

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Report  
10/6/19 – 10/19/19**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Josh Boudreaux responded to a report of an overturned sailboat on Lake Independence with two individuals in the water. Upon arrival on scene, CO Boudreaux boarded a boat with the Powell Township Fire Department who transported him across the lake to where the individuals were located, in chest deep water, attempting to right their overturned sailboat in the wind and waves. CO Boudreaux entered the water and assisted the pair, who were uninjured, with righting their sailboat and then helped them drag it to shore where Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was waiting. CO Boudreaux stayed with the sailboat and worked on bailing out the water while the pair warmed up with the EMS crew. Ultimately the sailboat was dragged up on shore to be picked up by the pair the following day.

COs Josh Boudreaux, John Kamps, and Ariel Young were patrolling the Forsyth Township area and had set up a grouse decoy along a gravel road. Soon after, a truck drove past the decoy location and stopped. The two occupants could be seen fumbling around inside the truck and it began to back up. A shotgun barrel could be seen in the passenger side mirror and the passenger fired one shotgun blast striking the decoy. The driver leapt out of the vehicle and began hooting and hollering with excitement. The COs quickly approached the vehicle and that excitement turned to panic as the COs confronted both driver and passenger. The pair was cited for possessing a loaded firearm inside a motor vehicle, no hunter orange clothing, open intoxicants, and the shotgun was seized. During the same patrol, one hunter was issued a citation for no hunter orange and another subject had a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Cody Smith and Sergeant (Sgt.) Mark Leadman were patrolling near Republic when an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) incident was put out by Marquette County Central Dispatch. The incident was only a few minutes from their location at the M-95 Michigamme River Bridge. CO Smith and Sgt. Leadman immediately responded and arrived in less than four minutes to find a construction worker getting cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) from fellow workers. CO Smith and Sgt. Leadman deployed the AED and continued CPR until EMS arrived. Once inside the ambulance, the COs assisted EMS personnel for over 30 minutes with CPR until the victim was stable enough for transport. Unfortunately, the victim passed away early the next morning at UP Health System Marquette.

CO Cody Smith was on patrol when he noticed a truck in the bottom of a field. Upon observing the area, CO Smith noticed several goose decoys in the field but did not see any hunters. While walking to the decoys, CO Smith observed two hunters just through the woods standing at the edge of Otter Lake. Contact was made and a check revealed one hunter had four rounds in his shotgun. When asked to see their hunting licenses, this hunter failed to have his wallet but stated they had their waterfowl and federal duck

stamp. Upon checking the Retail Sales System (RSS), the hunter was confronted and admitted that he didn't even have a base license. A citation was issued for hunting waterfowl with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells as well as hunt waterfowl with no license. It was noted that the individual failed to provide any licenses and did not purchase a federal duck stamp, base license, or participate in the Harvest Information Program survey as required by law.

COs Josh Boudreaux, John Kamps, and Cody Smith were working a possible moose poaching incident in Marquette County. The COs were driving into a remote area on an unnamed road when they encountered a vehicle with two occupants not wearing seatbelts. A quick check revealed the license plate was expired. A check of the driver showed he did not have a valid driver's license and had an outstanding warrant in Marquette County. A search of the vehicle uncovered a baggie with suspected methamphetamine (meth) in the suspect's pants pocket and another piece found in the vehicle compartment. A meth pipe was also located, as well as a shotgun in the back seat. A K9 unit was called to do a further search of the vehicle. The driver was lodged on the outstanding warrant and the meth charges, suspended driver's license, and firearm charges have been turned over to the Marquette County Prosecutor.

CO Anna Viau received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of a bear hunter who had shot a bear within the safety zone of another individual's camp. While on the phone with RAP about the complaint, CO Viau received a call from Corporal (Cpl.) Dave Painter about a bear hunter who had called him to confess to shooting within the safety zone of a camp. Due to the rapid response and cooperation of both the camp owner and the violator, CO Viau was able to quickly follow up on the complaint. Using a range finder, CO Viau was able to determine that the bear was shot within 54 yards of the camp. Charges are pending with Iron County Prosecutor for the safety zone violation.

