

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/6/15 - 12/21/15**

DISTRICT 1

CO Brett DeLonge conducted several commercial processor inspections in Menominee County with only a couple of violations observed. CO DeLonge followed up on a buck that had not been tagged properly. Through an investigation and multiple interviews, CO DeLonge was able to locate the hunter who shot the deer during the firearm season. The buck was tagged with a bear kill tag. The hunter possessed no deer hunting tags for the 2015 deer season. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint of illegal dumping of trash in northern Menominee County. CO DeLonge investigated the complaint area and found the dump site that included several large bags of household trash spread over a large area on commercial forest land. Among the bags of trash, CO DeLonge was able to locate several pieces of mail that included the suspect's name and address. After interviewing neighbors of the suspect and locating the suspect's residence, CO DeLonge was able to make contact with the suspect who later admitted to dumping the trash. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint on private property of a group of hunters that were hunting over large bait piles. CO DeLonge accessed the property by foot, and followed well-used ORV trails that led him to multiple deer blinds with excessive bait piles. CO DeLonge then located where the hunters were camped and made contact. After interviewing the hunters, CO DeLonge learned that the group had shot a number of deer during the firearm deer season and was able to get the hunters to admit to having too much bait at their blinds. CO DeLonge investigated the area of the camp and located multiple heads of small bucks that were hidden and untagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman made contact with a suspect conducting an interview following the discovery of an unsealed bear during a routine taxidermy inspection. The subject admitted to taking the black bear in question and had failed to register it. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Christopher Lynch and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon backed-up troopers on a traffic stop by the Delta County Airport. The suspect had a cooler with a deer quartered up in it, and he also was in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The suspect, from Wisconsin, claimed that he shot the deer with a rifle after the season closed, and never purchased his deer license for 2015. The deer was seized, and the suspect was lodged in the Delta County jail.

CO Christopher Lynch and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon were on patrol in Schaffer when they came across a trapper checking his traps along M-69. Upon making contact with the individual, he was asked if he had any luck. The trapper stated he was doing well this year and was getting ready to sell his catches. The trapper was asked to produce a trapping license and he said he never purchased one. The suspect's vehicle had seven untagged traps, and the driver was also unable to produce proof of insurance or a valid registration for his vehicle. The suspect stated he was on his way to the court to pay his ticket of no proof-of-insurance from the week prior, and was checking his traps on the way. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Lynch and CO Pat Hartsig were on patrol when they observed a vehicle driving slowly down the snowmobile trail in Gladstone. Upon making contact with the suspect, an uncased muzzle loader was observed in the passenger seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith responded to a complaint where a private land owner had posted his CFR property with no hunting signs. The property owner thought he could put no hunting signs up, but not no trespassing signs. The land owner was educated on the law, and agreed to remove his no hunting signs from the CFR property.

Fifteen local law enforcement officers participated in the annual Christmas with a Cop program. CO Michael Evink and CO Robert Freeborn represented the DNR. Other agencies involved included Manistique Public Safety, Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Department, Tribal Officers and MSP. Each officer went to breakfast with a child and after breakfast the kids were able to shop for their family members. After shopping, the kids were treated to a movie while presents were wrapped. The entire program is funded through donations and the local FOP lodge.

CO Michael Evink and a US Forest Service officer assisted the Delta County Sheriff's Department with an individual who fled on foot in Escanaba. The two officers located an individual who matched the subject's description. A deputy, along with the two officers, was able to make contact with the subject. He was not the individual being looked for, however, it was not his lucky day due to the warrant, dope and baggie of yet to be identified white substance that was located in his pocket. The individual was taken into custody by the Delta County Sheriff's Department.

While conducting a local meat processor inspection, CO Robert Freeborn and CO Chris Lynch noticed a spike horn rack that was sitting in a box along with several other deer antlers. Upon closer inspection, it was determined that the spike was tagged with a combo tag. CO Freeborn and CO Lynch were quickly able to find the responsible party and located the hunter at his residence. After a brief interview, a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn, CO Mark Zitnik, CO Michael Evink, and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon conducted inspections on several local taxidermist businesses. While a couple of the taxidermists had everything correct, one in particular had several violations including;

incomplete records of animals being accepted, as well as several animals being untagged such as deer, beaver and fox. The taxidermist was educated on the correct process, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when a BOL came out for a possible drunk driver who was driving down the wrong side of the road. CO Lynch was in the area and observed the vehicle parked in an old mini mart parking lot. Upon making contact with the occupants of the vehicle, an odor of intoxicants came from the cab of the vehicle. Upon asking the occupants for their identification, the passenger got out of the vehicle yelling and approaching the CO. After detaining the occupants of the vehicle, further investigation revealed the driver was on bond for domestic violence. One of the conditions of his bond was not to consume alcohol. After taking a breath test, the suspect blew a .157 BAC. The suspect was arrested and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

CO Pat Hartsig and CO Chris Lynch were on patrol when they observed an ORV operating down the state highway with no ORV sticker. A traffic stop was conducted. Upon making contact with the driver, it was discovered that he had a suspended driver's license. Further investigation revealed that the suspect had multiple warrants out for his arrest. The suspect was placed under arrest and lodged in the Delta County Jail.

