he did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a call from the Report All Poaching hotline regarding a subject shooting a deer in the safety zone and then failing to tag it. CO Gowenlock and CO Will Brickel responded to the scene and immediately noticed drag marks coming out of the field. The COs followed the drag marks back into the woods and located the suspect's blind with an over-limit of bait. Upon returning to their trucks, the COs were

met by the suspect. When asked why he didn't tag his deer, the suspect stated he did, but later admitted to leaving his tag home. The subject further explained that after loading the deer he called his mother and met her to put the tag on. When asked to see the deer, the suspect lowered the tailgate to his truck and CO Gowenlock noted that his kill tag was not validated. The suspect seemed surprised about having to validate his kill tag and asked if that was something new. After issuing the suspect a citation for his violations, CO Gowenlock informed the suspect that he needs to read the hunting guide prior to going out for a hunt.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was called by a subject who wanted to turn himself and four of his friends in for taking an over-limit of Canada Geese. Upon meeting with the suspects, they told the CO that they were hunting and had a great day. They each shot five geese for a total of 25. When they came home, they posted pictures on Facebook and other social media and immediately started to receive calls from friends informing them that they were only allowed to shoot three geese each. Feeling terrible about it, they decided to turn themselves in after speaking with a friend. Enforcement action was taken and the over-limit of geese were seized and later donated.

While on routine patrol, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed a hunter in his truck pulling onto the roadway. CO Bucholtz spoke with the subject before locating a military-grade semi-automatic rifle in the backseat of the truck. While speaking further with the subject, CO Bucholtz noticed blood on the subject's hands. Through investigation, CO Bucholtz was advised the subject had allowed an accompanying minor to shoot a deer with the long-range rifle. The deer was also located and found to be untagged. Enforcement action was taken against the adult.

On the firearm deer season opener, CO Kyle Bucholtz spoke with multiple hunters on state land. CO Bucholtz took enforcement action against one subject after he and a minor were found to be in possession of two uncased firearms. The adult subject was also found to be under the influence of marijuana and the minor was in possession of tobacco.

CO Kyle Bucholtz stopped a motor vehicle that was following too close behind. Upon initiating the stop, the suspect driver immediately exited his vehicle and ran up to CO Bucholtz's patrol truck window screaming aggressively. CO Bucholtz ordered the subject back to his vehicle. While patting the subject down, the driver admitted he was lawfully concealing a pistol on his person. CO Bucholtz located the loaded pistol in the subject's pocket before discussing the subject's poorly thought-out actions. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz assisted the Huron County Sheriff's Office with an in-progress heroin overdose. On scene, a local deputy utilized an opioid reversal agent to save the subject's life. CO Bucholtz assisted the overdose subject with medical needs and secured the scene until an investigator arrived.

CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a complaint of a safety zone violation. When CO Hobkirk contacted the deer hunter, he was hunting within 100 yards of three separate residences and within 50 yards of the complainant's residence. The hunter was also not wearing hunter orange. A citation was issued for the safety zone violation.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a hunter harassment complaint where the suspect threatened to beat up a hunter and mess with him while he was hunting. Contact was made with all parties and charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling on foot in the Minden State Game Area on the opening day of firearm deer season when he located a hunter in tree stand not wearing hunter orange. While talking with the hunter, the CO learned the hunter had shot a doe. Upon checking the hunter's licenses, CO Rhodea discovered the hunter did not have a valid license to take a doe where he was hunting. The deer was located, and with assistance from the hunter and CO Kyle Bucholtz, the deer was drug out of the game area. The deer was seized and the hunter cited for taking a deer without a license.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a complaint of some hunters shooting toward a house. Upon locating the suspects and speaking with them, one hunter was found to be hunting without a license. The second hunter had two deer hanging in his garage that did not have validated licenses attached. Citations were issued to address the violations.

CO Bob Hobkirk, CO Jason Smith and CO Seth Rhodea have been working the harbors in Sanilac county addressing fishing violations that include: snagging, netting salmon, retaining foul hooked fish and taking over-limit of salmon.

CO Seth Rhodea spent a weekend morning contacting hunters inside the managed area of the Fish Point State Game Area in Tuscola County. Contact was made with numerous hunters and citations were issued to several for possessing more than the 25 shell limit and possessing lead shot while waterfowl hunting.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of two deer hanging without tags on them. CO Rhodea located the deer as described in the complaint and made contact with the homeowner. The homeowner admitted that he and his friend had not had a chance to get tags on the deer yet, even though it was about two hours after shooting time had ended. Both subjects were cited for failing to tag their deer.

CO Mark Siemen received a call from a local meat processor advising that a subject had brought a whole deer in from Ohio. CO Siemen responded to the processors and seized the deer. The deer was then transported to the Wildlife Disease Laboratory in Lansing for testing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen, while working the opening day of firearm deer season, made contact with multiple subjects who were hunting over very large bait piles. One investigation was involved three subjects who had dumped hundreds of gallons of carrots in a winter

wheat field. Contact was made with the subjects hunting over the bait and they explained they were trying to keep the deer from going over to the neighbors' property. The subjects were advised to pick the carrots up and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a deer that had been shot with a rifle four days before the firearm opener around midnight. Investigation by CO Siemen led to the area of Carsonville, where the deer was located in a ditch with the back straps and antlers cut off. During the investigation, CO Siemen spoke with witnesses and was able to get a confession from the suspect. He stated he was very intoxicated and was hungry for back straps. He stated that after being at the bar all night, he got his rifle and went out and shot the deer, cut out the back straps, took them home and ate them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith contacted a subject at his residence. An untagged doe was found hanging in his garage and about 80 gallons of bait was located in front of his hunting blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith responded to a Report All Poaching complaint regarding waterfowl violations that had taken place at the Fish Point State Game Area. The waterfowl hunters were contacted. It was discovered they had taken an over-limit of ducks, an over-limit of mallards, and an over-limit of hen mallards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith assisted his local probation department with a subject who was violating his probation by possessing a weapon while hunting. The subject was also hunting over an illegal bait pile and without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith contacted a group of waterfowl hunters who chose to drive their layout blinds and decoys out into an area where motor vehicles are prohibited. One of the hunters was also found to be hunting with an unplugged gun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith responded to a Report All Poaching complaint in Bay City of some walleye fishermen hiding extra fish in their truck. However, after a lengthy observation and resulting check, no violations were found.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint from a citizen regarding a trespass situation in Tuscola County. When CO Wright arrived at the property, he found a person dragging off a 10-point deer. The hunter said that he had shot the deer across the road, where he had permission, and it ran to the side he was on now. The hunter also informed CO Wright that he shot at it three more times to get it down. The problem was that both sides of the road were owned by the same person who has told him to stay off their property in the past. The hunter's deer and firearm were seized and trespassing charges are being sought.

CO Joshua Wright was checking a piece of property in Tuscola County that has had a continuous problem with trespassing. As he was patrolling the property, he heard a

gunshot and soon found a hunter in a tree stand who had just shot a young deer. The hunter did not have any hunting licenses on him, and admitted that he may have went too far off the property he was allowed to be on. The hunter was issued a citation and advised of the property lines.

CO Jason Smith and CO Joshua Wright responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a camp that had untagged deer hanging and the hunters were using centerfire rifles in Tuscola County. When they arrived, there was only one deer hanging and it was properly tagged. They did find two hunters on the property, one without a hunting license and the other using a centerfire rifle. Both hunters received citations.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling Bay County on the firearm deer season opener when he observed several subjects standing around the bed of a pickup truck admiring the contents. As CO Foerster started down the drive, he observed them frantically trying to put kill tags on the three deer in the bed of the pickup. After confessing to tagging the deer upon seeing the CO, it was determined that the deer were shot earlier that morning at another venue and transported, via the pickup truck, untagged. Further investigation revealed that the 8-point was shot by a hunter who had not yet purchased his license. All three deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a Report All Poaching complaint regarding a subject possibly taking an over-limit of antlered deer. During the investigation, it was revealed that the subject in question did in fact take an over-limit and had his mother buy a tag for the extra deer. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a Report All Poaching complaint along with numerous phone calls to his cell phone reference a pickup truck stuck on the side of the dike of the walking trail at the Bay City State Recreation Area. CO Foerster was able to make contact with the owner on scene as they were attempting to free the truck from getting it stuck the night before. Further investigation revealed that the occupants of the truck were attempting to locate a "Pokemon Gym" in the area before sliding off the trail which is closed to motor vehicle traffic. Unfortunately the Pokemon Gym was not located, but enforcement action was taken, and the vehicle was removed by a wrecker service.

