

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
9/24/2017 – 10/7/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Denny Gast is investigating a litter site on state land. He located a name and address in the debris and will follow up with interviewing the suspect.

CO David Miller received a complaint of a group of hunters camped on commercial forest land, and the complainant also reported seeing two of them on ORVs with an uncased bow and an uncased gun. CO Miller located the camp and found one hunter with an uncased bow, and a short time later CO Miller stopped a side-by-side and discovered a concealed weapon that the owner did not have a permit for. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen, while working the opening morning of the duck season, contacted a group of duck hunters. One of the hunters was using a shotgun that could hold more than the three shell limit. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Grant Emery patrolled Porcupine Mountain State Park over the weekend with the increased number of visitors for the fall color tour. Both CO Lasanen and Sgt. Emery made several contacts throughout the day with no problems and everyone enjoyed the colors which are at 30 percent.

Sgt. Grant Emery was working the Ontonagon River in Ontonagon when a sheriff deputy requested assistance with a peregrine falcon that was perched on a SUV in downtown Ontonagon. Sgt. Emery responded to find the falcon as described watching the cars go by. Upon further investigation, the falcon had just finished eating an entire ring-billed gull in front of a crowd of spectators just down the street. The falcon was so full he was only able to fly from car to car. Sgt. Emery was able to get the falcon to a nearby roof top and out of harm's way.

CO Denny Gast assisted with trapper education instruction at the Lake Superior Sport Club which had a big turnout of over 40 trappers in attendance.

CO David Miller was checking a group of bear hunting houndsmen when another vehicle pulled up. One of the subjects in the second vehicle was in possession of a loaded/uncased shotgun. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller observed a group of ORVs pull out from a bar and proceed down Highway M-28 at a high rate of speed. Most machines had two on each ORV, which were not designed for passengers and not a single helmet in the group. Many of the subjects had been drinking. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller made contact with the operator of a vehicle that was legally shining for deer. The operator asked CO Miller if he remembered him. CO Miller did not. The driver said that CO Miller had issued him a ticket over 20 years ago for shining in November with a weapon in possession. He said he reads the rule book every year so he doesn't make the same mistake again.

CO David Miller contacted a group of three bear houndsmen. All three individuals failed to disclose the fact that they had a CPL immediately. They disclosed that fact once CO Miller asked them. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was on patrol in Dickinson County when he came across two individuals target practicing in a state owned gravel pit. The subjects had considerable litter associated with their target shooting, including a shot up television. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was on patrol in Dickinson County when he observed a three wheel ORV being operated along highway M-95. A stop was conducted on the operator to address the highway violation along with the operator not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon pulled up to a vehicle stopped along a county road. The driver appeared to be very nervous and stated he was using his phone. Both subjects were wearing hunters orange. Further investigation lead to an uncased firearm, a spent shell on the dashboard and loose ammunition on the floor. A discussion was had regarding road hunting and enforcement action was taken regarding the uncased firearm.

A case recently investigated by CO Brian Bacon, Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy regarding the over limit of blue gill was recently closed. The four suspects plead guilty, paid reimbursement fees of \$1,500 and fishing privileges were revoked until 2021.

CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted interviews of suspects believed to be responsible for a string of illegal bear baits that the COs, along with CO Brian Bacon, had been investigating. The three subjects admitted to placing the illegal bear baits because of travel distances.

CO Jeffrey Dell contacted a bear hunter who was in possession of a firearm. The man was not wearing hunters orange. When asked why the man stated he was too hot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell contacted a deer hunter on the bow opener. The man was had set up a tree stand on state land without any identification on it and he was carrying a concealed weapon in his motor vehicle without a concealed pistol license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell assisted Menominee County deputies in removing a man who had driven intoxicated into a woman's back yard and refused to leave. The man did not remember anything and had nearly driven into the river. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell contacted duck hunters returning from their camp on a lake. The duck hunters were found in possession of breasted out ducks without a fully feathered wing attached for identification purposes. CO Dell informed them if they couldn't prove the species/sex of the ducks harvested they were going to receive a ticket. The hunters opted to paddle two hours to retrieve the carcasses.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Pat Hartsig checked duck hunters on the opening day of UP waterfowl season. CO Hartsig stopped a group after watching them shoot ducks while motoring around the marsh. It was found that the group had loaded shotguns in the boat while it was underway, as well as one hunter who did not possess a waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig responded to a house fire that was down the street from his residence. After making sure everyone was safe, he blocked the road so fire apparatus could get water from a pumping station to put out the fire.

COs Michael Evink and Rob Freeborn assisted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms "ATF" in conducting a search warrant on a local residence where the suspect was believed to be possessing firearms when he currently was prohibited because of a convicted felon status. Several weapons were found at the residence and seized by ATF. The investigation is ongoing.

COs Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig worked the waterfowl opener with many contacts made. Many violations were encountered that day including hunt waterfowl with no base license, no state waterfowl license, no federal duck stamp, unsigned federal duck stamp, no PFD, and railroad trespass.

CO Mark Zitnik and the Shingleton Wildlife staff conducted a joint presentation at the 2017 AgriPalooza at the MSU farm in Chatham. The presentation focused on trapping and fur bearing animals such as animal identification, trapping techniques, registration, and regulations. In all, over 200 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the Marquette and Alger County schools participated. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders were happy to see how fun and beneficial trapping is.

Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon and CO Mark Zitnik patrolled local lakes and ponds on the opener of waterfowl season. Several hunting parties were checked throughout the day with multiple warnings given and two citations issued. The citations were issued for hunting waterfowl without licenses and no PFD while in a vessel.

CO Bobby Watson assisted with a local group of women who were participating in the "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" program through the DNR. CO Watson demonstrated to the group proper gun handling techniques while upland bird hunting in thick cover. CO Watson also discussed typical ruffed grouse habitat, patterns, and other tips to help the women expand their knowledge of the outdoors.

CO Bobby Watson received a tip of some suspicious activity on a local duck hunting lake the afternoon after the UP opener. CO Watson conducted a covert patrol on the second day of the UP duck season in hopes the potential violator would return. CO Watson soon observed a boat shooting at a duck while still under power. CO Watson also observed the boat travel up the nearby creek mouth, presumably to jump shoot ducks. CO Watson waited for the boat to return from the creek at which point contact was made. It was discovered that the owner of the boat was not in possession of any life jackets, was unable to provide a state waterfowl license, and was in possession of a loaded firearm while under power. A confession was also obtained regarding the duck which was shot while under power. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Hammill received a complaint of a fisherman attempting to snag salmon in a closed section of a trout stream near the Engadine area. Sgt. Hammill made contact with an angler fitting the description of the supposed snagger. Upon contact, it was noticed that the angler burned his lure off with his recently lit cigarette; when questioned the angler denied burning his line. A file was run with Station 20 and it was discovered the individual never purchased a fishing license in 2017, it was also discovered that the individual was currently on parole from prison. The snagger's violations included, fish no license, fish closed section of trout stream, operate motor vehicle no driver's license, littering, fail to transfer title on motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Tom Oberg and Calvin Smith patrolled Munuscong Bay on the opening day of duck season. The COs checked over 50 hunters who were enjoying some success. Several warnings were issued for minor violations and citations were issued for violations consisting of possessing toxic shot and for hunting waterfowl without proper licenses.

COs Kevin Postma and Tom Oberg put on a hunter education class in the Rudyard area where 16 students received their hunter safety certificates.

CO Kevin Postma followed a fresh set of tire tracks onto state land. Knowing the vehicle had to come out the same direction they went in, CO Postma hid his truck and positioned himself in a location in which he could quickly make contact with the occupant(s). As the vehicle approached, CO Postma stepped into view and made contact with the suspected grouse hunter. CO Postma asked the driver how his day was going. The driver looked over at his uncased and loaded shot gun and advised, "Well, I'll tell you in a minute." Enforcement action was taken for possessing an uncased/loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Jon Busken was on routine patrol when dispatch advised of car vs. bicycle crash on US-2. The extents of the cyclist's injuries were unknown. CO Busken arrived on scene to find that the cyclist had been broadsided by a car going 65 MPH. Somehow, the cyclist's only injury was a cut to his hand. CO Busken compiled a UD-10 and cleared the scene.

CO Jon Busken was patrolling in southern Luce County when he made contact with two occupants in a motor vehicle. CO Busken observed an uncased shot gun in the center counsel and smelt the distinct odor of marijuana. One joint was found in the vehicle. In addition, the operator's driver's license was found to be suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

COs Chad Baldwin and Duane Budreau were patrolling the Boyne River for fishing activity when they witnessed several individuals snagging salmon from the river bank. After watching the suspects for some time, the COs made contact with them and asked where they were keeping the fish they caught. The first individual showed the COs the fish that they had hidden under leaves and debris inside the woods. After confronting them about the method they used to catch the fish, the suspects stated that they thought it was ok to keep the snagged fish because they had let a bunch of fish go before keeping these ones. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Baldwin was working a midday fishing patrol on the Boyne River when he spotted some questionable fishing techniques by a couple of anglers. CO Baldwin watched the first angler snag a fish in the river and hand the rod over to his female companion to reel in. Upon closer inspection, CO Baldwin noticed that they were using treble hooks that are illegal on the river. CO Baldwin confronted the anglers and they did not deny snagging the fish or utilizing treble hooks. CO Baldwin seized the evidence and law enforcement action was taken.

While working the Bear River in plain clothes, CO Budreau observed a subject retain a salmon that he had hooked in the head. The subject walked past CO Budreau looked at him and said, "Hi coach" and continued walking to his truck. As he placed the fish in a cooler in the back of his truck, CO Budreau asked him why he kept the fish when he knew his prior football coach was the local CO. The subject stated that he thought the head was close enough. Enforcement action was taken. Twenty minutes later CO Budreau arrested the subject's fishing partner for snagging two salmon.