CO Jeff Panich did a presentation for the Pickford Cub Scouts. CO Panich discussed with the pack what a conservation officer is and what they do to protect the natural resources in the State of Michigan. After explaining his job to the pack, CO Panich worked with the youngsters on one of their merit badges in conservation. Discussions of hiking and trail safety were key topics on the agenda.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint of vehicles revving their engines and spinning their tires in an area closed to motor vehicles. Upon arrival, CO Postma noticed three sets of truck tracks going around a gate and continuing down a snowmobile trail. CO Postma drove his patrol truck as far as it could go, then changed from pants to a pair of waders, and walked another mile before finally catching up with the three vehicles. Two of the three vehicles were stuck in large mud holes. It was learned that the group had done some research using google maps, and decided that the road looked like a great four-wheeling route. They also advised they thought it was alright to go around the gate since there were other tracks doing the same. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Chad Baldwin received a complaint from a hunter regarding his neighbor attempting to disrupt his hunt. CO Baldwin then received a complaint from the neighbor complaining that the first subject was hunting within the safety zone of his residence. CO Baldwin responded to the scene and was assisted by former Conservation Officer Lt. Jeff Gaither and current Chief of Police for the City of Boyne City. Contact was made

with the subject and it was determined he was hunting well within the safety zone. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl received a complaint from a subject who had just shot a 6-point buck. The complainant stated he sat for a while prior to tracking the deer to make sure it had died. While waiting, he noticed a truck come down the road stop on the shoulder and then drive off. The hunter then tracked the deer to where it had died on the side of the road where he had seen the truck stop. The deer was gone. The complainant did not have a very good description of the truck. The investigation continues.

While working the Burt Lake area, CO Duane Budreau observed two subjects at the Maple Bay State boat launch having difficulties. The subjects were attempting to pull a boat from the water after having been fishing. One subject was in the truck, backing it into the water, and the other subject was in the boat. The driver of the truck was not familiar with the operation of a manual "stick shift" transmission, and as a result kept going further backwards into the water. When CO Budreau arrived, the vehicle was up to its frame in the water. CO Budreau assisted the fishermen by attaching a strap to the front of the subject's truck and pulled them from the water. Both subjects were very thankful.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint of a subject cutting standing timber on state land for firewood. Firewood cutting on state land is regulated to only dead-and-down trees. The subject was contacted at the scene and admitted to cutting the standing timber. In addition, it was discovered that his firewood cutting permit was expired. Enforcement action was taken and restitution for the standing timber is being sought.

CO Paul Fox investigated a bait complaint and contacted the property owner. CO Fox discovered two hunting blinds with over twenty gallons of bait at each site. The property owner was issued a citation for baiting in excess of two gallons.

CO Paul Fox stopped an ORV operating along a state highway and discovered that the driver had a suspended driver's license. The driver was arrested for operating an ORV while his driver's license was suspended.

Sgt. Joe Molnar checked a hunter during the last weekend of muzzleloader season who was hunting over bait in Alpena County. While talking with the hunter, Sgt. Molnar learned that the property owner had shot three bucks this year. CO Warren MacNeill contacted the property owner who admitted to shooting three bucks and putting his wife's tag on his third buck. While investigating the camp, Sgt. Molnar also discovered that the camp owner had a bear tag this past season, had baited for the bear early, and shot it over bait during the hound-only period of the season. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe observed a truck parked in the middle of a seasonal road in Grand Traverse County. A short time later, a subject in full camo and waders walked around the vehicle with a shotgun and put it into the front of the vehicle. CO Kehoe initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver. The subject stated that he got out of the vehicle to shoot a grouse. When asked if the gun was loaded, the subject advised it was and ejected three shells. The subject also indicated that he didn't have a case with him. CO Kehoe advised the subject about the laws surrounding transporting a firearm and that hunter orange is required when small game hunting. The subject replied he didn't have hunter orange on because he was going duck hunting in a pond right down the road. CO Kehoe advised the hunter that he should probably wait until tomorrow when the late season opens. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Haskin received a call of an individual burning shingles and roofing supplies in Wexford County. CO Haskin responded to the scene and located the fire. The suspect claimed he was only burning hay and string. After further questioning, he confessed that there were shingles and other roofing supplies in the fire. The suspect claimed it was his property so he should be able to do whatever he wants. The Fire Department was called to the scene and put the fire out. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Kosciński was checking surf fisherman out of Manistee when he came across a subject with an extra line. When the fisherman saw CO Kosciński coming, he quickly ran to reel up the extra line. Unfortunately he wasn't quick enough and a ticket was issued for fishing too many lines.

CO Kyle Publiski followed-up on a complaint from early November of a subject taking an over-limit of bucks. CO Publiski was able to locate all three pictures of the subject posing with the bucks on various deer picture websites, including Facebook. On one of the websites, the hunter changed his name to cover up the over-limit, yet still bragged. Using the fictitious name that was posted, CO Publiski was able to locate the deer at a local taxidermist. It was discovered that the hunter was truly over-limit, and CO Publiski went to interview the subject. At first, the subject denied the over-limit, but once confronted with all the evidence, the subject came clean and admitted to shooting all three deer during archery season with his crossbow. It turned out the subject shot the third buck and used his brother's tag on it. Unfortunately for the subject's brother, who is a resident of Florida, he bought several licenses on an expired Michigan identification. While CO Publiski was seizing all the antlers for evidence, he noticed one set of antlers was already skull mounted. CO Publiski asked who mounted the set of antlers. It was discovered that the taxidermist was operating illegally without a permit.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski were doing a local taxidermy inspection and located several sets of antlers that looked as if they purchased deer hunting licenses after they shot their bucks. A follow-up led the COs to Manistee, where they met with one hunter. A quick interview led to the confession of the subject hunting rifle season without deer licenses, where he shot a large buck, and then bought his license in order to take it to the taxidermist.

