

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/19/2017 – 12/2/2017

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Grant Emery responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a person who shot a monster 9-point buck at night. The COs interviewed the suspect who admitted that he shot the nine-point Friday night and then went out and purchased a deer license on Saturday morning. The deer and rifle were confiscated and the subject was ticketed for taking a deer illegally.

COs Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes were working together and made a traffic stop on a vehicle for failing to dim its headlights. After contact was made with the driver, it was discovered that there was an uncased rifle in the back seat and upon their further investigation it was determined that the rifle was loaded. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Denny Gast stopped a road hunter on an ORV over the weekend. During the stop CO Gast located a loaded rifle that the hunter was transporting on his ORV. The hunter was not wearing hunter orange and he did not have a deer kill tag in his possession. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Denny Gast was flagged down near Sidnaw and asked by a hunter to help him load a nice 8-point buck on his truck. The successful hunter was worn out from dragging it out of the woods for the last two hours. CO Gast helped the man and educated him on the requirement to immediately tag your deer after harvesting it.

CO David Miller sat on a camp just before dark and made contact with its hunters as they returned just after dark. CO Miller located a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, three uncased firearms in motor vehicles and hunters not possessing a valid kill tag. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller located and checked two individuals he had received complaints on for road hunting with loaded/uncased firearms and no deer licenses. When contact was made, the subjects were observed acting suspiciously by not making eye contact and taking a long time to stop. Neither individual had deer licenses in possession but were adamant that they had purchased them. CO Miller was able to determine via radio that neither had purchased licenses and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen was traveling on Highway 45 near Sandstone Creek when he was passed by a vehicle traveling at approximately 100 mph. CO Lasanen was able to maintain visual contact with the vehicle and pulled in behind it at a gas station. When asked why he was in such a hurry the driver stated he was trying to catch a flight. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller did a follow-up inspection at one of the local deer processors and located a spike horn that was tagged with a combination deer tag. CO Miller made contact with the hunter and took enforcement action for the antler point restriction violation.

CO Doug Hermanson followed up on a Report All Poaching complaint where an unlicensed hunter shot a deer and used another's kill tag on the deer. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Mapes was on patrol when the report of a brush fire came over the radio. CO Mapes was only a couple miles away at the time and responded. CO Mapes helped control the scene until the fire department arrived and extinguished the fire. The cause has not been determined.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy and CO Nathan Sink went to interview an individual who supposedly shot two deer while only having purchased a single kill tag. After interviewing the individual, he admitted to shooting a deer and was unable to get the deer out of the woods due to the steep terrain. The individual then went back to his residence where he shot another deer later that evening. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received information regarding two dead eagles that were found in Dickinson County. CO Ferguson responded to the complaint to recover the dead birds and quickly found evidence to develop a suspect. One of the birds was fitted with a live time GPS transmitter that had gone into mortality mode. After a short interview with the suspect, a confession was obtained for killing the two eagles. The subject stated he had caught both in his leg hold trap sets, and had shot each with a .22. A warrant request is being submitted through the prosecutor's office.

COs Mark Leadman and Brett DeLonge located fresh ORV tracks going around a gate on mining property in Marquette County. CO Leadman and CO DeLonge parked the patrol truck and followed the tracks on foot for over two miles before locating the hunter in a blind surrounded by litter from previous years. The hunter was not wearing any hunter orange clothing and the bait pile was estimated to be over 50 gallons of sugar beets and other bait. The hunter was questioned about his ORV activity including driving past the gates and private property signs, not having a helmet or a current ORV license attached to the ORV. Enforcement action was taken and the hunter was not allowed to continue hunting at the location until the site was cleaned up.

Sgt. Ryan Aho made contact with a hunter on a remote two track in northern Marquette County. The hunter was in possession of a loaded firearm in his motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeff Dell received an active trespass complaint not far from where they were patrolling. When the COs arrived, the complainant showed them photographs of the suspect cutting a chain with dead bolt cutters. The chain blocked access to a two-track which was on the complainant's property. The COs drove down

the two-track and contacted the suspect. The suspect admitted to cutting the chain and the dead bolt cutters were in the back of the suspect's truck. The COs also discovered a loaded firearm in the suspect's truck. Citations were issued for the following: recreational trespass, malicious destruction of property and transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Jeffrey Dell was conducting a meat processor inspection when he noticed a whole deer tagged with an Ontario deer license. The deer was seized for the CWD importation violation and sent for disease testing. The hunter who brought the deer into Michigan was contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell checked a local publication that featured successful hunters and their deer. CO Dell checked the license purchase of one hunter who had shot a 10-point deer. The hunter had not bought a deer license prior to the shooting of the deer. CO Dell and CO Christopher Lynch were able to locate the suspect and obtain a full confession. The deer was seized and charges are being sought through the county prosecutor's office

CO Jeffrey Dell received a complaint of individual duck hunting in a county park where it is prohibited. The hunter had left part of his blind in the park. A suspect was developed and contacted. CO Dell addressed the violations and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

On Thanksgiving Day CO Michael Evink responded to Alger County in regards to an Illegal Deer complaint. The complaint was of a buck that was shot on private property possibly from a vehicle. Officer Evink did multiple hours of investigation and was able to locate the suspect's residence, vehicle and a deer hanging in the garage. Officer Evink waited for the residents to return, but after a few hours they did not. Officer Evink turned the information over to COs Robert Freeborn and Mark Zitnik who were able to follow up the following day. The COs were able to locate the suspect's residence and truck and a buck hanging from the pole barn ceiling. While the suspect was not currently home, the girlfriend of the suspect was home and let the COs look at the deer in the pole barn. The COs immediately noticed that the tag was not properly attached or validated. The COs learned that the suspect was currently seeing family in a nearby town. The COs proceeded to the family's residence and located the suspect. After an interview, the suspect admitted to shooting the deer from his truck while the deer was on private property. The suspect was cited for the violations

COs Michael Evink and Rob Freeborn conducted a routine taxidermy inspection. The COs followed up on one set of antlers of concern. The investigation turned up a 75 year old mother covering for her son. After an interview with mother and son it was determined that the mother did not shoot the deer but bought a tag for her son so he could keep hunting after he already filled his tags. Both the mother and son received citations for loaning/borrowing another's tag as well as improper tagging. The deer and firearm were also seized.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling Delta County when a car pulled out right in front of him almost hitting the CO. The vehicle was stopped and it was found the operator did not have a driver's license and the license plates on the vehicle he was driving were registered to another suspended vehicle out of Wisconsin. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of a hunter who may be hunting with a rifle within the safety zone. CO Lynch responded to the scene to find the hunter hunting with a rifle in the safety zone and not wearing hunters orange. The hunter was ticketed for the violation.

CO Chris Lynch assisted CO Jeff Dell with a hunter that was in the local newspaper with a ten-point he shot. It was discovered that the hunter never purchased a buck tag. CO Dell and CO Lynch went to the hunter's property to discover that he was out hunting that night without a deer license. The hunter was interviewed and confessed to shooting the ten-point buck without a license. The hunter was ticketed for hunting deer without a license and the rifle was seized. The COs went back to the hunter's residence and recovered the ten-point buck he shot without a license earlier in the season. Charges are being sought on the hunter for shooting the ten-point without a license through the Menominee County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig were on patrol when a call of a fight in progress came out near their location. The COs assisted a Gladstone Public Safety officer with the case. One subject was arrested for domestic violence and possession of marijuana and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

CO Mark Zitnik responded to a complaint of an ORV driving over a berm on Commercial Forest land. CO Zitnik made contact with the operator who thought it was ok to drive over the very large berm blocking the road. Enforcement action was taken.

While continuing to follow up on illegal ORV activity on state lands, CO Brett Gustafson contacted a hunter who had created an illegal ORV trail across state land. The hunter claimed he did not know he couldn't operate his ORV cross county. The hunter was educated and enforcement action was taken.

COs Brett Gustafson and Kevin Postma utilized one of the District unmarked vehicles to apprehend a subject on several warrants. The subject lives on Neebish Island and has avoided enforcement officers on several occasions in the past. COs Gustafson and Postma got on to the island undetected and set-up surveillance on the subject's residence. After about an hour and a half, CO Postma observed activity, as the subject exited the residence to feed his dog. The subject was arrested on two DNR warrants and one tribal warrant out of Chippewa County. The subject was lodged in the Chippewa County jail.

CO Calvin Smith received a complaint of a vehicle that had not moved for nearly four days and was partially blocking a road. CO Smith followed a set of ORV tracks from a

nearby camp and with only minutes left of legal shooting time remaining, CO Smith waited for the hunter to return. Approximately 15 minutes later, CO Smith observed the lights of an ATV and made contact with the hunter. CO Smith asked the hunter if he had a blind with some bait back there and the hunter replied, "No I just walk the logging trails and hunt the clear cuts." CO Smith also observed that there was not a firearm on the ATV and asked the hunter where his gun was? The hunter replied, "oh, I hunt with a pistol and just leave it in the woods." The story quickly started to unravel when he and CO Smith walked back on the hunter's illegal ORV trail that led to his illegal blind and a bait pile of nearly a ton of sugar beets. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson distributed venison to a local residential group home that serves adolescent boys. The venison had been confiscated from previous cases and signed over to the Department by the suspects involved, ensuring the venison would go to good use.

CO Kevin Postma investigated a report of trespassing on the day after the close of the firearm deer season. It was determined that that a Tribal member had shot a deer and then trespassed onto private property to attempt to recover the deer. A report will be sent to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians with regards to the tribal member hunting without a tribal harvest license.

CO Kevin Postma and Sault Tribe CO Mike Povey interviewed a Sault Tribe trapper with untagged traps. The trapper was caught on trail cameras that were deployed by CO Postma after locating the untagged traps. While talking with the trapper, the COs noticed a pine martin carcass in the bed of the individual's truck along with other untagged traps. It was determined that the pine martin had not been tagged. Enforcement action is being sought through Tribal court.