While checking waterfowl hunters on French Farm Flooding, CO Budreau was able to make contact with an illegal camper he had been tracking all summer. CO Budreau had originally noticed the subject's tent set-up in an area closed to camping. No one was around the camp at the time. There were several five gallon buckets piled up next to the tent. One bucket off to the side was half full of human waste. CO Budreau had left his business card with a warning notice to break camp and clean up the site. When CO Budreau returned there was a single bucket left at the site. It was the one half full.

During CO Budreau's visit with the camper a confession was obtained for the litter and several tickets were issued.

On her day off, CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County received two complaints about hunters putting out way too much bait. On the Saturday afternoon before the archery deer opener, CO Erratt patrolled to private land in Antrim County and contacted the land owner by his camper. The hunter agreed to show CO Erratt his hunting site that was baited with over 25 gallons of corn in feeding troughs, corn with molasses in buckets, sugar beets, and apples. The hunter said he thought he could bait with five gallons. CO Erratt ticketed the hunter for baiting deer with more than two gallons and explained he needed to spread the bait out over a ten by ten area. On Saturday evening, CO Erratt and Sgt. Mike Feagan patrolled to the site of the second baiting complaint on state land by Harmon Road and located a truck nearby. CO Erratt and Sgt. Feagan checked the hunters as they came out from putting more bait by their blinds. Both hunters had more than 20 gallons of corn, sugar beets, apples, and carrots on the ground in front of their blinds. CO Erratt ticketed both hunters for baiting deer with more than two gallons and Sgt. Feagan warned one hunter for cutting down trees to make a shooting lane.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County received a complaint from a friend about the Boyne River being black with silt at a road crossing near Boyne Falls. CO Erratt went to the property upstream from the road crossing and downstream from where she had observed the river was still clear. CO Erratt talked to the son of the landowner who admitted he had removed a beaver dam from the Boyne River that was flooding their property. He also said he used a mini excavator to remove logs and mud from the river bottom to get it flowing again. Enforcement action was taken for dredging the bottomlands of a trout stream without a permit.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County patrolled the Boyne River for illegal fishing activity west of Dam Road while her partner, CO Chad Baldwin, patrolled east of the road by the dam. CO Erratt observed as an angler who snagged a salmon in the side that he fought as it swam up and downstream. The angler finally reeled the salmon in tail first, netted it, and put on a stringer. CO Erratt ticketed the man for retaining a foul hooked fish and warned him for littering his cigarette butt. He said he had heard stories about the DNR hiding in camouflage and watching with binoculars and now he believed them.

While working a nighttime fish patrol in the Jordan River Valley CO Andrea Albert observed an ATV go by at a high rate of speed with speakers blasting loud music and with red and blue brightly lighted sticks attached to the rear. CO Albert stopped the ATV and the operator said they were just out riding around and he has it lit up so people notice him on the road. CO Albert said it worked as she could not miss seeing him coming. The operator was cited for operating an ORV in the closed area.

CO Andrea Albert stopped two ATVs operating illegally in the Jordan River Valley. One operator insisted he had been doing this since he was a kid so that made it OK to do. Both operators were cited for the illegal operation.

While patrolling the Jordan River Valley, CO Andrea Albert attempted to stop a van for a traffic violation. The driver of the van failed to yield for the officer's lights and siren. The operator was driving the speed limit, but continued and did not stop. The pursuit went several miles and the vehicle finally stopped at a remote residence in the woods that was known for illegal drug activity. The driver quickly exited the vehicle and started to go into the woods ignoring CO Albert's commands to stop. CO Albert deployed a TASER and arrested the subject. The driver had three warrants for his arrest; a suspended driver's license; no plate or insurance on the vehicle and was driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. He stated the reason he did not stop was because he did not want to get his van towed. The additional violation of resisting and obstructing a CO will be sought with the prosecutor's office.

While on a late night patrol on the Boyne River, CO Andrea Albert observed an angler target and snag a large salmon in the back. He gave the pole to another person and let him reel in the fish, which both subjects kept. When CO Albert checked the anglers the subject who reeled in the fish insisted he was not fishing just watching. CO Albert explained what she observed and cited the first subject for snagging and retaining a foul hooked fish. The subject who reeled in the fish did not buy a fishing license. He was cited for the license violation.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County observed six anglers attempting to snag salmon on the Boyne River. They were all using single hooks attached to their lines with weights suspended from the hook or below the hook. When CO Erratt checked the anglers, two of them told her they were 16 years old. When one told her his date of birth he told her three different years (1999, 2000, and 2001). A check revealed the two men were 17 and they had not purchased fishing licenses. CO Erratt ticketed them for fishing without a license and warned them for fishing with illegal set ups and furnishing false information to a CO. A 21 year old angler in the group, who had a line tied to the bottom of his hook with weights attached, was ticketed for fishing with an illegal set up.

CO Andrea Erratt observed a car parked by the South Branch of Springbrook Creek, a Type one trout stream closed to fishing. CO Erratt checked a father and 16 year old son who were fishing and had caught and kept two brook trout each. The father said they had been fishing on the North Branch of Springbrook Creek when a guy in a truck had stopped to tell them it was illegal to fish there. CO Erratt explained that both streams were closed to fishing. The father said the son had checked the fishing guide and they thought they were on a Type four stream open to fishing. CO Erratt showed them the fishing guide and explained that it is still illegal to keep brook trout even if it was an open trout stream. CO Erratt ticketed the father for catching and keeping brook trout during the closed season and warned him for fishing on a closed stream. CO Erratt seized four brook trout including a six inch fish caught by the son. CO Erratt

warned the son for fishing on a closed stream and catching and keeping undersized brook trout during the closed season.

While COs Andrea Erratt and Chad Baldwin checked four duck hunters with one wood duck on Lake Charlevoix, three mallards landed just outside of their decoys. One of the hunters asked CO Erratt if they should shoot them and she responded yes. After the hunters shot the ducks, CO Erratt and CO Baldwin used her patrol boat to retrieve the ducks for the happy hunters.

Sgt. Mark DePew received a complaint that several individuals were snagging salmon on the Boyne River. Sgt. DePew arrived and conducted surveillance of several individuals. After less than five minutes, Sgt. DePew observed two individuals attempting to snag fish and one angler keep a foul hooked fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki was southbound on I75 in Cheboygan County observing a motorist on the shoulder of the roadway who appeared to have a flat tire. Contact was made with the operator who confirmed the tire was flat. CO Rosochacki then changed the tire for the motorist. The motorist was grateful and continued on his way.

CO Tim Rosochacki made contact with duck hunters on the Indian River in Cheboygan County. While observing the boat, he noted the operator was operating well above the slow no wake speed. Contact was made with the operator who stated he was unaware of the wake law on the Indian River. While talking to the operator the CO noted several violations including a loaded gun and possession of a protected species of duck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki was dispatched to a personal injury accident in Cheboygan County involving an ORV and a vehicle. Upon arrival, the operator of the ORV was suspected of using marijuana prior to operating. The operator of the ORV was transported to Northern Michigan Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries while the operator of the motor vehicle was not injured. On-scene investigation revealed the operator of the ORV was at fault. An operating while intoxicated (OWI) investigation is being pursued pending blood results. The report will be forwarded to the Cheboygan County Prosecutor's Office for review.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick received a complaint on the opening day of duck season in Cheboygan County that hunters were using bait to assist with the attraction of waterfowl. The COs set up surveillance of five hunters, including one juvenile, observing several violations, including shooting after hours. Upon contact with the hunters, a large amount of corn was located in and around the duck blind, including submerged directly in front of the blind. Fourteen ducks were seized along with numerous citations issued.

CO Jon Sklba along with Michigan State Police troopers responded to an assault call in Alpena County. One of the subjects involved was highly intoxicated, and was waiting

alongside the road for his mother to pick him up. Once officers arrived on scene the matter was resolved by family members and no charges were sought.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a subject with a truck load of wood leaving state owned lands in Presque Isle County. Contact was made with the driver who admitted to cutting wood on state land without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba contacted several subjects target shooting on state park property in Presque Isle County. Target shooting in this area has been an ongoing issue and a concern to local residents. Numerous 'no target shooting' signs that have been posted in the area have also been shot at and destroyed. CO Sklba advised the subjects of the rules for target shooting on state park property and also advised where they could find the rules posted. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc received a report all poaching complaint of late woodcock hunters in Alpena County. The following day CO LeClerc was able to catch up with the suspect while hunting again. Several late shots were heard well after legal hunting hours. Contact was made and the subject admitted to attempting to shoot the birds after hours while they returned to the roost. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was called out late at night to assist local deputies in Presque Isle County with a lost subject. The individual had crashed his ORV and was stranded at the location for several hours. The individual had been drinking heavily. The subject was also located on private property that was posted and gated. In addition to trespassing, the subject damaged property. Enforcement action was taken for the trespass violation.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

While patrolling lakes in Benzie County during the waterfowl opener, Sgt. Dan Bigger overheard a group of hunters he was observing talking about the number of shots coming from another group across the lake. Sgt. Bigger made contact with the hunters and then continued to foot patrol along the banks of the lake. While observing from a stand of cedars, Sgt. Bigger noted a single duck flying towards the group who was mentioned from the previous encounter. As the duck set it wings, Sgt. Bigger heard two shots quickly followed by two more, but only one hunter was visible shooting. Sgt. Bigger made contact with the group and found that the hunter who had shot the duck was using a firearm that held more than the allotted three shells. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Dan Bigger was on patrol during the waterfowl opener when he stopped to observe a group of hunters picking up their spread of decoys. Sgt. Bigger stayed out of sight and observed the group get into their boat and start toward shore. As Sgt. Bigger observed the incoming vessel, he noted a subject straddling the bow with his legs and in waders. Upon making contact at the boat launch, Sgt. Bigger advised of the safety issue with the subject riding on the bow and enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinias received a complaint about an early bait pile in September prior to the date for legal baiting. CO Gelinias made contact with the hunter who was responsible for placing the bait prior to the legal date. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinias and CO Ben Shively were working at Tippy Dam State Park. The COs smelled the odor of burnt marijuana coming from an individual. The COs made contact with the suspect who was smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rebecca Hopkins received a complaint of a dead deer in Crystal Lake surrounded by netting and construction material. Upon examination, CO Hopkins found an 8-point antlered deer had become so entangled in a beach volleyball net that she had to cut him free. The net was not associated with the area where the deer was found, so it is suspected he drug the net tangled with the metal posts still attached for a significant distance and into the lake. The net likely weighed his head down in the water causing his death.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and Sgt. Dan Bigger made a day of running from river to river in Benzie County addressing multiple snagging complaints, contacting dozens of anglers and writing citations for snagging, illegal lures, and possession of marijuana, along with multiple warnings.