CO Jill Miller and Lt. Jeremy Payne were checking anglers on the Saginaw River in Bay County when they observed a boat that violated a no wake zone coming into the boat launch. Contact was made, and while checking their fish, CO Miller noticed an undersized walleye. After counting the fish, the three subjects were over their limit by eight walleye as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jill Miller and Lt. Jeremy Payne were checking anglers on the Saginaw River in Bay County. Multiple contacts were made and enforcement action was taken for no PFD on a kayak and boats.

CO Michael Haas investigated a recreational trespass complaint on the firearm deer season opener and submitted a warrant request for the charge on the hunter. Upon

getting the warrant signed and returning back to the complainant's property, CO Haas observed the suspect hunter driving by the property, stopped the subject and arrested him on the warrant, as well as for driving on a suspended license.

While working a night patrol in Isabella County, CO Dan Robinson was passed by a side-by-side ATV traveling at a high rate of speed. The operator was not wearing a helmet or the provided seatbelt. The subject was cited for not wearing his seatbelt and given warnings for his speed.

While on patrol for the firearm deer opener, CO Dan Robinson spotted a vehicle rolling slowly on a secluded road. CO Robinson initiated a traffic stop based on several moving violations. After checking the subject, it was discovered that the driver had several warrants, including a warrant for felony assault. The driver was taken into custody and transported to the county jail.

CO Dan Robinson was asked to speak to a group of scouts about gun-safety. The scouts were participating in their annual "turkey shoot" involving rubber band rifles they made. CO Robinson addressed the importance of handling all firearms safely, even rubber-band rifles.

CO Joel Lundberg located a hunting camp on the firearm deer opener and observed their activity for the evening, along with a dead turkey that was spotted in a shed on the property. CO Lundberg observed an individual driving an out-of-state vehicle and transport a loaded firearm in his vehicle from the camp. CO Lundberg then watched the individual operate an ORV into the woods after dark and retrieve an antlered deer. Contact was made with the nonresident hunter when he returned to camp with the antlered deer. It was discovered that the hunter had gone to the Secretary of State and falsely received a Michigan resident identification card so he could purchase a doe license at the resident rate. The individual then illegally shot an antlered deer and borrowed a license to put on it. When CO Lundberg interviewed him, he confessed to the deer, the fraudulent license purchase and illegally shooting the turkey from the deer blind without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

In the early evening of the day before the firearm deer season opener, CO Joel Lundberg located a vehicle parked at the end of a road where a local school and Consumers Energy owned the property, and where neither allows hunting. CO Lundberg was able to locate a tree stand on the property, in which it became obvious that someone had just left as CO Lundberg was approaching. CO Lundberg was able to locate a subject wearing camouflage, who despite being in possession of two deer calls, insisted he was just walking around. After CO Lundberg interviewed the subject for a lengthy amount of time, the subject showed the CO where he had hidden his 20-gauge shotgun when he saw CO Lundberg approaching. The hunter stated he was hunting squirrels, but the only ammunition the subject had was a 20 gauge slug round of ammo. Through the investigation, it was further discovered the subject and a relative had already shot two illegal bucks on the private property and were trying to get "the big

boy" they had been seeing in the area. The individual was lodged in the Midland County Jail, and the two bucks and the firearm were seized.

CO Joel Lundberg and DNR Fire Officer Jerry Turner stopped and spoke with two hunters in a vehicle on state land. The driver had a suspended driver's license and the passenger did not have a deer hunting license. Both individuals were in possession of marijuana and the passenger had three valid warrants for his arrest. The officers also located two untagged deer back at the one subject's residence. Additionally, the driver and his relative were issued citations for the deer violations; while the passenger received a citation for not having a hunting license and was lodged in the Isabella County Jail on his warrants.

DISTRICT 7

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling Barry County on the opening day of firearm deer season when he observed a John Deere gator driving out of a field with three deer in the bed of it. Contact was made and it was found that none of the antlerless deer were tagged. CO Cardenas was informed by one of the subjects that they were on their way to purchase two additional antlerless tags, since they only had one. After further investigation, CO Cardenas found that one of the subjects was hunting without a hunting license, and was in possession of a family member's license. In addition, the subject was not wearing hunter orange and had a loaded uncased firearm in the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Barry State Game Area, CO Richard Cardenas conducted a traffic stop. During the stop, CO Cardenas located a loaded firearm. The firearm was a muzzleloader with the cap still in it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas observed a subject hunting in the Barry State Game Area with no hunter orange other than orange gloves. CO Cardenas informed the subject that wearing orange gloves alone does not meet the requirements for hunter orange while hunting with a firearm. It is required that hunter orange is a minimum of a hat, cap, vest, or jacket and that it is the outermost garment worn. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas received a complaint in Barry County of an antlered deer that was illegally harvested by a trespasser who was not wearing hunter orange. A witness had seen the subjects run off after he attempted to confront them. CO Cardenas responded to the complaint and located a mature antlered deer that had been killed. In the midst of running away from the witness, the subjects dropped a cell phone, along with additional items. CO Cardenas also found a shotgun shell near a tree in a direct line of site to where the animal had been shot. A search warrant for the cell phone was acquired and information as to who the cell phone belonged to was obtained. Additional evidence was also located in the cell phone. CO Cardenas then conducted a necropsy on the deer and found the bullet inside of the animal. CO Cardenas then submitted a search warrant request and was authorized to search the subject's residence for additional evidence. The search warrant was executed with multiple COs and Michigan

State Police troopers. Evidence pertaining to CO Cardenas' case was located at the address. Additional hunting violations were also found. A report is being prepared to be submitted for review for charges.

CO Chris Holmes responded to the complaint of a subject trespassing. Upon arrival, CO Holmes found an untagged deer in the back of the suspect's truck; however the suspect was not located at the time. CO Holmes waited in the area and eventually made contact with the suspect. A citation was issued for the untagged deer.

CO Chris Holmes was contacted by Portage City Police about a possible poaching incident within the city limits. A witness watched a subject drag a deer out of the woods and put it into the back seat of a vehicle. While responding to the scene, Portage Police officers stopped the vehicle, which had returned to the area. CO Holmes arrived on scene and found blood and hair in the back seat of the suspect vehicle, but no deer. After a lengthy interrogation and no cooperation from the suspects, one of the suspects admitted he had shot the deer at 11:00 p.m. the night before. CO Holmes and CO Paul Higashi went to the suspect's house and seized a bow that was used in the incident. The deer was never located, but a witness took photos of one of the suspects dragging a deer from the woods. The photo and the forensic evidence found was enough to charge the suspects with multiple counts of taking the deer and possessing it contrary to state law. Multiple charges will be sought on the two suspects through the Kalamazoo County Prosecutors' Office.

CO Justin Ulberg followed up on a trespass complaint where subjects were hunting on MDOT property. CO Ulberg contacted two subjects in a portable ground blind on opening day of firearm deer season. The hunters claimed that they could hunt the property because it was "state land." CO Ulberg pointed to the large gate they parked their vehicle in front of and the fence they had to cross to get to where they were hunting. The hunters were informed that there is a difference between state land managed by the DNR and state land owned by different Departments. Enforcement action was taken.