CO Tom Oberg just arrived on Drummond Island when he noticed the vehicle in front of him pulling a trailer without a license plate and no trailer lights. CO Oberg conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was also found to have several warrants out of Mecosta County. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Albert received a trespassing complaint that a hunter had shot a deer on the complainant's property during the firearm deer season. Investigation of the gut pile left on the complainant's property led the CO to believe that a small buck was shot and then dragged off the property to an access road. Follow-up with the suspect not only found that he was trespassing, but he had also shot a two-point buck in violation of antler point restrictions in Antrim County.

While patrolling the Jordan River Valley, CO Andrea Albert contacted a subject slowly driving through the area. When asked if his rifle was loaded, he stated yes so he could quickly jump out and shoot a deer if he saw one. A ticket was issued for the loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Andrea Albert followed-up with a suspicious tag on a six-point deer that was at a processor. An interview with a husband and wife found that the husband had shot an eight-point deer in the morning and a six-point in the evening of the same day. He had his wife buy a license to tag the second deer so he could continue hunting. A reminder was given regarding the limit for antlered deer per hunter is two and a ticket was issued for using another's license.

On Saturday night, while headed to a deer complaint, CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County was behind a car headed northbound on US 31 when he accelerated to pass a long line of cars in a two lane passing zone. CO Erratt paced behind the vehicle that was going over 90 MPH and initiated a traffic stop. The driver, who did not immediately stop, admitted going 80 MPH in a 55 MPH zone because he was late to a three year old's birthday party. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl conducted deer decoy patrols in Antrim County. The patrols yielded several violations including loaded firearms in motor vehicles, attempting to take game from a motor vehicle, hunter's orange violations and one warrant arrest.

On the second to the last day of the firearm deer season, CO Andrea Albert contacted two hunters driving to their hunting location. A traffic stop found that both the hunters had their rifles loaded in a motor vehicle. The passenger who admitted to hunting during the season also had not purchased a deer license yet. Tickets were issued for the violations.

Sgt. Mark DePew and CO Kyle Cherry conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near Onaway in Cheboygan County after observing several driving-related offenses. Contact was made with the operator who was found to be intoxicated. The subject was placed under arrest for Operating While Impaired (OWI) second offense. Located in the vehicle was the operator's ten-year-old child who was turned over to family members who were called to the scene. In addition to OWI charges the operator was charged with child endangerment, no insurance, improper plates, and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. He was transported and lodged in the Cheboygan County jail.

Sgt. Mark DePew conducted a traffic stop in the Pigeon River Country State Forest in Otsego County for a driving-related offense. Upon contact with the operator, the sergeant engaged in conversation reference the operator's deer hunting activities. The operator made several conflicting statements as to the number of deer he had shot. The investigation determined the subject had shot a deer downstate and had failed to purchase 2017 deer hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki helped with the annual Shop with a Cop held at the Gaylord Walmart.

COs Eric Bottorff and Tim Rosochacki contacted a hunting party near the Village of Tower after hunting hours; while the COs were waiting for the hunters to leave the

woods, one individual approached them on an ORV. Upon contact, the COs noted the subject had a loaded uncased rifle on the ORV and numerous other ORV violations. While the COs were addressing the subject on the ORV, a second subject came walking from the woods well after the legal hunting hours with a loaded gun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol in Presque Isle County when he observed a vehicle traveling slowly down a remote dirt road. The vehicle, upon seeing the CO, pulled off to the side of the road and stopped. CO Fox contacted the occupants, who were picking up cans. Unfortunately, the driver was also in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox responded to a car-elk accident in Presque Isle County. CO Fox was able to salvage the animal and turn it over to a local food bank.

CO Brad Bellville was conducting a stationary patrol on a large field in Montmorency County when a vehicle entered the field. The vehicle proceeded to use their headlights to shine the field at several different locations. CO Bellville conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at which time he noticed the passenger throw something out of the window of the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was issued a citation for shining in November, the passenger was arrested for possession of marijuana and a backseat passenger was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

CO William Webster was reading the local newspaper for Alpena County and noticed a listing for a local deer processor. CO Webster did some checking and located an address for the business. CO Webster stopped in at the business to check for records and licenses. While there he noticed a doe hanging from a tree with no tag attached to it. CO Webster contacted the person in charge of the operation and advised him he was there to do an inspection. The owner brought CO Webster in and showed him how they are running the business. While doing the inspection multi violations were discovered, from untagged deer, to no license for processing, and no fur buying license. Multiple deer were seized for follow up and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Webster conducted follow up on several deer he located at an Alpena County deer processor. CO Webster noticed several deer that had tags attached to them without being validated. A follow up with the tag holder revealed that he was getting free tags due to being in the military and then giving them to his friends and family to use. Several deer were seized in this investigation and enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Colton Gelinis and CO Casey Varriale were on patrol in Grand Traverse County staging for a shining patrol. The COs observed a vehicle with several equipment violations and conducted a traffic stop. During the traffic stop, the driver was found to be in possession of a loaded uncased rifle. The COs also found a loaded handgun in the

passenger seat of the vehicle; the driver did not have a license to carry a concealed handgun. Further investigation showed the handgun was also unregistered. The driver was taken into custody and the COs submitted a report to the Grand Traverse Prosecutor's Office for felony charges.

CO Colton Gelinis assisted Leelanau County Sheriff's Department with a hunter harassment case. A hunter was lawfully hunting during the archery deer season in Leelanau when he was harassed by another person. The hunter recorded the interaction via his cellphone. CO Gelinis submitted a report to the Leelanau County Prosecutor's Office for review.

CO Colton Gelinis was doing a random inspection at a deer processor in Leelanau County. During his inspection, CO Gelinis found a set of seven-point deer antlers that had a tag purchased on November 10th in the evening and was notched for the same day. Upon further investigation, CO Gelinis found the tag to have been bought by a minor. CO Gelinis made contact with the minor and his father several days later. CO Gelinis got a full confession out of the father for shooting the deer and using his son's kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinis was doing a random taxidermy inspection at a taxidermist in Leelanau County. During his inspection, CO Gelinis discovered a six-point deer antler that had a tag purchased on November 17th after legal hunting hours; the tag was also notched for November 17th. CO Gelinis found a picture of the suspect on Facebook with the deer. The picture was taken around 6:45 pm on November 17th, approximately a half hour before the license was purchased. CO Gelinis made contact with the hunter who stated that he was under the impression he did not have to buy a license until he harvested a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rebecca Hopkins assisted the Benzie County Sheriff's Office and National Park rangers with a subject detained at a trail head parking lot suspected of breaking and entering into vehicles at other public trail heads. The subject was found with evidence from a recent theft, along with tools used to break open vehicles. The subject is still on probation for similar offences and was lodged by the Benzie County Sheriff's Department.

CO Colton Gelinis and CO Rebecca Hopkins initiated a traffic stop on an erratic driver on the west side of Leelanau County. The driver was found to be transporting a loaded uncased firearm and stated to the COs that he was "road hunting." Upon further interview, the COs noted that the driver appeared confused and did not know where he was. After contacting the driver's family, the COs learned the driver has been experiencing symptoms of dementia and was supposed to be home in Missaukee County. The COs made arrangements and transported the driver and his vehicle back to his family.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO William Kinney were patrolling on the ground during a night flight targeting shining activity. During the evening, the COs contacted a subject who

had been spotted shining by the airplane. It was determined that the subject was a farmer checking on his cattle due to recent coyote problems. The farmer was happy to see the COs out checking on things. During the same flight, CO Kehoe and CO Kinney followed-up on a report from the spotter that there were subjects in a field behind a house with flashlights. When the COs arrived, the individuals had made it back to the house. An investigation ensued and the COs found a fresh buck steaming in the garage. The deer did not meet the antler point restrictions for the area and the tag had not been validated. The deer was seized and the hunter was ticketed for the violation.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Mike Hearn assisted the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department with a search for a missing subject. It is believed that the subject fell out of his kayak and drowned.

CO Sean Kehoe investigated a buck at a processor that had a tag on it that was purchased two days after the date indicated that it was shot. During the investigation, it was determined that the tag was purchased by a relative who wanted the deer. The hunter who shot the deer originally had his tag on it, but removed it since he gave it away. During the interview, it was learned that the subject had also shot a deer during bow season and that deer was at a local taxidermist. Those antlers were located by CO Kehoe and also found to be improperly tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney and CO Colton Gelinis were following up with some illegal tree stands that had been located on federal land in Wexford County. The COs approached a ground blind and immediately noticed the hunter was not wearing the required hunter orange for the firearm deer season. The COs made contact with the hunter where it was found he had removed his orange when entering the blind. The COs also found this particular hunter was the one responsible for additional violations in which the COs initially came to address. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney and CO Colton Gelinis responded to a reckless driver complaint in northern Wexford County. When the COs arrived on scene, they found the vehicle stopped on the side of the roadway. After further investigating, it was found the driver was an elderly lady who was possibly suffering from a medical condition. The driver had been attempting to get to the Cadillac area, however found herself lost and in the northern part of the county. With the assistance from the Michigan State Police, friends of the driver were contacted to come take the lady home. CO Gelinis drove the lady back to the State Police Post, where she waited for her friends to take her home safely.

CO William Kinney investigated a Facebook complaint where a lady had been claiming to be raising a pet cougar in Wexford County. She had posted pictures and made statements to lead to believe her and her husband had a pet cougar. CO Kinney went to the house for a follow-up investigation. CO Kinney was met at the home by the husband. CO Kinney told the man why he was there, and after the husband got done laughing, he allowed CO Kinney to look through the home. The husband contacted his wife over the phone, where he discovered she had indeed posted pictures of a cougar on her Facebook page. CO Kinney was able to speak to the wife. She admitted it was

just a joke and she simply reposted pictures that had been floating around the internet. The wife never meant for it to be anything more than just a joke amongst her friends.

