

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Report
12/2/2018 – 12/15/2018**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County near Ironwood when he observed a snowmobile run a stop sign at a high rate of speed. CO Painter stopped the snowmobile and the operator stated that he did not see the stop sign because he was going too fast. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County and stopped a snowmobile that did not appear to have a valid registration. The stop revealed the registration to be expired. CO Painter asked the operator why the sled was not registered, and he stated that he was not about to pay \$111.00 for a registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Cody Smith assisted Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) wardens with a snowmobile safety class put on at a local tribal community college. This prepped the students for a safe winter of riding the trails.

CO Josh Boudreaux followed up on a complaint where an individual had been driving his truck around a gate on mining property to drive the cross-country ski trails to his illegal hunting location, which was heavily baited. CO Boudreaux contacted the individual who admitted to hunting the location and putting out too much bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Boudreaux was patrolling Lake Independence in Marquette County when he observed a fisherman set three tip-ups then head back into his shanty for an extended period. Suspecting the individual was fishing with a fourth line, CO Boudreaux crept up to the shanty and observed through the window, an individual fishing with a fourth line. Upon knocking on the door of the shanty, CO Boudreaux watched the individual frantically attempt to reel in his rod. As CO Boudreaux opened the door to contact the angler who was in violation, the angler hung his head and admitted he thought he could get away with an extra line. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

CO John Kamps stopped an ORV that was traveling down the highway. Upon interview and investigation, the CO determined that the individual was on his way to go deer hunting but did not have a deer license in his possession. The individual also stated that his deer license was hanging on his deer at camp. The CO followed the individual back to the camp. Inspection of the deer determined that the tag was not validated. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Sergey was near Cherry Ridge Logging Trail in Menominee County when an individual approached him in a panic. The individual said he was out for a walk in the woods with his girlfriend and his girlfriend ended up getting lost. The individual stated he

has not seen his girlfriend for over an hour, but he was able to call her on her cell phone. CO Sergey contacted Menominee county central dispatch and requested they put a ping on the girlfriends' cell phone. CO Sergey and the individual searched for the missing girlfriend and she was located shortly after.

CO Brett DeLonge held a presentation at Northern Michigan University for a Criminal Justice 110 class on the responsibilities of a conservation officer and the hiring/training process. There were approximately 60 students in the class.

Sergeant (Sgt.) Brian Bacon presented a Technical Writing class at Negaunee High School for 11th and 12th graders. The main topic was communication and writing skills in the work place along with the responsibilities of a conservation officer.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call regarding an eagle that hit a powerline and was laying in the ditch dazed. CO Ferguson was able to respond to the area and located the bird in a small field. CO Ferguson retrieved the bird and transported it to the local DNR biologist for transport to the rehab center.

CO Jared Ferguson received numerous complaints of over limit of walleyes being taken from the Michigamme reservoir in Iron County. CO Ferguson located a large group of anglers fishing from shore below the dam. The anglers were fishing with too many tip ups, one of which had no license, and no name and address on their tip ups. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Calvin Smith and Sgt. Mark Leadman conducted a joint patrol with the United States Custom and Border Protection Agency at the International Bridge. The joint patrol targeted illegal importation of cervid animals into Michigan.

COs Justin Vinson, Calvin Smith, Colton Gelinis, and Sgt. Mark Leadman targeted an anonymous complaint of illegal ORV trails on state land and bait piles for deer that far exceeded the two-gallon limit. Several illegal ORV trails were located, and the COs also came across a pair of hunters who had operated their ORV in a closed area, had open intoxicants in an ORV, and were hunting without their deer license in their possession. The ORV also lacked the required ORV license. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Vinson was patrolling the Mackinac and Luce County line when he noticed hay along the side of the road where a truck had been parked a few days earlier. CO Vinson followed tracks into the woods and located the man's hunting spot. CO Vinson found a heavily baited site with over 14 piles of hay mixed with corn, and sugar beets. Law enforcement action was taken for excess bait.

While checking ice fisherman on a local lake, CO Robert Freeborn checked a group of fishermen that stated they had caught some fish. When CO Freeborn was looking at their fish, he noticed what looked to be an undersized walleye. The fisherman stated it was about 15". CO Freeborn measured the fish and turned out to be 13.5". The

fisherman was adamant it was 15" according to his six-inch Leatherman that he used to measure the fish. A citation was issued for the undersized fish.

CO Robert Freeborn was contacted by CO Jeremy Sergey to assist with serving a warrant on a suspect that was lodged in the Alger County jail. CO Freeborn contacted the suspect, who was already serving time for prior DNR violations, and advised the subject of other DNR charges pending in another county that he would have to appear on upon his release from the Alger County Jail.

COs Robert Freeborn and Chris Lynch participated in the annual 'Shop with a Cop' program in Schoolcraft County. The program consists of all the county law enforcement officers being assigned a child in need. The child would be picked up at the child's residence and then treated to a breakfast of his/her choice at 3 Season's Café that was donated by the café. After breakfast, the COs and children went to the local Shopko where the child was able to pick out presents for his/her family and one for themselves. The items were then paid for by the 'Shop with the Cop' program that receives donations from several community members and businesses. After shopping, the COs and children met at Cedar Street Cinema, where the cinema set up a private showing of a movie as well as donated drinks and snacks. While the movie was playing, the children's presents were wrapped by the officers and volunteers. Once the movie was finished, the COs brought the child back home. This is an annual program that receives lots of support by the local community and businesses.

COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn were following up on an ORV complaint. DNR Wildlife personnel reported an illegal ORV trail running through one of the states Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS). The COs followed and located the ORV, and with some patience followed an additional foot trail to a permanent elevated blind on state land. The surprised hunter was cooperative and admitted to numerous violations including leaving a permanent blind on state land, too much bait, operating an ORV in a closed area and failing to wear a crash helmet. The hunter received a ticket and warnings for the violations.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Nahma Township when he encountered an individual who was cutting tree boughs in the Hiawatha National Forest. When asked for his permit, the individual stated he was baiting his deer blind and not cutting boughs. The bed of the individual's truck was loaded with tree boughs, there was fresh tree boughs behind the vehicle, as well as freshly cut trees. CO Butzin asked the individual to take him to his blind where he was baiting, and the hunter refused. As CO Butzin started to follow footprints in the snow, he asked the individual to come with him. A few moments later CO Butzin found cutting tools and more cut tree boughs. The individual then confessed to cutting the boughs without a permit. A citation was issued.

CO Stephen Butzin was patrolling Masonville Township when Delta County Central Dispatch but out a "be on the lookout" (BOL) for a vehicle where the driver was thought to be driving under the influence and tried to run another motorist off the road. CO Butzin nearby and headed to the location and located the vehicle. When he attempted

to stop the vehicle, it fled and led the CO on a pursuit. As the vehicle entered a populated area, responding agencies were able to help get the vehicle stopped by boxing it in. The driver was arrested for fleeing eluding by CO Butzin, as well as resisting and obstructing by the Michigan State Police (MSP).

COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch were doing routine processor inspections when they encountered an individual who did not purchase a license before taking an 8-point antlered buck during bow season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Stephen Butzin received a complaint of too much recreational bait in an area. While patrolling the area CO Butzin located the bait, and enforcement action was taken. While en-route to the bait site, CO Butzin arrived at a residence on a dead-end road. As CO Butzin pulled in the driveway, he observed a white-tail deer cape and an 8-point antlered buck head on a wood pile without a visible tag attached. CO Butzin contacted the homeowner, who after a brief interview, stated that her step-son shot the deer without a license. Further investigation found that the step-son was a minor who was hunting without parental supervision while using a high-powered rifle. The minor also did not have a valid hunting license. The father of the minor later confessed to placing his tag on the deer several days after it had been killed and processed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik and Alger County Deputy Sam Grahovac responded to a call from local motel in Munising concerning a possible child abductor. When they arrived, they found a five-year old boy in the room by himself. When the 61-year old father arrived, the officers spoke with the father about why he was leaving the five-year old child alone while he was gone. The father did not think it was an issue. The officers were also concerned because the five-year old child was still wearing diapers and drinking baby formula from a bottle. Considering the child's condition was not age-appropriate, the officers made phone calls to Child Protective Services (CPS) to assist in the situation. Upon further investigation, the officers confirmed the child did belong to the father. The father reported marrying a woman from another country to live a better life in America. CPS will be following up with the family.

Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, COs Chris Lynch, Stephen Butzin, Colton Gelinias, Calvin Smith, and Mark Zitnik executed a search warrant in Grand Marais on a subject CO Zitnik had arrested last year for poaching on several occasions. The poacher also has several other cases pending in Menominee County. CO Zitnik received information that the subject was driving around Grand Marais shooting deer and bringing them back to his residence. The COs executed the search warrant and retrieved enough information to request an arrest warrant for the subject. Two days later, COs Colton Gelinias and Mark Zitnik served the warrant at 6:30 am. on the Grand Marais residence and found the subject had fled at 2:00 am. that morning. The COs searched Alger county for most of the remaining morning, following dead-end leads. Around 10:30 am they received a tip concerning his whereabouts. They found the subject hiding in a bedroom in an apartment located in Ishpeming. The subject was lodged in the Alger County jail for probation violations, hunting while revoked and hunting out of season.

COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin contacted a hunter on follow up after conducting a commercial meat processor inspection. The CO's had noticed the hunter brought an 8-point buck in on November 15th and purchased his hunting license after legal shooting hours on the same day. After a short interview with the hunter, the hunter confessed to shooting the buck without a license. The deer was seized, and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for review.

COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin contacted a hunter on follow up after conducting a meat processor inspection. The COs noticed the hunter brought in an 8-point buck on October 31st and purchased the tag after legal shooting hours on October 30th. After a short interview with the hunter, the hunter confessed to shooting the buck without a license. Upon further investigation it was discovered the hunter shot an 8-point buck in 2017 without a license. Both deer were seized, and a report will be submitted to the Delta County Prosecutor's office for review.

COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin successfully served an arrest warrant on a subject without incident. The hunter had taken a deer out of season with a .22 caliber rifle. COs Chris Lynch and Steve Butzin successfully served a four-count arrest warrant on a subject without incident. The hunter had taken an 8-point and 9-point buck without a license and used two deer licenses of another. The individual that was loaning the subject deer licenses also received a citation for the violation. CO Chris Lynch was a panelist on a public tv show called "Ask the DNR." CO Lynch answered questions on live TV from callers phoning in to the show.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Erratt received a call from a homeowner who said a deer had died near the top of the hill behind his house. CO Erratt and the landowner located a gunshot 5-point buck and followed a blood trail to the neighbor's property. CO Erratt followed boot prints to the neighbor's house where a lady said her brother-in-law had been hunting but she did not think he got anything. CO Erratt called the hunter who was in Reed City, halfway home. He said he shot at a 5-point with his muzzleloader, but he thought he had missed. The hunter was very happy when CO Erratt told him they had found his buck. He drove back up north, and CO Erratt gave him the buck.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint about two men who trespassed on private property and shot at coho salmon in a closed trout stream. They had not realized there was a house nearby and that the landowner was outside watching and photographing them. CO Erratt contacted the driver of the truck who had been driving out from duck hunting when he saw the salmon in the river and shot at one. The fifteen-year-old passenger admitted he had walked onto the posted private property with his shotgun, but he had not shot at anything. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert attended the Bellaire Conservation Club meeting last week and answered questions from the attendees.

COs Chad Baldwin, Duane Budreau, Adam LeClerc, and Andrea Erratt attended the Tip of the Mitt Chapter Quality Deer Management Association's annual deer aging event. The COs were able to speak with hunters from various counties around northern Michigan about the 2018 deer season as well as answer questions about various topics including the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease and the reasoning for and enforcement stance about the upcoming deer bait and feed ban.

COs Adam LeClerc and Ethen Mapes participated in a career fair held at the Charlevoix High School. Both COs answered questions about the job functions of a conservation officer and informed interested students on how to get started into the process of becoming a conservation officer.

CO Adam LeClerc was called to assist a vehicle in distress along a snow-covered seasonal road in Charlevoix County. The mother of the driver contacted the Gaylord Customer Service Center to get assistance in finding her daughter and friend who went for a ride and got stuck on a seasonal road. The driver then started to walk down the two-track to get help. Limited cell phone service and bad directions didn't help the situation. CO LeClerc was able to find the vehicle and its passengers as they were able to free the vehicle. No other assistance was needed.

COs Adam LeClerc and Ethen Mapes participated in a career day at Charlevoix High School. Students from five area schools attended the event and were able to ask questions to the COs about their daily routine, hiring process, and education required. CO Duane Budreau attended Boyne Falls Elementary School and talked to the students and faculty about hunter safety, deer hunting, and Law Enforcement Division's role in the protection of Michigan's people and its natural resources.

COs Tim Rosochacki, Matt Theunick, and Tom Oberg investigated the poaching of a 4x5 bull elk in Otsego County. It was determined a bow hunter hunting with a crossbow had shot the elk then later attempted to conceal his actions. However, he was unaware that a witness had observed the violation who then called Otsego County 911. The subject was arrested by the COs and transported to the Otsego County Jail. The investigation continues as additional suspects have been identified who helped or assisted with the concealment of the poaching incident which is a violation of the law. The COs were assisted by MSP and Otsego County Sheriff's Department. While traveling on I-75, CO Tim Rosochacki was passed by a vehicle traveling at an extremely high rate of speed in Otsego County. Upon activating his patrol trucks radar unit, the vehicle was traveling in excess of 100 MPH. A traffic stop was made, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Cherry and Sgt. Mark DePew were patrolling Otsego County when two snowmobiles with expired trail permits drove by their patrol vehicle. The COs stopped the snowmobiles and explained to the riders that they were required to have valid trail permits on public land. After further discussion, one of the riders was found to be operating with a suspended license and had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Cherry responded to a complaint along with MSP and an Otsego County deputy of two juveniles who had run off into the woods and not come home. While gathering descriptions from the family members, the children were found at a home several miles away. However, some adults who had run into the woods to find the juveniles had not returned after some time and were not familiar with the area. CO Cherry searched the woods with the MSP K9 unit and located the remainder of the search party.

COs Kyle Cherry, Tom Oberg, and Sgt. Mark DePew responded to a report of an elk hunter who had shot a large bull elk after mistaking it for a cow. The elk hunter only had an antlerless elk tag. The COs responded to the area and processed the scene. Charges will be forwarded to the Montmorency County Prosecutor's office for review.

Sgt. Mark DePew was following a slow-moving vehicle from a distance in the early morning hours of the opening day of elk season in Otsego County. After approximately two miles of following the vehicle, Sgt. DePew observed brake lights, then backup lights. Approximately 15 seconds later, Sgt. Depew observed a rifle poking out the driver's side window and heard a single shot. Sgt. DePew activated his emergency lights and siren and began pursuing the vehicle. A short distance later, the vehicle was stopped, and the operator and sole occupant was arrested for several violations including; recreation trespassing, attempt to take a deer from a motor vehicle, and other violations. Sgt. DePew was assisted at the scene by CO Sidney Collins, Sgt. Mike Mshar, and the Otsego County Sheriff's Department.

