

**Law Enforcement Division**  
**Bi-Weekly Field Report**  
**12/3/2017 – 12/16/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes responded to a call involving a snowmobiler who had gone through the ice near Bergland. The snowmobiler went off trail, attempting to cross a stream that was covered with a thin layer of ice. CO Mapes was the first on scene and was able to get the man into the patrol truck to warm up and shed his water soaked clothes while waiting for the ambulance to arrive and evaluate the victim.

CO Ethen Mapes checked groups of anglers ice fishing on Lake Gogebic this weekend. CO Mapes checked the thickness of the ice across Bergland Bay finding it to be between 3"- 4" and slushy in spots.

Sgt. Grant Emery represented Law Enforcement Division on public TV13 NMU's "Ask the DNR", which focused on post deer season, snowmobile and fishing activities in the upper peninsula.

CO David Miller worked an ironic stolen trap complaint in Baraga County. The complainant, whose trap was stolen, had collected a unique hat and sunglasses left at the scene of the trap theft. Later in the week, the complainant, while wearing the same unique hat and sunglasses, was confronted by the suspect for stealing his hat and sunglasses. The trap thief's identity was reported to CO Miller who made contact and conducted an interview. When questioned, the suspect admitted to taking the trap, but only because he got his hand stuck in the 330 body gripping trap that was set legally – 4 feet off the ground on private property. Law enforcement action was taken and the trap was returned to the owner.

CO Ethen Mapes was on patrol near Bergland when a group of snowmobilers could be heard coming from a long ways away. CO Mapes stopped the snowmobilers who were riding on the highway. Law enforcement action was taken for operating a snowmobile on the plowed portion of a state highway and all were educated on exceeding the 88 decibel sound limit.

CO Doug Hermanson contacted several snowmobilers over the weekend and dealt with a variety of violations i.e. fail to attach snowmobile trail permits, no snowmobile trail permit, failure to transfer snowmobile registration ownership and failure to stop snowmobile before crossing roadway.

CO Brian Bacon was on patrol in Gogebic County when he came across a late season muzzle loader hunter. It was quickly discovered the hunter was in violation of the hunter orange law. The hunter did have an orange hat in his pocket, and a discussion was

held as to why the hunter needed to have the hat on his head and not in his pocket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Brian Bacon conducted a patrol in Iron County for early ice fishing activity. A check of one group found multiple violations including fishing without a license, fishing with more than three lines, failure to identify tip-ups and failure to properly identify a shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy attended the yearly bear forum held in St. Ignace.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremey Sergey conducted several taxidermy inspections within their work area. Several taxidermy-related violations were addressed including inaccurate records and licensing. A black bear was found without a valid seal or record. The bear was seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey received a complaint of a hunter taking multiple deer at night in both Wisconsin and Michigan without a license. The investigation, in conjunction with Wisconsin DNR, is ongoing.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey responded to a traffic stop where a state police trooper had discovered a driver with eight Canada Geese. Interviews with the suspect and other parties revealed that the geese may have been taken by three individuals. The geese were not marked with the hunter's information as required by law. Enforcement action was taken for the transportation violation.

CO Jeremy Sergey investigated an over baiting complaint. CO Sergey, while in the complaint area, contacted an individual on an ORV as he drove and asked if the blind was his. The individual said, "No, I'm headed out to my own blind." CO Sergey followed the individual to his blind and saw that he also had a bait pile several gallons over the legal limit. Ultimately CO Sergey located a total of three blinds in the area that had overlimits of bait placed. Law enforcement action was taken on all three individuals.

CO Jeremy Sergey received information that an individual had shot an 8-point buck without a license and tagged the buck with his father's license. CO Sergey was able to determine that the father had purchased a deer license this year and the son had not purchased a license for several years. CO Sergey and CO Jeff Dell conducted an interview and the individual confessed that he had shot the deer and did not purchase a license. The 8-point buck was seized and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge observed a group of anglers using multiple ice shanties on an inland lake in Marquette County. Watching from the shoreline, CO DeLonge observed several of the anglers in the group set multiple tip-ups and once the group was settled in their shanty CO DeLonge approached the group. Upon contact with the larger ice shanty, the anglers thought CO DeLonge was one of their buddies coming to chat and opened the door. Once the anglers knew CO DeLonge was visiting them, all three anglers set their ice rods down. After talking with the group and conducting a quick check, CO

DeLonge learned that one angler did not have a fishing license, nor had he ever purchased a fishing license. The angler admitted that he was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeff Dell investigated the illegal killing of a 9-point buck. The COs conducted an interview and the individual confessed to purchasing a license after he shot the deer. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeff Dell were patrolling state land in Menominee County when they came across two individuals training their dogs for a dog sled race. The individuals had their dogs hooked up to a four-wheeler and stated they try to leave it in neutral while the dogs pull them, but occasionally they must put the four-wheeler in gear and drive it under its own power to get through the snow. The COs noticed the individuals did not have a current ORV license or helmets. The COs used this opportunity to educate the two individuals on the importance of wearing a helmet while the four-wheeler is being operated under its own power and the legal requirement of a current ORV license while operating on state land.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey conducted multiple taxidermy inspections. The COs observed numerous violations including inaccurate record keeping, and practicing taxidermy without a valid license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey were exiting a taxidermist shop after completing their inspection when they were met by an individual bringing a deer head and cape in to be mounted. The COs noticed the deer was not tagged and asked the man where he had taken the deer. The man informed them that it was shot in Wisconsin. The COs asked if the brain matter had been removed from the skull. The man stated he did not know. A quick inspection of the deer showed that it had not been cleared of brain matter. The COs explained the importance of cleaning out the brain matter to stop the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The deer was seized and sent for testing, and the man received a citation for violating Michigan's CWD importation laws.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey were patrolling when they noticed several juveniles riding snowmobiles on private property. One individual appeared to be stuck. The COs stopped and assisted the rider in getting his snowmobile unstuck and back to having fun.