CO Rebecca Hopkins took a complaint of an illegal ORV trail on state land that included a newly built bridge crossing a creek and a log road built over the adjacent wetland. The ORV trail led to multiple state land tree stands with cultivated food plots and greater than two gallons of bait. CO Hopkins and Sgt. Dan Bigger contacted two subjects hunting the area who admitted to riding into the area on an ATV not designed for passengers, transporting uncased crossbows, without helmets. One of the hunters did not have his deer kill tags afield and instead presented his Muskie and Sturgeon fish tags. Citations were issued for ORV operation and license violations. The subjects were given time to remove the logs and bridge, and numerous warnings were given for land damage, bait, and additional ORV violations.

CO William Kinney received a complaint of a wildfire that had occurred in the Cadillac area. The individual had attempted to burn some tall standing grass behind his residence. The fire quickly escaped and ran up hill through a stand of red pines. The local fire department was able to extinguish the flames before the fire could grow in strength. Later that evening, the fire reignited and took back off through the pine trees and up the hill behind the individual's house. The fire department responded for a second time, as well as the DNR fire division, and the fire was extinguished yet again. Enforcement action was taken for failing to prevent the spread of the fire and burning on a no burn day.

COs Scott MacNeill and Sam Koscinski worked marine patrol on the Manistee River during peak fishing hours. While on the river, the COs encountered heavy volumes of fisherman on the banks of the river and they issued multiple fishing citations for snagging related charges.

CO MacNeill worked multiple shifts on foot of the Manistee River and surrounding tributaries citing multiple subjects for snagging related charges.

On a late night patrol in Manistee County, CO Converse stopped a vehicle that was shining. During the contact, CO Converse observed fresh blood in the bed of the truck. CO Converse asked about the blood and the subjects hesitantly advised they had killed a deer earlier in the day while bow hunting. CO Converse followed the subjects back to their cabin and discovered an untagged doe in a covered utility trailer. The subjects admitted they had no intention of tagging the deer. While at the camp, CO Converse also located a lit bait pile with an over-limit of bait behind the residence and numerous M60 spider snagging hooks present. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on a closed portion of the Betsie River, CO Converse heard voices along the river. CO Converse located a subject attempting to spear salmon and an additional subject trying to net the fish. Upon contact, it was discovered the neither subject had a fishing license and both advised they had tried to catch fish by hook and line earlier, but had no luck. CO Converse also discovered that the subjects were in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Carla Soper stopped at a local tributary that is closed to check for illegal fishing activity. Within 5 minutes of her arrival, two subjects trespassed onto private property to scoop a salmon out of the stream with a landing net. Enforcement action was taken and their fish was seized.

Both CO Sam Koscinski and Sgt. Carla Soper assisted with a lockdown of all Manistee schools due to the threat of an active shooter. Working with other local law enforcement, the schools were secured and searched. The threat was unfounded.

CO Sam Koscinski and Sgt. Carla Soper doubled up on the jet boat for a fish patrol on the Manistee River. The COs located a group of anglers using illegal gear and attempting to snag. Upon making contact, it became apparent to CO Koscinski that the group they were dealing with were subjects that he and CO Converse had issued citations to the year prior, in the same spot, for the same violations. Enforcement action was taken again.

CO Ryan Andrews issued numerous citations for fishing violations throughout the weekend in closed areas of Pere Marquette and Baldwin Rivers.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed three subjects fishing on the Baldwin River where both sides of the river were determined to be private property. CO Killingbeck spent a significant amount of time observing all three subjects attempting to snag fish. CO Killingbeck observed the subjects catch two fish that were foul hooked and put on a stringer. CO Killingbeck made contact with the anglers, and determined that one subject who had kept a 20 pound salmon, did not have a fishing license. All three subjects admitted that they knew their method of fishing was not legal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck observed several vehicles parked in an area where snagging complaints have been initiated along the Pere Marquette River near James Road. CO Killingbeck hiked into the river and observed three subjects having extreme difficulty dragging numerous fish. CO Killingbeck contacted the subjects and determined that they were in possession of 15 salmon. One subject told CO Killingbeck that five of the fish were his and another subject told CO Killingbeck that none were his, because CO Killingbeck had caught him snagging the week prior. The third subject told CO Killingbeck that he had only caught five and that a friend up at the vehicles had caught the rest. CO Killingbeck followed the subjects to their vehicles and spoke with the "friend" who said he had not been fishing with these subjects. CO Killingbeck made contact with the third subject again who admitted catching over his limit. The subject also admitted that none of the fish were hooked in the mouth. CO Killingbeck discovered that the "friend" who had just pulled up was driving on a suspended license; however, the friend said that because he was close to home he did not believe it was a big deal. The illegal fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a complaint of a subject who had mistakenly shot a buck that did not meet the antler point restrictions. CO Killingbeck made contact with the hunter who said he was sitting in his blind and a buck came up beside him. The hunter admitted that he did not take much time to look at how many points the buck had before shooting. CO Killingbeck explained the importance of making sure you know your target before shooting. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking the Baldwin River after it was closed when he observed two subjects fishing. CO Killingbeck made contact with the anglers and asked them if they knew what river they were on. The subjects said that they knew where they were, but had forgotten about the type one streams closing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was performing a routine check on several waterfowl hunters and asked a hunter if there was a plug in his shotgun. The hunter said that he was not sure. CO Killingbeck asked the subject how many rounds he had loaded and the subject again said that he was not sure. CO Killingbeck determined that the gun was loaded with five shells and did not have a plug. CO Killingbeck explained duck hunting regulations to the hunter and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed four subjects trespassing on posted private property near the Pere Marquette River. CO Killingbeck made contact with the subjects and observed their fishing gear to be leaning directly against the "No Trespassing" Signs. CO Killingbeck asked the subjects if they had observed the signs and all four subjects said that they had, but were hoping not to get caught. CO Killingbeck explained to the subjects that complaints are being taken about trespassing and that landowners are tired of their property being destroyed, damaged and littered on by trespass activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller received information of waterfowl hunters hunting after posted hours and harvesting over-limits of ducks as they return to roost for the evening. Sgt. Mike Bomay was requested to assist and on opening evening the two COs conducted surveillance in heavy rain. The COs located the hunters and witnessed them hunting/shooting at ducks after hours. The COs made contact with the two hunters and found them to be in possession of an over-limit of wood ducks, toxic lead shot and hunting after hours. Enforcement action was taken, including seizing the ducks for evidence.

CO Angela Greenway was assigned a shift at Tippy Dam and issued a citation for attempting to snag fish to a subject who was in possession and using marijuana while fishing.

CO Angela Greenway received information of a large bait pile and was able to make contact with the suspect sitting in his tree stand on opening day of the archery season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel assisted Ferris State University public safety officers with a subject breaking into vehicles on campus. The subject fled on foot shortly before CO Lebel arrived. CO Lebel located the officer who was pointing toward the back of a building and asking for more assistance. The suspect was located in a trash dumpster and CO Lebel took the subject into custody without incident.

COs Ben Shively and Kyle Publiski assisted SSCENT with a Hemp flight in Mason County.

CO Ben Shively and CO Colton Gelinias were patrolling at Tippy Dam in Manistee County when they smelled the distinct odor of burning marijuana. CO Shively was able to locate a subject standing at a picnic table who was actively smoking marijuana while re-tying his line. CO Shively made contact with the subject who stated he had a medical marijuana card, but was just stressed out and began smoking the large marijuana cigarette. The subject was cited for use of medical marijuana in public and the marijuana cigarette was seized as evidence.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a large bait pile in Newaygo County. CO Ginn was able to locate the subject in her tree stand on the opening day of the archery season and took enforcement action.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to an illegal burn of a subject that had demolished an old barn and lit it on fire to dispose of the solid waste. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ginn responded two times to the same complaint of subjects hunting in a closed zone for waterfowl. CO Ginn just missed the hunters on the opener, but returned the next day and was able to make contact. CO Ginn determined that there was some confusion on the location being open, but could not overlook the fact that when the

hunters emptied their firearms they were using toxic lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn received information of a subject who had harvested a 10-point buck and purchased his license after the fact. CO Ginn interviewed the suspect who was being evasive of his ability to meet with CO Ginn, but was able to locate the processor the deer was taken. CO Ginn immediately responded to the processor, only to find his suspect attempting to remove the deer from the processor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ginn assisted the Newaygo Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police respond to a large party and assisted in apprehending minors that fled on foot. Multiple individuals were arrested for possession of drugs or had warrants for their arrest.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mike Hearn contacted a group of houndsmen assisting a licensed bear hunter in Kalkaska County. Upon checking licenses, it was determined one of the dog owners had not purchased a "no kill" license prior to participating in the bear hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen followed up on a complaint of a ladder stand that was placed early in Crawford County. The stand had been placed before September 1<sup>st</sup> and did not contain a name and address as required by law. The stand also had bait established before September 15<sup>th</sup> and was well over the legal limit of two gallons. CO Huspen contacted a hunter in the stand who was not in possession of his hunting license. CO Huspen talked with the hunter and determined his spouse was out hunting as well. CO Huspen located the second hunter who had many of the same violations. Education and enforcement action were taken.