CO Josiah Killingbeck located a 7-point buck at a processor with a kill tag that was purchased on November 15th. The tag was notched out for the 15th, as well as not being completely validated. With the assistance of CO Patrick McManus, the hunter was interviewed. The hunter admitted to CO McManus that he went hunting without a license on opening day, and shot the 7- point buck. After shooting the deer, he then went to a local party store to purchase his tags. Warrants are being sought for the illegally taken deer.

CO Brian Lebel and CO Angela Greenway responded to a complaint of a deer being kept on a leash outside of a home. When the COs arrived, they saw a deer with a halter on and it was, in fact, tied to the outside of a barn with a rope. The homeowners were contacted and stated that they found it in the field in the spring, thought the mother had left it, and believed they were helping it. The COs educated the homeowners about not taking wildlife out of the wild. They agreed to stop feeding the animal and release it to the wild.

CO Angela Greenway found a tree stand on state land that had a lot of trash around it. The trash consisted of two bags of flour spread on the ground with some bait in and on the flour spread. CO Greenway spent some time working the stand and was able to make contact after hunting hours with the hunter. There was no attempt to take game after legal hunting hours, however the hunter stated that the flour was to help him see better after 5:00 p.m. CO Greenway advised the hunter to clean up his trash and hunt area.

CO Ethan Gainforth was on patrol in Osceola County when he saw a vehicle parked off of a trail on a piece of state land. An inspection of the vehicle found it belonged to a hunter who was muzzleloader hunting. CO Gainforth found an 8-point whitetail deer head that looked to have been shot quite a bit earlier in the season in the back of the truck. CO Gainforth checked the license on the antlers which revealed that the buck might have been poached earlier in the season. CO Gainforth found the hunter out in his tree stand and asked him to come down so he could check his hunting license. Upon questioning, CO Gainforth was able to obtain a confession that the hunter had shot the 8-point deer without a license and then purchased the license later that day. The whitetail antlers were seized, along with the crossbow used to take the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth conducted a taxidermy inspection where he located a suspicious set of antlers. Later in the day, CO Gainforth interviewed the suspect that had taken the antlers to the taxidermist. Upon extensive interviewing, it was found that the suspect shot the deer legally. However, the suspect had shot another deer during the archery season, and at the time did not possess a hunting license. The suspect did not purchase his hunting license until after the firearm deer season. The subject asked if he could keep his antlers because it was the largest buck he had ever taken. CO Gainforth told the subject that the deer was taken illegally and, therefore, the antlers were going to be seized and not returned. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively handled a complaint from Parks and Recreation Division of numerous six foot white pine trees that were cut down around a tree stand at Silver Lake State Park. Acting Sgt. Shively was able to track down and interview the tree stand owner in a neighboring county. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mark Papineau investigated a photograph of a subject posing with an 8-point buck. As CO Papineau dug further, he discovered that the subject had failed to purchase any hunting licenses for the 2015 deer season. Further investigation led to the discovery of an additional 5-point buck that had been shot by the same subject. Evidence in hand, CO Papineau interviewed the suspect and quickly obtained a confession. The suspect not only shot both deer without a license, but borrowed tags from two separate people so he could drop them off at a local taxidermist for mounting. CO Papineau was able to track both sets of antlers back to a taxidermist, where they were seized. Numerous warrants are being sought for the two illegal deer, and several additional charges of borrowing and loaning tags involving two separate people.

CO Josh Wright and CO Steve Lockwood found some suspicious tagging activity while inspecting a local taxidermy shop in Clare County. CO Wright and CO Lockwood gathered the evidence and located the husband and wife hunting team in Roscommon County. In addition to several tagging violations for deer taken earlier in the year, they also located a freshly killed deer hanging in the pole barn. There was a tag attached, however, the tag was not validated and was able to be used again. CO Wright and CO Lockwood took enforcement action.

CO Josh Wright and Sgt. Jon Wood inspected a local taxidermy shop after deer season where they located numerous untagged specimens. In addition, the required records were not being kept in an appropriate manner as prescribed by statute. Enforcement action was taken, as well as numerous verbal warnings issued.

CO Kyle Bader conducted a taxidermist inspection in West Branch to make sure compliance was being met. During the inspection, CO Bader located multiple violations including many untagged specimens, improper specimen tags on other animals, incomplete record book, current taxidermy license not displayed or even in the shop, and many specimens stored at a separate location from the shop. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell assisted Michigan State Police and other local law enforcement on a search for two individuals who fled on foot. The men were involved in a head-on car accident on M-55 near Tawas City. Due to outstanding warrants, the men fled the scene into a wooded area. They were captured a short time later.

CO Casey Pullum responded to a baiting complaint in Alcona County where it appeared the homeowner was hunting from his residence with the use of a spotlight. CO Pullum interviewed the man who admitted to being a convicted felon. A search of the subject's

residence located a firearm and numerous marijuana plants. The items were seized as evidence and warrants were sought for the homeowner's arrest; including baiting in a closed county, felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of marijuana.

CO Casey Pullum made contact with a suspicious vehicle travelling a public land two-track area in Ogemaw County. The subject had an uncased crossbow with a bolt, positioned just behind him in the vehicle. The subject was on probation and also in possession of marijuana. He was arrested and transported to the Ogemaw County Jail. CO Brian Olsen assisted at the scene.