## **DISTRICT 2**

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson were on patrol when they noticed a vehicle parked off the road. A scan of the vehicle revealed a scoped rifle case that was open and fresh footprints in the snow leading from the vehicle. The COs followed the tracks for about a mile on deer runways and through deer bedding areas. The COs observed the hunter not wearing hunters orange looking through the scope of his 30-06 rifle. Upon contact and asking the hunter for his hunting license and ID, the hunter stated it was back at his vehicle and that he wasn't hunting. He stated he was just checking his cameras for deer

signs and carrying his gun for protection or in case he saw a coyote. The COs walked with the subject back to his truck to retrieve his licenses. The subject was asked if he had any other weapons on him and he stated he was carrying a concealed .45 pistol but didn't have his CPL with him and forgot to notify the COs when they contacted him that he was conceal carrying. At the subjects' vehicle they met up with CO Mark Zitnik. The subject showed the COs his hunting combo deer license and the regular combo tag was missing. The subject stated he shot a 4-point fork horn and that the deer was back at his dad's house. COs Lynch and Watson went to the dad's house with the subject to retrieve the deer due to the antler point violation. With that deer were three other deer which were also in violation of the antler point restrictions. Two of the deer were his dad's and one was his younger brother's. Contact with the dad and brother were made and confessions were received on all the deer in violation. Evidence was seized and warrant requests will be submitted through the Delta County Prosecutor's Office on all three subjects for the violations.

COs Chris Lynch and Bobby Watson were doing follow-up interviews from meat processor inspections when an 8-point buck was noticed with a suspicious license purchase. An investigation led to the hunter confessing to shooting the deer without a license and buying his license after the fact. Enforcement action was taken for the illegal deer.

COs Bobby Watson, Chris Lynch, and Mark Zitnik were on patrol when a complaint was received regarding an ORV disregarding a berm and travelling in a closed area to access a tree stand. The COs walked approximately 1.5 miles to contact the hunter. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn participated in the annual "shop with a cop" in Manistique. CO Freeborn, along with local, county, city, tribal and MSP officers were assigned a child in need to pick up at their residence. The officers then brought the child to a local diner where they could pick a breakfast of their choice. The children were then transported to the local ShopKo where they were given \$150 dollars to spend on Christmas presents for themselves and family. After the shopping trip, they were treated to a movie at the local movie theater along with snacks and a drink. While the movie was playing, the officers wrapped the presents. This program was made possible by donations from the community as well as the donations by the local business involved.

CO Robert Freeborn received a tip of a suspicious 8-point from CO Calvin Smith that needed further investigation. It was determined that a subject had shot a deer and currently did not have a valid Michigan hunting license but had a picture of his deer with a state tag on it. CO Freeborn was able to determine that the suspect was a tribal member and verified he had not purchased a Michigan hunting license. COs Freeborn and Michael Evink were able to locate the subject at his residence. After an interview with the subject, the subject confessed he used his buddy's state tag because he had already filled his tribal antlered tags prior to shooting the 8-point, therefore taking an over limit of antlered deer. The deer was seized and turned over to Sault Tribal Police

for prosecution. Enforcement action was taken on the non-tribal member for loaning a license.

CO Brett Gustafson has received several complaints about trespassing by coyote hunters. CO Gustafson has met with several land owners and advised on proper posting of their land and continues to work the area for violations.

CO Brett Gustafson signed warrants for hunter harassment for an incident that occurred during waterfowl season. The suspect in the case motored through the complainant's decoys on the opening morning of the waterfowl season numerous times playing the radio on his pontoon boat loudly along with other harassing behavior.

CO Brett Gustafson attended the 911 Symposium for first responders, held in St Ignace. Numerous agencies attended and plans for different emergency responses were discussed.

CO Kevin Postma was checking deer yards south of M-134 in Mackinac County. CO Postma made contact with two coyote hunters heading to set up and start calling in the same area. After a brief conversation, CO Postma asked the hunters if he could check their guns. The driver of the vehicle advised he could but they were loaded. CO Postma then observed two uncased and loaded rifles in the back seat of the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle then asked CO Postma for a break. CO Postma asked the driver if he remembered the break he gave him for the same thing seven years ago. The driver advised, "Oh yeah, that's right." No break was given this time.

COs Colton Gelinis and Calvin Smith interviewed a subject who shot a deer during the firearm deer season and purchased his hunting license after the fact. A confession was obtained and the deer was seized. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg received an anonymous complaint in regards to shooting deer at night. CO Oberg went to the location of the residence late at night and located a hand-held work light hanging from a tree shining onto a bait pile. CO Oberg made contact with the owners of the residence. After a short interview with the husband and wife, CO Oberg received a confession from the wife, who is a member of Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, stating she shot at a doe late at night a couple days prior but missed it. After further investigation, CO Oberg received confessions that both the husband and wife shot deer in November in Delta County and neither of them ever purchased licenses. CO Oberg seized evidence in regards to the non-tribal suspect and turned over all other information to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement pertaining to the tribal member. A report will be sent to the Delta County Prosecutor's Office for a warrant request.

CO Colton Gelinis was on patrol in Mackinac County when he came across a parked vehicle. CO Gelinis observed the driver of the vehicle slumped over the center console, not knowing the well-being of the driver CO Gelinis attempted to wake the driver up by knocking on the window and hood of the vehicle. After several knocks, CO Gelinis made contact with the driver who was found to be under the influence of alcohol. After

further investigation and field sobriety tests, CO Gelinas placed the driver under arrest for operating while intoxicated. The driver was lodged at the Mackinac County Jail.

COs Calvin Smith, Tom Oberg, Kevin Postma and Sgt. Mike Hammill assisted DEQ with a security detail in St. Ignace. The meeting was open to the public and the topic was the oil pipeline which runs under the Mackinac Bridge and the recent proposals for change by Enbridge. The meeting went on without incident.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Nathan Sink was on patrol in Otsego County when he witnessed two snowmobiles fail to stop at a stop sign. CO Sink was able to track them down to conduct a stop. Upon approaching the two snowmobilers, one of the individuals stated he knew the drill and to write him a ticket, so he could be on his way. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Nathan Sink and CO Kyle Cherry were on patrol in Otsego County when a call came across central dispatch of a vehicle rolled over in the ditch and an individual trapped inside the vehicle. CO Sink and CO Cherry responded to the call to assist Michigan State Police. All individuals received medical treatment and were okay.

COs Nathan Sink and CO Kyle Cherry were working a snowmobile patrol in Otsego County when they pulled over two snowmobiles for not having a trail permit. Both individuals stated they knew they needed trail permits and were going to get them after they spent the day riding the trails. A further check through central dispatched revealed one of the individuals was suspended from driving. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Cherry and Nathan Sink conducted a weekend snowmobile patrol in Otsego County. Multiple violations were addressed including careless operation, operating while license suspended, trail permit issues, and failure to register snowmobiles.