CO John Huspen followed-up on a camp that was found without a valid permit in Crawford County. CO Huspen located the owner hunting close to the camp in an illegal ground blind with a crossbow. Further investigation determined the subject to be in possession of a controlled substance. A loaded shotgun was also located in the hunter's motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer observed two anglers fishing an artificial lures only trout lake in Crawford County. CO McAteer observed both anglers using live minnows on their hooks. Contact with the anglers was made and both subjects stated that they were unaware of any special regulations for the lake despite passing two large signs at the camp entrance and the boat launch. Enforcement action was taken for trout fishing during the closed season and using live bait in a dedicated trout lake.

COs Ben McAteer and Sgt. Brian Olsen responded to a complaint of possible illegal deer hunting in Crawford County. The COs arrived in the area and observed fresh ORV tracks heading from the subject's cabin into an area closed to ORV use. After following

the tracks, a hunter was observed hunting over a bait pile that exceeded the two gallon limit. The COs returned to the deer camp and made contact with two additional hunters. All hunting blinds were checked and the baited areas exceeded the two gallon limit. One hunter was determined to be hunting intoxicated without a license and carrying a concealed pistol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal responded to an out of season deer hunting complaint in Missaukee County on September 30<sup>th</sup>. CO Neal was able to locate the hunters in their blinds deer hunting the day before archery season. While issuing citations for two of the hunters, a third subject walked out of the woods. CO Neal asked the man what he had been doing. He stated he was setting up his blind for the next morning. CO Neal followed the man back to his blind where a cocked and loaded crossbow was located. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Craig Neal and Sgt. Brian Olsen were patrolling Roscommon County when they noticed a man without hunter orange standing in a marsh with a gun. The COs made contact with the hunter in the woods along the marsh. By this time, he had put on an orange vest and appeared to be small game hunting. When asked what he was doing in the marsh, the hunter stated he was trying to kill some geese. The hunter was found to be in possession of lead shot which is illegal when hunting waterfowl and the season had closed the day before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier observed a canoer and a young child who were paddling across Lake Skegemog. Upon contact, CO Schluckbier found the child was four years old and not wearing a personal floatation device (PFD). The older brother advised he did not have any PFDs with him because they were not planning on going for a long trip. Once on shore, CO Schluckbier located the father of the two boys. Enforcement action was taken for allowing a child less than six years old to be in a vessel without wearing a PFD.

CO Sam Schluckbier checked a group of waterfowl hunters exiting a field during an early morning patrol in Kalkaska County. The hunters were carrying out eight Canada geese they had harvested. Three of the four hunters presented valid hunting licenses. The fourth hunter failed to purchase a license prior because he claimed the line was too long at the local sporting goods store. CO Schluckbier confiscated the unlawfully taken birds and a citation was issued for hunting waterfowl without a license.

During the middle zone duck season opener, COs Jon Warner and Sgt. Bobbi Lively were patrolling Foote Pond in Iosco County when they saw two hunters motoring along the shoreline. Neither CO could see a watercraft registration on the vessel. Upon checking the vessel for the improper registration, they also found one of the hunters had a loaded gun while they were under power. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Cherry received a call from Michigan State Police Troopers Osterhout and Fink in Arenac County regarding a possible goose that was taken out of season. CO Cherry

responded to the area and interviewed the suspects with the troopers. Eventually, the goose was seized and a citation was issuing for taking a goose out of season.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a person shooting deer with a firearm from his back porch in Ogemaw County. He made contact with a woman at the address given, but she claimed to know nothing about the complaint. Just down the road, CO Bader passed two males in a vehicle who were headed to the same residence. CO Bader made contact with them and observed a cocked and uncased crossbow on the back seat. The car also smelled like marijuana. The driver gave CO Bader consent to search the vehicle and marijuana was located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader received information from an Ogemaw County Sheriff deputy about a deer that was potentially killed illegally. The deputy was able to document the kill site as well as blood in the garage. After a lengthy interview with the homeowner, CO Bader was able to interview the man who killed the deer. The suspect claimed the deer was shot during the early antlerless season; however, Ogemaw County doesn't have an early antlerless deer season and the date the man provided didn't match the season anyway. Further investigation also revealed that the license the man claimed to use for the deer wasn't validated or notched and didn't qualify for use in Ogemaw County. Charges are being pursued through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office for taking a deer out of season. After the interview, CO Bader arrested the man for an unrelated warrant.

CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to reports of a wildland fire in Gladwin County. Upon arrival, CO Papineau met with Gladwin Rural Fire Personnel that were attempting to extinguish a fire that had spread into a nearby wooded area that almost took a residence. As the fire was nearly suppressed, the caretaker of the property arrived on scene and indicated that he had only left for about 15 minutes. CO Papineau was advised that the caretaker had been burning debris in a burn pit and the fire was left burning as he left to take his children to school. The caretaker was issued citations for burning during high fire danger and leaving a fire unattended.

CO Mark Papineau was dispatched to reports of a large wildlife fire on the Gladwin-Roscommon County line. According to reports, flames were in excess of 20 feet high and quickly spreading towards a wooded area and nearby residences. Upon arrival on scene, CO Papineau was advised by two individuals that they had gathered brush into a pile to burn at a later date. They indicated that they had gone out deer hunting in the woods and returned when they saw the flames. During the suppression efforts, a loaded shotgun with slugs was located in the weeds next to an old cement foundation. At that point, the subjects changed their story from deer hunting to target shooting; however, no sign of target shooting was located. The story eventually fell apart and confessions were obtained for hunting deer with firearms during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin were on patrol in Arenac County when an ORV operating carelessly nearly ran into their patrol vehicle. A stop was conducted on the ORV and the operator was issued a citation for careless operation.

CO Nick Atkin was patrolling Arenac County when he received information that individuals were hunting waterfowl during the closed season. CO Atkin located their vehicle and launched his kayak in search of them. CO Atkin located the subjects and found they were in possession of waterfowl taken during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth received a call from the local dispatch center regarding a subject who reportedly shot a wounded deer with his crossbow and wanted to request a salvage tag for the buck. After a lengthy investigation of where the deer was shot, CO Gainforth determined that the subject had lied about where it was shot as well as many other violations that were present. The subject was operating his ORV in a prohibited area on public land, baiting in excess of the legal limit, and failed to place his name and address on his ground blind. CO Gainforth asked the subject why he did not tag the deer and the subject stated that he was being harassed by some other hunter in the area and it was a deer that they allegedly shot. The subject told CO Gainforth that he was worried that the other hunters were going to beat him up. CO Gainforth advised the subject that he should have called the RAP hotline so that a CO could have assisted him with investigating the alleged hunter harassment. Several warnings were given, but enforcement action was also taken.

COs Ethan Gainforth and Joshua Wright had been investigating a hunting camp on the west county line of Clare and Osceola Counties. The camp had an elevated blind with power supplied to it and numerous empty beer bottles on the floor. There was also a very large marijuana grow operation on the property. CO Gainforth noticed a vehicle parked on the property one night and investigated further. An inquiry revealed that the registered owner had not purchased any hunting licenses. CO Gainforth believed that the man was hunting without a license and possibly using an artificial light to take game outside of legal hours. COs Gainforth and Wright checked the camp the following night and the owner of the vehicle stepped out of the camper to meet the COs as they approached. While contacting the subject, the COs immediately smelled a very strong odor of burnt marijuana. Further investigation led to the seizure of approximately 17 pounds of marijuana and a loaded .22 caliber rifle. The subject was a convicted felon who was unable to possess firearms. There was also no legal basis for him to possess the marijuana. The subject was lodged in the Osceola County jail and felony charges are being sought for manufacturing and distributing marijuana, felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a firearm while committing a felony.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Joe Myers and Joel Lundberg were on patrol in Manistee County when they encountered multiple violations regarding to salmon fishing and the illegal taking of

salmon. Numerous tickets were issued for snagging, retaining foul hooked fish and license violations.

CO Joe Myers received information of a deer that was possibly shot with a firearm during the first few days of the archery deer season. CO Myers was able to determine through scientific based research that the deer had unique wounds. CO Myers interviewed the suspect and gained a confession of the illegal taking of an eight-point buck. The suspect was up front and honest about the mistakes he made and was cited for the violation.

CO Josh Russell located an elevated blind in the Vestaburg State Game Area. Along with the blind there were several trees and bushes cut down. CO Russell made contact with the individual and educated him on state game area rules and the subject was cited for cutting down the trees and bushes.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to a complaint of a possible illegally taken deer. Prior to the opening of archery season, a concerned citizen reported a pickup truck with a deceased buck in the bed traveling down the roadway. As the caller followed the truck, the suspects attempted to flee. CO Bucholtz located the pickup after it eluded the caller. It was determined the suspects had taken a roadkill deer and were speeding from the caller as they were unsure why they were being followed. CO Bucholtz educated the suspects on the proper procedures for reporting a roadkill animal.

While patrolling a local state game area on the opening day of archery season, CO Kyle Bucholtz spoke with multiple hunters and checked many deer. Many of the hunters were successful on their opening day hunts despite the warm weather. The state game area was well-populated compared to years prior, but no infractions were found.