CO Jeremy Sergey was patrolling state land in Menominee County when he noticed camping activity in a location he had been investigating. Further investigation revealed numerous trailers which were part of the hunting camp. All campers had been camped out longer than the 15-night maximum for camping on state land. CO Sergey had checked the area earlier in the summer and discovered a buck pole, a table, and several other items left on state land. The individuals in the deer camp were utilizing all the items left behind when CO Sergey checked them. One individual arrived with an uncased shotgun in his truck while CO Sergey was conducting his investigation. Citations were issued for an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, damaging/destroying/removing state property, and the investigation is ongoing for litter and camping on state land violations.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik was patrolling on Highway 13 when he observed an off-road vehicle (ORV) traveling over 60 mph on the side of the road. The CO conducted a traffic stop and realized that he had ticketed this individual in August for baiting deer early and gave him a warning for swapping his Velcro ORV license from one ORV to another. The rider

failed to permanently attach his ORV license that was discussed months earlier. A citation was issued for improper placement of his ORV license.

CO Steve Butzin received a complaint of an individual who was possibly going to be burning unlawful materials. Upon further investigation, CO Butzin found that one individual did in fact burn a pile of unlawful materials. The materials included wooden chairs, foam cushions, constructed wall material, various metal, mattress box springs, and a couch. A report has been filed with the Delta County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Steve Butzin and Chris Lynch were patrolling the Hiawatha National Forest when Delta County Central Dispatch put out a call of a serious ORV accident in Rock. COs Butzin and Lynch responded and were first on the scene. The COs were informed that one subject had been found with an ORV flipped on top of them, and the individual was pinned in a ditch filled with water. The subject was unresponsive and had no pulse. The COs immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and attached an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to the subject. While performing CPR, the COs directed other first responders to the scene via radio. Due to the location where the ORV rider was, medical first responders were not able to get an ambulance to the location. The COs, who were assisted by the Delta County Sheriff's Department, loaded the subject in the back of the CO's patrol truck to get the subject out of the woods. CO Lynch drove the patrol truck to a staged area of medical responders while CO Butzin and Sgt. Tom Lewis with the Delta County Sheriff's Department continued CPR in the bed of the patrol truck. Once they reached the staging area, medical care was turned over to Rock EMS. The subject was later pronounced dead while on scene despite extensive life-saving measures.

CO Breanna Reed was on patrol in Delta County when she contacted an individual who was small game hunting. CO Reed asked the individual if he had any luck. At this time, he told the CO that he was not hunting and was just taking his dogs for a walk. The CO asked why he was carrying a shotgun, and if the shotgun was loaded. The individual told the CO that it was loaded. The CO asked the individual if he had his license on him and he stated that he had not purchased a license. CO Reed asked the individual if that was why he told her that he was just taking his dogs for a walk? The individual then admitted to hunting without a license. A citation was issued to the individual for small game hunting without a valid base license.

CO Michael Evink responded to a complaint of a deer stuck in a fence. Once on scene, CO Evink located a nice 4-point buck with his antlers wrapped in the fence, thrashing around. CO Evink contacted Wildlife Division, who then responded to the scene. Using tarps that covered the deer's face, the wire fencing was cut from the deer and it was safely released.

While on patrol, CO Michael Evink and U.S. Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull were flagged down by a motorist. The officers received a tip of an individual in a van who had a loaded rifle. CO Evink and Officer Tembreull were able to locate the vehicle. The passenger in the vehicle had the rifle cased, but it was loaded in both magazine

and chamber. The suspect's wife was driving while three young children rode in the back of the van. The entire family was educated about the dangers of having a loaded weapon in a vehicle. The suspect received a citation for having a loaded weapon in a motor vehicle.

COs Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink responded to a complaint of a deer in a pen behind a subject's residence. As the COs pulled into the driveway, they immediately noticed a small button buck in a small pen with a dog behind the house. After interviewing the subjects currently at the residence, it was determined that a tenant who was not there at the time was responsible for raising the deer from a young fawn. Per Wildlife Division, the very tame deer was safely taken out of the pen and released several miles away in a remote wooded area. The next day CO Freeborn went back to the residence and interviewed the tenant that was suspected in raising the deer. The suspect admitted to raising the fawn since this spring and stated that they knew they shouldn't have done it. The subject was issued a citation for raising a deer without a rehabilitation license.

CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith were on patrol in northern Luce County when they heard several shots coming from a nearby lake. The COs followed the shots and contacted a boat returning from a day of duck hunting. During the contact, it was discovered that the boat was expired since 2013 and that one of the individuals was in possession of an unplugged shotgun. A citation was issued for operating an unregistered watercraft and a warning was issued for possession of an unplugged shotgun while waterfowl hunting.