CO Tim Rosochacki assisted Cheboygan County Sheriff and Michigan State Police on south bound I-75 for a personal injury accident. The expressway was shut down for several hours.

CO Tim Rosochacki completed a meat processor inspection in Cheboygan County. While conducting the inspection, CO Rosochacki located an invalidated kill tag on a doe whitetail deer. The information on the tag came back to female, who had not purchased deer tags for many years. The suspect confessed to giving her husband the tag and allowing him to shoot the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick completed a processor inspection in Cheboygan County. While checking the deer, one of the COs noted the date purchased on the kill tag was different than when the deer was checked into the processor. Contact was made with the hunter who reported shooting the deer first, then took the deer to the processor and then purchased the kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

The local COs attended the December Elk Hunt Orientation held in Johannesburg, Otsego County. Over 100 elk hunters attended. The COs taught the law portion of the orientation that is required by law for each elk hunter to attend.

COs Paul Fox and Jon Sklba have responded to multiple car-elk collisions in Presque Isle County south of Onaway. The animals are congregating near agricultural fields that have not been harvested. The COs are working with Wildlife Division to get signs posted in the area to warn motorists. The deceased animals were salvaged and the meat is donated to local food pantries.

CO Jon Sklba was patrolling in Presque Isle County when he observed a vehicle pull off to the side of the road early in the morning. After passing the vehicle, its hazard lights were activated. CO Sklba turned around to check the well-being of the vehicle's occupants. Upon contact with the vehicle's operator, it was discovered that the vehicle had ran out of gas. The driver's bad luck continued when CO Sklba checked the subject thru LEIN and his driving rights were suspended. CO Sklba was able to contact the driver's friends to bring gas and a legal driver. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc and CO Brad Bellville responded to a complaint in Otsego County, where a cow elk hunter had shot a spike bull elk. After a brief interview, it was determined that the hunter did shoot a spike bull elk. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster investigated a complaint of possible hunter harassment in Alpena County. When CO Webster went to the suspect's residence, he noticed a large bait pile behind the residence that had just been freshened up with new bait. CO Webster contacted the suspect and he admitted to placing the bait to keep the deer on his side of the property, so they would not get shot by the neighbors. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster was working in Montmorency County when he located a parked car near a gas well site. Foot prints lead from the car back down the road and into the woods. CO Webster was tracking the hunter's footprints when he noticed that it appeared the hunter was backtracking and attempting to leave the area in a hurry. CO Webster then located a bait pile with corn and the area the hunter was standing. He continued to follow the running tracks across an open area back toward his vehicle. The suspect was attempting to leave, but CO Webster was able to stop him before he entered the roadway. The hunter admitted to placing the bait and hunting over it. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Michael Mshar and CO Jon Sklba assisted Wildlife Division in attempting to locate a collared bull elk and a collared cow elk, whose collars showed a mortality signal. The animals were located after two days of searching with radio receivers. A subsequent investigation revealed that both animals were wounded by hunters and not recovered. The radio collars were retrieved and turned over to Wildlife Division.

Presque Isle, Montmorency and Alpena County COs conducted a shining flight during the November shining closure. This patrol resulted in several subjects being charged with shinning in November and possession of narcotics.

CO Nick Torsky attended a career day event at Gaylord St. Mary's High School. CO Torsky presented to three different groups totaling 40 students. He explained the hiring process and the job functions.

CO Duane Budreau received a complaint of recreational trespass where the suspect shot a 4-point in violation of the antler point restriction law in northwest Michigan. The suspect reported that he thought it was a 6-point. When CO Budreau asked for his hunting license, the subject had purchased a combination license and had already filled his regular tag. He still had the restricted tag, which meant that the only deer he would have been allowed him to harvest was a deer with 4-points or more on one side. CO Budreau seized the deer, the hunters tag, and issued him citations for the violations committed.

CO Chad Baldwin received a snowmobile trespass complaint in which multiple snowmobiles were travelling across the complainant's easement. While interviewing the complainant at his residence, several snowmobiles turned down the easement returning from an afternoon ride. CO Baldwin immediately followed the snowmobiles to their residence and interviewed the riders. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Mike Bomay responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject posting on social media of harvesting a buck and then purchasing his license that evening. Assisted by CO Troy Mueller, the subject was located and interviewed about the deer he had harvested. The validated kill tag was for the same date he shot the animal and the license was purchased after hunting hours. A citation was issued and a follow-up visit to the taxidermist was made seizing the antlers for evidence.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling the Lake/Newaygo County lines for snowmobile and coyote hunting activities. While on patrol, she observed a side-by-side operating on the County Line Road. The operator of the side-by-side spun a "doughnut" in the intersection of two roads to get turned around. Not only did CO Greenway witness this action, but another vehicle from the opposite direction was coming as well. The maneuver left ruts and obvious erosive conditions. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway was working a snowmobile patrol when she came across a snowmobile stuck in a ditch on the side of a busy roadway. The subject had called his son to come pull him out. After talking with the subject, it was discovered he did not have a helmet with him, the snowmobile did not have a current trail sticker, and he was operating on the wrong side of the roadway. CO Greenway assisted in traffic control to assist in getting the snowmobile out of the ditch and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel received a tip that a subject had shot a buck and did not tag it in Mecosta County. A follow-up investigation revealed that the subject had not purchased any deer licenses for the year. An interview of the suspect resulted in a confession for shooting the deer without a license and her father ended up putting his tag on it. The buck was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and CO Casey Varriale followed up on a suspicious deer found during a commercial deer processor inspection in Mecosta County. The tag on the buck had been purchased late in the day for which the tag was notched. A license check of the subject showed it to be her first deer license purchased and she had never taken hunter safety. Interview revealed that the woman's boyfriend actually shot the buck, then she went and purchased a license for him because he did not have a tag left for the buck. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was working at the District Office in Cadillac when a trapper brought in a bobcat to be sealed. CO Kinney was asked to get involved, because the trapper had harvested the bobcat in a unit that was currently closed to trapping. CO Kinney spoke with the trapper and obtained the location where the bobcat was harvested. CO Kinney then informed the trapper that bobcat season was not open for that particular unit. The trapper was shown in the digest the date when the unit opened. The trapper admitted to looking in the wrong location and took full responsibility for his oversight. The bobcat was seized for being taken out of season and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Osceola County, 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 Mike Wells was on patrol in Newaygo County when he observed a vehicle parked during the muzzle loading season. CO Wells surveyed the vehicle for a short time as legal hunting hours had closed. Twenty minutes after legal hunter hours, a hunter walked up to the vehicle carrying a muzzle loading rifle. The hunter was not wearing any hunter orange clothing and further checks revealed that the cap on the muzzleloader was still in place on the firearm. CO Wells spoke with the hunter regarding the loaded firearm and the hunter orange violation and the subject stated that this is his first time out hunting during muzzle loader season and that he did not realize he had to remove the cap after hours, nor did he believe he had to wear any hunter orange. CO Wells educated him regarding these matters and issued him a citation for the hunter orange violation.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a tip that there was a large pile of sugar beets behind a residence in southern Lake County. CO Killingbeck located the residence and observed a semi load of sugar beets directly behind a residence. CO Killingbeck made contact with the party responsible for the beets and was told that it was the "storage pile" that