While on patrol, CO Kyle Bucholtz heard a medical call come out over the radio. A subject was found pinned under a car after a jack slipped. CO Bucholtz responded and arrived shortly after an ambulance and sheriff deputies. Unfortunately the subject did not survive.

COs Bob Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz responded to a roll-over accident. An elderly subject crashed into a farm field and was unable to exit the heavily damaged car. The COs assisted an area deputy with steadying the unstable car and calming the subject until the fire department arrived on scene and removed the subject from the car.

CO Robert Hobkirk and Sgt. Scott Brown were checking fishermen in Lake Huron off of Port Austin when they checked a charter boat that was using more than three lines per person. The violation was discussed with the charter captain who was contacted later and cited for the violation.

While patrolling in Northern Sanilac County CO Seth Rhodea saw several goose hunters and stopped to check their licenses and equipment. It was discovered that one

of the hunters had no hunting licenses and was using an unplugged shotgun. The hunter was issued citations.

While patrolling near one of the state boat launches in Sanilac County, CO Seth Rhodea observed a golf cart being operated on the public roadway with the occupants possessing open beers. When the people on the golf cart saw the CO they tried to hide their beers. A stop was made and a citation issued for possessing open intoxicants.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling state land in Sanilac County when he located several waterfowl hunters that were hunting past the legal shooting time. Upon making contact with the hunters, one hunter did not have any of his licenses in possession. A citation was issued for hunting after hours.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to complaint of a subject possibly target practicing in an unsafe manner shooting onto his neighbor's property with rounds reportedly coming very close to the complainant while he worked on his property. CO Rhodea contacted the suspect at his house and while waiting for him to come outside to speak with him several children told CO Rhodea that their dad had gotten a deer that day. When the subject came outside, CO Rhodea checked the deer and found that it had never been tagged and the tag for the deer was still in the hunter's wallet. A citation was issued for failing to immediately tag the deer and warning was given for the target shooting violations.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a trespassing complaint on opening day of archery season. CO Rhodea was able to locate the trespasser on the complainant's property. The person trespassing claimed he was just setting up a tree stand, even though he had cut several trees in an apparent attempt to create a shooting lane. A citation was issued for trespassing and the subject was made to remove his stand from the property.

COs Seth Rhodea and Dan Robinson teamed up to check waterfowl hunters on the opening day of the middle zone waterfowl season in northern Isabella and Midland counties. Contact was made with numerous hunters and most hunters were in compliance with equipment, licensing and bag limit laws. Two citations were issued to a couple of hunters for being in possession of lead shot while waterfowl hunting.

CO Mark Siemen was working opening day during the 2017 archery season when he came across an ORV parked in the roadway with about 200 pounds of bait in the back. With no one around the machine and it being parked in the roadway, CO Siemen investigated the area and found a trail leading into the woods. CO Siemen located a hunter on the property who indicated the ORV belonged to someone else who was tracking a deer. CO Siemen continued with the investigation and found a bait pile in front of a hunting shack that was in excess of two gallons. The hunters arrived back at the location with a small button buck in the back of the ORV, which was not tagged. CO Siemen asked the driver if the deer was shot from the hunting shack and the hunter advised that it was, but that his father had shot the deer. The father arrived at the

location and confirmed that the deer was shot at the bait pile and asked what the problem was. CO Siemen explained the issue and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen received information from Station 20 about an eight point buck that may have been taken illegally. CO Siemen conducted an investigation with the information he had received. Contact was made with a local meat processor and the deer was located at that location. CO Siemen noticed the tag on the deer was not validated. Contact was made with the suspect at his place of employment. CO Siemen was able to obtain a confession about the deer from the suspect. CO Siemen collected all evidence and took multiple photos. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith handled a complaint of a freshly discovered deer with the back straps cut out. A check of the rapidly decaying carcass showed that the rear quarter had multiple broken bones, and was likely a road kill deer disposed of improperly.

COs Joshua Wright and Jason Smith assisted the Thumb Narcotics Unit with a HEMP flight in Tuscola County. During the flight, three locations were discovered and over 400 marijuana plants were seized. The street value of each seized plant averaged about \$1K, making the seizure about \$400K.

CO Joshua Wright was just around the corner of a vehicle versus tree accident when the call came out. He was able to provide first aid for the only occupant, the driver, for non-life threatening injuries to the head from the air bag. During the questioning of the driver it was apparent that they were under the influence of a controlled substance. The information was passed to the responding Trooper and a search warrant was sought for their blood.

CO Mike Haas received a complaint that there was a vehicle driving around in a field spotlighting deer. CO Haas responded to the area just as the vehicle was exiting the field and speeding away. After traveling a couple miles CO Haas caught up to the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop due to excessive speed. The operator of the vehicle did not have his driver's license on him, admitted to shining with a weapon in the vehicle and had an uncased crossbow and arrows sitting next to him. Enforcement action was taken.

During a meat processor inspection, CO Josh Russell noticed a deer that had just been dropped off and the attached deer tag had been purchased just a short time earlier. CO Russell contacted CO Mike Haas who was in the area of the suspect's residence and informed him of what he had discovered. CO Haas visited the individual who dropped off the deer and questioned him about his hunt. After the man told the CO about his successful morning hunt, CO Haas pointed out to the man that he didn't purchase his hunting license until late in the afternoon. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson was called to an area where an individual was driving carelessly up and down the road on a 4-wheeler. CO Robinson arrived on-scene expecting the subject to be gone, but was surprised when he came around the corner. The subject

turned quickly and headed behind a nearby house. CO Robinson made contact with the subject, who was not wearing a helmet and did not have registration stickers for the ORV. It was also discovered that the subject's license was suspended five prior times and he had a history of driving on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson received a complaint from the Report All Poaching line that a subject had snagged several salmon and brought them back to the Mt. Pleasant area. CO Robinson made several attempts to talk to the female who posted a video and pictures of the suspect snagging on an unknown river. In the process, CO Robinson spoke to the suspect on the phone where he denied fishing for salmon in a year. Shortly after the conversation, all the posted pictures and videos were taken down. The next day, after gathering more evidence, CO Robinson contacted the suspect again, who now said that he was fishing on the Betsie River two or three weeks ago. The third day of the investigation CO Robinson made contact with the suspect at his residence. The suspect still denied taking fish home, but did admit to using a lead lure with treble hooks attached and to "pulling" the lure through the holes because "the fish don't bite this time of year". CO Robinson was able to locate the street corner where the pictures of the five fish were taken. The suspect continued to deny taking the fish home until the CO identified the corner where the picture was taken. Realizing that he was caught the suspect admitted to keeping the fish and using illegal gear and method. Enforcement action was taken.

While on waterfowl patrol, COs Dan Robinson and Seth Rhodea made contact with a group of hunters that had 18 birds between the seven hunters. The COs checked licenses and gear and found that two of the subjects were in possession of lead shot and several boxes of shotgun slugs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person assisted the Midland County Sheriff's Department with a report of a subject sitting in a lawn chair on vacant school property with a long gun. A perimeter was set up and all the active schools in the area were put on lock down. All school busses were rerouted away from the area. A drive by the school in an unmarked vehicle by a non-uniformed deputy was conducted. However, no subject was observed. A call back to the complainant confirmed that she witnessed the subject sitting in a lawn chair behind his pickup truck with a long gun across his lap. Checks were made at all surrounding schools for the suspects' vehicle, it was not located. After 3 hours of investigation, the schools were opened and all officers cleared the area.

CO Jay Person was called to an illegal burn in Midland County. The burn was in the middle of the woods and the fire department was having trouble finding a way in to put the fire out. A DNR plane was called from Roscommon to assist in finding a route into the fire. After traversing through numerous farm fields and wood lots, the fire was located and extinguished by the fire department. It appears that a house was being renovated and all the building materials were set on fire by a contractor and then left unattended. Contact with the contractor is still on going, the case remains open.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While patrolling the Rogue River on a late night patrol, CO Justin Ulberg located a group of anglers fishing for salmon. CO Ulberg was able to get in close proximity to the anglers and utilized night vision to watch the anglers fish. While observing the anglers for several hours, CO Ulberg witnessed multiple fish being kept that were foul hooked. It was also apparent by the anglers fishing technique that they were purposely trying to snag fish and they were overheard joking around about how the fish were snagged. CO Ulberg contacted the group and enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg watched an angler catch a salmon that was foul hooked by the Rockford Dam. After removing the hook from the fish's back, a nearby angler came over and took possession of the fish and placed it up on the shore. Contact was made with the angler who caught the fish and he advised CO Ulberg that he told the other angler it was foul hooked and he didn't want anything to do with the fish being kept. CO Ulberg contacted the subject who retained possession of the fish and enforcement action was taken.

On a late night patrol on the Rogue River, CO Justin Ulberg observed a group of anglers who appeared to be purposely trying to snag fish. During the observation, CO Ulberg observed one angler keep two salmon that were clearly foul hooked. The anglers were contacted by Sgt. Jeff Rabbers as the group was packing up to leave. A confession was received from the angler who kept the foul hooked fish. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at the Rogue River State Game Area in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg encountered two subjects who had parked their vehicles in an area where motor vehicles were prohibited. While speaking to the subjects, CO Ulberg observed some drug paraphernalia in one of the vehicles and noticed components used to make methamphetamine. Further investigation revealed a cooler in the back of one of the vehicles where methamphetamine was actively being made. Drug teams from Kent County and MSP were called in to assist in the clean-up and more methamphetamine was located in the second vehicle. The subjects were lodged at the county jail with pending felony drug charges.