COs Sidney Collins and Jessica Curtis interviewed a subject for buying a kill-tag the day after shooting a deer. The COs received a complaint of a man who shot two 6-point bucks. After further investigation, it was determined the subject shot a 6-point and an 8-point. However, the tag for the 6-point was bought the day after the kill. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Sklba and Sidney Collins worked with the Montmorency County Sheriff's Department and the Presque Isle County Sheriff's Department on an investigation involving stolen items from state land. Subjects stole hunting items from blinds placed out on state land. The subjects have been apprehended. Enforcement action was taken. CO Sidney Collins and Sgt. Mike Mshar worked on a trespass case that involved a cow elk hunter. An elk hunter shot a cow elk on private property. After shooting the animal they realized they were on private property that was clearly marked with signs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jessie Curtis received a call from the Report All Poaching (RAP) line regarding a turkey that would not let the woman walk outside of her home without running at her. The turkey's actions scared the woman, so she requested the help of a conservation officer. CO Curtis found the turkey laying on the woman's front porch in the city of Alpena. The turkey was relocated and is now out of the city.

CO Jessie Curtis received a complaint from the RAP line of a subject shooting a rifle from inside his vehicle in the Long Swamp area of Alpena County after dark. The subject was on a snowmobile trail, so the complainant had locked the gate keeping them inside. In the ten minutes it took CO Curtis to arrive, the subjects had cut the lock and fled the scene. Investigation is ongoing.

COs Jessie Curtis, Matt Theunick, Sidney Collins, Jon Sklba, and many other local COs attended the elk orientation for the December elk hunt. The elk orientation is mandatory for all elk hunters who wish to hunt during the second hunt season. There were approximately 100 hunters and many hunting guides that attended.

DISTRICT 4

CO Amanda Lake has continued to work on cases that originated during the past deer season. In one case, she submitted a report to the prosecutor and the suspect was charged with taking an over-limit of antlered deer. The suspect's brother was also charged with the loan/borrow of a deer license. In a separate case, CO Lake submitted a search warrant for the suspect's Facebook account and is awaiting results to determine how many deer were taken prior to purchasing hunting licenses.

CO Troy Ludwig received a complaint of an individual illegally taking a deer outside of the firearm deer season. CO Ludwig was able to collect biological evidence at both the locations where the deer was shot and later transported to for processing. The CO obtained two cellular phone record search warrants for the suspects and is awaiting lab results for the biological evidence collected. The investigation is ongoing.

At the request of the Wexford County Prosecutor's office, CO Troy Ludwig began writing a report for a citation he had previously issued for an over-limit of bait. The CO was able to locate an additional suspect that had also been hunting the location and discovered that the hunter was buying resident licenses, even though he resides in North Carolina. The suspect was also receiving the license for free because he claimed 100% disabled veteran status. The investigation is ongoing, and charges will be sought against the second suspect.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, while on patrol in northern Newaygo County, came across a vehicle sitting in a very remote area overlooking a valley. As CO Killingbeck approached the vehicle, he observed a subject sitting in the driver's seat with the driver's side window down. CO Killingbeck contacted a very nervous acting hunter who said that he was just warming up from hunting. CO Killingbeck looked around the vehicle and saw no foot prints in the snow. CO Killingbeck asked the subject where his gun was, and the subject said, "In the back." CO Killingbeck looked through a back window and observed an uncased rifle in the back seat. CO Killingbeck determined that the rifle was loaded and obtained a confession from the subject that he was hunting from his vehicle because "its cold outside." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski located a large bait pile, several cut pine trees near a tree stand, and a ground blind with no name on it while working public land during muzzleloader season. Following up a few days later, CO Publiski located a hunter hunting over the bait in the ground blind. The hunter denied putting out any bait, denied ownership of the blind, and wasn't sure who cut the trees and placed them around the blind. While talking to the subject, CO Publiski noticed a small high-powered flashlight taped to the subject's bow, just underneath the front site. CO Publiski pointed out the flashlight to the subject and explained his experience with people with flash lights taped to their bows is that they generally shooting deer after legal hunting hours. The subject had no clear answer for the flashlight. CO Publiski asked the subject for his hunting license, which was in his truck. Returning to the truck, the subject had problems finding his deer license as both were removed from the clear license backing. The subject handed CO Publiski a license already affixed to a string covered in blood and deer hair. CO Publiski asked the subject about the deer tag and the subject denied shooting a deer with the license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded on a medical emergency where an elderly man had become unconscious. Upon arrival, CO Ginn was able to determine the man was in cardiac arrest. CO Ginn applied an Automated External Defibrillator which delivered a shock, then he began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation prior to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrival. EMS reported the man had a slight pulse and was attempting to breathe on his own while still on scene. The man was transported to a Grand Rapids hospital where he is expected to recover.

CO Jeff Ginn was working late when he observed a vehicle using its headlights to shine deer. Upon making a traffic stop, CO Ginn discovered the driver was operating on a suspended license. Both occupants were in possession of alcohol as well. No weapons were located within the vehicle and they were cited for the violations.

CO Mike Wells received information of a subject in Mecosta County that had taken two large bucks while shining at night. CO Wells began to work the area and on one particular night he was set up surveying an area that he believed the subject may be frequenting. At around 2:30 am, CO Wells spotted the suspect's vehicle. It appeared that the suspect had already been out and was heading back to his residence. CO Wells observed the vehicle commit a traffic infraction and used this to conduct a traffic stop on the suspect. CO Wells contacted the subject and discovered an untagged 8-point buck in the bed of the truck and a loaded firearm in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. CO Wells interviewed the subject and was able to obtain an admission that the subject had taken a total of three antlered deer this season. A total of two firearms were seized along with the 8-point deer in the truck and a 10-point head from the suspects residence. A citation was issued to the subject for taking an over-limit of antlered deer and for a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. Warning was issued for the transport of the untagged deer.