they supply their deer blinds. While speaking with the subjects responsible, CO Killingbeck observed approximately twenty deer eating off the "storage pile." CO Killingbeck ordered them to make it inaccessible to the deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck responded with the Lake County Sheriff's Department to a report of a vehicle that was upside down in the Pere Marquette River. CO Killingbeck assisted in removing the victim from the vehicle and providing resuscitation efforts. The victim was transported to a local hospital, where the victim unfortunately passed away.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Ryan Andrews went to an address in Lake County to locate a hunter who had not validated his kill tag on a deer that CO Killingbeck located a deer processor. The residence was completely dark but after knocking several times a very nervous individual answered the door. While CO Killingbeck was speaking with the man at the door, CO Andrews located a bait pile approximately twenty feet outside of the residence. The window was open on the house facing the bait pile. As CO Killingbeck was walking back to his truck to run the subject through LEIN, the man suddenly ran into the back room near the bait pile and CO Andrews could see him fumbling with a crossbow. CO Andrews ordered the subject to drop the crossbow. The subject was not being compliant and the COs watched as the hunter took a bolt out of his crossbow. The COs were eventually able to get a confession from the subject for hunting after dark from his residence. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews investigated a complaint of a large sugar beet bait pile on private property. The bait pile was about the size of a large pick-up truck and was located approximately 20-30 yards behind a pole barn. A light had been hung above the bait pile with an extension cord running back to the barn and in through the window. The window was also facing the bait pile and there was a trail camera watching the bait pile. Before contacting the property owner, CO Andrews checked the bait pile at night on several occasions and observed six to ten deer feeding on it each time he was there. When the landowner was contacted, he stated he was trying to keep deer from feeding on the pile of sugar beets by placing them close to the barn and hanging a dim light above it. Enforcement action was taken for the baiting violation.

## **DISTRCT 5**

CO Chuck McPherson contacted an individual who was hunting over excessive deer bait in Roscommon County. The bait had been discovered prior to the September 15<sup>th</sup> start date, which was also a violation. CO McPherson had checked the area numerous times but had been unable to contact the hunter. Other violations included: failure to place name and address on tree stand and destruction of multiple trees on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Pullum responded to a complaint of a subject who was attempting to take an over limit of bucks in Ogemaw County. The man had shot both a 6-point and an 8-point

buck for the 2017 season, but was reportedly still out hunting on state land. When CO Pullum contacted the hunter, he attempted to hand CO Pullum an unused combination deer license. Further investigation led to a confession by the hunter. He had tagged one of the bucks with his wife's deer license because he didn't want his season to be over. Charges are pending review by the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Phil Hudson and Sgt. Jon Wood were conducting a routine deer season patrol when they spotted two subjects rabbit hunting in a field in rural Arenac County. CO Hudson and Sgt. Wood made contact with the hunters because one of the hunters was wearing brown Carhartt coveralls without any hunter orange. The subjects were hunting in waist high grass and shrubs that blended very well with their clothing. Sgt. Wood explained to the hunters how dangerous it could be wearing brown clothing and walking around in tall grass during deer season. CO Hudson issued the hunter a citation for failing to meet the hunter orange requirements.

CO Steve Lockwood was patrolling rural Gladwin County when he noticed a truck and trailer parked alongside the road next to public land. CO Lockwood followed ORV tracks on foot and located where it appeared the subject had dumped several used car tires on state land. CO Lockwood was able to get back to the truck and trailer and waited for the subject to return. Upon return, the subject explained that he was out pulling tree stands and hauling them out of the woods. CO Lockwood asked the subject if he had forgotten anything in the woods. The subject was adamant that he had not forgotten anything. When CO Lockwood confronted him about the used tires, the subject became real nervous and began back pedaling. A citation was issued for the littering violation.

COs Craig Neal and Josh Wright responded to a complaint of late shooting in Clare County. Upon arrival, one of the individuals was already headed back to his residence in Bay City with at least one deer. CO Steve Lockwood was called to assist with the investigation and provide guidance. After sorting through some details, COs Wright and Neal travelled to Bay City to interview one of the individuals. During the contact, it was discovered that the deer was not properly tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chuck McPherson, Ben McAteer, Craig Neal, Josh Wright, and Lt. Brandon Kieft participated in the Roscommon County "Shop with a Hero" event in Houghton Lake. Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS personnel had the privilege to Christmas shop with over 50 local children. After picking up gifts, the children spent some time enjoying dinner and taking photos with Santa.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline about a possible convicted felon hunting with a firearm and not wearing hunter orange. CO Byars made contact with the subject who was found to be in possession of a firearm, not wearing hunter orange, in possession of a controlled substance, and did not have a hunting license. A citation was issued for hunting without a license and a warrant was issued for a felon in possession of a firearm.

CO John Byars received a complaint from an informant about an individual exceeding the bait limit for deer. CO Byars located the bait pile and later made contact with the suspect. The suspect admitted to exceeding the two gallon bait limit for deer. CO Byars issued a citation for exceeding the deer bait quantity restriction and the suspect was instructed to clean up the bait pile.

CO John Byars was on patrol and noticed a hunter walking into the woods with no hunter orange. CO Byars followed the hunter into the woods and made contact. The suspect was not wearing orange and could not produce a hunting license. CO Byars and the suspect returned to the suspect's residence where the suspect had his hunting license. The CO issued a warning for hunting without a license in possession and issued a citation for hunters orange requirements.

During a snowmobile stop, CO John Byars noticed another snowmobile traveling at a high rate of speed, well over the 55 MPH speed limit on the county road. CO Byars stopped the snowmobile and observed an expired trail permit. The snowmobile operator was issued a warning for careless operation and issued a citation for expired trail permit.