While out on patrol during opening day of firearm deer season, CO Justin Ulberg noticed a large pile of pumpkins placed in front of an elevated blind. Contact was made with a hunter inside the blind and he was questioned about the over limit of bait. It appeared the hunter didn't think it was an issue, because they "were just pumpkins." Enforcement action was taken.

After inspecting several deer processors, CO Justin Ulberg located several deer tags that seemed suspicious in regard to when the tags were purchased and when the deer were dropped off. CO Ulberg interviewed several hunters over the course of the week and received confessions that the deer were shot and then the license was purchased. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Greg Patten worked the area of an ongoing trespass complaint on Muskegon County property. CO Patten located a grandfather and his grandson bow hunting the

property. The grandson did not have his deer licenses in possession. CO Patten had warned the grandfather in October for trespassing on the same property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO BJ Goulette responded to a complaint of trespass with an individual that encroached onto the neighbor's property and powerline property near where he had permission. The neighbor was gracious enough to take down the subject's stands and leave a note to stop trespassing a couple weeks into the bow season, but the warnings weren't enough. The subject showed up again a few days before the firearm season, and because his stands had been removed by the landowner, the trespasser decided to just use the landowner's stand instead. After that stand was removed, on opening morning of firearm deer season, the subject was found with another blind built directly underneath the transmission line tower. Enforcement action was taken against the trespasser and further inquiry revealed this was not his first time trespassing.

CO BJ Goulette and CO Justin Ulberg stopped by a local deer processor investigating a deer complaint and then inspected the other deer that had been brought in. A suspicious deer caught their attention. CO Goulette followed-up with the hunter, who quickly admitted that he had only bought a combo license and shot an antlerless deer, only to have this mistake pointed out to him by a family member. The hunter, who was relatively new to hunting, decided to go buy an antlerless tag to put on the deer to try to cover up his mistake. The hunter also admitted that he had never taken a hunter's education class. When the hunter asked how he could avoid this sort of trouble in the future, CO Goulette suggested that taking a hunter education class and reading the free hunting digest to learn the rules before going afield would be a good start. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on November 14th, CO David Rodgers was waiting for a boat to return after dark thinking it was a waterfowl hunter. About thirty minutes after dark, a boat arrived back to the launch running without navigation lights. CO Rodgers met him as he reached shore. CO Rodgers recognized the operator from a previous incident resulting in a citation a couple years ago for baiting and marine violations, as well as trespassing. Inside the boat were a tree stand, compound bow, and a muzzle loader. The subject was dressed in all camo and stated he wasn't hunting, and had only been out target practicing. CO Rodgers explained why he did not believe him and knew he was trespassing on land he didn't have permission to be on. He stated he was going to hunt, but then decided to target practice instead. Enforcement action was taken for the marine violation.

While on patrol, CO David Rodgers observed a vehicle slow rolling into a wooded area that eventually pulled into a field. CO Rodgers made contact with the hunter and the subject stated they were just coming out to go hunting. After obtaining hunting licenses and asking about any success, the hunter described harvesting a nice 6-point during the bow season. When CO Rodgers pointed out that he was holding his combo deer kill tags, the hunter stated that his brother had tagged the buck. After identifying the brother

and explaining that the relative had not purchased any licenses this year, the hunter confessed to not tagging the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling back roads just after dark, CO David Rodgers and CO Justin Ulberg located a subject shining a flashlight along a ditch line at the same time a different vehicle was stopped along the roadway another quarter mile ahead. CO Rodgers jumped out of the patrol truck to check on the light as CO Ulberg proceeded to check the vehicle. CO Rodgers went into a swampy area and located a hunter just off the roadway. The subject explained he was waiting for his nephew, who was coming out of the woods as well. As CO Rodgers was checking his license, he noticed blood on the subject's hand and asked about his success. He stated his nephew shot a deer and he was helping him drag it. CO Rodgers asked the subject to take him to his nephew and the deer. While walking out in the swamp, looking for the deer, CO Rodgers' flashlight picked up a glow from the dead animal's eye, which was not in the direction they were walking. Proceeding to the dead deer, the nephew appeared with a light walking in their direction. As they got to the already gutted deer, it was not tagged. The nephew stated he forgot to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Beavers and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers met with a local landowner in Ionia County in response to two illegal bait piles. CO Beavers explained to the landowners that it was illegal to bait due to being in the core area of Chronic Wasting Disease, and even if baiting was allowed in that area, they had too much bait out. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Zach Doss and CO Tyler Cole patrolled Van Buren County for the opener of firearm deer season. Citations were issued for a field with no kill tags, uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, and to a subject that had tagged a spike buck with an antlerless license.

CO Tyler Cole and CO Zach Bauer responded to a trespass complaint in Cass County. The complainants had heard a shot near their stand and found two subjects trespassing. They yelled at the subjects and were able to hold one subject at the location until CO Cole and CO Bauer could respond, while one of the suspects fled. Upon investigation, CO Cole and CO Bauer found that a third subject was also actively trespassing and hunting the property. The investigation led the COs to an address near the property where another subject who was involved in the trespass was located. All trespassers were found and citations were issued for recreational trespass. Numerous subjects were also found to have active warrants for their arrest and were lodged at the St. Joseph County Jail by an assisting Michigan State Police trooper.

While patrolling Crane Pond State Game Area, CO Tyler Cole located a subject who had taken an antlerless deer with a firearm. It was found that the subject had tagged the antlerless deer with a buck tag. The subject had not purchased an antlerless tag and complained that the antlerless licenses for the area were sold out. A citation was issued and the antlerless deer was seized.

While patrolling Van Buren County, CO Tyler Cole observed an ORV driving erratically on a county road, doing donuts, and leaving ruts in the road. A stop was made and the subject claimed that he was new to driving the ORV and was having a hard time controlling it. Citations were issued for operating an ORV on a public roadway and operating an ORV without a helmet.

CO Matt Page assisted the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department on perimeter with a subject who fled on foot after a traffic stop involving a stolen vehicle. The officers had information that the suspect was potentially armed, a known meth user, and possibly suicidal. After a K9 lost the track, units began searching the area. While doing so, CO Page located the subject hiding in the woods. As CO Page and the deputy drove up, the suspect again fled on foot. After chasing the subject through a residential neighborhood, in the direction of other officers, a TASER was deployed by a deputy and the subject was taken into custody by the sheriff's department.

CO Matt Page made contact with several subjects standing around a deer carcass near a barn. When approaching the subjects, CO Page noticed them digging in their pockets reaching for a tag. CO Page observed an untagged button buck and asked the subjects where the tag was. Their response was that they were just getting ready to tag it. The hunter stated that he shot the deer several hours earlier and couldn't understand why CO Page was bothering them. A citation was issued for failure to immediately tag the deer.

CO Matt Page received a call of a subject possibly shooting from his vehicle. CO Tyler Cole and Sgt. Zach Doss were also in the area and assisted with the complaint. CO Page made contact with the suspect, while CO Cole and Sgt. Doss spoke with the complainant. Upon contact with the suspect, who was in possession of an uncased firearm inside of his vehicle, he stated that he did nothing wrong. After speaking with the complainant and further questioning, the suspect admitted to seeing a deer cross his headlights and attempting to shoot the deer utilizing the vehicle headlights. The subject was issued a citation for attempting to take game with the aid of a motor vehicle/ headlights and transporting an uncased firearm. The firearm was seized.

CO Matt Page responded to a complaint of hunter harassment on a local lake. Upon arrival, CO Page spoke with four waterfowl hunters who stated that while hunting from shore, a boat drove past several times near their decoys before eventually stopping the boat in the waterfowl hunter's decoys. The hunters asked the subject to please leave, so that they could continue hunting and the subject in the boat made a comment "I don't see any ducks around here." The hunters again asked him to leave and the subject in the boat told them that he "had a full tank of gas and was going to sit there all day and buzz their decoys." CO Page interviewed the suspect and he admitted to harassing the hunters. A citation was issued for hunter harassment.