CO Ben McAteer and CO Sam Schluckbier responded to the Hanson State Game Refuge after receiving a complaint of someone hunting in a closed area. It was determined that the individual was in an open hunting section within the refuge, however he was not wearing any hunters orange while muzzleloading. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a local taxidermy inspection in Kalkaska County, CO Mike Hearn and CO Sam Schluckbier located a deer with a tag purchased in the afternoon of the second day of firearm deer season. The deer was harvested and brought into the taxidermist on the very same day. The COs made contact with the owner of the deer, who showed them pictures and stated the deer was shot in the morning. The pictures and statement proved the COs' suspicion that the deer was harvested and then a kill tag was purchased hours later. The individual admitted to shooting the deer and buying the license afterwards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal responded to a complaint of a large bait pile and tree stand on private property. The owner had stated no one had permission to hunt on his property. A short investigation ensued and the hunter was located. Enforcement action was taken for trespassing.

CO Craig Neal responded to a complaint of a pile of clothes dumped on state land. After digging through the clothes, CO Neal was able to locate a suspect's name. The person responsible was located and a citation was issued.

DISTRICT 6

CO Joel Lundberg was on patrol when he heard a rifle shot and went to investigate the area. CO Lundberg located a truck parked along the road and knew who the subject was from prior contact. CO Lundberg had checked the hunter during bow season when the hunter was successful and shot a 5-point buck. CO Lundberg observed the activity that evening and cleared the area. The next day, CO Lundberg made contact with the hunter at his residence. When the CO arrived the hunter was processing the 8-point deer shot the day before. CO Lundberg asked who got the deer. The hunter stated his wife got the deer. CO Lundberg knew the wife was not in the woods hunting the night before and eventually got the hunter to confess to borrowing his wife's deer tag so he

could continue to hunt for another buck with his unused kill tag. The 8-point buck was seized and a citation was issued.

CO Joel Lundberg was patrolling state land during the muzzleloader season looking for road hunters. CO Lundberg noticed a vehicle coming down the two-track towards him. When the driver noticed the officer's truck, he immediately turned around at a high rate of speed. CO Lundberg stopped the vehicle and located a loaded rifle in the truck. CO Lundberg also contacted two more vehicles with loaded firearms that same day. The drivers all stated the weather was just too bad to go out and sit in the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood and CO Joel Lundberg stopped at a taxidermist to check to see how deer season business was going. While inside talking with the taxidermist, a man walked into the shop that the COs had written several years prior for taking a large buck at night with a rifle from his vehicle. The subject would not talk or look at the COs so CO Lundberg exited the shop. CO Lundberg located a large 8-point buck in the bed of the truck and noticed the tag on the deer had been purchased the night before, well after hunting hours. It was also very evident the deer had been shot the day before, as it had snow on it and the eyes and tongue of the deer were very dry and cold. The shooter came out of the taxidermy shop and stated he shot the deer that morning. The COs advised the hunter that it was very evident the deer had been killed the night before. The shooter confessed to hunting and killing the deer without a license and purchasing the license after he shot it. The buck was the biggest buck the hunter had ever killed. The deer was seized and enforcement action taken.

While checking boats in December due to the warm temperatures, CO Will Brickel checked a boat with four anglers at the boat launch on the Saginaw River that had caught and kept eight walleye. Out of the eight fish, four were 12.5" and were under the new legal size limit of 13 inches. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

While checking public land near Bay Port, CO Bob Hobkirk contacted a subject driving his ORV pulling a trailer along the edge of the state land. The subject stated he had just baited his stand, but was unsure of how much bait he could put out. CO Hobkirk checked the hunter's bait pile and found approximately 75 gallons of bait. The subject was cited for baiting in excess of two gallons.

While patrolling in Huron County, CO Bob Hobkirk had to brake to avoid hitting a tractor that had failed to stop at a stop sign. The tractor was stopped and the driver was found to be driving while his driver's license was suspended. The subject was given an appearance ticket for failing to stop at a stop sign, and for driving while license suspended.

Acting on a complaint of illegal dumping at the Port Crescent State Park, CO Bob Hobkirk with the assistance of Park Ranger Brian Aubry, was able to develop a number of suspects. One subject was a local paper delivery person who was dumping unsold

papers in the dumpster at the park. This person was cited for disposing of trash in state receptacles. The investigation continues into additional dumping suspects.

While patrolling Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed two ORVs operating on a state highway. Upon closer inspection, CO Bucholtz realized the two operators were juveniles, and neither machine had an ORV tag attached. CO Bucholtz was able to stop one of the ORVs. Both juveniles were safely returned home where CO Bucholtz met with their parents. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking an area for trapping activity, CO Seth Rhodea located three traps set for beaver. The first trap located was illegally set, while the second and third trap were found to not have the owner's name and address on them. The owner was located and a citation was issued to address the violations.

CO Mark Siemen has been having issues with hunters parking in the access lanes around the Minden and Sandusky Game Areas. Citations have been issued to vehicle owners for parking in the lanes, and future enforcement action will continue.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint from Sanilac Central Dispatch advising that a property owner had found a subject hunting on his property in Sanilac Township. The property owner confronted the subject and an argument took place between the two of them. Before CO Siemen could arrive, the subject trespassing had left in his vehicle. The property owner wrote the license plate from the subject's vehicle down and gave it to CO Siemen. CO Siemen was able to track the subject down and charges for recreational trespass are being sought.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint from a citizen living in Forester Township advising that his neighbor shot a small button buck and did not tag the deer. CO Siemen and Sgt. Scott Brown located the dead deer which had a single bullet hole in the upper back area of the deer. The deer had been shot three days prior and was still lying in the location it had been shot, clearly visible from his blind. CO Siemen made contact with the subject that shot the deer and spoke with him about the dead deer. Pending further investigation, charges for failing to tag the deer will be sought.