CO Justin Vanderlinde was dispatched to an accidental shooting involving a father and son. Further investigation revealed that the son had unloaded his shotgun, but had failed to remove the round in the chamber. The son was placing the shotgun in a case when the shotgun fired. The slug entered the vehicle seat and then ricocheted hitting his father, who happened to be sitting on the other end of the vehicle seat. The father is expected to make a full recovery.

CO Brian Lebel and Sgt. Mike Bomay were at a deer processor in Mecosta County when a truck pulled in with a buck in the back. The tag had been purchased the same day the deer was shot. After interviewing the two subjects, it was found that the deer was shot without a license and tagged with a license that was purchased by someone else. The deer was seized and the violations were addressed.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski contacted several persons on a large tract of private land in Mason County after following up on a baiting complaint from mid-November. The COs had warned a property owner that several hunting stand locations were over-baited and the property owner told them that he would have them cleaned up. Several days later, CO Brosky received a follow-up call from a subject who was fishing along the Pere Marquette River. The angler advised CO Brosky that he could see baiting sites along the river that had excess bait at several locations. CO Brosky returned to the property and noted that not only was the bait not picked up, but there was additional bait placed at the locations. The COs returned to the location to address the violations during muzzleloading season and located several individuals who were hunting over excess bait and multiple hunters were hunting without licenses. While talking to one of the individuals, the COs heard a gunshot on the property. As the COs were rounding up the hunters, CO Publiski had walked past the hunting camp and noted that the property owner appeared to be texting the remaining hunters in the field to warn them of the COs presence on the property. CO Publiski arrived at the location where the shot was heard from earlier when he saw an individual frantically attempting to hide a button buck that he had just shot with a shotgun, and he did not have a license. After contacting all of the persons who were hunting on the property, several citations were issued for offenses that included hunting without licenses, hunting over excess bait, and taking a deer with an illegal device during muzzleloader season. Warnings were also issued to include hunting without a license in possession and using antlerless DMAP licenses on non-permitted land.

While CO Josiah Killingbeck was doing a routine deer processor inspection, he checked a spike horn deer that had a Lake County private land antlerless tag attached to the antlers that were not validated. CO Killingbeck was able to contact the hunter by telephone and learned that the deer had been shot in Lake County which is an antler point restricted county. The hunter told CO Killingbeck that he had not read any type of hunting regulations for several years, but had heard that Lake County had antler point restrictions. The hunter admitted that he had not even attempted to count points on the

buck before shooting. The hunter said that after shooting the deer he was told by another hunting partner that the deer was illegal but if he put his antlerless tag on the deer he might be safe if no COs checked the deer. CO Killingbeck explained hunting regulations in Lake County concerning antler point restrictions. A report was sent to the prosecutor and charges were authorized for the illegal deer along with the tagging violation.

While CO Josiah Killingbeck was inspecting a local deer processor in Lake County he located a 6-point buck with a license that was purchased just a couple hours prior to CO Killingbeck's arrival. CO Killingbeck determined that the deer was dropped off at the processor one hour after the tag was purchased. CO Killingbeck was able to do a phone interview with the hunter and obtained a confession from an out-of-state resident who did not want to pay out of state license fees if he didn't get a deer. The hunter told CO Killingbeck that he had been hunting property in Mecosta County where he shot the buck. The hunter then loaded up the deer and stopped at a license retailer in Big Rapids while on his way to the processor to drop the deer off. CO Killingbeck met with the hunter and a citation was issued for taking the deer without a license.

Sgt. Carla Soper and CO Josiah Killingbeck were on patrol when they checked a vehicle sitting alongside the road. A female and child in the vehicle told the COs that a male was in the woods retrieving his deer blind. CO Killingbeck made contact with the hunter and determined that the subject had cut numerous limbs, that his stand had no name or address, and that he had a bait pile that well exceeded the two gallon bait limit. CO Killingbeck asked the subject where his gun was and the hunter told CO Killingbeck it was in his truck. CO Killingbeck asked the hunter if the gun was loaded and the hunter said that he was not sure. CO Killingbeck determined that the gun was loaded and pointing towards an occupied child car seat inside the cab. The COs spoke with the hunter about the safety concerns, along with legal transportation of a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Sgt. Carla Soper were on patrol when they observed an ORV coming off a trail closed to ORVs. The operator wasn't wearing a helmet, the ORV was not licensed, and was operating carelessly at over 60 mph on a dirt road. As CO Killingbeck approached the ORV with lights and sirens, the operator threw an uncased rifle from his lap onto the roadway. After the operator was stopped, CO Killingbeck was advised that the subject's dad had told him he did not need to worry about a helmet or stickers, because it was hunting season. He was scared when the COs pulled up, causing him to throw his rifle. Numerous citations were issued for the violations present.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was inspecting a local deer processor when he found a 5-point buck with a license that was purchased almost a week after the firearm opener. The tag was purchased after dark, but notched out for that same date. CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Will Kinney made contact with the hunter in northern Wexford County and obtained a confession. The hunter was hunting without a license and did not want to buy a license until he shot a deer. After the hunter shot the deer near the Lake

County/Osceola County Line near Leroy, he drove to Walmart in Cadillac to buy a tag. The hunter said that he knew better than to hunt without a license, but he had decided to risk due to the odds of not getting caught. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he decided to sit near a vehicle that was parked alongside the road in northern Newaygo County. CO Killingbeck noticed inside the vehicle was three freshly emptied bags of corn. At dark, CO Killingbeck made contact with a hunter who had no hunter orange and whose muzzleloader was still loaded after hours. The subject admitted to having more than the legal limit of bait. CO Killingbeck found that approximately 100 pounds of corn was dumped on the ground. The subject was educated on regulations pertaining to deer hunting and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was patrolling in Oceana County when he observed fresh UTV tracks leading off a county roadway onto federal land. CO Shively went around to where the trail came out on the next road when he observed two UTVs operating in a sand pit on federal land. CO Shively was able to stop both UTVs and found that in addition to operating in a closed area, neither had ORV permits and were in violation of numerous township ordinances for operation of ORVs on township roadways. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was working a shining patrol in Oceana County and was sitting stationary in a corn field when he observed a vehicle turn onto the seasonal road and turn off its headlights. Upon getting to curves in the seasonal road, the vehicle turned its headlights on and proceeded towards an intersection. As the vehicle approached the intersection and stop sign, it again shut off all its lights. The vehicle turned onto the pavement without signaling and CO Shively conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Upon contact with the driver, he stated that the plate on the vehicle was bad. CO Shively found that the driver was suspended and there also was no insurance on the vehicle. The driver was arrested and lodged for driving while license suspended 2nd/subsequent offense, improper plate, and no insurance.

CO Ben Shively received a call from a sheriff's deputy whose family member had witnessed two subjects dumping a deer carcass on federal land. The family member was able to obtain a license plate from the vehicle and CO Shively was able to locate the subject. CO Shively interviewed the subject and obtained a confession for illegally disposing of the carcass. The subject was cited for littering and ordered to clean up the carcass and properly dispose of it.

CO Ryan Andrews appeared in federal court in Kalamazoo to testify about the details of a contact along the Pere Marquette River earlier this fall. CO Andrews testified details of numerous fish and game violations in relation to felony probation violation charges that were witnessed in Lake County.

While following up with a reported deer license tag violation in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews investigated an antlered buck that had been shot by a hunter who only

possessed an antlerless tag. When CO Andrews met with the hunter, the antlers now had another hunter's tag on them. The hunter also now claimed that someone else shot the buck. After a short interview and discussion of the photographs that the CO possessed, the hunter decided to tell the truth, stating that he had shot the buck without a license of his own. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