CO Colton Gelinis was utilizing a grouse decoy in Mackinac County due to complaints of road hunting in the area. CO Gelinis observed a subject with a loaded/uncased gun in a motor vehicle attempt to shoot at the decoy. Prior to the subject shooting, CO Gelinis contacted the individual. A citation was issued for an uncased gun in a motor vehicle.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Ethen Mapes was patrolling the Boyne River when he watched a father and son desperately trying to catch fish. CO Mapes watched as the father ran his rod back and forth through the water trying to snag salmon with a large treble hook. After little to no success in landing any of the fish that he snagged into, the son proceeded to try his hand at netting the salmon that were running through the river. CO Mapes turned on his flashlight and announced himself as a conservation officer. CO Mapes asked the father what he was doing, the father stated that he was snagging and knew better. Both anglers were issued misdemeanor tickets for attempting to take fish on the Boyne River with equipment other than a single point hook ½-inch point to shank.

CO Tim Rosochacki responded to assist a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper on a complaint of a lost mother and son in the Pigeon River State Forest after dark. The son had been out exploring the area when his truck became stuck in a mud hole. He

attempted to contact his mother and was only able to send her his location. The mother took a different route, following her GPS and became stuck in a different mud hole. The mother walked a distance from her stuck vehicle and was able to get service to contact 911, stating that she was lost and trying to locate her son. A GPS location, made available by the mother dialing 911, got the trooper in close vicinity and he was able to locate the mother and son. CO Rosochacki arrived on scene several minutes later. The mother and son were not familiar with the area and did not know where they had left their vehicles. Through a basic description of the routes they had taken, CO Rosochacki was able to locate the vehicles a short time later roughly two miles apart from each other. A tow company was contacted and both vehicles were extracted and driven out by their owners.

CO Tim Rosochacki was traveling on I-75 late at night when he was passed by a vehicle traveling 104 mph. A traffic stop was conducted, and a ticket was issued to the driver, who stated he didn't realize he was going so fast. Approximately ten miles later, CO Rosochacki encountered the same vehicle on the shoulder of the road with its hazard lights on. The vehicle had a flat tire. CO Rosochacki quickly changed the tire for the subject and got them back on their way.

CO Matt Theunick received a complaint from Cheboygan County Central Dispatch reference a subject reporting shotgun shot landing on his house and truck. Contact was made with the complainant who asked that the hunters shoot in a different direction. The duck hunters were located and advised that their shot was traveling into the safety zone of a home. CO Theunick checked all six of the hunters for licenses giving warnings for unsigned federal duck stamps, which they then signed. One hunter was issued a ticket for not having his Michigan waterfowl hunting license.

CO Dan Liestenfeltz responded to a single vehicle roll-over accident in Briley Township of Montmorency County. CO Liestenfeltz arrived and noticed the vehicle on its side with an electrical pole lying on top of the car. After making sure the vehicle was safe to touch, CO Liestenfeltz and a member from the fire department were able to extract the driver from the vehicle and move her to a safe location. The driver suffered minor injuries and was treated at a local hospital.

CO Dan Liestenfeltz was patrolling Loud Township in Montmorency County when he came across several subjects actively cutting trees and loading up wood into the back of their truck. After contacting the subjects, it was determined that nobody had a valid permit to be cutting the wood on state land. A ticket was issued to the head of the party for cutting wood without a permit.

CO Sidney Collins conducted a follow-up investigation of a subject found deceased on state land. It was evident the subject was grouse hunting. The Montmorency County hunter was found dead after a citizen found his dog roaming around. After contacting 911, the county deputies found the man who had been grouse hunting and suffered a heart attack. The death was determined to be medically related.

CO Sidney Collins received a complaint of tires currently being burnt in Montmorency County. CO Collins went to the residence and observed black smoke coming from a large fire pit. After CO Collins talked with the homeowner, it was determined he was burning junk around the yard, specifically a snowmobile hood. CO Collins explained that anything other than wood and brush was illegal to burn and that it needed to be taken to the dump. CO Collins issued a ticket and had the subject extinguish the fire.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

COs Patrick McManus and Amanda Lake assisted the Benzie County Sheriff's Department with a search and rescue for a 47-year-old female who disappeared under unusual circumstances. The Benzie County Community Emergency Response Team conducted grid searches while the COs provided mobile support and cleared outbuildings within the search parameters. After conducting an all-day search, the woman was not located, and the search was terminated by the Sheriff's Department. Alternative methods were going to be utilized to locate the woman.