CO Jill Berry received a complaint that a subject shot a large 8-point buck in the middle of the night over a lighted bait pile from a residence. CO Berry and CO Joel Lundberg interviewed the suspect and her accomplices at the residence. The COs obtained a confession. The antlers and cape were seized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of a subject trespassing and shooting a buck. Upon arrival, the CO made contact with the complainant who advised that he heard a single shot fired, which sounded like it came from his woods. He went back and found a subject standing next to a tree blind and a confrontation ensued. The complainant then took possession of the deer he thought was shot on his property, tagged it with his deer tag and dragged it to his residence. When the CO asked where the property line was, neither of the subjects were able to give a definite response, only

to say that it was “right about here give or take a few feet.” The 6-point buck was seized and donated to a local processor who processes free for veterans. The CO advised that surveys of the properties would be a good idea.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly observed a vehicle parked up and off the roadway in an illegal area. As Sgt. Kimmerly slowly drove by, he made eye contact with the driver. The driver then spun out onto the road and took off at a high rate of speed. Sgt. Kimmerly turned around and made a traffic stop. The driver refused to say a word or give the Sgt. his driver’s license. After the driver was removed from the vehicle, arrested and placed in handcuffs, he jumped up into the air and did some type of karate kick to the open driver’s door, almost pinning the hand of Sgt. Kimmerly in the door. The suspect then yelled “you can’t search my car.” On the way to jail, the suspect never said a word until he was advised that he would be lodged under the name of John Doe, and may be in jail for a very long time. The suspect finally decided to give his name. The suspect had several traffic warrants and a suspended driver’s license. The suspect also had a number of prior arrests for assault.

While patrolling state land in Montcalm County, CO Dan Robinson witnessed a hunter in orange walk into the woods. Not having reason to disturb his hunting, CO Robinson sat in the lot for a few minutes catching up. Shortly after, two hunters came back out of the woods and had blood on their hands. One of the hunters admitted that he had taken a doe with his muzzleloader and it had not been tagged. A check found that the hunter had not purchased an antlerless deer tag for 2015. An uncased bow was also discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson received a complaint of recreational trespass where two trucks had been seen damaging another person’s property. CO Robinson looked at the pictures and was able to track down the suspects to a house around the corner. After a talk with the subjects, it was evident they were not being completely truthful about their activity on the property. After a while, the subjects revealed the truth about trespassing on the property. Enforcement action was taken.

While responding to a trespass complaint, CO Dan Robinson witnessed two individuals who he believed to be the suspects in the complaint enter the woods without hunter orange. CO Robinson gathered information on the suspects and found that both of them were suspended drivers and appeared to have driven to the hunting location. CO Robinson waited for the hunters to come out of the woods, and made contact. Though the subjects were not trespassing at the time, they had transported their muzzleloaders with the primer caps still on, were not wearing hunter orange while hunting with a firearm, and confirmed that they were both suspended from driving. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Justin Ulberg responded to a complaint of trespass where a deer was killed on property belonging to a local gun club. CO Ulberg was able to back track the blood trail

to where the deer was shot, which was on the property of the gun club. CO Ulberg then located "drag" marks where it appeared the deer carcass was taken to a nearby residence. CO Ulberg located the deer hanging behind one of the barns on the suspect property. The deer was illegally tagged with the hunter's base license. CO Ulberg contacted the hunter who admitted that he knew he was not supposed to be hunting on the gun club property. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Justin Ulberg overheard Ottawa County dispatch report a possible drunk driver who fled on foot after hitting a vehicle head on. CO Ulberg assisted the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in locating the individual. The suspect was located hiding in an overgrown field and taken into custody.

While working in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg responded to a complaint of a subject putting out too much bait. CO Ulberg responded to the area and located approximately three truckloads of squash in the subject's front yard. It appeared the subject was moving some of the bait to other areas of his property. CO Ulberg checked the property and found an over-limit of bait behind the subject's house, next to a deer blind and a tree stand. Contact was made with the property owner and enforcement action was taken.

CO David Rodgers responded to a complaint in northern Kent County of subjects possessing deer without licenses. A search warrant was sought based on evidence gathered by CO Rodgers, which resulted in eleven illegally taken deer being confiscated, along with six firearms and a crossbow. The subjects admitted to taking the deer at night, with the aid of the headlights of their vehicle. One of the subjects involved is also a convicted felon. Charges will be sought against both subjects for the illegal taking of the deer, along with condemnation of the firearms used in the incidents.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling rural Barry County when he located two off road vehicles operating under power lines near Lindsey Road. The area is closed to all motorized vehicle operation. CO Cardenas stopped both vehicles and issued citations for operating ORVs in a closed area.

While patrolling the Barry State Game Area near Sager Trail, CO Richard Cardenas located a party around a large fire. CO Cardenas made contact with the party and observed a tire burning in the fire, and three other tires near the fire. CO Cardenas also located a large amount of alcohol and multiple pallets. CO Cardenas instructed the party goers to clean up the area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas provided backup to Michigan State Police on a possible overdose suicide in Barry County. The scene was secured and EMS was able to transport the subject to the hospital. Shortly after clearing the incident, CO Cardenas observed a car swerve off the road and into the grass section near the road. CO Cardenas conducted a traffic stop and it was found the subject was driving while revoked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Crisp responded to an injury accident on M37 near Bristol Road in Barry County. CO Crisp helped secure the scene and direct traffic while med-flight landed to pick up a victim of the accident. The accident was later determined to be fatal and is being investigated by MSP.