CO Mike Wells received information regarding a subject in Mecosta County that had taken several deer and not tagged them. CO Wells went to the residence of this suspect

and observed an antlerless deer hanging, along with another antlerless deer head and an antlered deer head on the ground next to the hanging deer. All three deer appeared to be tagged. CO Wells discovered that no one was home at the residence. CO Wells returned the next day and contacted the suspect and spoke with him regarding the deer. Inspection of the three deer revealed that all the kill-tags involved belonged to other hunters and not the suspect. The suspect advised that he processes his friend's deer. CO Wells left the residence and followed-up with the tag owners discovering that two of the hunters had not taken the deer at the suspect's residence. CO Wells returned to the suspect's residence and informed him of his findings. The suspect gave admission to shooting the antlered deer and using his brother's kill-tag on the deer. The suspect strongly denied the taking of the second deer and stated that he did not know who harvested that deer. Both deer heads were seized, and the suspect was issued a citation for the unlawful possession of both deer. It was determined that the deer hanging was taken by the hunter that had tagged it.

CO Mike Wells was en-route to a complaint in Oceana County when he observed a vehicle stopped alongside a dirt road with its brake lights on. The vehicle was stopped for several minutes and then it proceeded north bound and turned into what CO Wells believed was a driveway, a short distance from where it had stopped. CO Wells found this activity strange and proceeded toward the driveway. The vehicle then came back out and turned toward CO Wells. Contact was made with the vehicle and an uncased shotgun was observed on the floor of the rear seat of the SUV. CO Wells asked the subject if he had any firearms in the vehicle and the subject admitted to the presence of the shotgun. CO Wells asked the subject for the ammunition to the firearm and the subject produced one round of shotgun slug ammunition. Further checks on the subject revealed an outstanding warrant out of a neighboring county. CO Wells issued the subject a citation for the uncased firearm and arrested the subject on the outstanding warrant.

CO Wells received a complaint of illegal baiting of deer in Newaygo County. CO Wells conducted foot patrol of the area mentioned and located one ladder stand with two separate carrot piles at it. CO Wells went to the residence that he believed was responsible for the baiting and contacted a male subject. CO Wells inquired as to deer hunting success and the subject advised he had taken two antlerless deer and an antlered deer. The subject stated that the antlered deer had been shot by someone else and wounded along a roadway. He stated that he finished off the deer with his firearm and brought it home. The subject readily admitted that he did not tag the buck because it was going to die anyway. CO Wells asked the subject if the deer were at the residence and the subject stated they were and escorted CO Wells to the garage displaying the three processed deer. Further interview revealed that the subject shot one of the antlerless deer yesterday and did not tag it. Citation was issued to the subject for failing to tag the deer. The subject advised that the baited stand in the back was right on the property line and belonged to his neighbor. Follow-up on the bait is pending.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn located a car that matched a description from a BOL in Kalkaska County. The driver was wanted on a child abduction charge out of Wexford County. CO Hearn, with assistance from the Kalkaska County Sheriff Department, stopped the vehicle and was able to effect the arrest of the suspect. The two girls were located safe in the back seat of the car. During a search of the suspect, a loaded handgun was in his waistline. The suspect was turned over to Cadillac PD.

CO Charlie Jones received a complaint from Kalkaska County Central Dispatch of three horses that had escaped from their pasture and were harassing ice fishermen on Manistee Lake in Kalkaska County. When CO Jones arrived on scene the horses were off the ice and had run into the backyard of a local residence. CO Jones had the local fire department dispatched to assist with traffic control. After an hour, the owners arrived, and the horses were taken home without further incident.

CO Matthew Zultak stopped a vehicle traveling over 100 mph on I-75 in Bay County while traveling back from Belle Isle. The driver of the vehicle was found to be operating while intoxicated and in possession of a loaded rifle. The firearm was seized as evidence. The man was arrested for the violations and lodged in the Bay County jail.

COs Jeremy Cantrell, Micah Hintze, and Lieutenant Brandon Kieft participated in the "Shop with a Hero" event at the Walmart in Houghton Lake. The COs assisted with Christmas shopping for approximately 50 children. The program gives local law enforcement the ability to give back to the community during the holiday season as well as bond with youth in the area.

While conducting a commercial deer processor inspection in Iosco County, CO Tyler Sabuda noticed a buck with a tag that was purchased at an odd time. CO Sabuda followed up on the case and interviewed the individual that harvested the deer. He obtained a confession from the hunter for shooting the deer without a license. Charges are being sought through the Iosco County Prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 6

CO John Byars noticed a vehicle dragging its muffler and had a very loud exhaust. Concerned for safety reasons, the CO conducted a traffic stop and determined the driver was suspended and on parole. The passenger had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest out of Bay City for contempt of court. The driver was arrested for driving while license suspended (eighth offense), the plate was seized, and a temporary plate was issued. The passenger's warrant was confirmed, and he was placed into custody and turned over to Bay City Police Department.