COs Mike Hearn and Sam Schluckbier conducted an investigation on a suspicious license purchase involving a deer in Kalkaska County. The subsequent investigation determined that a hunter had shot a five-point buck, but only had a restricted deer license left. Therefore, the deer was unable to be properly tagged. To remedy the situation, the hunter had his future father-in-law, who had never purchased a deer license in his life buy a tag, so it could be placed on the animal. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen contacted a subject who was hunting from a ground blind with no name and address in Crawford County. The hunter was not wearing any hunter orange, had forgotten his hunting license in another vehicle, and was hunting over an excessively large pile of sugar beets. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben McAteer and Sgt. Brian Olsen followed-up on a shining complaint in a location closed to hunting in Crawford County. While following a slow-rolling vehicle back to the area, Sgt. Olsen noticed a hunter standing in the wood line in full camo. Sgt. Olsen exited the vehicle and had CO McAteer continue after the original vehicle. Upon exiting the vehicle, Sgt. Olsen noticed a second hunter in full camo inside the wood line. CO McAteer returned and assisted Sgt. Olsen with the two hunters just as another vehicle came down the road. Sgt. Olsen waved the vehicle over and located three hunters in full camo with a loaded rifle in the back seat. As the two COs were dealing with the five hunters, CO McAteer witnessed another subject in full camo exit the woods and get into a vehicle. They flagged down that vehicle and located two more hunters dressed in full camo with a loaded gun and no hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer located a vehicle parked on state land in Crawford County that appeared to have fresh blood on the tailgate. He followed tracks that led to a large bait pile and an unidentified ground blind that was occupied by two hunters. While addressing the violations, CO McAteer learned the hunters had harvested two deer which were back at their cabin. CO McAteer followed the hunters back to the cabin and observed two improperly tagged bucks. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier was patrolling one evening in Kalkaska County when he noticed a slow-rolling vehicle traveling on a forest trail. As he pulled up to the vehicle, CO Schluckbier observed an open bottle of beer located in the cup holder and another one in the driver's lap. The driver stated he grabbed some beers on the way home from his father's place. Upon further inspection, the driver had an uncased, loaded rifle and handgun lying in the back seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich investigated a complaint in Alcona County where the individual had shot an eight-point buck and had not purchased a deer license until after the hunt. CO Panich began the interview with the individual's last known address where he located the subject's grandmother who confirmed he had killed an eight-point buck. She gave CO Panich his current address and CO Panich located the hunter. He received a confession from the hunter that he shot the eight-point buck without a license, drove to the local gas station to buy a license and realized he forgot his wallet. The subject told CO Panich he had his girlfriend buy a hunting license and put her kill tag on the deer. Charges are being sought through the Alcona County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Jeff Panich investigated a complaint in Alcona County where an individual had shot an eight-point buck on November 14th prior to purchasing a hunting license. CO Panich followed-up with the individual at his residence. Coincidentally, CO Panich had received a "shots fired" complaint on the evening of November 14th in the area of the individual's residence. During the interview, CO Panich obtained a confession from the suspect stating he had shot the deer with a crossbow without a license. He told CO Panich the complaint involving the gunshot was at a coyote when it was attempting to feed on the eight-point buck he had just shot. Further investigation led to the discovery of a bullet in the deer. The individual confessed to shooting the deer with a rifle on the night before the firearm deer season opened. Charges are being sought through the Alcona County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Steve Lockwood contacted CO Kyle Bader and passed along information on a suspicious kill tag he located during a processor inspection. CO Bader interviewed the owner of the kill tag in Ogemaw County. She initially told CO Bader a story about how she had killed her first deer. After a few more questions, she admitted that she did not kill the deer at all; rather she just bought a tag for a deer that her husband had killed. When CO Bader interviewed her husband, he tried to give a similar story to the woman's first story. He then admitted that he had his wife purchase a tag for the deer he killed. Ironically, the man was checked in the field by CO Lockwood the same day he killed the deer, but before the violation occurred. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a safety zone/trespassing complaint near the end of firearm deer season in Ogemaw County. CO Bader responded to the same location in mid-October for a very similar issue but was unable to contact a suspect. At that time, the landowner contacted the hunter and explained where the property line was and resolved it amicably. Even after the warning, the hunter chose to hunt the location one more time which prompted another visit by CO Bader. He contacted the hunter in the blind which was straddling the property line and his bait pile was well into the adjacent property. The lot he was hunting on is 80 feet by 100 feet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader contacted a hunter in the woods at the end of his hunt in Roscommon County. The hunter claimed to have killed a seven-point buck, but also said he entered his friend's seven-point into a buck pole contest at a local bar so he could get a free burger and beer. Further investigation revealed the man had killed both deer, and had

his friend purchase a tag for the second one. The man said he did it because he “didn’t want to be done hunting yet.” Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was conducting a waterfowl patrol on Saginaw Bay. While checking some waterfowl hunters, CO Atkin discovered one subject hunting with multiple firearms and also a licensing violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau assisted the Gladwin County Sheriff’s Department with a personal injury traffic crash. The accident occurred when a juvenile male wearing all camouflage was operating a lawn tractor in the travel lane of a busy county road after dark. The young man was struck from behind by a SUV traveling at 55-60 mph. CO Papineau, being first on scene, was advised by the driver that due to the darkness and the tractor not having lights or reflectors that they did not see him until the collision. The juvenile was transported to the hospital for treatment of injuries he sustained.

CO Mark Papineau investigated two separate private property excessive baiting complaints in Gladwin County. Both locations contained an extremely excessive amount of bait, totaling at least a pick-up truck load each. CO Papineau made contact with the unsuspecting hunters at both locations. They informed CO Papineau that they were well aware of the baiting regulations; however, indicated that the land was private property and believed they would not be caught. A hunter at one of the locations was also not wearing the required hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood was conducting surveillance on a residence where a subject was believed to be hiding after running from the local police. While keeping an eye out for the suspect, CO Lockwood noticed a deer behind the adjacent house. After the local police arrested the subject, CO Lockwood contacted the neighboring property owner where he had seen the deer. The deer turned out to be an antlerless deer with an improper tag. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land, CO Steve Lockwood noticed a lighted bait pile in the woods and a vehicle parked nearby. CO Lockwood checked a blind near the lighted bait pile and located a subject inside with a cocked and loaded crossbow. A citation was issued for hunting deer with the aid of an artificial light.

DISTRICT 6

CO John Byars noticed a hunter field dressing a deer. When CO Byars made contact, it was discovered that the tag on the deer was not validated. After the investigation, the CO determined that the hunter had harvested a deer on opening day and bought the license after the fact. A citation was issued.

CO John Byars noticed a hunter walking out to his blind without wearing the required hunter orange. CO Byars made contact with the hunter and also noticed the hunter was hunting with a rifle in the limited firearms area that did not meet the criteria of the type of

firearm legal for hunting deer in that area. It was also discovered the hunter did not have his deer tags in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers was working an area that was hunted by a hunter that does not wear hunter orange. The hunter has been avoiding the CO for some time. However, during one patrol, the CO finally caught up to the hunter who was found not to be wearing hunter orange and hunting well over the allowed two-gallons of bait. A citation was issued for the hunter orange offense.

CO Joe Myers was called to a cut corn field in Gratiot County where a hunter was observed not wearing hunter orange. When the CO arrived he was met by the witness and the property owner. The witness stated that he saw a hunter who was not wearing hunter orange walk into the field and shoot two does. He stated an ORV had driven into the field and retrieved one of the deer. After an investigation of the scene three shell cases and another deer were found. CO Myers was assisted by COs Ken Lowell and Josh Russell in the investigation. COs Russell and Lowell drove to the suspect's house as CO Myers followed blood and ORV tracks from the field to the suspect's garage. After a short investigation the untagged deer were found. The suspects were issued tickets for the untagged deer, recreational trespassing and allowing a youth to hunt unsupervised.

CO Joe Myers received information on a hunter that never wore hunter orange and always used too much bait. The CO contacted the hunter one evening and found that he was in fact hunting without hunter orange. A ticket was issued.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint regarding a hunter making a post on Facebook that he shot a buck and doe while stalking a corn field. CO Lowell checked the suspect's license history information to see if he had purchased any hunting licenses. It was discovered that the subject did not have any hunting licenses and after a short interview, the subject admitted to shooting both deer and using his friend's tags. Tickets were written to both the hunter and his friend for loaning and borrowing deer tags. The hunter who shot the deer was also charged with taking deer without a license.

CO Ken Lowell responded to a complaint regarding a hunter not wearing hunter orange and hunting over a large bait pile. When CO Lowell made contact with the hunter, he was not wearing hunter orange. The bait pile was located and it was indeed over the legal limit. The hunter was ticketed for illegal baiting.

While patrolling the back roads in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell stopped and checked a couple hunters coming out of the woods. When asked to produce hunting licenses, one of the hunters was unable to locate one. It was determined that he had not purchased a deer hunting license for the year. The hunter was ticketed for hunting without a hunting license.

CO Josh Russell received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline that an individual was hunting behind their house without licenses. CO Russell went to the

subject's residence and located the subject's husband who confirmed that his wife was currently hunting without a license. The subject was located and cited for hunting without a license.

COs Josh Russell and Michael Haas were heading to a complaint in Isabella county when CO Haas spotted a deer hanging in a garage. The COs stopped and located the landowner who gave the COs permission to look at the deer. The COs located two untagged deer in the garage. The landowner stated her fiancé shot the doe that was hanging but she did not know who shot the button buck. Her fiancé came in from hunting with no hunter orange and a loaded firearm after legal shooting hours. When asked why he never tagged the deer he stated he forgot. He showed the COs his licenses and he did not have a doe license. A citation for taking deer without a license was issued as well as numerous warnings given.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling the north end of the county when a truck blew through a stop sign and went sideways down the road. The vehicle then sped off in excess of 70 MPH down the pothole filled dirt road. The vehicle drove through another stop sign and lost some items out of the bed of the truck. The vehicle also had a taillight pop out of the truck body due to the high speeds and potholes. The CO conducted a traffic stop and asked the driver why he was in such a hurry. The driver stated, "They wanted to get home before they ran out of gas." A citation for careless operation of a motor vehicle was issued.

CO Josh Russell and Lt Jeremy Payne were patrolling in the Edmore State Game Area when CO Russell received an assault complaint a mile away. The COs showed up on scene and spoke to both parties. Evidence was collected and turned over to the Prosecutor's office.

COs Josh Russell and Ken Lowell received a complaint in regards to an untagged deer at a residence and a possible felon with a firearm. As the COs showed up on scene, an individual with antlers ran inside the house. The individual came back without the antlers and was instructed to go back and get them. The subject did so, and confessed to shooting the deer with a gun and not tagging the deer. The subject was a convicted felon and could not legally possess a firearm. A citation for failing to immediately validate the kill tag was issued. A report for felon in possession of a firearm is being submitted to the prosecutor's office for warrant authorization.

COs Will Brickel and CO Joel Lundberg were on patrol in Midland County when they received a complaint of a man hunting within the safety zone of a residence. Upon arrival it was discovered that the individual was hunting over too much bait, did not have a hunting license and was within 70 yards of the neighbor's house. Tickets were issued.

COs Will Brickel and CO Joel Lundberg were on a shining patrol and their attention was brought to a light being cast across a private field. While investigating the source of the light an untagged deer was found in the bed of a pick-up truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Will Brickel received a call from a Michigan State trooper about a subject fishing on Ojibwa Island in Saginaw County. When the trooper stopped and talked with the man he found that the man had sixteen walleye in his possession. Upon arrival, CO Brickel seized the walleye and issued a ticket.