DISTRICT 8

CO Andrew Monnich located a set of whitetail antlers that were at a taxidermy shop being mounted. The hunter failed to notch out the harvest information on the tag. After locating the hunter, a quick interview with the hunter told the CO that they had shot the buck on a Tuesday. The information was correct, and the harvest was verified by successful pictures of the hunter and the buck. So was the fact that the hunter bought the harvest tag on the following day after the buck was harvested. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn R. Strawn received a RAP complaint of a deer that was entangled in a fence. The caller reported he had dispatched the deer because it was suffering. CO Strawn responded and discovered the deer was indeed dead, however it was suffering from an old gunshot wound to its' front shoulder and neck, and not entanglement. Due to the condition of the previous injury, none of the deer was harvestable. CO Strawn warned the caller for shooting the deer, and advised him in the future wait for an officer to arrive, because even though their intentions are good, it is illegal.

CO Matthew Neterer received a RAP complaint about a buck found on the complainant's property with the head cut off. The complainant called back a short time later to cancel the complaint because he found out that his son was the one who had cut the head off the buck. CO Neterer responded to the complainant's property and found that the buck had been hit by a car. CO Neterer then went to the complainant's residence, where the head was seized and turned over to the Wildlife Division to be tested for CWD. Enforcement action was taken for possessing parts of a roadkill deer in the CWD core area, and failing to submit the head for testing within 72 hours.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a dumping complaint of a coyote, a baby fox and a family of opossum. Upon arrival, CO Neterer discovered an antlerless deer, a coyote, a red fox, a raccoon and 28 muskrats dumped in the ditch. The investigation is ongoing. The coyote and red fox were able to be salvaged and will be used for upcoming training.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a RAP complaint of a possible convicted felon hunting over an illegal bait pile located in the CWD management zone. CO Neterer ran the subject's criminal history and determined that he was not, in fact, a felon as stated. CO Neterer walked in on the subject's property and located two illegal bait piles. Each bait pile consisted of over two gallons that was not spread over a 10'x10' area and was located in the CWD management zone. Enforcement action was taken for feeding deer in the CWD management zone.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a RAP complaint of a hunter who trespassed to retrieve a buck he had shot earlier that morning. The complainant stated that the hunter shot the buck behind his residence in his five acre wood lot. The buck then ran from the subject's woods and onto the complainant's property. The complainant heard the shot and drove his truck around the section to find the subject dragging the buck back towards his woods. The subject's story just didn't add up and the complainant thought that the buck may have been shot on his property, but wanted a CO to investigate. The complainant also stated that they had talked to the subject prior to the hunting season and asked that before he track deer onto their property to please call and obtain permission first. CO Neterer located the subject's ground blind and several illegal bait piles totaling well over two gallons. CO Neterer located hair and a blood trail leading from one of the bait piles out into the neighbor's field. CO Neterer then went to the subject's residence where a full verbal and written confession was obtained. The 11-point buck was seized and logged into evidence. A report will be submitted for trespass and using bait to aid in the taking of a deer in the CWD management zone.

CO Jason King investigated a complaint involving deer carcasses that were dumped on state land. A kill tag was still attached to one of the deer. CO King was able to make contact with the suspect at his residence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King responded to a complaint of a subject riding horseback on state land in an undesignated area. CO King made contact with the subject and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King conducted a follow up on a complaint of an 8-point buck taken without a license. CO King made contact with the subject at his residence. After interviewing the subject, CO King was able to receive a verbal and written confession from the subject. The subject admitted to shooting the deer without a license and then purchasing one after-the-fact. Enforcement action was taken. The 8-point deer rack was seized.

CO Shane Webster followed up on information that was received on a subject who had taken a 10-point whitetail deer. The investigation showed that the subject had not been in possession of a license when the deer had been taken. Contact was made with the subject who, when presented with the evidence, confessed to taking the deer without a license. Warrants are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster responded to a recreational trespass complaint. The property owner had come out to hunt and discovered tracks in the snow. CO Webster was able to follow the tracks throughout the complainant's property and eventually over the fence to a neighboring home. The subjects confessed that they had been trespassing, claiming they were tracking a deer. Warrants for recreational trespass are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Shane Webster discovered a 150 class 9-point buck that had been killed by a subject prior to the purchase of the subject's hunting license. Contact was made with the subject who claimed that he doesn't go hunting very often due to working out of

town. He stated he simply had the opportunity to get out and couldn't resist when he saw the buck. The antlers were seized and charges are being sought for taking the antlered deer without a license.

CO Matthew Neterer was out on a nighttime patrol when he heard central dispatch call out a serious traffic crash with injuries. CO Neterer was less than a mile from the crash and was the first to arrive on scene. CO Neterer provided first aid to the victims until EMS arrived. The jaws of life were used to extract one of the victims.

CO Matthew Neterer and CO Robert Slick worked a bait complaint on the border of Ingham and Shiawassee County. The COs located a pile of corn and a mineral block a short distance from a house. Contact was made with the homeowner who advised that her grandsons hunted behind the house and had put the bait out. After following up with the boys, a warning was issued for the bait, and they agreed to pick it up later that evening. The young hunters and their father were educated on the importance of not feeding/baiting deer in the CWD core area.