CO Matt Page received a call from a woman who stated that while walking near a corn field, she observed a goose get shot by some nearby hunters and fall to the ground. She then stated that she picked the goose up and started walking away with it. The

hunters approached her and told her to give them the goose back. The female subject then ran away with the goose. CO Page advised the subject to leave the goose with the hunters; however, she stated that she was a mile or so away and would not return it. A citation was issued to the female subject for possessing waterfowl without a license and the goose was seized, but was unable to be returned to the hunters because they had left.

CO Zach Bauer had responded to a shots fired call after dark approximately a week before the firearm deer season. CO Bauer stopped a suspected vehicle in the shots fired area in which he discovered an uncased bow in the vehicle. CO Bauer determined that the subject was not involved in the shooting after dark complaint, so he warned the subject regarding the uncased bow in the vehicle and continued to search for the suspect or suspects in the shooting incident. On the first Saturday of firearm deer season, CO Bauer had an opportunity to check the same hunter as he was leaving the same field. This time CO Bauer discovered an uncased loaded firearm in the vehicle. The subject was reminded about the previous warning and was issued a citation for transporting the loaded firearm in the vehicle.

CO Zach Bauer received information that a subject had shot a large 8-point buck, but had never purchased deer hunting licenses, except antlerless licenses. CO Bauer and CO Tyler Cole made contact with the subject at his residence and asked to look at the buck. The COs found the buck to be tagged with the subject's wife's deer tag. The subject stated that his wife had shot the buck at approximately 9:20 am on November 15th. The wife was interviewed and also stated that she had shot the buck at 9:20 am. The COs had observed that the license had been purchased at 10:10 am on the same date. Once confronted with the information, the husband admitted to shooting the buck. He also admitted to having his wife purchase the license and tag the deer. The deer was seized, as was the firearm involved, and the subject was issued a citation for taking the deer without an antlered deer license. Reimbursement to the state in the amount of \$6,000 will be sought for the buck.

CO Matt Page responded to a recreational trespass complaint. After looking further into the property, it did not meet the posting requirements; however, the suspect admitted to knowingly entering the complainant's property to hunt. Additionally, the hunter did not have a case for his crossbow. A citation was issued for transporting an uncased crossbow.

CO Matt Page assisted a local police department with a complaint of a very large 25-point buck that was thought to be illegally harvested. Upon further investigation, it was found that the subject knowingly trespassed onto township property and shot the deer without permission. Due to the property not being posted properly, no state law was broken. However, the local township has an ordinance against hunting. The deer was seized by local officers and the subject was cited by the local officers for hunting in violation of the no hunting ordinance.

DISTRICT 8

CO Mike Drexler was patrolling a state game area in Washtenaw County when he contacted two subjects standing by their vehicle getting ready to go hunting. One subject was getting ready to hunt small game with a firearm and the other was going to archery deer hunt. When CO Drexler was checking the subject's licenses, he detected the odor of intoxicants coming from them. One of the subjects was also visibly under the influence. A preliminary breath test showed one of the subjects was almost twice the legal limit if he was driving a vehicle, and the other was right at the legal limit. One of the subjects also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler responded to a call for assistance where a motorist struck a hawk with his vehicle. The hawk was still alive, but stuck between the vehicle's radiator and grill. CO Drexler extracted the badly injured hawk, which was ultimately euthanized due to the severity of its injury.

CO Mike Drexler and CO Brandon Hartleben were conducting a processor inspection when two hunters dropped off a few deer. CO Drexler checked the deer and observed an antlerless deer tagged with a regular deer tag. The hunters stated they thought they could use the tag for any deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was watching a pair of hunters walking across a field on the firearm opener heading for a truck. Both individuals stored their firearms in the vehicle and the truck pulled out on the road. CO Monnich made contact with the hunters and asked to see their hunting licenses. The passenger stated that he wasn't hunting and CO Monnich told him that he watched him come out of the woods with a firearm. The individual got very agitated and denied even having a firearm out in the woods. A quick check of the guns in the cases showed them to be wet from the rain that had just started. A confession was given a short time later and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich, CO Chris Reynolds and CO Todd Thorn met up to do an inspection on an illegal deer processor that CO Monnich received a tip on. The COs made contact with the unregistered processor who had already taken in a good amount of deer. The individual working in the garage stated the owner was right out back hunting, so the COs went to make contact with him in a field behind the house. The owner was eventually contacted while sitting on a bucket hunting and not wearing any hunter orange. Once back at the shop, the COs located two whitetail deer laying on the floor with Ohio tags on them, which the owner of the shop stated were his and a buddies. Both were advised of the new transportation laws and educated on the CWD issues and the deer were seized. Enforcement action was also taken on the hunter orange issue.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Maher received a complaint of an individual shooting his third buck and using his wife's tag. CO Monnich and CO Maher made contact with the suspect who stated that he shot one and his wife shot one, and that he couldn't find a third deer. CO Maher stayed with the suspect while CO Monnich went to

the house to interview the wife. CO Monnich asked her about harvesting the buck. She was unable to answer any questions regarding the hunt and stated she was just sitting with him; he shot it and used her tags. CO Monnich and CO Maher were able to gain a confession from the suspect, who also had well over the legal limit of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich received a call from an individual who stated he could see his neighbor's bait pile from over 500 yards away. CO Monnich, CO Eric Smither and Sgt. Jason Smith went to locate the bait pile. Once the COs entered the field, they were able to spot the pile from great a distance. They made contact with the hunter in the blind next to a large, 80 yard-long pile of shelled corn. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was checking a processor on opening day when an individual was dropping off two deer. While checking licenses, CO Monnich noticed they were bought mid-morning on opening day and validated the same day. CO Monnich questioned the individual who stated they were dropping it off for a friend. CO Monnich was able to locate the individual's address and number, and made contact with the hunter who stated that he forgot to buy his licenses before he shot the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben was traveling eastbound on M-14 when he observed a silver sedan in front of him pull-off on the shoulder of the road. CO Hartleben observed the operator, who was wearing a camouflage hat and jacket, park and exit the vehicle. He then observed the operator "check" the trunk and glance around before heading down the embankment of the right-of-way towards a secluded wooded area. CO Hartleben did not observe the man carrying any firearms or archery equipment, but felt the strange behavior warranted a closer look. CO Hartleben made contact with CO Mike Drexler, who arrived on scene a short time later and secured the subjects vehicle along M-14. CO Hartleben made contact with the property owner and was informed that nobody had permission to hunt on the property. CO Hartleben was given access to the property and authorization to enforce any trespass that was encountered. CO Hartleben and CO Drexler entered the woods from opposite directions and quickly made contact with the subject hunting in a ground blind a short distance from M-14. The subject had apparently left a firearm in the ground blind after hunting there in the morning. In addition to trespassing, the subject was not wearing any hunter orange and was hunting over an over-limit of bait. It was later determined that he drove to the location on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough responded to a recreational trespass complaint where the landowner watched three individuals sneak onto his property and pull a deer back across the fence. CO McCullough responded to the scene and collected blood and hair evidence from both sides of the fence. CO McCullough attempted to contact the three subjects. Although no one was home, CO McCullough noticed an untagged buck hanging in the garage. CO McCullough returned several hours later to find the subjects at home. Upon contact, the subjects denied going onto the complainant's property and stated the deer was tagged and legal. After explaining to the subjects that he was at the

house earlier and observed the untagged deer, CO McCullough obtained a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough and ECO Daniel Kennedy observed a subject in front of a truck with the headlights on shortly after dark on opening day. The COs observed the subject gutting a couple of deer for several minutes. The COs made contact as the successful hunter was gutting deer number two. Upon contact, it was discovered both deer were not tagged, and the hunter only had one doe tag in his possession. The hunter stated he was just on his way in to grab another doe tag after he finished gutting the second deer. CO McCullough and ECO Kennedy explained the importance of purchasing tags before shooting the animals and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough observed a hunter dressed in full camouflage walking back to his pickup truck. Upon seeing CO McCullough, the hunter dropped his gun in the tall grass next to the lane. CO McCullough contacted the hunter who stated he was just looking for trespassers. CO McCullough asked the hunter why he was dressed in camouflage, hunting bibs and big winter boots if he was really looking for a trespasser. The hunter just looked up and smiled. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough and CO Jeff Goss responded to a complaint of a convicted felon hunting with a firearm. The suspect had already killed a buck on opening day. The COs located the freshly killed, untagged deer. After talking with the landowner, the COs determined that the felon was still out hunting. The COs contacted the camouflaged hunter, who had fallen out of his tree stand. The hunter, who wasn't wearing hunter orange, had observed the COs approaching and was trying to exit the tree stand when he fell, breaking his leg. An ambulance was called, and with the assistance of the local fire department, the hunter was transported to the local hospital. Charges are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