While on patrol in Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers received a complaint that a group of subjects were netting salmon near Webber Dam along the Grand River by Goose Creek. While making his way to the creek, CO Beavers spotted two subjects carrying two buckets full of fish, which appeared to be salmon. CO Beavers was able to make contact with the subjects before they arrived to their vehicle. The subjects stated they had 11 fish in the buckets and there were 3 additional people with fish downstream. CO Beavers put the buckets of fish in his patrol truck and then he and the two subjects made their way to the creek. While on the way, CO Beavers asked the subjects how many fish were with the other members of their group and one stated that he was not sure. CO Beavers told him that they were only allowed to possess five salmon per person, which would amount to 25 total. One of the subjects stated they should be good then, but then went on to say that he read on the internet they were allowed to have 10 per person. CO Beavers told him that was wrong and that it clearly states five

in the fishing guide. Once CO Beavers arrived to the mouth of the creek, he found the 3 additional members of their group sitting down next to a large pile of salmon. CO Beavers checked the area and noticed there were no fishing poles and only a net. CO Beavers then counted the fish in the pile, which totaled 35. In total, the group had 46 coho salmon. CO Beavers asked if they used a fishing pole to catch any of the fish and they stated no. The total weight from the fish netted was 243.44 pounds. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers observed a subject targeting salmon at Spires Creek. CO Beavers observed the subject for nearly 30 minutes. During that time, the subject attempted to snag on almost every cast. After 30 minutes, CO Beavers stood along the bridge making himself visible to the angler. Once the angler noticed CO Beavers, he quickly changed his fishing technique. CO Beavers made contact and questioned the subject regarding the observed snagging. At first, the angler said that he was attempting to set his hook, but then CO Beavers informed him he had been watching him for nearly a half hour. At that time, the subject stated he was getting frustrated at his inability to catch fish and resorted to snagging. Enforcement action was taken.

In Ionia County, COs Jeremy Beavers and Cary Foster responded to a snagging complaint in the Grand River near Ionia. Multiple subjects were reportedly attempting to snag fish under an old railroad bridge near the Grand River State Game Area. COs Beavers and Foster were able to observe multiple subjects for over a half hour attempting to snag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten made contact with a boat showing a New York state registration and a home port of Muskegon on the stern. An investigation revealed that the boat was being used in Michigan, but registered to the operator's sister in New York. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol, CO Greg Patten made contact with a boat with two people on the bow, their legs hanging over the front, and one of them was the boat owner. A safety check revealed that there were insufficient PFDs aboard the boat. Enforcement action was taken for bow riding and PFDs.

CO Greg Patten was dispatched to follow up on two suspicious fires in the Manistee National Forest. Upon arrival, CO Patten saw smoke and flames coming from the same area, and contacted area fire departments and DNR fire. Several local fire departments and DNR fire responded. Investigation revealed that there was another fire started prior to his arrival. The fires are under investigation.

CO Greg Patten received a complaint from the Michigan State Police regarding a subject who stole another person's trail camera and urinated in his blind. The camera owner tracked the camera down and found it placed over another hunting spot. There was more than two gallons of bait at the suspect's hunting spot. CO Patten contacted

the suspect and enforcement action was taken for more than two gallons of bait not spread out over a 10 X 10 foot area.

CO Greg Patten assisted Michigan State Police with a search for two breaking & entering suspects. After the search, they went to one of the suspect's residence and found several illegal marijuana plants growing. Michigan State Police will be taking enforcement action.

CO Greg Patten checked a deer processor at about 3:00 PM and located a deer that was tagged with a license purchased at 12:30 PM that day. CO Patten contacted the person who killed the deer and he confessed to killing the deer without a license. The subject showed CO Patten his tree stand with bait and a trail camera in front of it. He said that he did not intend to shoot a deer that day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten reported attending a trial for a subject, who was apprehended for a second time, operating an unlicensed charter boat. The subject pled guilty and was sentenced to \$625 fines and costs and 6 months of probation.

While patrolling near Dowagiac, CO Tyler Cole responded to a call at Dowagiac Union High School being on lockdown due to a student with a possible gun. CO Cole was one of the first law enforcement units on scene and assisted Dowagiac Police Department with securing the student and school.

COs Tyler Cole, Zach Bauer, and Matt Page worked a group patrol in Van Buren County targeting snagging, at a problem area where many complaints and violations occur. Numerous violations were observed and citations were issued for retaining foul hooked fish, fishing in a closed stream, and use of illegal gear.

COs Tyler Cole and Zach Bauer were on a patrol near the Crane Pond State Game Area, when they observed an ORV being operated on the roadway. Contact was made with the ORV and it was found that three juvenile females were riding on an ORV designed for one rider and none of them were wearing helmets. The COs followed the ORV back to a residence where a parent was contacted. The parent was unaware that the girls had wandered so far from home. A citation was issued to the parent for allowing the ORV to be operated by a juvenile with no supervision.

CO Tyler Cole and Sgt. Zach Doss patrolled the Black River system in an area known for snagging problems. Citations were issued for fishing a closed stream and the use of illegal gear.

CO Zach Bauer reports that a case from last December finally came to a close with a plea of guilty from the defendant. CO Bauer and retired CO Brad Brewer had received information regarding a subject that had killed 4 bucks, the last 2 being over the limit. A search warrant was served on the subject's residence and evidence and a confession were obtained. The subject will pay \$13,000 in reimbursement to the state fish and game fund for the 2 illegal bucks and his hunting rights were revoked for 4 years.

COs Matt Page and Tyler Cole spoke at a hunter safety class in New Troy regarding hunting regulations and the duties of a CO.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Daniel Prince investigated a complaint where a subject shot a big brown bat with an airsoft gun in his home and posted it on the internet. CO Prince was able to educate the subject regarding laws and ethics with bats. The subject was very apologetic and remorseful and removed the video from the website.

COs Mike Drexler and Brandon Hartleben assisted Ypsilanti Police who were responding to a domestic violence call. The COs provided back up as Ypsilanti conducted an investigation, ultimately arresting one subject for domestic assault.

COs Mike Drexler and Brandon Hartleben responded to a call in Livingston County involving a possible diseased deer. Along with wildlife division personnel, the COs searched the area and dispatched the obviously injured or diseased animal. Wildlife division took possession of the deer for testing.

CO Brandon Hartleben conducted a warrant pick-up on a subject that he arrested in early August for fishing without a license in Ann Arbor. The subject was picked-up from the Livingston County Jail, transported to and lodged in the Washtenaw County Jail, and is awaiting his arraignment on the charge.

CO Brandon Hartleben was patrolling Pinckney State Recreation Area and noticed a large number of vehicles at the Halfmoon Lake Access Site. CO Hartleben checked the site and discovered there was a heated disagreement between two competing bass tournaments, both using the location. One of the tournaments had registered correctly using the online registration system, while the other tournament organizer failed to register, and failed to check if any other tournaments were registered for this location. After diffusing the situation, CO Hartleben met separately with each group to ensure that both tournaments could still occur simultaneously without any undue hardship. The unregistered tournament organizer was then cited for failing to register a bass tournament.

CO Eric Smither assisted Morenci Police on a possible suicidal female subject. CO Smither and a Morenci officer arrived on scene and were able to speak with her. She was ultimately transported to the hospital without incident.

CO Eric Smither assisted Hudson Police Department on a domestic assault where one individual left the scene. Enforcement action was taken by Hudson police and one individual was taken to Lenawee County Jail.

While patrolling the Lake Hudson Recreation Area during the archery season opener CO Smither observed an individual hunting from an unlawful tripod blind. Enforcement action taken.

CO Eric Smither assisted Lenawee County Sheriff's deputies and EMS personnel with an elderly female who left her house and walked through a wooded area to her neighbor's house because she thought someone was in her house. The neighbor found her muddy and complaining of neck pain with no idea why she was there. CO Smither assisted deputies with directing EMS to their location and checking the house and the woman's husband who was still at their residence.

CO Eric Smither received a complaint of littering on state land in the Lake Hudson Recreation Area. CO Smither was able to get a name and address for a possible suspect. CO Smither made contact at the suspect's residence with the suspect's boyfriend. The boyfriend admitted to throwing the bags of trash along the road on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Smither talked at a hunter safety class at the Lenawee Conservation Club to approximately 55 students and parents.

COs Andrew Monnich and Eric Smither were checking some bait locations the day before the archery opener and observed a man in a parking area close to where a large bait pile was located. The COs made contact with the man who stated he doesn't hunt in this area but has a friend who does. They asked if his friend was with him and he stated he was just checking his stand and pointed in the opposite direction as the bait pile. Both COs walked through the woods and located the man's friend who had just dumped a large amount of corn well over the legal amount of two gallons. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was patrolling on the archery opener in Lenawee County and checked a group of four hunters. A check through LEIN revealed two of the individuals had felony warrants for their arrest. CO Monnich placed both under arrest and enforcement action was taken for not having a hunting license.

COs Pete Purdy and Matt Neterer attended Safety Day at the Howell Home Depot. The COs spoke about hunting laws and safe hunting practices. The hunting simulator trailer was a big hit.

COs Pete Purdy and Jason Becker followed-up on a Facebook complaint of a subject taking a deer without a license. Contact was made with the suspect, who confessed to hunting w/o a license, transport untagged deer, and fail to meet hunter safety requirements. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough completed a recreational trespass investigation where a subject drove his vehicle onto a farm without permission. The land owner, who was out scouting, noticed a vehicle parked on his property and confronted the driver. The driver

was found to be in possession of an uncased shotgun and stated he was just checking things out. The landowner told the trespasser to get off his property and not come back. CO McCullough contacted the subject and the driver stated he just tended to wander and wanted to check the property out. CO McCullough advised the subject it was not a good idea to trespass on private property, especially when he drove by a large "No Trespassing" sign. A warrant was sought through the local prosecutor's office.