CO Christopher Maher received news of a local man accidentally trapping a bobcat in Jackson County. CO Maher, with the assistance of CO Andrew Monnich, quickly responded, helping the man free the trapped animal. Shortly after being released the uninjured bobcat ran back into the woods.

CO Jason King and CO Robert Slick responded to a complaint of careless use of a firearm causing damage. Upon arriving on scene, the COs discovered a rifle round that appeared to be a .223 caliber. The projectile had entered through a screen door and then a glass door. The round's final point of impact struck a foosball table. The COs determined the direction of travel from the round and conducted a foot patrol through the neighboring woods. CO King and CO Slick located a residence where the round could have been shot from. After interviewing three subjects at the residence and investigating the scene, the COs discovered that the subjects were target shooting with a .223 caliber rifle. The subjects claimed they thought they were shooting in a safe manner and location; however it was determined one round ricocheted off a small rock and sent the round through the woods and into the complainant's house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King received a complaint from Station 20. An anonymous tip stated that a subject had shot three 6-point white-tailed deer and was tagging them with family member kill tags. CO King made contact with the suspect at his residence. After interviewing the suspect, CO King was able to receive a verbal confession. Enforcement action was taken for the over-limit of antlered deer, along with use and borrow deer kill tags. CO King seized three 6-point racks and processed venison from the residence.

CO Jason King assisted CO Robert Slick after he discovered a bait pile from the road while on patrol. The COs conducted a foot patrol on the property. The COs located a

hunting blind with three separate piles of shelled corn near it. CO King and CO Slick made contact with the property owner and enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol when he noticed a pile of corn located across a pond. Upon looking closer, CO Slick found three large separate piles of corn around an elevated blind. No one was hunting so CO Slick decided to return in the evening. CO Slick and CO King paired up and returned to the address. They made contact with the owner to question him about the bait and confirmed he was using 100 lbs. of corn as bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Jackson responded to a complaint of a neighbor hunting within a safety zone. The subject claimed he shot a deer as he was standing near a wood pile. Neighbor's surveillance footage proves the subject was indeed much closer, and well within the safety zone of multiple houses. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Isaac Tyson stopped an ORV operating on the roadway. The subject did not have a helmet and did not have an ORV sticker. A check of the subject's identification showed that he had been issued a ticket in the past for not wearing a helmet on an ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson spotted a truck off in the woods just before dark. CO Tyson contacted the subject at the vehicle and discovered that he was gutting an untagged deer. CO Tyson explained the importance of immediately attaching the kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler responded to a deer carcass complaint in Washtenaw County where he discovered evidence pointing to a potential suspect. When CO Drexler attempted to make contact with the suspect, the suspect's son acted nervous and questioned what the CO was investigating. CO Drexler obtained a confession after a short interview and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler received a tip from CO Shane Webster that a subject may have shot a 9-point buck prior to purchasing a deer license. CO Drexler conducted an investigation that confirmed the suspect purchased a license after shooting the deer. The suspect was cooperative during the interview and admitted he didn't purchase a license because he didn't think he would see anything. The antlers were seized and a warrant request is being submitted to the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Brandon Hartleben located a discarded purse at the Doyle Lake access site in the Waterloo State Recreation Area while checking on a dumped deer carcass. The purse appeared to have been stolen and dumped at this remote location. After recovering the purse, CO Hartleben noticed that the thieves did not take the woman's Costco card which contained her name. After further investigation, it was discovered that the purse was, in fact, stolen from a motor vehicle, and reported to Chelsea Police Department. CO Hartleben obtained an address and phone number from Metro Dispatch and was able to return the purse and its' remaining contents to its owner.

CO Andrew Monnich responded to a litter complaint on a county road. Upon arrival at the site CO Monnich found over a truckload of trash and a few receipts from a local store in the neighboring community. After a few days of investigating, CO Monnich was able to track the items back to a local disposal company. Enforcement was taken with the company and the trash was cleaned up.

DISTRICT 9

CO Raymond Gardner was checking fisherman at Belleville Dam when he made contact with a father and young son fishing. Before CO Gardner asked, the father said he wanted to be honest and that he did not have a license. The father and son had not caught any fish yet so CO Gardner told him he had until a specific date to purchase a fishing license.

CO Raymond Gardner was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle with its hazard lights on driving slow. When CO Gardner noticed the back passenger side tire was flat, he decided to stop the vehicle and offer assistance changing the tire. Before the vehicle stopped, he noticed that the front tire on the same side was also flat. Once stopped, CO Gardner made contact with an elderly couple who informed him that someone had slashed their tires, and they were driving to a tire shop. CO Gardner then followed behind the vehicle with his emergency lights on to ensure the vehicle made it to a tire shop safely.

CO James Zellinger observed an ORV on the roadway in Monroe County being used in the practice of farming without an orange triangle attached. The operator was advised of his violation and given a verbal warning.