CO Troy Ludwig was patrolling the Cadillac Forest Management Unit when he observed something thrown from the driver's side of a vehicle traveling the forest road. CO Ludwig conducted a traffic stop and found that the operator and his friend were out enjoying the fall colors and decided to have a few beers along the way. CO Ludwig had the operator pick up his litter and issued him a citation for littering on state land.

CO Troy Ludwig was patrolling the Traverse City Forest Management Unit when he contacted two individuals sitting in a truck well after hunting hours. CO Ludwig spoke with the subjects and it was revealed that they had a cocked crossbow in the back seat. The case the crossbow was in had not been secured allowing for it to be opened quickly and the crossbow bolts were located just under the case within easy access of the operator or passenger. On the floorboard of the vehicle was a high-power spotlight. The operator stated that he had just got done hunting when the passenger had picked him up, but did not have any hunting clothing, nor was he or the crossbow wet from all the rain that evening. The operator admitted he had been out shining the week before but did not have any intention of doing so that night. A citation was issued for having a cocked crossbow in a motor vehicle.

CO Brian Brosky was checking areas along the south branch of the Pere Marquette River in Mason County when he observed a subject fishing with illegal gear from a concealed location. CO Brosky watched the subject for a short time before making contact. As CO Brosky approached, the subject cut his line and waited for CO Brosky to exit his vehicle. At that time, the angler pretended he had a snag and threw his rod on the ground as if he was upset. The subject told CO Brosky he was upset he just lost his lure and proceeded to give CO Brosky his license to check. CO Brosky told the subject that he had watched him fish with the illegal gear, and watched the subject break his illegal gear off when he arrived. The subject changed his story and said that he wasn't aware the gear he was using was illegal and asked CO Brosky how long the law had been in place. CO Brosky advised the subject that the gear he was using had been

illegal for some time, and CO Brosky added that he believed the subject had known this as he would not have cut his line off upon his arrival. The subject told CO Brosky that he needed to read the guide and needed to go buy some legal tackle to fish with. CO Brosky agreed, and the subject was cited for fishing with illegal gear.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was the first officer on scene of a 911 call claiming a person was breaking into a residence in rural Lake County. As CO Killingbeck arrived on scene, he witnessed the subject throw a rock through a window. The subject refused to follow commands from CO Killingbeck. As the subject was preparing to throw another rock through a window where the homeowner was standing, CO Killingbeck deployed his TASER and was able to get the man in custody. Shortly after getting the subject in custody, he began fighting CO Killingbeck and a Lake County Sheriff's deputy. The subject was transported to the Lake County Jail where he later admitted to using methamphetamine. He was charged with numerous felonies, including home invasion, malicious destruction of property, and resisting arrest.

CO Josiah Killingbeck followed up on a baiting complaint in rural Lake County. CO Killingbeck contacted a hunter in a blind hunting over several different large piles of sugar beets. The hunter told CO Killingbeck that he had not looked at the rules for this year and did not know that baiting was illegal. The subject told CO Killingbeck that the bait had been placed by another person who owned the property. CO Killingbeck contacted the property owner whose blind had approximately half a truck load of sugar beets on the ground. The owner told CO Killingbeck that, because it was private property, he did not believe that the baiting regulations applied to him. CO Killingbeck advised the subject of the regulations pertaining to baiting and feeding. A citation was issued to the first subject for hunting without a license in possession and a warrant request is being sent to the Lake County Prosecutor's Office for the property owner placing the bait at the blinds.

CO Josiah Killingbeck contacted a bow hunter who was covered in blood and walking down the road. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he was heading back to his truck because he had shot a deer. CO Killingbeck found out that the man had harvested an antlerless deer, gutted and dragged it to the road but "did not have time" to tag it yet. CO Killingbeck also determined that the subject did not have a name on his tree stand and had cut numerous live trees for shooting lanes. CO Killingbeck educated the subject on deer hunting regulations and issued a citation for the violations.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Jessica Curtis stopped an ORV operating against the flow of traffic on M-37 creating a safety hazard. CO Killingbeck asked the operator why he was operating his ORV on M-37 and against the flow of traffic. The subject told CO Killingbeck that his uncle told him that operating against the flow of traffic was the best place to ride because traffic can see you. CO Killingbeck advised the operator that operating against the flow of traffic on any road is illegal and ORVs are not allowed on M-37 which is a state highway. CO Killingbeck also determined that the ORV was not licensed and that the operator had a warrant for his arrest. The subject was cited for

operating his ORV on M-37 and failing to license the ORV. Then the subject was lodged in the Lake County Jail on the warrant.