COs Joe Myers and Will Brickel were checking walleye fishermen on the Saginaw River when CO Myers noticed something suspicious. While speaking to a fisherman about his catch of the day, the CO noticed a single deer tag in the subject's wallet. The CO asked the man about his deer season. After a brief investigation, it was discovered that the subject had shot and killed a seven point buck in Clare County earlier in rifle season. It was determined that the hunter went out and bought his license after he had shot the deer. A citation was issued for failing to immediately attach a valid kill tag. CO Jason King received information from CO Jill Miller of a subject with a possible tagging violation. CO King made contact with the subject at his address. After investigating the situation, CO King discovered that the subject had not validated the kill tag attached to an antlerless deer that he had recently shot. A citation was issued.

COs Jason King and Will Brickel investigated a complaint they received of a subject that was over baiting deer on private property. The COs discovered the over limit of bait and also found the subject actively hunting over it. The suspect was hunting with his muzzleloader and not wearing any hunter orange. A citation was issued for no hunter orange and a verbal warning was given for the over limit of bait. The subject was instructed to remove the bait.

CO Jason King conducted a presentation at the Bay City Career Center where approximately 60 students were in attendance. CO King discussed the role of a Michigan Conservation Officer and answered questions about hunting rules and regulations.

COs Jason King and Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint referencing a white-tailed deer that had fallen through the ice on the Cass River. The deer could not

escape from the broken ice. CO King acquired some waders from DEQ Officer Dan Lee and was able to rescue the deer by pulling it out of the water with an animal catch pole. Though exhausted and traumatized the deer was able to run off and hopefully make a speedy recovery.

While on patrol in a nearby game area, CO Kyle Bucholtz located two hunters each dragging a deer to the roadside. CO Bucholtz spoke with the two subjects before noting that both deer had been gutted and dragged an extended length without tags attached. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Bucholtz and Robert Hobkirk have completed a couple of post deer season taxidermy inspections in Huron County. The inspections have resulted in one follow up investigation involving a felon who may have taken a deer with a firearm. Additionally, CO Robert Hobkirk and Sgt. Scott Brown inspected another taxidermist. This inspection resulted in a couple of warnings to the new taxidermist for his record keeping and another follow-up deer investigation.

CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint of two dogs running loose and killing a small buck. Upon arriving at the scene and with assistance from the complainant, one of the dogs was located and picked up by the CO. The second dog was located as it was running into the owner's yard. The owner was issued several citations for the violations.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a subject camping at one of the local game areas who had been hunting and camping in the same location for more than the allowed 15 days. While speaking with the suspect, he admitted to also leaving it unoccupied at times. A citation was issued and the hunter moved his camper from the area.

CO Mark Siemen received information that a subject had shot a deer while trespassing on property belonging to a business in Sanilac County. CO Siemen was familiar with the subject and responded to his residence to speak with him. While at the residence, three dead deer were located hanging in a tree and several issues were noted with the tags. With assistance from CO Seth Rhodea, contact was later made at the residence with the subject's wife whose tag was on one of the deer. The subject's wife stated she did not shoot the buck but told the COs her husband shot it the previous night and he put her tag on the deer. Permission was given to the officers to search the property where two additional bucks were located. Through the search, the COs located two marijuana plants growing in the basement of the residence. When questioned about the plants, the wife stated they belonged to her husband and neither one of them were licensed to grow marijuana. When he returned home, the COs spoke with the husband briefly before he confessed to trespassing, obtaining too many deer kill tags and also admitted the marijuana plants were his. All evidence was collected and photographed. A total of five dead deer were located on the property, with four of them being taken illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith checked on a camper that was in the Cass City State Game Area. The camp had been left unattended for several days, was there for longer than 15 days,

and did not have a camp permit posted. After several attempts, contact was finally made and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was following up on an illegal bait and blind complaint in Tuscola County on the last day of muzzleloader season when he made contact with a hunter at the scene. When contact was made, CO Wright could smell a strong odor of marijuana. The hunter admitted to just smoking some about 20 minutes prior but that it was medical marijuana. CO Wright arrested the suspect, had a blood draw done and lodged the hunter at the Tuscola County Jail.

CO Chad Foerster attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Project Blue in Bay City honoring officers currently serving as well as fallen officers. First Lt. Arthur Green was recognized on the video presented of fallen officers denoting their end of watch. Attendance was high.

During a patrol in northern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas was making his way slowly down an ice covered road when an operator on an ORV drove up behind him. As the man on the ORV prepared to pass CO Haas, the CO noticed the man was not wearing a helmet. CO Haas activated his emergency lights and the operator pulled over. The operator stated he was on his way to a friend's house to get his helmet. CO Haas warned the man for operating down the middle of the roadway and issued a citation for not wearing a helmet.

CO Mike Haas made contact with a deer hunter as the hunter exited the woods in northern Isabella County. The hunter was hunting with a muzzleloader and was surprised when CO Haas advised him that muzzle loading season had been over for six days in this part of the state and that it was now archery season. Another issue was that the hunter's muzzleloader was still loaded and ready to fire approximately thirty minutes after legal hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas followed a snowmobile into a driveway at a farm and made contact with the operator. The man stated he was just testing the machine, although the miles of tracks CO Haas followed suggested otherwise. The snowmobile's title had never been transferred after purchase, the registration and trail permit were expired, and the man was not wearing a helmet. A citation was issued.

CO Mike Haas came across a truck being operated on the back roads of western Isabella County that did not display a license plate. CO Haas followed the truck for a few miles and into a town before initiating a stop. After speaking with the driver it was confirmed that the truck did not have a license plate, the registration expired a year prior, and the truck did not have insurance. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson was called to an area where subjects were possibly trespassing. CO Robinson made contact with three individuals who were packing up from waterfowl hunting on a semi-private lake. The group had their licenses in order, but unfortunately for the hunters, the season for waterfowl hunting was over. Although they had not taken any birds, they admitted that if ducks had been there they would have

shot them. The subjects were warned about recreational trespass and educated on laws pertaining to hunting on another's bottomlands. CO Robinson also addressed the issue of hunting waterfowl out of season and reminded them to check their hunting guide.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson was within two miles of a multi-car injury accident in Isabella County. The roads had iced up, taking motorists by surprise. CO Robinson arrived to find one vehicle on its side and another had crashed into the undercarriage. There was also a broken power pole resulting in power lines across the roadway. After locating one of the victims who had injuries herself, she advised that she also had three kids in her car at the time of the accident and two of them were ejected from the vehicle. CO Robinson checked for additional victims and assessed their injuries for anything life threatening. After finding the two children who were seriously injured and were now in a bystander's vehicle, CO Robinson, along with bystanders, provided treatment and helped keep the victims warm until additional EMS and law enforcement units arrived.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas investigated a complaint that a landowner had put up ropes to block snowmobilers in front of his property. The COs found that the ropes and posts went through the right-of-way and were not only blocking snowmobiles from accessing the right-of-way, but the lines also posed a serious potential for injury. The landowner was contacted about the lines and posts, and he agreed to take the items down.