CO Josh Jackson received a complaint of a subject littering on state land. The caller advised the CO that he witnessed a man dumping plastic waste and other miscellaneous items on state land near West Branch Fish Creek. The caller was able to provide a license plate that led CO Jackson to the suspect's house. The suspect

admitted to littering on state land and agreed to clean up his mess. A citation was issued for littering.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling Montcalm County when he observed two vehicles parked near the Edmore State Game Area (SGA). As the CO was checking tracks leading into the SGA, he heard a gunshot. CO Russell followed the footprints into the woods and located a subject hunting without hunter orange. The subject was hunting in a tree stand that did not have a name and address on it and had been there for several years. A citation was issued to the hunter.

CO Adam Beuthin was on patrol in the Gratiot-Saginaw SGA in Gratiot County checking deer hunters, when he contacted a group of three hunters one hour after hunting hours had ended. Two of the hunters had loaded firearms. When the CO asked why they had their firearms loaded, one of the hunters stated, "We could be attacked by a coyote." A ticket was issued.

While patrolling the Verona SGA, COs Robert Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz observed a vehicle travelling at a very slow speed. The vehicle then made a turn without signaling. The COs then stopped the vehicle and once contact was made with the driver it was learned that his driver's license was revoked. A citation was issued to the driver for operating his vehicle while his license was revoked, and arrangements were made for a licensed driver to get the vehicle home.

CO Mark Siemen while checking fishermen in the Lexington Harbor noticed a truck that had an over the limit of Canada geese in the back along with other waterfowl. CO Siemen located the owner of the truck and spoke with him about the geese. After the investigation was complete the subject was issued a citation for the geese.

CO Mike Haas had been working a complaint for quite some time with no luck of catching the individual that was tearing up state land in Midland County with a large "Mudder" truck. CO Haas was working that piece of state land one day and heard a large truck accelerating and he also observed a large rooster-tail of mud shooting up in the air. CO Haas caught up with the operator of the vehicle and educated him on his disregard for state land. The driver also had no insurance on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Isabella County, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were called to a trespassing and illegal bait complaint. The COs arrived and spoke with the complainants who said that they witnessed two people walking across their posted property wearing hunter orange and carrying rifles. The subject also mentioned there was a bait pile located near the stand the hunters had left from. Later that day CO Robinson went out on foot and located cleared ground where the temporary blind was placed and located a pile of apples. Interviews were conducted, and the trespassers were identified. The case is being turned over to the Prosecutors office for review.

DISTRICT 7

CO Sam Schluckbier received a complaint of two bucks shot by a husband and wife in Allegan County who posted the information on social media. In the posted photographs, neither deer was tagged, and the individuals were not wearing hunter orange. CO Schluckbier interviewed both subjects at their home. During the interview the female hunter admitted to not purchasing a hunting license this season. However, she decided to go hunting on opening day of firearm deer season and shot a 5-point buck. The male hunter also confessed to shooting a doe and small buck during archery deer season. He then reused a kill-tag to illegally take an 8-point buck during late archery season. The deer were confiscated, and charges are being sought for the multiple violations.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol near the Buchanan dam along the St. Joseph River when he noticed a vessel in a restricted area beyond the buoys near the dam. CO Bauer contacted the operator of the vessel. Further investigation revealed the vessel was not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten responded to a complaint of a subject who had a live snapping turtle in possession. When CO Patten arrived at the suspect's residence, he found a live snapping turtle in a plastic tote outside with temperatures in the twenties. CO Patten seized the turtle and released it in a nearby lake. The 40-year-old person in possession of the turtle claimed that he had raised it from an egg and that he had it for forty years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez was on patrol one evening when he noticed a vehicle approximately a quarter mile away shining a large cut corn field. CO Perez initiated a stop and contacted the driver. CO Perez asked him if he had been hunting earlier. He said he worked at a nearby factory and was on his lunch break and liked to shine for animals. CO Perez asked him if he had any weapons in the vehicle and he said he had a handgun in a case underneath the front passenger seat and an uncased crossbow in the rear of the vehicle. The subject had valid deer hunting licenses. The subject was informed that shining during the month of November was prohibited and you can never shine with a weapon in possession. The handgun was unloaded and secured in a case. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Andrew Monnich received a call from CO Eric Smither who was not working at the time about some garbage bags containing deer parts on a road in Lenawee County. CO Monnich responded to the area and located several bags containing a total of three deer. CO Monnich was able to locate a pile of mail that was frozen to the deer carcasses. On one piece of mail was the individual's brand-new proof of registration for a vehicle. COs Monnich and Smither were able to contact the owner who admitted to being lazy and dumping the bags. A citation for littering was issued and the subject went back to the location and cleaned the mess up.

CO Eric Smither received a RAP complaint about a deer carcass that had been dumped along the road in Lenawee County. CO Smither located the carcass and was able to find a kill-tag still attached to a leg, he ran the number from the kill-tag and was able to get the name and address. CO Smither contacted the owner of the deer tag and, after a short interview, the hunter confessed he dumped the carcass thinking coyotes would drag it off. A citation was issued for littering and the carcass was disposed of properly.