CO Jeff Ginn was working the waterfowl opener and was able to observe two subjects chasing a wounded duck with their boat. The boat was clearly underway when the hunters took aim and shot at the injured duck. The shot was well within the safety zone of a lake residence and the shot was directly at the residence. CO Ginn was able to quickly contact the subjects in his patrol boat. The violations were addressed, and citations were issued for take waterfowl from motorboat with forward movement.

CO Josh Reed assisted the Mecosta County Sheriff's Office with a missing elderly dementia patient. The female had walked away from her house while she and her husband had been doing yard work. CO Reed and the Mecosta County K9 team had arrived on scene first and began a K9 track from the last known location provided from her husband. The initial K9 track provided officers with a relative location and direction of travel but the female was not located. After returning to the starting point, a plan was set, and CO Reed began a grid search from the residence in the initial direction of the original K9 track. CO Reed located the female in a swamp approximately 200 yards from the residence. The female was unharmed but was checked by EMS and released to her husband.

CO Ben Shively worked a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint in Oceana County of a tree stand with no name or address and had bait placed in front of it. CO Shively located a 15-year-old in the stand who was unsupervised, had not taken hunter safety, did not have his kill tags in his possession, and hunting over freshly placed bait. CO Shively and the youth searched the area for his grandfather who was supposed to be hunting near him. After no success locating the grandfather, they returned to the vehicles and waited for the end of hunting hours. When the grandfather returned to the vehicle, CO Shively turned the youth over and cited the grandfather for allowing a youth to hunt unsupervised and baiting when prohibited.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Charlie Jones received a phone call from Deputy Kyle Beaver with the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department about multiple dead turkeys at a residence. COs Jones and Micah Hintze arrived on scene and located two dead hen turkeys as well as two juvenile turkeys. The property owner was interviewed about the taking of turkeys out of season. During the investigation, a deer that was taken over bait was also located. The case is still under investigation and will be submitted to the Kalkaska County Prosecutor's Office for review.

CO Chuck McPherson checked a tree stand that had not been removed the year prior from state land in Roscommon County. CO McPherson contacted a hunter in the stand and observed a large bait pile consisting of beets and apples. No identification was located on the tree stand and the hunter was using screw-in steps. Some warnings were given, and a citation was issued for one of the violations.

CO Brad Bellville received a complaint of recreational trespass in Ogemaw County. The subjects were tracking a buck they had shot onto the complainant's property. CO Bellville responded and interviewed the subject who said he had shot an 8-point buck in his back yard around 7:20 p.m. the night before and was looking for it on the complainant's property. CO Bellville followed what appeared to be a fresh blood trail on the frost covered ground until he arrived at the deceased 8-point buck. The buck was still slightly warm to the touch and pliable which, with the cold night, made the subject's story suspicious. CO Bellville returned to the house to re-interview the subject and present the evidence. CO Bellville obtained a full confession that the subject had shot the buck around 11:00 p.m. over a bait pile in the back yard. Multiple charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office including take deer after legal hunting hours, baiting, and recreational trespass.

CO Casey Pullum located two vehicles parked in an area closed to motor vehicles in Oscoda County. He was able to observe a pile of Woodcock and Ruffed grouse in the back of the truck. He counted the game and noted there were 12 Woodcock and two grouse. While by the vehicle, he heard four quick shots nearby and concluded either there were multiple hunters shooting at the same game or they were using an unplugged shotgun. CO Pullum contacted the hunters who were not in possession of an over limit of birds; however, three out of the five hunters had unplugged shotguns. Citations were issued for the violations.