CO Jeff Goss conducted a processor inspection and located a deer with a suspicious tag on it. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was quickly discovered that the deer was illegally taken. The suspect admitted to shooting the deer and then purchasing his tag later that night. The suspect claimed that he shot the trophy 11-point buck because he was dying and had nothing to eat. When asked why he paid to have it processed and caped out for a shoulder mount, the suspect didn't have much to say. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss observed two men operating an ATV near a wooded area. It was early in the morning and they were both wearing hunter orange. CO Goss observed as the two located a deer and began to field dress it. The two then loaded it into the ATV and headed towards a residence. When CO Goss made contact with them, they had transferred it into the back of a truck. Upon checking the deer, it was found to be untagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss conducted a processor inspection and located a deer with a tag that was purchased earlier that day. The deer was cold and stiff; time of death estimates

indicated that the deer had been dead at least two days. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was discovered that the deer was shot two days prior by the suspect's son. The eleven year old boy was home alone and saw a buck in the field and decided to shoot it. According to the parents, they both reprimanded the son for his actions. The boy had not taken hunter safety and didn't have a license for the deer. The father purchased a tag for the deer two days later and dropped it off at the processor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was on patrol when he observed a vehicle that he recognized as belonging to a suspect in illegal deer cases from 2015 and 2016. The suspect was cited by CO Jason McCullough in 2015 for taking a deer without a license. In 2016, CO Goss caught the suspect with two illegal deer that he killed without licenses. A warrant was issued for his arrest and it was still an active warrant when CO Goss located his vehicle. Using the information obtained from a cell phone search during the 2016 interaction with the suspect, CO Goss was able to pin point which stands the suspect frequented on the property. Using that information, CO Goss was able to walk out and quickly apprehend the suspect without incident. CO Goss was surprised to find that the suspect actually had deer licenses this year. He is facing two counts of taking deer without a license, with reimbursement totaling \$8,000.

CO Josh Jackson received a report of two individuals trespassing on posted, private land. The caller noted that both suspects were wearing camouflage and carrying firearms, and neither had hunter orange. CO Jackson met with the complainant who stated the suspects agreed to wait at their residence nearby. When the CO went to the residence, no one was around. The CO began to research the suspects and discovered that they had driven into town to purchase deer licenses. CO Jackson interviewed both suspects when they arrived back at the residence and both admitted to trespassing onto the neighboring property, purchasing deer licenses after they had been hunting, and not wearing hunter orange while afield. Citations were issued to both subjects.

CO Todd Thorn and CO Troy Ludwig contacted a hunter in the Windsor State Game Area. When the hunter opened his blind, the COs observed a hunter orange hat lying on the ground within the blind. When questioned about the excessive amount of bait near his blind, the hunter stated his buddy had put it out. The hunter had also cut a number of trees and limbs to give him a clear shot of deer that came to the bait, as well as screwing in a game camera mount into a nearby tree. Once back at the subject's vehicle, the COs noticed a half empty fifty pound bag of corn in his back seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn and CO Troy Ludwig responded to a report of a man shining for deer in Eaton County. The COs located a vehicle meeting the description and stopped it for a traffic violation. When questioned about the shining activity, the subject admitted to shining for deer minutes earlier. A search of the vehicle turned up a bow, spotlight, binoculars, and a night vision scope. The subject also admitted to trespassing the day before on the property he had just been shining. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig responded to a complaint of an excessive amount of bait located on a golf course in Eaton County. The CO contacted a hunter who was hunting in the nearby deer blind and he admitted to placing the bait. CO Ludwig explained to the hunter that due to chronic wasting disease, baiting was banned in Eaton County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig responded to a shots fired complaint the day before firearm deer season and contacted two hunters hunting from tree stands. Both hunters were archery hunting; however, the hunters were hunting over bait which is prohibited in Eaton County due to chronic wasting disease. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig was the first on scene of a medical emergency in which a man had possibly overdosed on prescription medicine. The CO provided medical treatment until EMS arrived.

CO Matt Neterer and CO Troy Ludwig interviewed a man they suspected of shooting an 11-point deer and then buying his hunting license to tag the deer. The COs were alerted to the deer while visiting an Ingham County buck pole. The suspect had taken his deer to the buck pole to show off his trophy buck and enter it into a contest to win a free taxidermy mount. When interviewed at his residence, the suspect admitted to shooting the deer and buying his license afterward. Charges are currently being sought with the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Matthew Neterer and A/Sgt. Todd Thorn responded to a RAP complaint of a subject walking into the woods carrying a fifty pound bag of corn in the Mason area. The COs responded and located the subject hunting from a tree stand over a large corn pile. The suspect was issued a citation for hunting deer over bait in the CWD zone.

CO Troy Ludwig was walking the Lake Interstate State Game Area when he came upon a man hunting from a tree stand near the game area boundary. When asked about the bait that was on the other side of the fence and the large hole cut in the fence, the subject stated he didn't know anything about it. The hunter had also not labeled his tree stand, a requirement to leave the tree stand on state land for more than a day. The CO instructed the man to take down the stand and he would meet him back at his vehicle in the parking lot. When CO Ludwig returned to the parking lot, the hunter decided that he did know something about the bait and admitted to placing it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds and Sgt. Todd Thorn, while patrolling Hillsdale County for deer hunting activity, observed a vehicle parked partially in the road and on the wrong side. The COs searched the nearby woods and field for the hunter so he could move his vehicle off of the roadway. After a short time, the hunter was observed in the wood line not wearing hunter orange. A citation was issued for not wearing hunter orange.

CO Chris Reynolds, while patrolling Hillsdale County for deer hunting activity, observed two hunters in a field. When the hunters noticed the CO, they hurried to try to get to

their vehicle. When contact was made, the hunters started making excuses for being on the property. CO Reynolds made a phone call to the landowner, who wanted the trespassers prosecuted as they have had issues in the past with trespassers. A citation was issued for recreational trespass.

CO Chris Reynolds, while patrolling Hillsdale County for deer hunting activity, observed a group of hunters coming out of the woods, with one hunter not wearing hunter orange. When contact was made, the hunter stated he had been hunting the property for years without any issues and didn't feel that he needed to wear it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds, while patrolling Hillsdale County, observed a deer hanging with a newly purchased tag on it. The CO talked with the hunter, who stated he had shot the deer earlier in the morning. CO Reynolds explained that the tag was purchased after the deer was shot. The hunter confirmed he had purchased his license after shooting the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While enroute to meet up with CO Josh Jackson in Branch County, A/Sgt. Todd Thorn responded to a RAP complaint where individuals had just trespassed to shoot and drag a large buck off of the complainant's property. A/Sgt. Thorn arrived and located a spent shotgun slug casing, drag marks, deer hair and blood leading across a fence to the neighboring property. A/Sgt. Thorn went to the suspect's residence and located a large antlered deer in one of the barns. Confessions were gained of trespassing to retrieve the deer from the neighbor's property without permission. Enforcement action was taken, including seizure of the deer.