CO Brandon Hartleben responded to a three-car head-on fatal accident along N. Territorial Road in Washtenaw County. CO Hartleben began medical assessments of the subjects involved and initial interviews with witnesses. EMS, Dexter Fire, and Washtenaw County Sheriff's deputies arrived on scene shortly thereafter and took over the scene and began extricating and transporting patients. CO Hartleben assisted on scene with traffic control until the medical examiner and Sheriff's Office command arrived on scene.

CO Jeff Goss was en-route to a trespass complaint when he observed a man driving a tractor with a bucket full of deer carcasses. CO Goss stopped to talk to the man about the carcasses. When asked about deer tags, he said "I'm going to be completely honest with you. I shot both bucks opening morning and never tagged them, my tags are still in my wallet." CO Goss thanked the man for his honesty and explained that he needed to see his tags and the antlers from the deer. The man went to his truck and provided both of his unused buck tags. He then led CO Goss to the barn and lifted the garage door. CO Goss observed the man's father cutting up a deer. CO Goss asked if that deer was tagged and the father said not yet as he reached for his wallet. Both men were issued tickets for possession of untagged deer.

CO Nick Wellman was on patrol in Branch County when a vehicle pursuit from Indiana came out over the radio. CO Wellman headed towards the area of the pursuit but before he arrived, the fleeing vehicle crashed, and the driver took off on foot into a wooded area. While waiting on the perimeter, CO Wellman was flagged down by a man who told CO Wellman he had watched the suspect lay down in the southeast corner of the woodlot. This information was relayed, and an MSP K9 unit responded. The suspect was found almost immediately and taken into custody without further incident.

CO Nick Wellman was investigating a carcass dumping complaint when he decided to question a nearby neighbor about the matter. The neighbor didn't know anything about the dumping but was very willing to chat with CO Wellman about his deer season. The man stated both his nephews had killed bucks with their guns. CO Wellman recognized the names of his nephews from an earlier complaint and asked to see pictures of the deer. Upon seeing pictures, CO Wellman did a quick Retail Sales System check to verify his suspicion of the one nephew not having a buck tag. Just as he thought, the nephew only had purchased an antlerless tag for 2018. CO Wellman then asked the man if he knew who tagged the buck for his nephew as the nephew didn't have a buck tag. The man quickly admitted that he was the one who tagged the buck and he knew it was wrong. The antlers and a full confession were received from both the man and his nephew, and a report will be submitted to the Branch County Prosecutor's office.

CO Todd Thorn assisted Meridian Township PD with a 911 call of possible hunters stuck in a field with their trucks. An investigation ensued and resulted in finding that one of the men was a felon hunting with a .308 caliber rifle in the limited firearm deer zone, he had shot a deer without having a valid license, and the deer was found untagged inside his SUV. The hunter was lodged at the Ingham County jail and charges will be sought through the Ingham County Prosecutor's office.

CO Katie Stawara attended the 'Shop with a Hero' event held at the Meijer store in Corunna. CO Stawara was accompanied by approximately 35 other first responders at the event. Together they assisted 27 children shop for Christmas presents using a \$100 gift card presented by Meijer. After shopping, the first responders ate dinner with the children and their parents.

CO Katie Stawara attended an event called "Fish Like a Girl," held at Haslett Elementary School. 18 women ranging from the age of 14 to 65 years old attended the event. The group spent a day learning about fishing gear, tactics, how to clean and cook fillets, species identification, and more.

DISTRICT 9

CO Joseph Deppen observed two waterfowl hunters on Lake Huron in St. Clair County. CO Deppen decided to observe the hunters before making contact. During CO Deppen's observation the first hunter was successful in shooting three ducks over the course of an hour. The second hunter shot his limit of six ducks but stayed in the layout boat while the tender boat was attempting to pick up the sixth duck. The hunter in the layout boat shot a seventh duck, putting him over the legal daily limit for waterfowl. After the seventh duck was shot, the hunters swapped out. Later in the hunt, the hunter who was already over his limit pulled up and shot at two more ducks coming into the spread. He missed both ducks. CO Deppen met the waterfowl hunters at the launch and they excitedly exclaimed they had their limit. CO Deppen explained to the hunters you cannot party hunt and you can only shoot your own daily limit. The waterfowl hunter who shot seven ducks claimed he thought he was only at five ducks and did not know how to accurately keep track of the ducks he shot. The hunters were also educated on the importance of not having a loaded firearm in a motorized boat, not shooting under power, and using navigation lights while transiting to their hunting location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson was patrolling the Blue Water Bridge Area in St. Clair County observing waterfowl hunters, when a hunting group caught his attention. CO Watson observed the group of hunters for roughly 45 minutes and was about to leave the area, convinced the hunters were following all rules and regulations, when they began shooting at ducks while under power in their boat. CO Watson continued to watch the hunters who eventually shot at multiple rafts of ducks while their boat was still on plane