While patrolling an area in Ogemaw County that has historically been heavily baited for deer, CO Kyle Bader observed anglers fishing in a closed trout stream. When CO Bader contacted the anglers, the first question one of them asked was, "It's fishing season here, right?" CO Bader advised them trout season on that stream closed September 30. During the conversation, CO Bader observed a Brook trout on the bank. The angler said it was the only one he caught, which was later determined to be an inaccurate statement. The angler had caught two Brook trout. A citation was issued for fishing in a closed trout season.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Matthew Neterer and Mark Siemen encountered a group of waterfowl hunters coming off the water in the Sandusky State Game Area (SGA). The watercraft registration on the vessel that they had been hunting out of was found to be expired by several years, they did not have any Personal Floation Devices (PFDs), and two of the hunters did not have their state waterfowl licenses. Citations were issued for the violations.

COs Matthew Neterer and Josh Wright were working waterfowl hunters on opening morning near Quanicassee. During one check, CO Neterer observed a hunter eject two red shells and one green shell from his shotgun. When CO Neterer asked to see the subject's shells, he attempted to hand over only the red shells. The green shell had

fallen under some hunting equipment near the front of the boat. Upon further inspection, the green shell was found to contain toxic shot and the hunter was using a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells. The hunter received a citation for the toxic shot and a warning for the unplugged shotgun.

COs Seth Rhodea, Josh Wright, and a Fish and Wildlife Officer contacted several duck hunters hunting in the St. Mary's River south of Sault Sainte Marie. Upon checking licenses, one hunter was found to not have his federal duck stamp while another did not have several of his licenses in possession. Additionally, the hunters were found to have an over limit of mergansers. Citations were issued to address the violations.

CO Mark Siemen, while working the early doe firearm season, saw a subject dressed in camouflage standing outside of a hunting tent in a sugar beet field. CO Siemen parked and walked out to the blind. Before CO Siemen arrived at the tent, the subject had gone back inside the blind. As CO Siemen approached, he identified himself and the subject unzipped the door. CO Siemen could see two people in the blind and neither person was wearing any hunter orange. CO Siemen asked the hunter if he had any hunter orange to put on and he stated he did not and did not need it because he was hunting on private property. CO Siemen educated both subjects hunting about the law relating to wearing hunter orange and issued both a citation for not wearing hunter orange.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Jeremy Beavers conducted a patrol targeting shining activity. During his patrol, CO Beavers spotted a vehicle that was shining in Lyons Township. CO Beavers could see that two passengers were shining fields from the right side of a pickup truck. CO Beavers contacted the subjects. During his contact, CO Beavers asked if there were any weapons in the vehicle to which the driver said, "Yes." CO Beavers checked the weapon, which was a .22 caliber rifle. There were also two boxes of rounds in the case with the weapon. The front seat passenger stated the firearm belonged to him. The subject was cited for shining while in possession of a weapon.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling Barry County when he observed a vehicle being driven recklessly. CO Cardenas caught up to the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle failed to stop, and a pursuit ensued. Ultimately, when the driver failed to stop at several intersections and turned off the vehicle headlights, CO Cardenas terminated the pursuit for safety. A short time later, an Allegan County Sheriff's Deputy located the vehicle and pursued it for a short distance before terminating. A follow-up investigation by the Allegan County Sheriff's Department lead to the suspect's residence where he was contacted and interviewed. A confession was obtained, and a report was submitted to the Barry County Prosecutor's Office. Charges were approved for felony flee and elude, reckless driving, and improper registration.

CO Carter Woodwyk received a complaint of subjects that were shooting after the posted hours at Echo Point Shooting Range in Allegan County. The CO was already in

the area and responded immediately. When the CO arrived, there were multiple people at the range utilizing it for target practice. Multiple violations were discussed with the subjects, and two citations were issued for using the shooting range after hours.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Allegan County when he observed a vehicle parked near a closed trout stream. CO Woodwyk walked the creek and located the subject near the creek waters with a fishing pole in his hand. Based on the fishing equipment the angler had in his possession and the tackle in his tackle box, the CO believed he was attempting to snag salmon in the shallow creek waters. A ticket was issued for possession of fishing equipment on a closed trout stream.

COs Travis Dragomer and Zach Bauer responded to a complaint of a deer possibly shot with a .30-.06 rifle. CO Dragomer located drag marks, blood, and deer hair at the location of the complaint. The COs interviewed the suspect and received a confession of shooting the deer while trespassing with a .30-.06 rifle and for taking an antlerless deer without a license. The COs seized the deer and the rifle. Charges will be submitted to the Berrien County Prosecutor for approval.