CO Will Brickel was patrolling along the Saginaw River after he heard that the walleye were in thick. CO Brickel checked a boat launch in the area and the very first anglers he checked were in possession of four walleye that were undersized. A ticket was issued.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was patrolling the Gratiot/Saginaw State Game Area after hunting hours when he noticed a single flashlight emitting from the woods. CO Gowenlock stopped in the parking lot and waited for the subject to come out. A few minutes later a single hunter emerged from the woods carrying a shot gun. CO Gowenlock contacted the hunter and asked if his gun was unloaded. The hunter said no and then ejected four shotgun slugs onto the ground. When asked if he knew what time hunter hours ended, the hunter advised that it was any minute now. The CO advised that hunting hours ended approximately 45 mins ago. The hunter then said he did not have a watch. The hunter was cited for possessing a loaded firearm after hours.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to an anonymous tip regarding an illegally shot deer. While speaking with the subject, CO Bucholtz obtained a confession. The subject admitted to shooting one large buck in the limited firearm zone with a firearm that did not meet the criteria and a second large buck without a tag. The investigation continues.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk cited three individuals for licensing issues. Two of the hunters did not have their Federal Waterfowl Stamp and the third hunter did not have his state waterfowl license.

CO Robert Hobkirk observed a vehicle parked on the road side of the Gagetown State Game Area in Tuscola County after hunting hours had ended for the day. After 35 minutes of waiting, flashlights could be seen coming toward the vehicle. It was apparent that they were bringing a deer out of the game area. When the hunters were contacted by CO Hobkirk, one of the hunters immediately reached into his pocket for his deer tags. He was cited for not validating/attaching his tag to the deer.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a deer carcass dumping complaint in Huron County. Upon inspection of the dumped carcasses, it was apparent that the pile was from a deer processor. CO Hobkirk located three deer licenses among the pile. As a result of the investigation, the processor was cited for littering, one of the deer tags in the pile resulted in a citation for a tagging violation, and an inspection of deer at the deer processor's facility led to an individual being charged for providing false information when purchasing their license.

COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea worked a late patrol targeting people taking salmon illegally in Sanilac County. Contact was made with one angler after several hours of

surveillance and the COs observing the angler keep a foul hooked fish and attempt to snag other. A citation was issued to address the violations.

While on patrol in Sanilac County, CO Seth Rhodea stopped the operator of an ORV after observing him operating the wrong way on the roadway, without a helmet and no ORV license. Once stopped, the CO located a loaded firearm on the front of the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea received information from CO Mark Papineau about a buck that may have been illegally taken in Sanilac County. CO Rhodea located and interviewed the suspect who admitted to taking the deer without a license. Upon questioning the hunter about where the deer was, the hunter advised CO Rhodea of a deer processor and taxidermist that was unlicensed. COs Seth Rhodea and Mark Siemen then responded to the location and discovered numerous violations with the owner of the taxidermy and processing business and cited the owner. While checking deer at the location CO Rhodea located an additional deer that was taken without a proper license. Contact was made the following day with that hunter who was cited for taking the deer without a valid license.

In Sanilac County, CO Seth Rhodea responded to a trespassing complaint at a local cemetery involving a couple deer hunters. Upon locating the first hunter CO Rhodea questioned him about his hunting success that year to which the hunter replied he had not been able to harvest a deer yet. When the second hunter was located the CO again asked about their success that year with the second hunter stating the first hunter had shot a doe the week before in a different county. CO Rhodea ran the license history of the first hunter and found he did not have a valid license to shoot a doe in the other county his friend said he killed it in. After speaking with the hunters again they advised that the deer had actually been shot where they currently were but it was never tagged so they lied about it. CO Rhodea followed the hunters to their residence, located the untagged deer and cited the hunter for the violation. The hunters were also advised by the cemetery owners they were not to hunt the property in the future.

While patrolling in Sanilac County, COs Seth Rhodea and Mark Siemen were finally able to make contact with a hunter on a piece of property they had been checking most of hunting season that was for sale and the owner did not want anyone on the land. Upon locating the hunter he was found hunting without the required hunter orange as well as a couple of ORV violations. The hunter attempted to tell the COs he had permission but was unable to keep his stories straight telling the COs numerous versions of why he thought he had permission to be on the property. The hunter was cited for trespassing and not wearing hunter orange.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint about a property owner that caught a subject on his video camera trespassing and shoot a deer. CO Siemen responded and reviewed the video. The video showed a doe eating grass in a small food plot. The deer then fell to the ground and a short time later it showed a subject walk up to the deer and poke it with his firearm. The subject then dragged the deer into the bushes and field dressed it.

CO Siemen tracked the suspect down who lives in Macomb County and was able to obtain a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen received information that a subject in Sanilac County was buying deer tags while having his hunting rights revoked. The suspect was tracked down and his deer tags were taken and he was issued a citation. The suspect stated he had already shot a deer with one of his tags. The deer was located and seized.

CO Jason A. Smith handled a complaint of someone parking in the middle of a parking lot, appearing as though they were attempting to block access to the State Game Area hunting area. After a brief investigation it was discovered that the young hunter had broken down and left his vehicle there until after the morning hunt

CO Chad Foerster received a recreational trespass complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline about an antlerless deer being taken. CO Foerster met the complainant on the property in question near the suspect's home when they observed the suspect show up and immediately leave upon seeing the CO. The suspect was able to elude the CO at this point. CO Foerster returned the next day and made contact with the suspect's wife and was told that he was not home. Not believing the wife, CO Foerster set-up in the area observing. Within an hour, CO Foerster observed the suspect attempting to leave the area. A traffic stop was made and a full confession was received for the trespassing and for taking a deer without a valid license. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

While checking deer hunters in Midland County, CO Jay Person received a complaint of a jeep submerged in a creek on state land. There was some confusion on the exact location of the vehicle, but after some research, the location was determined and the jeep was removed. Using pictures from a local hunter, CO Person was able to make out a plate on the vehicle and eventually located the registered owner. CO Person went to the suspects address and observed the jeep in the garage with a large fan drying out the interior. CO Person was advised that the jeep sustained approximately \$1000 in damage including a broken front axle. CO Person questioned the suspect on how the jeep got into the creek, to which he replied "I thought I could make it through". Enforcement action was taken for operating an ORV in a wetland.

CO Jay Person participated in a Project Blue Light Ceremony held in the City of Midland. CO Person worked with the program coordinator getting her the names of all the fallen COs for the Michigan DNR Law Enforcement Division. He also supplied her with a short synopsis causing the line of duty death. All fallen LED COs are now a permanent part of the ceremony and the names are remembered every year.

CO Jay Person was called to a section of private property in Midland County by the property owner in reference to a dead deer. CO Person observed the deer, a healthy looking female fawn with no noticeable marks or cause of death. The deer was taken to the Sanford Field Office deer check station and turned over to wildlife division staff. The

deer will be sent in for testing to confirm the cause of death and the property owner will receive the results once the testing is complete.

CO Mike Haas received a complaint that a subject had shot a large buck prior to purchasing a license in Isabella County. After completing numerous interviews, the CO was able to locate the deer in question and eventually track down the suspect who was visiting from the Upper Peninsula and had already returned home. CO Haas received a confession stating that he had been hunting and shot the deer without a license and had his girlfriend buy a deer tag for him after the fact. Enforcement action was taken and with assistance from CO Kevin Postma in Chippewa County, the deer was seized.

Early in the firearm deer season, CO Mike Haas located a large bait pile in Isabella County. It was a gross over limit of the two-gallon legal limit which contained hundreds of pounds of corn, sugar beets, carrots, and molasses blocks. CO Haas and CO Dan Robinson caught up with a hunter as he was hunting over the illegal bait pile and not wearing the required hunter orange clothing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas conducted a meat processor inspection in Isabella County where he located a suspiciously tagged small buck hanging in the shop with a base license attached to it. CO Haas made contact with the hunter and addressed the issue. The hunter stated that when he attempted to drop the deer at the processor, a worker reminded him that the deer needed to be tagged so he affixed his base license to the deer thinking it was his kill tag. CO Haas advised the hunter that his deer should have been tagged immediately upon recovering it and certainly before transporting it across the county. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol in Isabella County CO Mike Haas came across a vehicle broken down on the side of the road with no one around that was found to be unregistered, uninsured, and had a stolen license plate on it. While waiting for a tow truck to arrive, CO Haas began an inventory search of the vehicle prior to having it impounded and located numerous items in the car that matched descriptions of stolen items from recent breaking and entering incidents throughout Isabella County. In addition to the items, large amounts of blood, deer hair, flashlights, and spent shell casings were also found throughout the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle arrived on scene as the car was being towed away and CO Haas was able to interview him. While he admitted to driving the vehicle when it broke down without possessing a valid driver's license, he did not have any information regarding the items that were discovered in the vehicle. CO Haas completed numerous follow-up interviews and search warrants were conducted. It was determined that the suspect was responsible for multiple cases involving breaking and entering which are currently being investigated by the Michigan State Police and Isabella County Sheriff's Office. Large amounts of the stolen items were recovered and returned to their rightful owners. During the investigation, COs Josh Russell and Dan Robinson assisted and the COs were able to locate six antlered deer that had been illegally taken by the suspect. The Michigan State Police charged the subject with multiple felony and misdemeanor charges concerning the breaking and entering and CO Haas issued him numerous misdemeanor charges including taking multiple deer

without a license violations, taking game after hunting hours, taking game with artificial light, and shooting game from a motor vehicle.

While on patrol in Montcalm County, COs Josh Russell and Mike Haas received a trespassing complaint. The COs interviewed the complainant and were advised that a vehicle had driven through his yard, farm field, and onto neighboring farm property to a hunting blind. As the COs stood in the driveway speaking to the complainant, a truck drove up from the roadway and began to drive through the yard. The COs were able to stop the vehicle and found the passenger in possession of an uncased rifle resting on her lap. After some discussion it was determined that the occupants in the two vehicles previously had permission to drive through the property to access their farm field. The group was unaware that the property had been sold. Enforcement action was taken for an uncased rifle and the new property owner wanted a warning given for the recreational trespass.