CO Jay Person assisted the Midland County Sheriff's Office with a possible homicide call. A female caller reported to 911 that her husband had killed her son. According to 911, the caller had left the residence in a vehicle, arrived at a local store, and asked to use their phone. At the store, the female also advised the clerk that her son was dead. A check of the residence found no one was injured and all was well. The female was located at a relative's residence and arrested for abuse of 911 (she called 911 fourteen times that morning). She was taken to the hospital for a mental evaluation.

CO Jay Person is in the process of investigating two deer carcass dumping complaints. The carcasses are being dumped on private property with permission, but parts are being dragged into neighbors' yards by wild animals. CO Person has made a call to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and one of the complaints involves a deer processor where a large amount of carcasses are involved. The investigation is continuing.

CO Jay Person is investigating a spike deer that appears to have been shot in the eye by a small caliber firearm. CO Person is in the process of getting the deer's head x-rayed. Pending the results, hair was collected at a residential feeder in the area. Both head and hair will be submitted for DNA testing if a round is found from the x-ray. The investigation remains open.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Justin Ulberg and James Zellinger conducted a snowmobile patrol on the trail system in Barry and Allegan Counties. During the patrol, a few dozen contacts were made and several violations were encountered. Violations included failing to obtain a trail permit, operating without a headlight, and operating an unregistered snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Zellinger was contacted by the Michigan State Police in reference to two untagged antlered deer located in a subject's barn. The troopers discovered the deer while following up on a complaint at the residence. After an investigation, CO Zellinger concluded one of the antlered deer was picked up as road kill and was never properly reported. The other antlered deer was harvested legally; however, the subject failed to validate a kill tag and place it on the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck Towns responded to a reckless discharge of a firearm complaint. A house and vehicle were hit by shotgun pellets and there was a group of four hunters still in the area. Upon contact with the subjects, it was determined that they were hunting rabbits within the safety zone of several houses on an approximate 3 acre parcel. One of the subjects was not wearing hunter orange and did not have a license. In addition, all four of the hunters never completed the required hunter education class. Though it could not be determined which hunter was responsible for the damage, enforcement action was taken on the other violations and the hunters agreed to repair the damages.

CO Zach Bauer received information that a male subject had killed a large buck during archery season but had only purchased an antlerless deer license. Reportedly, the wife had purchased a buck license to put on the deer. CO Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss made contact with the husband and wife and conducted interviews. Confessions were obtained from both the husband and wife to the facts that had been reported. A sample of the meat was seized, as was the crossbow. The male subject was cited for taking/possessing an illegally taken deer and using a license of another. The female was warned about the violations. The antlers were in another county at a taxidermist and will be seized.

While on patrol on national forest lands in Muskegon County, CO Greg Patten worked an area where the ORV and snowmobile trails cross. CO Patten checked three ORVs for licenses and found one with no license or trail permit. While talking to the ORV operators, two snowmobilers drove up. Neither snowmobile had a current trail permit and one of the sleds had an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken for the ORV and snowmobile violations.

CO Greg Patten responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of waterfowl hunters hunting within the safety zone of a residence. While on the way to the safety zone complaint, he received a hunter trespass complaint from Muskegon Central Dispatch. CO Patten was closer to the trespass and responded to that first and located a hunter in the wrong area of the Muskegon County Wastewater facility. Enforcement action was taken. CO Patten then responded to the safety zone violation and located three waterfowl hunters that were less than 450 feet from the caller's residence. The hunters

were also too close to several other residences. Enforcement action was taken for the safety zone violation.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers patrolled the Musketawa Trail for snowmobile activity in Ottawa County. Contact was made with one subject who did not have a valid registration or a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler followed up on a complaint that a subject shot two antlerless deer earlier in the season and was bragging about going after a buck next. A computer check on the subject revealed the subject had only purchased two licenses. CO Drexler learned the subject shot a buck on Thanksgiving Day. CO Drexler, with the assistance of CO Brandon Hartleben, contacted the subject as he was coming in from hunting in the woods behind his house. An investigation revealed he had shot two deer that season and was lying about the second doe. Violations discovered included failure to immediately validate/attach kill tag, hunt/possess loaded firearm after hours, and felon in possession of a firearm. Enforcement action taken.

CO Mike Drexler was patrolling the Waterloo Recreation Area when he observed a hunter occupying a permanent tree blind. CO Drexler waited until after hunting hours had ended before walking into the woods to check the hunters. The first subject contacted was in possession of a loaded firearm after hours. CO Drexler obtained that subject's identification before walking further into the woods to discover the second hunter climbing down from the permanent blind. This subject was also loaded after hunting hours, as well as occupying a permanent tree stand with screw in steps. Once back at his patrol vehicle, CO Drexler learned that the subject was a felon in possession of a firearm. The firearm was seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben was a guest speaker for a criminology class at Washtenaw Community College. CO Hartleben spoke to students about the CO career and provided insights into the hiring process and advice about pursuing a career in law enforcement.

COs Andrew Monnich and Chris Reynolds assisted Ohio officers and followed up on a deer importation case. They were able to gain a confession from the suspect who told them he brought two deer from Ohio into Michigan, processed them in his barn, and dumped the carcasses in a creek in Michigan. Enforcement action taken.

CO Daniel Prince responded to a waterfowl complaint on Thompson Lake in Howell. CO Prince issued the boat operator a citation for not having life jackets. The boat also did not have a current registration which the operator was advised to update.

CO Jason McCullough responded to a complaint of a hunter shooting waterfowl from a moving motor boat. The complainants had taken pictures of the incident and were concerned the hunter was too close to the houses. CO McCullough found the hunter and asked if he had permission to hunt where he was. The hunter stated he did not.