A/Sgt. Todd Thorn was informed by CO Shane Webster of a possible illegal deer taken in the Dansville State Game area on opening day. CO Webster and A/Sgt. Thorn arrived late in the evening of opening day at the suspect's residence and saw tire marks in the lawn leading to a shed. The COs were able to contact the suspect and then located the large, antlered deer in the shed. The suspect admitted to shooting the deer in the Dansville State Game area while in possession of only an antlerless deer license. The suspect stated that he didn't expect to see a large buck such as this one, so he shot it and then purchased a license later in the day. Further investigation revealed that the man had an active warrant. Enforcement action was taken, including seizure of the deer, and lodging of the man at the Ingham County jail on his warrant.

A/Sgt. Todd Thorn and CO Matt Neterer were patrolling an area in Ingham County that is a location of frequent shining and shooting complaints. While in the area, a complaint from Ingham County Central Dispatch of a man shooting a deer from his truck was received. The complainants provided a license plate, which allowed the COs to go directly to the residence, where the suspect had just arrived. A large, untagged antlered deer was laying on the tailgate of a truck with the suspect and his wife standing beside it. The man was very surprised to see COs pulling into his driveway. The COs found an uncased muzzleloader in the backseat of the pickup truck. After some discussion, the suspect admitted to shooting the deer from his truck while it was standing in his

neighbor's woods. The COs found drag marks, blood, and hair going from the dirt road into the neighbor's woods. They also found boot prints that matched the suspects boot tread. The deer was seized and a warrant request will be submitted to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office for numerous charges. The complainants were contacted and thanked for providing detailed information to aid in the arrest.

CO Matthew Neterer was called out to a lost hunter in the Stockbridge area. The hunter was attempting to track a deer in a swamp after dark when he became disoriented. The hunter failed to take a flashlight with him and his cell phone battery was less than 10%. Dispatchers were able to direct responding agencies to the hunter's location using cell phone pings. Michigan State Police were first on scene and were able to guide the hunter to the road with their lights and sirens. The hunter became stuck in a drainage ditch and had to be assisted to the other side where he was reunited with his hunting party. The hunter was extremely fortunate to have been located in a timely manner due to the freezing temperatures and rain.

CO Matthew Neterer was conducting a night time shining patrol near the Dansville State Game Area when an oncoming pickup truck nearly struck his patrol vehicle head on. CO Neterer followed the truck for several miles and observed that it was traveling much slower than the speed limit and having a difficult time maintaining its lane. CO Neterer conducted a traffic stop and immediately noticed a strong odor of intoxicants on the driver's breath. During a search of the vehicle, CO Neterer located an open beer and numerous empty beer cans on the floor of the truck. The driver was lodged at the Ingham County jail where she was found to have a blood alcohol level over twice the legal limit. CO Neterer is seeking charges for OUIL with a high BAC.

CO Chris Maher investigated a complaint of an individual who took a 10-point whitetail deer without having a license. CO Maher went to interview the suspect who admitted to taking the antlered deer without the proper license and gave a written confession. CO Maher confiscated the antlers as evidence. Charges are being sought through the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Jason King investigated a deer carcass littering complaint in Shiawassee County. CO King was able to identify and locate a possible suspect. CO King made contact with that subject and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King was patrolling the Rose Lake State Game Area when he noticed a skinned animal carcass dumped in the brush on the side of the road. CO King discovered another carcass nearby and determined that the carcasses were farm livestock. After a thorough investigation, CO King was able to locate a suspect. A confession was obtained and enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was following up on a baiting complaint on November 13th. CO Nickols made contact at the suspect's residence and was informed by his wife that he took some items to his deer blind and was out there right now. CO Nickols located the suspect sitting in his deer blind behind the house. The suspect was found to be sitting in

his blind with a loaded 12 gauge shotgun looking over a large pile of bait. When questioned about the gun, the suspect stated his son had brought it back earlier in the day so he wouldn't have to carry it back on opening day. The suspect assured CO Nickols that he was only in the blind to take pictures and had no intent of shooting a deer before the season started. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols followed up on a complaint of a subject that posted a picture online of a buck he had shot but had only purchased an antlerless deer license. CO Nickols contacted the suspect (who was 15) and the suspect's father. The suspect said he thought he could use any license on any deer because they were in the core CWD area. CO Rich Nickols asked to see the antlers from the deer and the suspect showed him a set of 6-point antlers, but there was not a tag on them. When CO Nickols asked where the tag was, the suspect retrieved his tag from the garage. It was un-validated and still attached to the backing. Violations included take deer without valid license, fail to tag, fail to check deer in core CWD area, and allow youth to hunt unsupervised.

CO Rich Nickols received a call on November 14th from a sergeant at the Clinton County Sheriff's Department about a baiting and ongoing trespass issue. CO Nickols went to the location on the opening morning of the firearm deer season and met with the neighboring landowner. The landowner took CO Nickols to the location of the bait pile and illegal hunting blind. CO Nickols observed that the blind was closed up, but as he was standing there talking with the neighbor, he heard a clunk in the blind. CO Nickols went and opened the door to find two subjects, one adult and one youth, standing in the blind looking dumbfounded. The adult stated he had grown up hunting the property and thought it would still be ok, even though he no longer lived in the area, and he had been told in past years that he was not allowed to hunt there. Other violations included bait deer when prohibited and hunt within safety zone.

CO Matthew Neterer investigated a trespass complaint in the Dansville area where a hunter shot a nice 8-point buck and recovered it on the neighboring property without permission. The complainant was walking to his hunting blind and located blood and tire tracks leading back to the suspect's residence. Upon making contact with the suspect, he lied and stated that the deer that he killed was a small 6-point buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer and CO Troy Ludwig worked a case from the Mason Buck Pole where they located a 160" buck that had been taken during the archery season in early November. The buck drew the CO's attention due to a flawed purchase/validation timeline. The COs made contact the next day at the suspect's residence where he stated that he shot it on the evening of November 7th. After a brief interview and pointing out some obvious contradicting evidence, the suspect admitted that he shot the buck on the evening of November 6th and then purchased the tag after the fact. The antlers were taken as evidence and the case is being forwarded to the Ingham County Prosecutor.

While on patrol, CO Jason King and CO Robert Slick witnessed two antlerless deer being loaded in a pick-up truck in Shiawassee County. The COs made contact with the

hunters loading the deer. The deer had not yet been tagged after being harvested. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a processor inspection in Shiawassee County, CO Robert Slick noticed a tag that was bought mid-morning on opening day of the firearm deer season. CO Slick took down the information from the tag and made contact with the hunter. CO Slick interviewed the hunter and they confessed to purchasing the tag after shooting the deer. CO Slick seized the deer and has submitted the evidence to the Shiawassee Prosecutor's Office.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County when he received a complaint of a baited stand. CO Slick responded to the area and located the stand, but there was no one there. CO Slick took photographs and left to return later that day. When CO Slick returned to the location, the hunter was in the stand. CO Slick made contact with the hunter and informed him that baiting of any kind is illegal. The hunter told CO Slick that he knew of the law, but didn't care. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County when he received a complaint of an individual trespassing. CO Slick made contact with the complainant where he learned that in addition to the trespass, there was also a deer shot. CO Slick went to the residence and made contact with the suspect. The suspect stated that he wasn't sure where the property lines were and didn't think it was a big deal if he shot a short distance onto the other property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County on opening day of the firearm deer season when he checked a location that he knew was being baited. CO Slick arrived at the location and made contact with two hunters in a blind. CO Slick informed the hunters that he was there because they were baiting, and there was no baiting allowed in Shiawassee County. The hunters both stated they weren't aware of the law change. CO Slick then asked what they were using to hunt. The first hunter pointed to his crossbow and the other hunter said he was using his 12 gauge and a rifle. CO Slick asked why he was using a rifle in the limited firearm zone. The hunter stated he saw a very large buck walking out of range of his shotgun last year and wanted to be able to shoot him if he saw him. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Shiawassee County, CO Robert Slick noticed a pile of pumpkins out in a field in front of a hunting blind. CO Slick made note of the location and returned on the opening day of the firearm deer season. When CO Slick returned to the location, he made contact with a hunter in the blind. CO Slick informed him that he was there because of the pumpkins out in the field. The hunter stated he didn't know he wasn't allowed to bait. CO Slick then asked for his hunting license. The hunter admitted that he did not have a license and had not bought one in the past three years. CO Slick told the hunter that the baiting laws changed about three years ago and if he would have bought his licenses he might have been aware of the changes. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau was called out and responded to an after-hours trespass complaint in Jackson County. Sgt. Bahlau was on the phone with the landowner who located and confronted two trespassers who used a canoe to get on his property. The landowner was alerted of the trespass because of his trail camera that sent a picture of them to his phone when activated. Sgt. Bahlau and Blackman Township Police Department met all involved at the bridge where the suspects launched from and returned to. Sgt. Bahlau found the suspects were trespassing, had no PFDs for the canoe, and it was also discovered the next day by the landowner that the two suspects removed his trail camera and smashed it, not realizing the camera was the type that sent pictures when taken. A warrant request is pending.