and travelling at a high rate of speed. CO Watson made contact and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol when he spotted a duck hunter hunting very close to shore and what looked to be in the safety zone of a nearby residence. CO Silorey got into a position to get a better view of the hunter and was able to use his range finder to determine that the hunter was well within the safety zone. The hunter even took out his own range finder and shot the distance and continued to hunt. CO Silorey was then contacted by one of the home owners who was also concerned about the hunter's distance. Just as CO Silorey was speaking with the complainant, a flock of geese flew over and the hunter shot in the direction of CO Silorey and the complainant. Luckily no one was hit. CO Silorey then went over to the hunter's location and contacted him. The hunter stated that it was his first time hunting the area and that he knew he was within the safety zone. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey checked a hunting location where excessive baiting was occurring. The Macomb County officers had been trying to catch the subject hunting for two seasons. The subject was finally found with a cocked crossbow in hand. While the subject showed CO Kiel his hunting license, CO Silorey inspected the crossbow and found it to have a night-vision scope. During the interview, the subject was asked how many years he had been hunting/trespassing on the property. The subject lied and said only this year. The COs questioned him again and the subject admitted to four seasons. When asked about how many deer he has taken on the property over the past four seasons, the subject's story changed multiple times. CO Silorey asked the subject if he would show pictures of his deer from his cell phone. The subject agreed, and the officers found multiple years where the subject took three bucks. The COs followed the subject to his residence where he produced more than 20 European mounted racks and shoulder mounted deer. The racks and mounted deer heads were matched up with photos on the subject's cell phone. It was found that the subject had taken an over-limit of bucks, four years in a row and borrowed licenses of another. The illegally taken deer mounts were seized and a report will be submitted to the prosecutor. COs Pat Hartsig and Mark Siemen followed-up on a complaint of an individual taking too many deer. An interview of subjects led the COs to a local processor. The processor was unlicensed among many other issues. While at the processor, the COs found many bucks that were never tagged and some that had tagging violations. The deer were seized, and enforcement action taken.

CO Nick Ingersoll worked in conjunction with Monroe County Sheriff's office and local law enforcement agencies in the annual "Shop with a Hero" event for children. CO Ingersoll contacted approximately thirty plus smiling children who were very thankful to the law enforcement community.

CO Nick Ingersoll was assisting Monroe County Sheriff's Department with a possible in progress domestic violence situation. While the deputies were interviewing the victim, CO Ingersoll spotted a vehicle matching the description of the suspect's vehicle slowly drive up to where the officers were sitting and turn around in a driveway and head the

opposite direction. CO Ingersoll along with the deputy were able to stop the vehicle after it ran a stop sign. The officers interviewed the suspect and it was determined that he was in violation of his bond conditions. Enforcement Action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger encountered a group of hunters returning to the dock after waterfowl hunting. While the CO was checking licenses, it was discovered one of the hunters did not have a waterfowl hunting license, another did not have a federal duck stamp, and another was in possession of two shotguns. The operator of the vessel was also unable to provide the required number of Personal Floatation Devices. Enforcement action was taken.

In Oakland County, CO Jacob Griffin received a complaint that two subjects trespassed on private property while hunting. While investigating the complaint CO Griffin discovered that an 8-point buck was taken by the two subjects. After identifying the two subjects from trail camera photos, CO Griffin discovered several violations. One of the subjects identified was a convicted felon on parole. CO Griffin contacted the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) parole agent in charge of the subject. When the parole agent questioned the subject about the trespassing and being in possession of a firearm, the subject initially denied the accusations. After the subject was reminded, he was tethered with a GPS tracker, he decided to cooperate. CO Griffin, Sgt. Jason Becker, and MDOC officers escorted the subject back to the residence to look at where the deer was taken and speak with the other subject involved. CO Griffin will be submitting a report to the prosecutor for multiple violations including unlawfully possessing a firearm, hunting within a safety zone, and taking a deer without a license.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Griffin received a tip that one subject may have unlawfully taken an 8-point antlered deer while trespassing. CO Griffin only received a partial name but decided to investigate further. Following a thorough investigation, CO Griffin found the location of the deer and the subject's information. Upon interviewing the subject, CO Griffin explained the timeline given by the subject regarding his hunt did not add up. Due to the subject not cooperating, CO Griffin looked deeper into the information he had. Although it was discovered the subject was not trespassing at the time the deer was taken, CO Griffin obtained photos of the subject with the deer. The information obtained revealed the subject was not licensed to hunt when he shot the antlered deer. CO Griffin informed the subject the penalties for taking an 8-point antlered deer unlawfully in the state of Michigan include up to 90 days in jail, up to a \$1,000.00 fine, \$6,000.00 of restitution to the state of Michigan, five years of hunting license revocation, and confiscation of hunting equipment used. The deer was seized, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Danielle Zubek received a RAP complaint of a subject that possibly shot a deer without a license. CO Zubek interviewed the subject and his father that were pictured on social media with deer. During the interview, CO Zubek learned that the father and son shot three bucks, and 8-point, 6-point and a spike buck. A single deer license was purchased by the son after the deer were harvested because he wanted to take the 8-

point to a taxidermist to be mounted. Warrants have been submitted to the prosecutor's office.

BELLE ISLE

COs Bobby Watson and Phil Hudson worked Belle Isle B3 shifts this week. One early morning contact was made with one subject who snuck onto the island at approximately 1:00 am and was going to find a place to park and drink some beer. The subject lacked a valid driver's license. Enforcement Action was taken.

While patrolling Belle Isle COs Ben Lasher and CO Steven Converse were dispatched to a suicidal female on McArthur Bridge, threatening to jump into the Detroit River. The officers were able to convince the woman to let them get her off the bridge and to go to the hospital for a mental health check. Detroit Fire transported the female to the hospital.