CO McCullough explained the recreational trespass law and informed the hunter that property owners were concerned with him motoring around the lake shooting at geese. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss investigated a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject taking deer without a license. He interviewed the suspect who freely showed him the antlers from an eight point buck he shot. CO Goss asked if he had a license for the deer and the suspect stated he used another person's tag. CO Goss noticed the deer in the picture was a six point and the suspect showed him a set of eight point antlers. Upon further questioning it was discovered the suspect shot two deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol with CO Andy Monnich in Lenawee County, observed two hunters coming in from the morning hunt. Upon contact, both officers noticed the smell of marijuana. The officers separated the individuals and questioned them, eventually finding a small amount of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds followed up on a Report All Poaching complaint and interviewed a subject who had purchased a deer kill tag after hunting hours were closed, and validated it on the same day. The subject initially stated he shot a deer the day after he bought his license. When confronted with evidence the subject confessed to taking the deer without a license. Charges are being sought for hunting and taking a deer without a license.

CO Carter Woodwyk assisted the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department in locating a suspect wanted for a domestic assault. CO Woodwyk detained the suspect on a traffic stop until sheriff's deputies arrived and took him into custody.

CO Rich Nickols assisted the Clinton County Sheriff's Department with a suicidal subject. The subject had made suicidal comments to her probation officer and when a deputy went to check on her she came out of the house with a shotgun. The subject returned to the house and a barricaded subject situation ensued. After several hours of failed negotiations, a deputy from the Ionia County Sheriff's Office, a deputy from Clinton County, and CO Nickols entered the house. The subject was located in a bedroom still holding a shotgun. Officers were able to talk to the subject and approach close enough until a TASER was deployed. The situation was resolved with no injuries and the subject was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a trespass complaint in Shiawassee County. A subject was observed walking across a field with no hunter orange on and entering property he did not have permission to be on. The landowner's son confronted the subject and was able to photograph him. The subject returned to a nearby residence. When CO Nickols arrived, the subject was gone but CO Nickols was able to follow the suspect's footprints in the fresh snow from his house, onto the complainant's property, and back. Charges are pending with the prosecutor's office.

CO Robert Slick responded to a complaint of an individual trespassing on his ex-wife's property. CO Slick located the suspect and enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig witnessed a man doing donuts in the parking lot of a park with his vehicle. The CO stopped the driver who stated he was just showing his children something and having fun. When checked with dispatch the driver was shown to have a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig was first on scene of a rollover accident on I-69. The driver was located uninjured but very concerned about her two cats that were in the vehicle. CO Ludwig was able to locate one of the cats and extract it from the vehicle where it was trapped. The Charlotte Fire Department was able to locate the second cat and rescue it from the vehicle. The cats were reunited with their owner uninjured.

On the last day of waterfowl season, CO Jason McCullough found a couple of vehicles parked in an area where trespassing has been a problem. CO McCullough located and observed subjects hunting from a vessel under power. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County and stopped three snowmobiles that had expired registrations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss investigated a Report All Poaching complaint of a coyote stuck in a trap for three days. CO Goss located the coyote and removed it from a trap that was untagged. CO Goss followed tracks in the snow back to a nearby house but was unable to make contact with the home owner. Two days later CO Goss made contact with the home owner and identified a suspect. When CO Goss finally made contact with the suspect he stated he had not checked his traps in five days. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss responded to a trespass complaint in Branch County. Upon arrival, CO Goss learned that the complainant had an agreement with the suspect that if he shot a deer and it went on to his property, he would call before entering the property. After seeing several deer running through the woods and suspecting someone was on his property, the complainant got out of his stand to investigate. The complainant located blood and boot prints in the snow. The complainant then went to the suspect's house and confronted him about the trespass. The suspect admitted to trespassing and didn't know why the complainant was so upset. The complainant reminded the suspect about the agreement they had to call if he needed to track a deer. The suspect said "Yeah but I was tracking a coyote that I shot, so I didn't think I needed to call." The complainant was less than impressed with the suspects reasoning and requested prosecution. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss responded to a complaint of a deer shot with a shotgun during muzzle loader season. Upon arriving at the suspect's house, CO Goss explained the reason for his visit and asked if he had killed a deer recently. The suspect told CO Goss that he shot a deer on Saturday and then took him to the garage where there was a partially

butchered doe hanging. CO Goss asked the man what he shot the deer with and he replied “a 20 gauge.” CO Goss explained that shotgun season had been over for ten days by the time he shot the deer. Not seeing a tag on the deer, CO Goss asked where the tag was at. The suspect pretended to look for the tag that he claimed he had put on the deer. After a while the suspect told CO Goss that he could just put his other tag on the deer. CO Goss asked him to grab his “other tag” so he could look at it. CO Goss already knew that the suspect only had one license and it was purchased two days after the deer was shot. The suspect returned with an unused doe tag and no good explanation for why he never put it on the deer. Nor was he able to explain why he was hunting during muzzle loader season with a shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick received a complaint of a sick deer in Meridian Township in Ingham County. CO Slick responded to the location and noticed the deer was not acting normal and was unable to move. CO Slick dispatched the deer and submitted the specimen for testing.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking for hunting activity in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed a pair of hunters exiting the woods. One hunter was in full hunter orange and the other was just in a hooded sweatshirt. When the hunters noticed CO Deppen, one hunter grabbed a hunter orange hat out of his sweatshirt pocket and quickly placed it on his head. CO Deppen spoke with the hunters about having hunter orange on at all times while hunting small game in the recreation area. One hunter also failed to have his hunting license on him. Enforcement action was taken.

While on snowmobile patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed a pair of snowmobiles operating in a prohibited manner along the roadway. CO Deppen stopped the snowmobilers and noticed their sleds had expired registration and no current trail stickers. Further investigation revealed one rider was operating a snowmobile on a suspended license. CO Deppen told the seasoned rider that he was setting a poor example for the younger rider. The rider said “I know, but he really wanted to get out and ride, besides, I was going to register them this morning, but I forgot”[. The other rider was fourteen years old. When CO Deppen asked if he had taken a snowmobile safety course, the fourteen-year-old said, “No”. The older rider spoke up and claimed he should be fine because he is in the process of taking boater’s safety online. CO Deppen disagreed with the riders and enforcement action was taken.