CO Jason McCullough completed an investigation detailing a subject buying a deer license after he had already killed a deer. Upon contact with the shooter it was discovered the shooter didn't want to use one of his combo tags on a doe this early in the season. The shooter went and bought a tag after he had recovered the deer. CO McCullough explained the purpose of buying a license before killing an animal and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss attended a hunter safety class at the Marshall Law Enforcement Center, with approximately 30 students present. The class was put on by the Calhoun County Sheriff Department.

CO Chris Reynolds worked a booth at the Hillsdale County fair from September 25th through the 30th with help from COs Carter Woodwyk, Jeff Goss, and Jason McCullough. The COs ran the hunter education laser shot trailer. The COs also answered questions related to hunter safety, hunting, fishing, marine, and ORV laws for hundreds of the fair attendees.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol in Hillsdale County checking for deer hunting activity, observed a hunter walking down a secluded dirt road. When CO Reynolds went to make contact, the hunter ducked into the woods. The CO immediately made contact with the hunter who stated he didn't have his license and thought he had left it at home. A license purchase check was done with it showing no licenses purchased for the 2017 season. A citation was issued for hunting without a license.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol in Hillsdale County with A/Sergeant Todd Thorn, observed two vehicles stopped on a roadway. The officers made contact with the vehicles and noted the smell of marijuana. The driver gave the officers consent to search the vehicle and marijuana was found. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Jackson assisted a local police department with a 'shots fired' call. As the officers were en route to the incident location, updated radio traffic advised that the shot was self-inflicted. CO Jackson arrived and assisted a local officer and medical responders as they brought the individual from the house to the ambulance where he was transported to the hospital.

Acting Sgt. Todd Thorn and CO Troy Ludwig spoke at a hunter education program held at the Chief Okemos Sportsman Club. There were approximately 30 students in attendance.

While patrolling Eaton County during the opening day of bow season, Acting Sgt. Todd Thorn located a vehicle parked in an obscure location. Sgt. Thorn found that the registered owner of the vehicle did not have a current hunting license. After dark, a man walked to the vehicle wearing jeans and a t-shirt, but did not have hunting clothes or a hunting device. There was an empty bow case inside the car. The man stated that he had just gone for a walk and wasn't hunting. Sgt. Thorn pushed the issue and walked the nearby fields with the man and was able to locate a compound bow and hunting clothes on the edge of a cornfield near the man's vehicle. The man stated that he knew he didn't have a license and didn't want to go to jail so he hid his hunting equipment when he saw the patrol truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig received a complaint via the Report All Poaching hotline of a hunter who took a deer without a license. When questioned by the CO, the hunter immediately admitted to shooting the deer without a license and then purchasing the tag the next day to validate the kill. CO Ludwig thanked the hunter for his honesty and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Tamarack Lake State Game Area CO Troy Ludwig contacted two anglers returning to shore in a boat. When asked why the boat's registration was not up to date the owner stated he had not got around to doing it. The anglers were also unable to produce enough personal flotation devices. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig and Acting Sgt. Todd Thorn performed a joint salmon patrol on the Grand River. The patrol returned numerous contacts with anglers, and reports that salmon are starting to make their way into the Lansing area.

CO Carter Woodwyk was checking hunters on the opening day of archery deer season in Hillsdale County when he heard an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) slowly approaching. The CO observed neither of the ORV's occupants wearing their seatbelts. The CO stopped the operator and educated both of the occupants on the Michigan ORV laws.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale County after sunset when he was forced to swerve to the shoulder of the road to avoid being sideswiped by a slow moving vehicle. The CO turned his patrol truck around and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. When the CO asked how much the operator had to drink, he replied with two beers. The CO conducted field sobriety examinations on the operator and determined that he was well over the legal limit of .08. The operator was arrested for operating while intoxicated and lodged at the Hillsdale County Jail.

CO Rich Nickols was on foot patrol on State land when he observed a clean plastic bag lying on the ground. Thinking the bag probably had contained bait, CO Nickols searched the immediate area and located 4 piles of carrots that had recently been placed in the dense vegetation, however there were no tree stands or blinds nearby. CO Nickols returned early in the morning on opening day of archery season and located a subject hunting from a climbing tree stand. In addition to the illegal bait, the subject was given a

verbal warning for littering and was found to be in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was on marine patrol on the Portage Lake chain in Livingston County during the recent unseasonably warm weather. While going up the Huron River, CO Nickols observed three subjects actively fishing from a boat. CO Nickols made contact and saw that each subject had their own cooler they were putting fish into. The first subject was asked if he had counted his fish. He replied that he was just getting ready to do that. Each subject counted their fish and each one was over limit on sunfish. The three anglers had a combined catch of 102 sunfish, 27 over their legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

During the same marine patrol, CO Nickols patrolled to Zuckey Lake where he observed a ski boat towing a water skier without an observer. Contact was made and the boat operator said she had people coming to be on the boat but the weather was so nice she wanted to get an early start. A citation was issued.

CO Rich Nickols spoke at a hunter safety class held at the Rose Lake shooting range on 10-07-17. There were approximately 30 students in attendance.

CO Rich Nickols attended a meeting of the East Olive Co-op of the Clinton-Ionia QDMA chapter on 10-07-17. There were about 30 attendees. CWD regulations were the popular topic as the co-op is in the core CWD area.

CO Matthew Neterer was contacted by a hunter that he had helped with a trespassing complaint during the 2016 season. The hunter had several trail camera pictures of the same couple walking their dogs through his hunting property. After unsuccessful attempts by the complainant to talk to the couple, CO Neterer responded and warned them to stay off of the property. The hunter checked his trail camera on opening day of the 2017 archery season to find pictures of the couple back on his property walking past several no trespassing signs. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on opening day of archery deer season, CO Matthew Neterer received a complaint of someone trespassing, cutting down trees and placing a tree stand on private property. The complainant believed that it was the neighbor because they had recently given permission to them to cut fire wood. CO Neterer responded and located three hunters that were just returning from the field. CO Neterer's investigation led to two antlerless deer that had tags that were not validated and one of the subjects was found to be hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher along with the help of Sgt Bahlau and CO Chris Reynolds conducted an extensive investigation from the youth hunt. An eight point buck was found on a property by an individual who was not hunting. The property owner called around to see if any of the neighboring properties had a youth hunter. A nearby youth hunter was located and his family came to retrieve the deer. However, another family claimed it was their deer. Upon completing a thorough investigation the COs determined the deer

was in the wrong hands. After presenting the evidence and speaking with both families, the deer was given to the youth who actually shot the deer.

COs Chris Maher and Andy Monnich were working a joint patrol in Lenawee County when a call came in about an individual hunting on farm property without permission. The farmers confronted the hunter and blocked his vehicle so he could not leave. The COs quickly responded and eased tensions between the farmer and the hunter. The COs explained rec trespass to both parties and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason King and Matt Neterer received a complaint from Shiawassee Central Dispatch referencing subjects target practicing at their residence. Upon arrival it was discovered that the neighbors have been having civil disputes. The officers spoke with both parties. For the time being, the situation has been resolved and no violations were discovered.

While patrolling back to Shiawassee County from the District 8 Office, CO Jason King arrived first on scene for a 2 car accident. The accident took place on US 127 near Exit 79. CO King blocked the far right northbound lane and checked both drivers for injuries. No physical harm was reported by either driver. The incident was then turned over to East Lansing Police Department.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County and saw an ORV traveling at a high rate of speed on the roadway. CO Slick stopped the operator who stated he was on his way home from digging a pond with his brother. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick responded to a complaint of baiting at a home near Sleepy Hollow State Park. The homeowner stated she wasn't aware that she was doing anything wrong. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While on fisheries patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was watching a group of anglers along a popular shoreline. Upon checking their fish CO Deppen noticed a largemouth bass that was undersized. Before grabbing the largemouth bass, CO Deppen asked who caught the bass. The one angler excitedly said "I did". CO Deppen asked if he measured it and the angler said he had a measuring board, but he did not need to measure. He was sure it was legal though. CO Deppen asked the angler how long a largemouth bass had to be, and the angler responded twelve inches. CO Deppen informed the angler the bass needed to be fourteen inches to be legal and the angler argued that the guide he read said twelve inches. CO Deppen handed the angler a fishing guide and told the angler if he could find where a twelve inch bass was legal in Macomb County that he would get a verbal warning. The angler could not find the largemouth bass pages he read earlier and the angler said he must have read a different guide. CO Deppen measured the bass at eleven inches. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen heard two ORVs on the next street over. CO Deppen waited and both ORVs came to an intersection and proceeded down the adjacent road. A traffic stop was conducted. The ORVs were not registered and they were operating on a roadway closed to ORV traffic. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Joseph Deppen were checking hunters on opening day of archery season. A group of hunters were spotted and after watching them an antlerless deer came running out of the woods and collapsed in a nearby clearing. One hunter emerged from the woods and checked the deer. He then proceeded to head to his truck and wait. Another truck showed up and both hunters proceeded to gut the antlerless deer. As the hunters were walking back to their vehicles contact was made. COs Kiel and Deppen made contact and asked if they got a deer and they said yes, we got a doe. COs Kiel and Deppen asked if they had tagged it, and they said "no". The hunters explained that they were headed back to their trucks to get a string and tags. The hunters admitted they were seasoned hunters and knew they should have tagged the deer beforehand. Upon checking their hunting location, the hunters were over the two gallon bait limit, and they did not immediately disclose to officers they were carrying concealed pistols. The pistols were confiscated and verified. The hunters were informed about their mistakes and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject hunting on a property line and shooting onto the neighbor's property to harvest a deer. Upon arrival, CO Kovach observed the hunting blind facing the complainant's property and a gut pile near a bait pile, all of which were on trespassed property. An interview was conducted and a full confession was obtained from the subject shooting the deer on the property of another without permission. The subject also admitted to then tracking deer onto multiple other properties without permission. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was checking archery hunters coming out of the St. Johns Marsh Game Area when a hunter came out of the woods with an untagged doe. The hunter had a license but failed to validate and tag the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher had a report of a conflict between a Michigan charter boat and a possible Canadian commercial fisherman. The Canadian fisherman accused the Charter Captain of messing with his nets. There is no commercial fishing in Lake St. Clair and an investigation of illegal nets has been started.

COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel received a RAP compliant from DNR Dispatch in regards to a subject who posted a picture of himself with a 12-point antlered deer on social media. After a brief online investigation, it was found that the suspect shot the deer on opening day of archery deer season, and did not purchase a license until after legal hunting hours on the same day. COs Silorey and Kiel went to the gas station where the suspect purchased his license, and observed the suspect on video footage of him buying his license after hours in the same hunting attire. The suspect also purchased 3 bags of ice. COs Silorey and Kiel made contact with the suspect at his

residence and interviewed him about hunting that day and the deer he took. The suspect admitted to taking the deer prior to buying his license. Enforcement action was taken. A report will be generated and submitted to Macomb County Prosecutors Office.

CO Matt Zultak made contact with a subject who was hunting at a venue which had been under observation for a couple months. Enforcement action was taken for early baiting, over baiting, early set up of a blind on state land, no name and address on the blind and damaging state vegetation.

CO Matt Zultak made contact with subjects actively trespassing on private farm lands. Upon contact, CO Zultak stopped a criminal sexual conduct sex crime to a minor that was in progress. CO Zultak requested back-up from the Lapeer County Sheriff Department. The incident was turned over to the Lapeer County Sheriff Department for further investigation.

COs Raymond Gardner and Danny Walzak were at St. Jean Boat Launch in Detroit, due to a RAP Complaint about an Illegal charter boat operation. The COs waited at the boat launch for the boat to come back in and when the boat arrived, CO Gardner and Walzak made contact with the occupants of the possible Illegal Charter Boat and talked with them separately. When CO Gardner asked the boat owner, who was a Licensed Charter Boat Captain in Ohio, about the fishing trip and how the two individuals knew each other, he was told that the other individual was a friend of his girlfriends. CO Walzak asked the other occupant, who was from Indiana, the same thing and was told that he paid the owner of the boat \$500 to go fishing for two and a half days. With this information CO Gardner and CO Walzak spoke with the boat owner and he admitted to accepting payment from the other occupant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger approached an individual fishing for walleye and asked how the angler was doing. The angler stated he had not caught anything; however, the CO looked in the fish basket right next to the angler and found an 11 inch largemouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger made contact with 2 ORVs that were trespassing on township property not open to ORV activity. While talking to one individual, CO Schaumburger realized he wrote the operator a ticket in the past for operating an ORV on the roadway and without a helmet. The CO asked the operator why he did not learn his lesson since he was riding on the roadway again and now trespassing. The operator stated that he is "always going to ride." Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger made contact with a deer hunter on opening day of archery season who in an attempt to access state land, parked his vehicle on private property and was trespassing. CO Schaumburger met the hunter in the woods and asked to see his stand and equipment. CO Schaumburger found approximately 5 gallons of bait, a tree stand that was not properly marked, and screw in tree steps on state land. CO Schaumburger addressed the violations and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in southern Monroe County, CO James Zellinger observed four subjects fishing along the side of the road. One of the subjects was observed throwing out and pulling in a cast net. Contact was made with the subjects and it was determined the only subject fishing was the one observed throwing the cast net. The subject was in possession of 5 Common Carp. When asked to provide his fishing license the subject explained both his driver's license and fishing license were in his car, which was parked up the road. Officer Zellinger followed all four subjects to their vehicle. Once at the vehicle, the subject provided CO Zellinger with a fishing license, which belonged to his son. After further questioning, the subject admitted he did not buy a fishing license and was borrowing his sons. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Highland Recreation Area, CO Jason Becker noticed a vehicle parked along the road with empty gun cases. CO Becker walked into the woods and located two men sitting next to a log with their hunter orange garments lying on the ground next to them. The two men seemed surprised to see CO Becker. They stated they were squirrel hunting with their sons, who were not close enough to be seen. One of the subjects called the boys on the phone and had them come back to CO Becker's location. All of the hunters had valid licenses, but not with them. CO Becker advised the group that the teens needed to be within sight and sound contact of the adults. Enforcement action was taken. While explaining the tickets to the subjects, another hunter pulled up and parked next to CO Becker's patrol vehicle. CO Becker asked the subject where he was hunting at. The subject stated he was hunting from a tree stand that CO Becker checked earlier without a name on it. As they were talking, CO Becker noticed an uncased bow lying on the back seat of the SUV. CO Becker asked the subject if he had a case for it, and the subject stated it was at home. CO Becker cited the subject for an uncased bow in a motor vehicle.

While in the Highland Recreation Area, CO Jason Becker was checking a tree stand that had been left on state land for years with no name and steps screwed into the tree. CO Becker contacted a woman in a vehicle on the road who stated she was waiting for her husband. After a few minutes, the husband came out of the woods. CO Becker checked the subject's license and smelled a strong odor of alcoholic beverage on the subject's breath as he was talking. CO Becker asked the subject to take him to the tree stand he was hunting from. The subject led CO Becker in the opposite direction of the tree stand, just to show CO Becker another illegal tree stand that the subject occasionally hunts from. After a short conversation, the subject decided to come clean and show CO Becker the actual stand he was hunting from. Once back to the vehicle, CO Becker ran the hunter through field sobriety tests and gave the subject a preliminary breath test. The subject was more than twice the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer received a RAP complaint from DNR dispatch regarding an over limit of bait. CO Dragomer responded to the location of the complaint and located two very large piles of bait at two different hunting locations. One of the locations had approximately 15 gallons of bait in front of a tree stand. The bait included carrots, apples, corn, and acorns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he discovered a subject who is known to have left multiple stands out on state land for multiple years. CO Griffin spoke with the subject who admitted to leaving the stands out due to how hard they are to bring in every year. CO Griffin informed the subject that the tree stands must be removed every year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights was searching some social media sites and came across an individual that posted a picture of a dead deer. The picture looked suspicious, so CO Knights did some research and was able to find a name affiliated with the picture. CO Knights discovered that the individual shot the deer on October 1<sup>st</sup>, but the individual hadn't purchased a license until after legal shooting hours. CO Knights interviewed the individual and he admitted to shooting the deer than purchasing his license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights was picking up a deer carcass from a processor when he noticed a six point deer rack. After further investigation CO Knights discovered that the deer had been brought to the processor earlier in the week. CO Knights noticed that the deer tag was purchased the same day the deer was taken to the processor. CO Knights took the information and interviewed the individual at his residence. CO Knights asked to see a picture he might have taken when he shot the deer. The individual obliged, and showed CO Knights the picture. From the picture CO Knights was able to confirm that he had shot his deer, and purchased his license after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Christopher Knights received a call from the White Lake Police department. They stated someone had called them and witnessed multiple young teens in Pontiac Lake State Park shooting shotguns just off the mountain bike trails. With little description on exactly where they were CO Knights went to a particular spot in the game area frequented by hunters. CO Knights drove by a parking lot, but stopped immediately after he noticed a subject matching the description in the complaint. CO Knights gathered all parties in the lot and interviewed the subjects. CO Knights determined one of the subjects was small game hunting with no hunter orange, and had an uncased shotgun in the back seat of this pickup truck. The subject also failed to notify CO Knights he was carrying a concealed pistol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser investigated a complaint of a subject who posted a photo on MI Buck pole of a deer that was taken on opening day of archery deer season. The subject posted the photo in the evening of opening day. Upon closer examination it was discovered that the subject didn't purchase his hunting license until 8:30pm that night. The CO interviewed the subject who stated that after he shot the deer he realized that he hadn't purchased his license. He explained that he left the deer, went to purchase the tag and then recovered and tagged the deer. CO Muehlhauser explained that because he didn't have a license at the time of kill he could not take and legally possess

the deer. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken. The meat was donated to a local family impact center.

## **DISTRICT 25**

Detective Ken Cerny reports that in the 3B District Court in Centreville, Michigan a Goshen Indiana man admitted responsibility to a reduced charge of littering and paid a \$200 fine. Original misdemeanor charges of unlawful open burning of trash under Part 55 (Air Pollution Control) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and unlawful burning under Part 515 (prevention and suppression of forest fire) were dismissed under the plea deal. Charges originated from a March 31, 2017 incident in St. Joseph County where a large unattended trash and scrap wood fire was called in to the local fire department. The fire department responded at 4:00 a.m. and put the fire out. The fire was part of an effort by an auction company and the auction company's part owner to clean up an old sawmill to get it ready for an equipment auction.

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## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Kyle Bucholtz appeared in the 36th District Court in Detroit. While on Belle Isle weeks before, CO Bucholtz wrote a subject for possessing alcohol in a state park. The subject was given multiple warnings also. Unfortunately, the subject failed to show for his requested court date.

CO David Schaumburger received a complaint from dispatch that a vehicle went around the barricades on Belle Isle around 11:50 PM. The vehicle was spotted and a traffic stop was initiated. Upon making contact with the occupants of the vehicle, the CO could smell a strong odor of intoxicants in the vehicle and located a "Four Loko" in the center cup holder. The driver stated that he only had a few drinks today, and agreed to take the officers roadside tests. The driver failed all of the SFST(s) and blew a .15 on the breathalyzer, nearly twice the legal limit. The driver was arrested for OWI and taken into custody.