DISTRICT 9

During a processor inspection in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen and CO Kris Kiel were checking on deer that had recently been brought in. During the inspection, there was one deer in particular that had heavy trauma to its shoulder. The COs investigated further and found three holes in the hide of the deer. Two of the holes were small and circular. Further inspection revealed two bullets still inside the deer. Contact was made with the hunter who brought in the deer. The hunter admitted to shooting the deer with his pistol after an initial shot from a crossbow. The hunter said the area where the deer ran was too thick and muddy to shoot the deer again with a crossbow. Further enforcement action will be taken and restitution will be sought for the deer.

CO Joseph Deppen received a report of a potential deer poaching incident from CO Casey Pullum in Oscoda County. The subjects were headed down to Macomb County with the illegally taken deer at the time of contact with CO Pullum. CO Deppen made his way to Roseville and contacted the hunter at his residence as he was pulling into the driveway. CO Deppen asked the subject if he knew why he was there. The subject sighed and said "yes, they're in the trunk." With his attorney and father present, the subject gave a full confession outlining the persons involved and the illegal methods in which the deer were taken. Methods included shooting deer over a lighted bait pile in a county closed to baiting, shooting deer after hunting hours had ended, shooting deer with a rifle during archery season, and failure to tag deer. Three large antlered deer were seized. The case will be handed over to the prosecutor's office and restitution will be sought for the three deer.

While checking deer hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed a hunter with no hunter orange. CO Deppen made contact with the subject and he immediately pulled down his camouflage hoodie and exposed a small orange beanie. The hunter was also over the two gallon bait limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel apprehended a subject hunting deer and trespassing on Consumer's Energy property in Macomb County. The subject was hunting behind his parents' home, but went in an additional 100 yards onto Consumer's Energy property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach has been working a group of individuals in western St Clair County for several years, which routinely spotlight deer in the early morning hours. The group has been known to shoot multiple deer in a single night. CO Kovach observed the suspect vehicle traveling slowly, shining sporadically in between fields. After several miles of observing, CO Kovach stopped the vehicle and discovered the group had a loaded .223 rifle, and had already shot a deer earlier in the night. A confession was obtained on the illegal deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was requested to assist a St. Clair County Sheriff's Deputy on a stop at 4 am. The deputy had made a stop on a vehicle for shining during the month of November with weapons in their possession. CO Kovach arrived on scene and began questioning the occupants of the vehicle. It was discovered that the group had been shining and shooting at deer for several hours throughout St. Clair and Macomb Counties. A confession was obtained to the illegal taking of a deer with a high powered rifle, by use of a spotlight. The vehicle was impounded and multiple charges are being sought in the case.

While checking hunters on the opening day of the firearm deer season, CO Ken Kovach and Sgt. Todd Szyska came across a successful deer hunter. While talking with the hunter, it was discovered the subject had tagged the buck with his child's tag, as he did not have a valid tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and Sgt. Todd Szyska observed a hunter standing over a buck, in a backyard of a residence, in St. Clair County. Upon further inspection, it was discovered the hunter had shot the deer earlier in the morning and then transported it with an ORV to his backyard, all without tagging the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a call of a subject who was believed to be hunting over a lit bait pile. CO Kovach interviewed the subject at his residence and obtained a full confession to the subject hunting over a lit bait pile after legal hours had ended and shot two deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Port Huron State Area, CO Ben Lasher found a subject who had driven his 4-wheeler down the railroad right-of-way to get to his stand in the game area. The suspect had no helmet, no ORV sticker, no name on his stand and was over two gallons of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher found multiple beaver traps set on the opener of the season. One was found to have no tag. Upon further investigation, an illegal snare set in the beaver run between ponds was also found untagged. With assistance from Station 20, a local address was found for the trapper. The trap tags had an address from western Michigan. Contact was made with the trapper and he admitted to setting the illegal snare. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher assisted the Marysville Police Department and the St. Clair County Sheriff's office with a homicide investigation. After shooting his wife, the suspect fled to

his home. CO Lasher and other officers set up a perimeter around the house until the Special Response Team could take over. Upon entry, the suspect was found dead of an apparent suicide.

CO Ben Lasher and Sgt. Todd Szyska worked a trespass complaint from Consumers Energy in St. Clair County. The suspects were contacted hauling two bucks out of the Consumers' property after dark. The subjects were transporting the untagged and gutted bucks on the 4 wheeler, without helmets, the operator had a suspended driver's license, and they also did not have an ORV license. Both subjects admitted to shooting the deer in the morning and left them until after dark to bring them out. Besides the fines for trespassing and ORV violations, reimbursement for the deer will be \$6,000 for the 8-point and \$2,000 for the 6-point.

Due to the rainy weather, CO Ben Lasher decided to work waterfowl activity on Harsens Island. Hunters are required to have permits to enter zones established by management unit regulation and drawing. CO Lasher found three subjects hunting in one zone and none of the hunters were on the permit. Further investigation found two of the subject's fathers, who were listed on the permit, had gone into another zone, without a permit, to give their son's a chance to hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was checking waterfowl hunters coming out of St. Johns Marsh Game Area after the evening hunt. CO Lasher found a subject with a loaded gun, long after legal hunting hours. The hunter also did not have a Michigan waterfowl license or a base license and failed to sign his federal stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher used his thermal scope to watch a subject come out of the woods 45 minutes after legal hunting hours. A check at the subject's vehicle found his gun to still be loaded. The hunter also failed to wear his hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle which was being sought for a hit and run. CO Zultak conducted field sobriety evaluations on the vehicle's operator. CO Zultak placed the subject under arrest for fleeing the scene of an accident, operating under the influence of drugs, driving on a suspended license, and possessing marijuana.

CO Matt Zultak responded to a complaint of a recreational trespass. While interviewing the suspected trespasser, CO Zultak located a 12-point whitetail deer skull and antlers. The subject confessed to shooting it weeks prior and failing to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak responded to a complaint that someone was hunting from a motor vehicle in Lapeer County. CO Zultak located a hunter near the suspect vehicle. The hunter did not have on hunter orange, was hunting over too much bait, and had not purchased any valid Michigan hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner and CO Danny Walzak responded to a complaint of people hunting from the dike in Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Upon making it to the area, CO Gardner and CO Walzak found where the suspected violators were, and watched the group for a while to try and see any violations take place. When no violations were observed, the COs decided to make contact with the hunters. Upon making contact with the hunters, CO Gardner and CO Walzak found that in the group of three hunters, one did not have his Federal Waterfowl Stamp signed and another did not have any of his hunting licenses on his person. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger checked a pair of waterfowl hunters at a local boat ramp. While checking their shotgun shells, one of the hunters stated, "I just threw a bunch of shells in here." The CO located one suspicious shell that the hunter stated he did not know how it got there. Upon checking the shell, the CO confirmed it was lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger obtained a confession from a hunter who admitted to taking a 6-point deer without a license. She stated that it was her first year hunting and did not think that she would see a deer, but while she was in the stand with her husband who has been hunting for a long time, she shot and killed a 6-point deer. She admitted that after killing the deer, the two went to the store and purchased the license. When the CO asked if she had taken a hunter safety course, her husband stated, "No", he "did not know that was a thing anymore." The deer was seized and enforcement action taken.