While on snowmobile patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen followed a set of snowmobile tracks leading to a local store. CO Deppen noticed a male start the snowmobile and head off at a high rate of speed. The snowmobile trespassed across multiple properties before a stop was conducted. The rider was trespassing, operating on a roadway, and had an expired trail sticker. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner received a complaint for a possible illegal deer that was posted on Facebook in Lapeer County. CO Gardner checked the Facebook post and saw that

the deer was tagged. He then checked to see if the suspect purchased a hunting license for the deer. The woman who was said to have shot the deer did not purchase a hunting license but her husband, who made the Facebook post, purchased one on the same night he made the post. With this information CO Gardner interviewed both suspects. During the interview, CO Gardner received a full confession from both of them. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Brad Silorey responded to a complaint of duck hunters in a safety zone in Macomb County on Lake St. Clair. After responding and watching the hunters, it was found they were well inside the safety zone of nearby residences. The group was contacted and enforcement action taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey conducted two deer processor inspections in Macomb County. Incomplete records were found at both of the processors. The owners of one of the processors were given a warning for the same violation on a prior visit this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel checked a lay-out rig at an access site ramp as they pulled up to the dock in Macomb County. One subject had an unplugged shotgun, failed to purchase a Michigan waterfowl license, and possessed lead shot. Another subject also possessed lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach conducted surveillance on a pair of trucks in a wood lot in the early morning hours in St. Clair County. After watching the subjects for nearly an hour, contact was made with the operators. The subjects were tearing up the farmer's field, which they did not have permission to be doing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was patrolling trespass issues on Consumers Energy Property in St. Clair County and observed a 4-wheeler being driven through farm fields on the property. CO Lasher stopped the operator when he came to the road. The operator did not have a helmet, did not have an ORV sticker and was trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher observed a snowmobile being driven by a driver without a helmet, driving through a cemetery in St. Clair County. CO Lasher activated his emergency lights on the patrol vehicle and the operator drove over a small bridge to evade the stop. CO Lasher drove around the corner to attempt to locate where the machine had gone and saw the same machine being driven against the flow of traffic on M-25. Again, CO Lasher attempted to stop the driver, driving down a side street. The driver failed to stop until turning into a side yard of a residence a short distance (2 blocks) later. CO Lasher contacted the driver who stated he just wanted to get home because the machine was not registered. Along with the expired registration, no helmet, operating in a cemetery, operate in the roadway, against the flow of traffic and failing to stop, the driver also has a suspended license and a civil warrant for child support. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey, Joe Deppen, Pat Hartsig, Ray Gardner, and Sgt. Todd Szyska conducted an inspection on Michigan's largest deer processor this week. CO Silorey contacted an individual dropping a deer off to be processed while they were conducting the inspection. CO Silorey looked at the hunter's kill tag on the deer antlers. CO Silorey found several issues with the hunter's kill tag. The tag was not validated and the hunter had placed a "restricted +4" kill tag on a 6 point deer. The hunter stated that the deer was the only one he had taken this year, but could not produce the proper kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was checking for ice anglers in canals along the shores of Lake St. Clair. CO Silorey found a large group of anglers fishing in the canals of a local neighborhood. CO Silorey began checking several anglers, and then noticed one angler had a large pile of perch on the ice. CO Silorey made contact with the angler who stated that he had 48 perch in his bucket and only needed a few more. CO Silorey checked the angler's fishing license and began to count the fish in the angler's bucket. As CO Silorey was finishing counting the fish in the bucket, the angler was attempting to push the fish on the ice back in the hole. CO Silorey verbally warned the angler, ordering him to stop pushing the fish back down the hole. The angler was in possession of 61 perch, including the fish he had on the ice. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger came across a snowmobile operating illegally on a public highway and made contact with the two occupants. The driver of the sled stated it was her father's machine and they were just taking it out for a drive for the first time this year. They stated that the local police department stated it was acceptable if they operated on the roadway, even though no roads are open to snowmobiles in the county. Further investigation revealed that the machine had an expired registration and did not have a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger stopped a vehicle that was driving with an expired plate. Before the CO's foot hit the ground as he exited the vehicle, the operator began yelling at the CO, asking, "Why did you stop me?" The CO explained and the driver stated that Michigan Secretary of State must have made the mistake or that since she just changed her residency to Florida that the notice must have been lost in the mail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed in the far-left lane on I-275 in Monroe County. When the vehicle passed by the patrol vehicle it immediately crossed over two lanes of traffic to pass other vehicles on the freeway, CO Walzak followed the car and pulled it over after pacing it at 98 mph. When the vehicle came to a stop it was straddling the fog line on the right side of the freeway. Using the PA system on the patrol vehicle, CO Walzak instructed the driver to pull the vehicle off the roadway and out of traffic. The driver then proceeded to pull forward about 50 yards before coming to a stop – again straddling the fog line. CO Walzak instructed the driver to pull off the roadway again, resulting in the driver travelling almost a half mile before coming to a stop with the tires of the vehicle just outside of the fog line. When the driver

was requested to produce his driver's license, registration and proof of insurance, the driver could only produce his license and stated that his wife must have taken the other documents out of the car. CO Walzak asked the driver if he knew why he was being stopped and the driver responded that he had no idea. When told that he was stopped for doing 98 mph in a 70 mph zone the driver looked at CO Walzak and told him that he was driving 70 mph. When asked how it was that he was passing other vehicles so quickly, the driver simply stated that CO Walzak never saw him driving over the speed limit. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 21**

Detective Holly Pennoni reports a subject pled guilty in the 88-2 District Court of Montmorency County to a Part 303 violation for placing fill material in a wetland without a permit. In July 2015, DEQ Water Resources Division received a complaint of fill material being placed in a wetland on Crooked Lake. In October 2016, the complaint was referred to Detective Pennoni who investigated and referred it to the prosecutor's office. The subject was ordered to pay \$875.00 in fines and costs and has up to one year to complete restoration of the property.

Detective Holly Pennoni reports that a subject was convicted and paid \$875.00 in fines in the 84th District Court in Wexford County for (attempt) disposing of solid waste at a non-licensed facility under P.A. 451 of 1994 Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), Part 115 Solid Waste Management. In July 2016, Detective Pennoni received a complaint that an entire building that had been demolished for some time was being partially buried on site and partially taken off site to another location where it was being buried. Further investigation revealed that the subject had recently purchased the property and buried the demolition material rather than take it to a licensed landfill. Charges issued were establishing an unauthorized disposal area, operating an unauthorized disposal area, and disposing of solid waste at a non – licensed facility.