CO Dan Robinson closed up an investigation on a deer that was tagged with a license purchased after the deer was shot. The investigation revealed that the subject who bought the tag did not shoot the deer due to the fact that he did not have much information on how the deer was taken and it became clear that he was covering for someone else. After receiving a full confession from the first subject, CO Robinson interviewed the second subject. It was determined that the second subject did not want to get in trouble for violating his terms of probation, and therefore did not buy a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized. The second subject is also facing charges for his probation violation.

CO Dan Robinson was called to an area in Isabella County for a shots fired complaint. Due to the fact that CO Robinson was out of position and it would take some time to get on scene, he contacted Michigan State Police troopers that were in the area and could respond within minutes. Unable to locate the hunters, CO Robinson checked back with the callers. They identified a residence where the subjects drove back into after looking in the field with lights. The Michigan State Police troopers and CO Robinson made contact at the suspect residence and located the hunters in question. Confessions were received reference them shooting at deer in their field after hours. They admitted that they did not realize there was a specific time hunting ends each day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson was called to a complaint in Midland County in reference to a subject hunting from farm machinery. CO Robinson arrived on-scene and located the possible suspect tractor in the field. As the CO approached on foot he heard two shots come from the area of the tractor, but was unable to see movement from inside cab. CO Robinson continued surveillance from just behind the tractor when he heard a third shot and saw a subject climb into the cab and sit down before starting it. The CO ordered the subject to stop the tractor and come down from the cab. The subject was found to have a loaded, uncased firearm in the cab of the tractor and there was an odor of burnt marijuana and a partially smoked marijuana cigarette was located. It was determined

that the subject was driving the tractor to his hunting location due to the fact that his driver's license was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Matt Page and Sgt. Zach Doss were on patrol near Keeler State Game Area in Van Buren County, when they observed two hunters in a vehicle, which was stopped in the roadway obstructing traffic. A traffic stop was made and during the contact it was discovered that the two hunters had purchased hunting licenses without meeting hunter safety requirements. Citations were issued for purchasing the licenses while ineligible.

CO Tyler Cole and Sgt. Zach Doss were working an area of frequent shining activity when they observed the occupants of a vehicle shining deer. The COs attempted to make a traffic stop on the vehicle, but the driver refused to stop and began to flee. The ensuing chase lasted 40 minutes and went off the roadway twice. During the pursuit, the suspect struck the patrol truck with his vehicle. The Van Buren Sheriff's Department deployed stop sticks, but they were ineffective. The pursuit ended when officers lost sight of the vehicle. CO Cole and Sgt. Doss obtained a license plate number during the pursuit, which after a lengthy investigation led to a suspect, who admitted to fleeing from the traffic stop. Warrants are being sought at the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for multiple felony violations.

CO Tyler Cole and Sgt. Zach Doss decided to wait for the hunters to come out of the woods at the end of hunting hours and perform a license check. The first hunter to return to the vehicle was a 16-year-old hunter, who was hunting without hunter orange, was afield without kill tags, and was hunting while not in visual or audio range of an adult. The father returned to the vehicle well after hunting hours with a loaded gun, did not have his kill tags in possession, and did not have any hunter orange in his possession. In addition, CO Cole and Sgt. Doss located two partially cased firearms in the vehicle. The father had been issued a citation in 2003 by Sgt. Doss for failing to immediately attach and validate a kill tag. The father was subsequently issued citations for being afield without his kill tags and for possession of the loaded firearm after legal hunting hours and was warned for the other multiple violations as was his juvenile son.

CO Zach Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss were working in the Three Rivers State Game Area and decided to perform a license check after the end of hunting hours by waiting for a hunter to return to his vehicle. The hunter returned well after hunting hours and upon contact, CO Bauer and Sgt. Doss immediately observed the butt end of a handgun exposed in his jacket pocket. The handgun, which was loaded, was secured and it was determined that the subject did not have a concealed pistol license (CPL) and was carrying the firearm in violation of Michigan handgun laws. In addition, the hunter's shotgun was loaded in both the chamber and the magazine well after legal hunting hours. The hunter was cited for the loaded gun after legal hunting hours and was advised regarding the proper way to carry a handgun and the procedure for obtaining a CPL.

CO Chris Holmes was patrolling some area farm fields for late night shining activity, when he heard 5-6 rapid shots and a car speed away to the south of his location. Approximately 30 seconds later, Portage Police Department Dispatch put out that a woman had just been shot in her house. CO Holmes responded with local officers and found that a woman had been shot in the neck through her bedroom window. Portage police is investigating the crime.

CO Paul Higashi was following up on a complaint of an untagged deer in a garage. It was determined that the deer was road-killed and the subjects had not obtained the necessary salvage permit. While investigating the complaint, CO Higashi located an untagged turkey carcass in the garage and further interviews resulted in a confession of taking a turkey without a license. Enforcement action taken.

CO Greg Patten received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject who shot too many bucks. CO Patten contacted the suspect, who had a deer hanging at his residence that he shot and put his father's deer tag on it. The suspect admitted to shooting a small buck during bow season. The suspect killed the buck in the morning and then purchased a combination deer license. The suspect then tagged the buck with his regular deer license. The second buck that the suspect's father tagged was not 4-points on one side. Enforcement action was taken for two illegal deer and tagging a deer that the subject did not kill.

CO Greg Patten received a Report All Poaching complaint about an illegal deer. While at a deer processor following up on that complaint, CO Patten located an antlerless deer taken during firearm season and tagged with a regular combo deer license. CO Patten contacted the subject, who shot the deer. The suspect admitted to shooting the deer with a crossbow during firearms season. The suspect said that because he used a crossbow he thought that he could tag an antlerless deer with his regular license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten assisted with a group undercover whitefish patrol. Two citations were issued for snagging whitefish witnessed by the undercover officers.

CO Greg Patten obtained a warrant for criminal trespass for a subject who went on to a subject's property without permission, walking past no trespassing signs and a closed gate. This was in response to a reporting all poaching complaint.

While checking a deer processor in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg observed a kill tag on a 4-point buck that seemed suspicious. While checking the tag, the hunter approached CO Ulberg and confessed that the deer was taken illegally. The hunter stated that it was shot in a county that had antler point restrictions (APRs) and the 4-point didn't meet the minimum requirement. CO Ulberg questioned what time of day the hunter shot the deer and he stated in the morning. The hunter then pointed to a 6-point buck and stated that he shot the second buck in the evening. Further investigation revealed that the hunter had only purchased one deer license and it wasn't purchased

until after he shot the 4-point buck. The 6-point buck was tagged using another hunter's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Grand River in Ottawa County, CO Justin Ulberg checked subjects in a boat that had just finished waterfowl hunting and were heading back towards the launch. Both subjects had their firearms fully loaded in the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dave Rodgers and Justin Ulberg checked a group of waterfowl hunters on an inland lake in Kent County. Only two of the three subjects had the proper waterfowl licenses. The third subject claimed that he was not hunting. Further investigation revealed a third shotgun in the boat, which was also unplugged. The subject eventually admitted to hunting without a license. The hunters also did not have the required number of life jackets on board their vessel. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

DISTRICT 8

CO Eric Smither received a trespassing complaint in southern Lenawee County. After speaking with the caller, CO Smither checked the area where the trespass occurred and was able to find where a deer had been dragged over a fence out of the posted property. The caller had gotten the license plate of the vehicle the suspect was driving and CO Smither was able to contact the suspect at his residence. CO Smither was able to get a written confession for the trespass. A report will be sent to the Lenawee County Prosecutor's Office seeking charges.

CO Monnich was contacted by an Ohio Fish and Wildlife Officer about a Michigan resident who recently hunted in Ohio and was a suspect in a number of illegal deer cases. CO Monnich assisted by interviewing a suspect while other officers were performing search warrants on a resident in Ohio. During the search the main suspect called one of the officers and stated he was in Branch County. CO Monnich contacted CO Jason McCullough to meet a pair of officers just north of the Ohio border to interview that suspect. After a lengthy interview CO McCullough and the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Officers were able to gain a full confession on the illegal taking of a number of deer.

CO Jason McCullough found a deer head while checking deer harvest information at a local processor. The alleged hunter was a convicted felon and therefore was not supposed to be in possession of a firearm. Additionally, the hunter was still on probation from a prior felony conviction. Assisted by probation officers, CO McCullough contacted the hunter at his home. The hunter stated his daughter had shot the deer and he purchased a tag for it. The alleged hunter knew he wasn't supposed to be around firearms. Probation officers located an additional firearm and ammunition in the home. Enforcement action was taken on the wildlife violations.

CO Jason McCullough completed a two year investigation involving a suspect who shot a deer on opening day of muzzleloader season in 2015 without a tag. Responding to a complaint, CO McCullough and the complainant observed the subject load an untagged deer into the back of a small car. Due to some untimely circumstances, CO McCullough was unable to contact the hunter as he left the property at that time. This year, the subject returned, driving a different vehicle. The original complainant, who was watching for any suspicious activity, called CO McCullough. CO McCullough was able to contact the subject leaving the property with another deer. Upon contact, the subject stated he always tagged his deer. After a short interview, the subject recalled the events from a couple of years ago. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol in Hillsdale County, observed two hunters in a field. He noticed a tractor coming out of a nearby woodlot with a deer in the bucket. The CO talked with the hunter who was excited to have shot a deer. The CO asked for the hunter's license and asked where the deer was shot, noticing a kill tag was not on the deer. The hunter stated the deer was shot across the field and well into the woodlot. The CO asked the hunter to explain when the deer was shot. The hunter stated about an hour ago and then showed a picture of where the deer was shot, which showed an unlawful amount of corn on the ground. The CO noticed the hunter was carrying a concealed pistol and asked if the hunter had a CPL. He stated he did. The CO explained the variety of violations observed and a citation was issued for failing to immediately tag the deer.