While patrolling Type 1 trout streams in Van Buren County, CO Tyler Cole observed a subject fishing within a closed stream. Contact was made, and it was found that the subject had an active felony warrant for possession of meth. The subject was taken into custody and lodged at the Van Buren County Jail for the warrant, and a citation was issued for fishing within the closed stream.

COs Tyler Cole and Matt Page patrolled a section of the Paw River known for snagging/fishing within closed stream violations. Two subjects were observed searching for fish with headlamps and flashlights. After approximately 10 minutes, the subjects went back to their vehicle and grabbed fishing poles and began to fish within the closed stream. Contact was made and citations were issued for fishing within the closed stream.

CO Kyle McQueer received a complaint from Station 20 of a deer that was possibly killed with a rifle during bow season. He responded along with CO Nick Wellman and a confession was obtained. The suspect explained that the 9-point was too far to shoot with a bow, so he grabbed his rifle and shot it. The 9-point antlers and a 30-06 rifle were seized as evidence. Charges are being sought through the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Andrew Monnich received an anonymous text from a hunter about an individual who shot a buck without kill tags and bought them after the fact. COs Monnich and Eric Smither were able to track down the hunter who not only confessed to shooting a nice 10-point buck, but also a doe without a license. It was also discovered that the hunter had an outstanding warrant out of Lenawee County. He was placed under arrest and

lodged in the Lenawee County Jail on the warrant and charges are being filed with the prosecutor's office on the illegal harvest of a buck and a doe.

CO Jeff Goss responded to a call in Branch County for a man that fell out of his tree stand and was over a half mile from the road. Two fire trucks had already become stuck in the mud attempting to reach the man. CO Goss was able to drive to within a hundred yards of the man where fire and EMS were able to load him in the back of the CO's patrol truck for transport out to a waiting helicopter. The man was airlifted to a local hospital where he underwent surgery for multiple broken bones in his neck and back. The tree stand that was 25 feet off the ground was held in place by two weathered ratchet straps. As the man climbed onto the platform of the stand, the top strap broke and the man fell 25 feet landing on his shoulder and his crossbow. The man was not wearing a safety harness. Luckily the man was hunting with a friend who was able to call 911.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Chris Knights located a vehicle parked next to a known area for trespassers in Oakland County. CO Knights waited on the car until the end of legal shooting hours for deer. After a couple of hours, a hunter came out of the woods, again passing the no trespassing sign posted at the road. After speaking with the hunter and pointing out the sign, the hunter acknowledged his mistake. CO Knights issued a citation for recreational trespassing.

CO Brad Silorey conducted a deer processor inspection and found a deer that looked to have been taken before the license was purchased. After a group waterfowl patrol, COs Silorey, Kris Kiel, and Joseph Deppen stopped by the subject's residence to ask him about the deer. The subject confessed to taking the 7-point buck before purchasing his license. A warrant will be sought through the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Kris Kiel stopped an ORV for operating an ORV at 60 mph down the middle of the roadway in a county closed to ORV use. The operator was 13 years old and her father was called to the scene. The father was written a citation for allowing a juvenile to operate without supervision and warnings were issued for operating on the roadway and unlicensed ORV.

COs Dave Schaumburger and Joseph Deppen conducted surveillance of a known walleye poacher. The subject was observed trolling in Lake St. Clair and the upper Detroit River. When the subject left the water, CO Kris Kiel contacted him in a gas station parking lot and asked to see his fish. The subject produced a bucket with seven walleye in it. The subject was written another citation for an over limit of walleye.

COs Kris Kiel and Jamie Salisbury checked approximately 50 waterfowl hunters at the Harsens Island management unit during waterfowl season opener. Citations were written for loaded firearm in a motorboat, unplugged shotgun, and fail to provide PFDs. Warnings were given for unsigned federal waterfowl stamps and a registration violation.

CO Robert Watson patrolled the Port Huron SGA for hunting activity. CO Watson discovered illegal ORV tracks, tree stands, blinds, and baited sites throughout the SGA. CO Watson contacted one hunter who was hunting over a pile of carrots out of a tree stand that did not have his contact information permanently attached. The hunter did not have his valid deer license in possession. A citation was issued for failing to produce a valid kill tag and for hunting over bait.