CO David Schaumburger located a suspicious tag at the processor and followed-up with the hunter at his residence. The CO located a tag on a deer that made him suspect the hunter purchased the tag after killing the deer. During the interview, the hunter stated that he shot the deer in Barry County and was only in possession of his combo license. He stated he did not read the hunting guide. Since he was used to hunting in Alpena County, he thought he was able to use his combo tags for the antlerless deer. His uncle told him he was wrong, and the hunter went and purchased an antlerless license. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was at the processor when two deer arrived without a tag. During the interview with the hunter, he admitted that he shot at a group of deer in Huron County. The deer scattered, but one deer returned to the bait pile and now had a limp, so he took a second shot. After looking for the deer he shot, he realized he had shot at two deer, but was only in possession of one proper license. The hunter stated that since he was done hunting for the year, he did not tag the deer or validate the tags. The deer that was shot without a proper license was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was able to make contact with a subject hunting deer over a lighted bait pile. CO Becker received the information through a RAP complaint that the subject would stay out a long time past legal hunting hours. When CO Becker contacted the subject, he was in possession of a loaded crossbow and a loaded .22 rifle. CO Becker asked the subject how the light operated. The subject showed CO Becker the motion

sensor near the bait pile which activated a red light above the bait. When CO Becker asked to see the subject's license, he handed CO Becker a large stack of licenses. After sorting through the licenses, the subject was in possession of twelve more deer tags than allowed. The subject stated that the machine kept printing them off and he thought it was ok. CO Becker advised the subject that the printer only prints off as many as the operator tells it to. CO Becker advised the subject on legal hunting hours and the use of an artificial light to hunt deer and informed the hunter it is not legal to carry a .22 caliber rifle during firearm season, and that hunter orange must be worn during firearm season by archery hunters. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was on patrol in Proud Lake Recreation Area and stopped to check several hunters getting out of their vehicle. After CO Becker checked the three subjects, he asked one of the subjects if he was in possession of marijuana. The subject denied having any at first, but then told CO Becker he had some marijuana cigarettes. The subject also revealed that he had smoked one earlier in the day. Through the conversation, CO Becker learned that the subject's fourteen year old son was waiting by himself in the woods for his father to drive deer in his direction. CO Becker advised that until he was seventeen years old, his son would have to be within sight and sound distance of an adult. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker, CO Jacob Griffin and CO Matt Zultak responded to a RAP complaint of two subjects operating ATVs in Horseshoe Lake SGA and trespassing on private property. CO Griffin was the first on scene and made contact with the subjects. Moments later, CO Becker arrived on scene with CO Zultak right behind. The COs interviewed the subjects about where they had ridden. It was revealed that one of the subjects had been ticketed by CO Christopher Knights a month ago for operating an ATV on private property. CO Becker asked the subjects about the heated conversation they had with the complainants. One of the subjects admitted that there was a verbal argument and that he stated "the DNR can't catch us." CO Zultak escorted the juvenile subject back home to warm up, as both subjects were covered in mud and cold. The COs explained to the subjects that in addition to trespassing, they could not operate in the game area, operate during peak hunting hours, or operate on the public road. Enforcement action was taken and ATVs impounded.

CO Jason Becker was checking an area frequented by trespassers for hunting and ORV activity. Minutes after CO Becker's arrival, he observed two vehicles drive over the berm onto posted private property. When the vehicles turned around to exit, CO Becker stopped them. When CO Becker contacted the subjects, they stated they were just driving through the mud to let off some steam. When checking the vehicles for weapons, CO Becker learned that one of the subjects was in possession of a loaded shotgun in the cab of the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer responded to a complaint of a deer that was shot without a license. The suspect posted a picture on Michigan Buck Pole posing with a 10-point antlered deer. After the investigation, it was determined that the deer was shot without a license and the suspect bought a hunting license after-the-fact. The CO located the

deer in the suspect's garage with a tag that was purchased after-the-fact. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer observed a truck parked near a wooded area in Montrose Township, Genesee County. The CO waited at the truck for the return of the hunter. The CO observed the hunter exiting the woods ten minutes prior to the end of legal hunting hours. The hunter was not wearing any hunter orange, and he stated that he was not wearing hunter orange while he was hunting from his ground blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer responded to a complaint in Forest Township, Genesee County, of a safety zone violation and an over-limit of bait. The CO was able to determine that one of the stands was approximately 95 yards from the complainant's property. CO Dragomer located approximately 30-40 gallons of sugar beets at the hunting location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted three subjects coming into a boat access site after hunting waterfowl. During a routine waterfowl check, CO Griffin discovered that two of the subjects were using shotguns capable of holding more than three shells, one subject did not have a hunting license, and the motorboat the group was in did not have valid registration numbers. Enforcement action was taken.

During the same patrol, CO Jacob Griffin checked two subjects coming in by boat after waterfowl hunting. CO Griffin discovered that one of the subjects still had a loaded shotgun in the motorboat, the motorboat was not registered, and one subject was in possession of toxic shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County checking on deer blinds and tree stands that were placed on public land illegally. CO Griffin made contact with one subject who placed an unmarked tree stand and an unmarked ground blind within a State Recreation Area. CO Griffin explained to the subject the laws regarding tree stands and hunting blinds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on foot patrol with CO Jason Becker when the two COs discovered two subjects possibly trespassing on private property. The COs located the two subjects to discover that they were both deer hunting. One subject had not purchased a hunting license, the other subject was hunting over more than two gallons of bait, and both subjects were not wearing the required hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

On the opening day of firearm deer season, CO Christopher Knights patrolled Bald Mountain State Game Area. CO Knights scouted with a ranger earlier in the week and located multiple illegal ground blinds. CO Knights met the same ranger in the area checked earlier and they walked into the woods to see if the parties were using them to hunt. After coming up empty with the first couple, they reached the last one and located

a subject using the blind. CO Knights questioned the individual and asked for him to show his name, address, or driver's license number on the blind. The subject was unable to show the information required. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser encountered a man returning to his home on a side-by-side after hunting on opening day. The CO met the man in his drive way and questioned him about the hunt. The hunter said that he hadn't seen anything and that he had been out all day. When the CO asked the hunter for his tags, he advised the CO that he had not purchased them yet. The CO then noticed a firearm in the back of the vehicle which was wrapped in some type of netting. The CO inquired about a case for the firearm. The man said he was on his own property and didn't think he needed a case. The CO advised him otherwise. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Justin Muehlhauser and Sgt. Stephen Mooney were checking deer which had been brought into a local processor. The COs located a tag which the month was not notched out and the tag was purchased just moments before the close of hunting hours on opening day. The COs followed-up with the subject at his residence who advised he thought he bought his license earlier in the year. When he shot the deer, he realized he didn't have a license and immediately went to buy one. The COs advised that the deer was taken illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling during the opening weekend for firearm deer season, CO Justin Muehlhauser encountered a deer on the tailgate of a truck in Richfield Township. Upon closer examination, the CO noticed there was no tag on the animal. The CO questioned the man who said he shot the deer about an hour prior and didn't tag it immediately because his tags were in his truck. The man searched through his tags, but he had not purchased an antlerless tag for Genesee County. The hunter claimed he told the clerk he wanted an antlerless tag but wasn't sold one. The CO informed the hunter that it is his responsibility to make sure he has the proper tags while he is out hunting. Enforcement action was taken.