CO Josh Jackson received a call to assist a local police department officer with a conservation law violation. When CO Jackson arrived on scene he recognized the suspect. The suspect's vehicle was searched and an uncased shotgun, with shells nearby, was found in the back seat of the suspect's car. The CO issued a citation for an uncased firearm in a vehicle.

CO Josh Jackson received a complaint of a hunter walking the railroad tracks to get to his hunting blind. CO Jackson waited near the railroad tracks and contacted the hunter coming back after an evening of hunting. The hunter was issued a citation for trespass, as well as having a loaded firearm during closed hours.

COs Jason McCullough and Troy Ludwig interviewed a hunter suspected of illegally taking a deer in Eaton County. The hunter admitted to buying her deer combo license after harvesting a deer and then validating the tag for the following day. Charges are currently being sought with the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Troy Ludwig and Sam Schluckbier were patrolling the Windsor State Game Area when they contacted an individual dumping yard waste in an area that is closed to vehicle traffic. The man admitted to seeing a sign indicating that motor vehicles were prohibited in the area. He stated he had seen other people driving in the area and figured it would be okay. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk was checking deer with CO Chris Reynolds and A/Sgt. Todd Thorn at local buck poles in Hillsdale County when they observed a suspicious deer. The COs interviewed the suspect at his residence and kept receiving conflicting stories. The COs seized evidence related to the case and will be requesting a search warrant to further their investigation.

CO Carter Woodwyk responded to a complaint in Hillsdale County of a subject who believed to have had their deer stolen by a neighboring property owner. An investigation revealed the subject who shot the deer had multiple violations that included being a youth under 16 years of age hunting unsupervised with a firearm, not being hunter safety certified, and recreational trespassing. The CO later discovered that the deer in question was picked up by the neighbor due to concerns of possible disease in the animal and turned over to CO Chris Reynolds earlier in the day for testing.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale County and contacted two hunters standing behind a house. During the contact he discovered one of the subjects to be in possession of marijuana, and the other subject to be a concealed pistol license (CPL) holder. The CPL holder stated that he only carries his pistol during deer season, and he forgot to mention he had it upon the COs initial contact. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk received a complaint in Hillsdale County of two subjects deer hunting without wearing hunter orange on Hunter Access Program (HAP) land. The CO responded to the HAP land and located two pop-up blinds in the middle of a field. The CO made contact with both occupants who were dressed in full camouflage. Enforcement action was taken.

A/Sgt. Todd Thorn left his home on patrol and immediately spotted a vehicle using its headlights to shine a nearby field. CO Thorn conducted a traffic stop and found the operator's license was suspended. He had a warrant for his arrest, had an open can of beer in the vehicle, an expired vehicle registration, and was on probation, which included being ordered not to be around alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a trespass complaint from a subject who found two deer gut piles on property he leases for hunting. CO Nickols found a blood trail leading onto neighboring property owned by MDOT. CO Nickols followed the trail and located a dead doe that had already been scavenged by coyotes. The trespassers have been identified and follow-up interviews are ongoing.

While on patrol at the end of hunting hours, CO Rich Nickols observed the silhouette of a subject standing in a fencerow on the edge of a field. CO Nickols observed the subject was carrying a firearm and not wearing hunter orange. CO Nickols contacted the subject and asked where his orange was. The subject said his hat was "kind of orange." It was rust colored. When asked for a hunting license, the subject stated he did not have one. The subject stated he lived in a nearby house and had driven an ORV to the hunting location. CO Nickols seized the gun, which had been transported on the ORV uncased, and met the subject back at his house. CO Nickols met with the subject's

step-father and learned the 15 year old had never taken hunter safety, did not possess a license to hunt deer, and was hunting unsupervised without hunter orange after transporting an uncased firearm on an ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols received a call about a sick deer on property in Riley Township. When CO Nickols arrived, the deer had already died. It appeared very emaciated and extremely small for its estimated age of 1.5 years. CO Nickols transported the deer to a DNR deer check station to be processed for CWD testing.

CO Rich Nickols was heading home on the last day of firearm deer season when a call was dispatched by Clinton County Central Dispatch of a lost hunter at Sleepy Hollow State Park. The hunter had texted a family member stating he was lost and needed help before his phone died. The family was sure he was hunting Sleepy Hollow because that's where he always hunts. CO Nickols, sheriff deputies, and family members checked all the parking areas and access sites at the park but could not locate the subject's vehicle. Dispatch was able to ping the hunter's phone and it came back to a location about 10 miles away in Shiawassee County. CO Nickols went to the location and, after a short time of searching, family members informed everyone the subject had been located and was headed back home.

CO Jason King located a bait pile in a field proximately 100 yards from a hunting blind in Shiawassee County. CO King made contact with hunters in the blind and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King located a bait pile along the Maple River approximately 15 yards from a tree stand in Shiawassee County. CO King made contact with the owner. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason King and Rich Nickols responded to a Shiawassee County complaint regarding a subject that shot an eight-point buck on private property from a vehicle on the road. The COs located the suspect, and an interview and confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Christopher Maher and Matthew Neterer spoke to a Conservation Law Class at Michigan State University. There were approximately 20 students in attendance. The COs discussed a wide range of topics from daily job duties to CWD.

CO Chris Maher investigated a complaint from a local farmer who found a tree stand on his property. The farmer has had this issue in the past and asked CO Maher to help find a suspect. CO Maher determined the tree stand belonged to an individual living near the farm property. After an interview, the suspect admitted guilt and took CO Maher to the tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher investigated a complaint of an individual purchasing deer licenses while his hunting privileges were suspended. While interviewing the suspect, CO Maher discovered the man had taken a deer earlier in the season. CO Maher confiscated the

suspect's remaining 2017 deer kill tags and the antlers from the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King investigated a case involving a subject that shot an eleven-point white-tailed deer on property that he did not have permission to be on. CO King made contact with the subject and a confession was obtained. A report will be submitted to the Shiawassee County prosecutor for review.

DISTRICT 9

CO Raymond Gardner was involved in a group patrol searching for whole deer being brought into Michigan from Ohio. While CO Gardner was staged as a chase vehicle, COs that were staged as spotters witnessed an SUV cross the Michigan state line with a deer strapped to a hitch cargo carrier and called it out to the chase vehicles. The SUV drove past CO Gardner who then conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle. CO Gardner made contact with the occupants of the vehicle and explained to them why they were stopped. CO Gardner confirmed with the occupants that the deer was taken in Ohio and that the passenger was the one who killed it. The occupants claimed they were unaware that they couldn't bring a whole deer into Michigan from out of state. CO Gardner then explained the importation law to the occupants, confiscated the deer and issued a citation.

While driving home from a group patrol targeting the importation of deer from other states, COs David Schaumburger and CO Dan Walzak spotted a car with a deer on its roof that was also driving 80 mph in a 70 mph zone. The COs stopped the car for speeding and also inquired about where the deer was killed. One of the passengers said it was his first deer and they were on their way home from Ohio. The COs educated the group of hunters on the importation laws, however, the deer was still seized and enforcement action was taken. The deer will be sent to the Michigan State University wildlife laboratory to be tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

COs Jason Becker, Raymond Gardner, Jacob Griffin, David Schaumburger, Dan Walzak, and Sgt. Stephen Mooney worked a CWD surveillance operation in SW Monroe County where they monitored traffic for deer coming into the state in violation of laws to prevent the further spread of the disease in Michigan. During the operation, over 5,200 vehicles were observed. The COs seized one deer that was imported into the state without having the spine and head removed as required by law.

CO Dan Walzak along with other District 9 COs attended the funeral for Oakland County Sheriff Deputy Eric Overall who was killed in the line of duty on Thanksgiving Day.

CO James Zellinger participated in a deer decoy patrol with COs from District 8. No enforcement action was taken during the patrol.

COs Jacob Griffin and Jason Becker responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject whom had allegedly shot a deer before legal hours on property that was closed

to hunting. The COs interviewed the subjects about when and where the deer was shot. The subject showed the officers where the deer was shot and led the officers onto the neighboring property where the deer was recovered. CO Becker advised the subject he was hunting over too much bait and CO Griffin was able to show the subject that his tree stand and bait were also on the neighboring property that was closed to hunting. Based on text messages sent by the subject, it was determined that the subject shot the deer more than an hour before legal shooting hours. A full confession was obtained to the violations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights was patrolling Oakland County when he came across a piece of property that had a suspicious vehicle parked on it. CO Knights has driven by this property multiple times, but has never seen anyone using it. CO Knights waited until the end of hunting hours to see if someone would come out. Just after legal hunting hours an individual came out of the field and CO Knights met him at his vehicle. As CO Knights approached he saw the hunter holding a crossbow in his hands. CO Knights asked the subject for his hunting licenses which he didn't have. The hunter stated he wasn't actually hunting, but just sitting in his tree stand. CO Knights questioned him further, but his answers were not adding up. Enforcement action was taken and the hunter was also advised of the laws.

CO Justin Muehlhauser responded to an in progress recreational trespass complaint in Flushing Twp., Genesee County. The property owner said that he heard a shot at the back of his property so he went to check it out. There he encountered the neighbor and neighbor's friend with a deer. The neighbor said that his friend shot the deer right on the property line. The friend then tagged the deer and took possession of it. However, the complainant had trail cam photos that told a different story. The photos clearly showed that the neighbor shot the deer on the complainant's property and drug it back to his side. The CO followed up with the neighbor who came right out and said that he shot the deer. He said the deer was sick and has been seen for several days in the area. He went out that morning, located the deer lying down on the complainant's property and shot it twice with his .22. He said the deer needed to be put down and he would do it again if he had to. The CO explained the violations involved. The subject took the deer without a license, used a .22 rifle, and was trespassing while doing so. The CO then followed up with the third party who secured the deer. The deer was seized and charges are being sought on both parties through the prosecutor's office.