CO Robert Watson responded to a medical callout in St. Clair County of a subject unresponsive. CO Watson arrived on scene and assisted a neighbor in administering CPR while he began to ready his AED. CO Watson applied the AED pads to the patient and two shocks were delivered throughout administration of CPR. EMS arrived on scene and took over. The patient regained a pulse and was rushed to the hospital where he is recovering.

CO Joseph Deppen was traveling on M-53 when a driver passed him at 71 mph in a 45 mph zone. CO Joseph Deppen activated his emergency lights as the vehicle was merging onto the expressway at 95 mph in a 70 mph zone. A traffic stop was conducted. The driver's excuse for the speed was that he needed to get home quickly to use the bathroom. A citation was issued for speeding 95 mph in a 70-mph zone.

CO Joseph Deppen received a complaint of a hunter trespassing on Consumers Energy property. CO Deppen made it to the location one evening and found a hunter in his stand well within the property boundary. The hunter claimed he did not know where he was. The hunter also had a camera overlooking a pile of salt and minerals. The hunter was cited for recreational trespass and hunting deer over bait.

COs Joseph Deppen and Brad Silorey were checking hunters in Macomb County when they received a complaint of hunters within the safety zone of other occupied dwellings. The COs arrived at the location and it was determined the hunters were well outside the safety zone. CO Silorey recognized the hunters from opening day when he cited one of the hunters for possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl. The COs conducted surveillance for about an hour and then the hunters started to pick up their decoys. CO Deppen approached the vessel and started checking the hunters for licenses and proper equipment. The hunters seemed upset during the encounter. CO Deppen asked, "Is there a problem here?" The hunters expressed their displeasure of being checked twice in one week. The hunters said they were checked opening day and one of their friends had a violation. CO Deppen continued his check and found that the hunter was in possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl. CO Deppen asked, "Didn't you learn your lesson last time?" The hunter hung his head and claimed he thought all the lead shot was gone this time. CO Deppen checked DNR priors, and the hunter had four previous lead shot violations. CO Deppen cited the hunter for possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl.

CO Joseph Deppen was checking a local ORV trespassing area in Macomb County. CO Deppen came upon a vehicle dumping trash, debris, and compost on the private

property. The driver said he thought this was a good place to dump his trash. CO Deppen disagreed. The driver was cited for operating an unlicensed ORV and illegal dumping of trash on private property.

CO Joseph Deppen was checking pheasant hunters in a local wildlife area. While checking the hunters, one hunter did not have a license on his person, and he was using lead shot in a managed game area. CO Deppen explained that in order to hunt in the area, all shot must be nontoxic. The hunter was given a verbal warning for not having his hunting license and hunting from a dike. The hunter was cited for use/possession of lead shot in a managed game area.

COs Brad Silorey and Sgt. Chris Maher patrolled Macomb County for the opener of waterfowl hunting in southeast Michigan. While checking the coastline for hunting activity, CO Silorey and Sgt. Maher observed several hunters set up near a building. After further investigation, it was found that the building was not occupied. CO Silorey contacted the individuals who were picking up their decoys for the day. After checking the hunters' licenses and equipment, it was found that both were in possession of toxic lead shot while hunting waterfowl. Additionally, one subject was hunting with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells. Both subjects received citations for possession of lead shot while waterfowl hunting, and a warning was given for the unplugged shot gun.

CO Luke Robare heard a call go out from Genesee County Dispatch regarding a suspicious vehicle parked on Montrose Township property. CO Robare backed up the Montrose Township Police officer on the call. Upon arriving, CO Robare noticed there were several pieces of hunting equipment in the bed of the truck parked on the township property. There was a climbing tree stand, several shooting targets, and deer parts in the bed of the truck. Clearly visible through the windows of the cab of the truck was a crossbow and several articles of hunting clothing. CO Robare located the owner of the truck pulling a dead, gutted deer back to the truck. The deer was not tagged and when the subject was asked why he did not tag the deer, he said it was because he left his wallet in the truck. CO Robare was able to see that the subject, in fact, had his wallet in his pocket. CO Robare issued the individual a citation for failing to immediately tag his deer.

## **BELLE ISLE**

COs Dave Schaumburger, Keven Luther, Raymond Gardner, and Sgt. Jason Becker worked the Harvest Festival on Belle Isle. The COs educated kids of all ages on firearm safety using the laser shot trailer and bb gun range. The COs were able to offer safe instruction to many first-time shooters.