While on patrol in Macomb County, COs Brad Silorey and Joseph Deppen stopped in at a local processor and were checking the records. Earlier in the season the processor was given warnings and instructed on the proper documentation needed in order to process deer. When inspected for the second time, the processor admitted he threw the COs instructions away after they had left. The COs checked his current documentation and it had not changed from his previous format. The COs asked the processor why he did not heed their previous warnings about improper documentation. The processor claimed he did not have time to write down the necessary information because he was too busy. The processor was informed he will be held to the same standards as all other area processors and enforcement action was taken.

While checking hunters coming off the water in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen received a call from the local dispatch informing him of about 400-500 deer legs that had been dumped in a dumpster behind a local business. CO Deppen made the location and in digging through the boxes of deer legs, he found a few discarded deer tags that were not removed from the deer. CO Deppen collected the tags and contacted each of the hunters. After speaking with the hunters, CO Deppen found which processor they had each taken their deer to. CO Deppen will make further contact with the land owner and see if they would like to pursue illegal dumping charges.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey conducted a deer processor inspection and checked approximately 100 deer at a one of the Macomb County deer processors. Some of the violations included a deer tagged with a sturgeon tag, a deer tagged with a base license, a six-point buck tagged with a restricted deer tag, an antlerless deer license purchased after taking a deer, and non-validated deer tags. More interviews will be conducted. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a tip that a subject shot multiple deer several hours after legal hours had ended. CO Kovach made contact at the residence and located several untagged deer hanging in a shed on the property. A confession was obtained to the illegal taking of three does and two bucks. Enforcement action was taken.

With the regular waterfowl season coming to an end, CO Ken Kovach has been busy checking hunters in Lake Huron hunting from layout boats. On one particular patrol, CO Kovach came across a group of hunters hunting from a boat several miles away from anyone else. A check of the hunters discovered the subjects were hunting with firearms capable of holding more than three shells. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ken Kovach and Brad Silorey conducted a group patrol on Lake Huron focusing on waterfowl enforcement as the hunters have been bagging limits of long tailed ducks. Multiple hunting contacts took place and several violations were discovered that included: unplugged firearms, no state waterfowl license, no federal waterfowl stamp, unsigned federal stamps and failure to provide PFD's. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey conducted a deer processor inspection on one of Macomb County's deer processors. CO Silorey found multiple non-validated deer kill tags, along with several suspicious deer kill tags. CO Silorey contacted one individual who had purchased his deer kill tag the evening prior to dropping it off at the processor the next morning. After a brief check of social media, the suspect was photographed posing with the buck. CO Silorey then interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession. The suspect admitted to taking a deer without a license, and then buying the tag after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel returned to a Macomb County deer processor the following day due to the large volume of deer coming in. COs Silorey and Kiel found several tagging violations including one deer in particular that was uniquely tagged with

a sturgeon tag at the facility. COs Silorey and Kiel investigated the improperly tagged deer further and attempted to make contact with the hunter at his residence. Upon arrival to the home of the suspect, COs Kiel and Silorey contacted two individuals who were processing a deer in their garage. One of the individuals was the son of the sturgeon tag angler. He stated that his father was not home. CO Silorey was able to speak with the sturgeon subject and determined that he did purchase a combo license and that was his only deer that he had taken this year. The sturgeon subject stated that he has bad vision and that it was a mistake. The subject was informed that he was required to meet with CO Silorey at a later date and turn over his kill tag. After dealing with the initial complaint, COs Silorey and Kiel turned their attention to the deer in the garage. The individual initially stated that it was a "mercy kill" and that he had shot it while hunting with his aunt on her property. CO Silorey then requested the subject's driver's license to confirm it was his kill tag. The subject then stated that it was not his deer and that his aunt shot the deer. COs Silorey and Kiel quickly found that the subject was lying, and that he did in fact shoot the deer. The subject had not purchased any hunting licenses for 2017. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey responded to an early morning Report All Poaching complaint referencing a waterfowl hunter that had shot well before legal shooting hours on Lake St. Clair in Macomb County. The complainant was contacted, and stated that he heard the subject shoot early and watched him retrieve the duck and put it in the back of their vehicle. CO Silorey was able to make contact with the subjects who were hunting from shore. CO Silorey questioned one of the hunters on when they had shot that morning. The subject stated her son was attempting to see if his gun was functioning properly before shooting hours and that the gun accidentally discharged. CO Silorey asked the hunter if they had shot any birds yet this morning, and if they had any ducks in the vehicle. The hunter stated no, that they did not have any ducks and that they did not shoot any yet. The CO asked the subject if she could show him the back of the vehicle. The subject opened the trunk of the vehicle and stated that there are no ducks in here, and that possibly the complaints saw her carrying a broken decoy back to the car. CO Silorey then asked to see in the back seat. The subject opened the back seat, moved several items of clothing and stated again that there is nothing. The subject then attempted to quickly close the car door. CO Silorey questioned the subject on why she was getting so nervous and frantic. She then admitted to hiding two mallards in the back seat on the other side. CO Silorey found two dead mallards wrapped in a towel. The subjects admitted to shooting the ducks nearly ten minutes early.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, COs Brad Silorey and Joseph Deppen ran across multiple violations throughout the day. The violations included careless discharge of a firearm, possession of lead shot, unregistered vessels, no vessel registration numbers and loaded firearms in a motorized boat. Each hunter was educated on current laws and their violations. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was checking on a group of hunters putting out their decoys. The waterfowl hunters finished setting up their decoys and proceeded to load their firearms well before hunting hours

began. CO Deppen made contact with the hunters just before shooting hours commenced, and told them they could load their shotguns. All hunters admitted to already being loaded and claimed they did not realize they could not load their shotguns until legal hunting hours started. Further verifications into the waterfowl licenses revealed one hunter did not have a waterfowl license or federal stamp and two hunters did not have a federal waterfowl stamps Enforcement action was taken.

While checking hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen received a complaint of waterfowl hunters setting up in a waterfowl refuge. CO Deppen made the location and the hunters were observed hunting in a refuge and rallying ducks with a motorized boat. They also had no lifejackets or safety equipment aboard. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen observed a pontoon boat with duck hunting equipment coming into the launch. CO Deppen made contact and told the hunters they can pull their boat out and CO Deppen would like to conduct a check. The hunter asked if he could pull the boat out and drive around the parking lot to his partner's vehicle. CO Deppen said "yes", but did a quick check into the vessel and observed two shotguns with the action closed. CO Deppen said they could pull out the vessel, but he would jump aboard before pulling it out of the launch. CO Deppen jumped on the boat, and the owner pulled the boat out. While in transit CO Deppen noticed both shotguns were fully loaded and the hunter admitted to wanting to unload them during the drive in the parking lot. CO Deppen educated the hunters about not having loaded firearms in a motorized boat, especially when transiting across the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen contacted a vessel that had just pulled out of the water. One hunter got in his vehicle and drove away. CO Deppen tried to flag the man down to stop, but he kept driving out of the parking lot. CO Deppen observed ducks in the vessel and then spoke with the other hunters about the birds. They all had shot and taken waterfowl that day including the hunter that drove off. CO Deppen had them call the drive away hunter and have him come back to the launch. The driver did not answer his cellular phone. A full check was completed by CO Deppen into the vessel and the hunters and revealed the hunter who drove away did not purchase a federal waterfowl stamp. CO Deppen finally made contact with the driver and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel worked Lapeer County for a day to help CO Matt Zultak catch up on complaints. Among the complaints was one for over baiting. A subject was found to have a half-trailer load of carrots dumped out by his deer blind. Another complaint was recreational trespass and failing to wear hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken on both complaints.

CO Kris Kiel and Sgt. Todd Szyska responded to an in progress complaint of a hunting trespasser on Consumer Energy Lands in Macomb County. After searching the large acreage tracts of land CO Kiel found the subject in full camouflage, concealed in a

camouflage pop up blind. The subject was found to be trespassing on Consumers Property, had no deer hunting licenses on his person, and had no hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and Sgt. Todd Szyska responded to an in progress Report All Poaching complaint of a subject hunting MDOT property near the rest area in St. Clair County off of the interstate. After responding and talking with the complainant, the stand was located, but the subject was gone. The investigation still continues, but the subject is trespassing on MDOT property, shooting in a careless manner due to the positioning of his tree stand, and trespassing upon ITC and other private properties to get there.

CO Ken Kovach checked waterfowl hunters on Harsens Island this past week. With deer season in full swing, the number of waterfowl hunters has lessened. CO Kovach noted violations of unsigned federal stamps, no state stamp, and failure to provide enough PFDs.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a pair of subjects using explosives to fish with in the St Clair River. It was determined by use of the Homeland Security camera's that the subjects were waterfowl hunting. The hunters were checked and no violations were discovered.

CO Brad Silorey has been assisting Sanilac County CO Mark Siemen with the investigation and follow up of illegally taken deer. CO Silorey made a visit to a local taxidermist to see if the suspect had dropped off additional deer from the 2017 season. While investigating the illegal Sanilac bucks, CO Silorey also found several other violations that will require follow up.

COs Brad Silorey and Joe Deppen worked on Lake St. Clair checking waterfowl hunters during the holiday weekend. COs Silorey and Deppen found numerous violations that day including: hunting in a refuge, loaded firearms in motorboat underway, expired registration, failing to provide PFDs, and loaded before hours. Enforcement action was taken.