CO Chris Knights has been working an over-limit of bait complaint that he received from the Report All Poaching line and has checked the area multiple times, unable to find anyone hunting or in the area. This time, while on patrol in the area, CO Knights located a vehicle parked far into the property. CO Knights made contact with the suspect and questioned him about the bait. After walking with the suspect to the location of the previous illegal bait, CO Knights found two 40-gallon bags of carrots and approximately ten gallons of sugar beets as well as an electronic corn feeder. The hunter stated that he knew the law was two and half gallons of bait, but stated that he may have exceeded that by a little bit. CO Knights advised him of the law which is two gallons of bait, and had the suspect remove the excess. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol early in the morning when he located a vehicle parked inside a State park during closed hours. CO Griffin investigated around the vehicle and then looked inside through the windows. After looking closely through the heavily tinted glass on the rear of the vehicle, CO Griffin noticed one subject lying in the back. CO Griffin knocked on the window, waking the subject who was sleeping after his hunt. CO Griffin made sure that he was okay and the subject exited the park.

CO Jacob Griffin was informed that a local police department arrested a subject during a traffic stop on a warrant for a misdemeanor offense given by another CO. CO Griffin went to the local police department and took the prisoner into custody. CO Griffin transported the subject to the local court where he was arraigned.

CO Jacob Griffin was asked to assist a local police department in the investigation of one subject who illegally took an antlered deer at night with a crossbow. CO Griffin worked with multiple detectives to assure the proper questions were asked regarding the deer and an accurate location of the incident was given. CO Griffin later assisted the department with organizing the proper charges, penalties, and restitution regarding illegally taken game in the State of Michigan.

While conducting a taxidermy inspection, CO Justin Muehlhauser and CO Jeremy Beavers located three deer of interest. The deer were taken by three individual family members and all dropped off the same day. Two of the deer were validated for the day prior to the purchase date on the tag. Upon interviewing the subjects, one of the deer seemed to be an honest mistake. The other deer however, still raised many questions. Further investigation revealed that the subject had been hunting without a license throughout much of bow season and took an 8-point deer. The subject stated that he shot the deer and used his father's tag without his knowledge. The subject also stated that the father unknowingly used the son's tag (purchased later in the season) on his deer taken in late October. CO Muehlhauser educated the family on the importance of proper use of licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Seven Lakes State Park, CO Jason Becker saw a vehicle driving through the park slowly with the windows down on a cold and rainy day. CO Becker contacted the driver and asked if he had seen any wildlife in the area. CO Becker could see an open beer can in the cup holder of the vehicle. While asking the driver for his license, CO Becker witnessed the subject attempting to hide a bottle. CO Becker recovered an open liquor bottle and the open beer can. The subject stated that he had arthritis and this was the only treatment that worked for him. CO Becker pointed out that he could medicate from the comfort of his home. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser checked two men parked on a set of power lines off Grange Hall and Dixie Highway. The CO discovered that the men were training dogs on the property adjoining the consumer's property. When CO Muehlhauser checked the files of the men, one had two warrants for his arrest. The subject was turned over to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel was asked to participate in the "Shop with a Cop" event with Richmond Police Department in Macomb County. Approximately 88 local children and 40 families also participated in the event. This was the first year that DNR Law Enforcement joined officers from Richmond PD, Memphis PD, Michigan State Troopers, Richmond Fire and Rescue along with local EMS. After a motorcade that escorted the children to Kmart in Richmond, officers were paired up with children from families that may have not been able to provide a Christmas otherwise due to financial need. CO Kiel escorted several

children through the toy department to pick out anything they wanted during the immensely successful event. In addition, CO Kiel paid the remainder of the balances of the children's shopping sprees that the gift cards provided did not cover.

CO Brad Silorey was dispatched to a complaint that was submitted by a local police agency. The complaint was in regards to a person that was shooting at deer with a crossbow out of his home. CO Silorey arrived at the suspect's home to interview him and was able to obtain a confession. The suspect admitted to killing two antlerless deer and tagging them with another person's tags. Enforcement action was taken on both the suspect and the person who loaned him the tags.

A trespass complainant turned over a dog proof trap they had found on their property to CO Ben Lasher. In turn, CO Lasher looked up the information from the trap tag and interviewed the trapper, who did not have a 2015 fur harvester's license. The trapper had set some raccoon traps. One pulled away and dragged the trap to one of the adjacent property owners, who found the trap. The trap was returned to the trapper and enforcement action taken.

CO Ben Lasher participated in the annual Shop with a Cop at Fort Gratiot Meijer sponsored by the Local Fraternal Order of Police. The event was attended by many and CO Lasher helped with the children in need.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Matthew Zultak observed subjects target shooting at a television. The unlawful use of the television violates a land use law in the state game area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Zultak responded to a trespass complaint in Lapeer County. During the investigation, CO Zultak located an untagged white-tailed antlerless deer (doe) and a 6-point whitetail buck tagged incorrectly. A report will be submitted to the Lapeer County Prosecutor for multiple count warrants.

CO Brad Silorey was contacted by DNR Wildlife Division in regards to a deer head that was brought into the local check station. Upon arrival to the station, CO Silorey was informed that there was a deer head that was taken in the CWD core zone and brought out of the zone to that deer check station. The head was seized by Wildlife Division for analysis and to check to see if the deer had the disease. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was contacted by Saint Clair Shores Police Department regarding duck hunters possibly in the safety zone at a local park. CO Silorey located the hunters and verified the distance from the nearest residence with a range finder. The hunters were not hunting within the safety zone. One hunter was in possession of toxic lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling St. Clair County, CO Ken Kovach was flagged down by a motorist. The subject had observed a wounded buck lying in a dredge ditch. The buck had been shot

in the spine and was unable to stand. CO Kovach was able to dispatch the buck and was able to find a struggling family in the neighborhood who was in great need of the meat.

CO Ken Kovach was checking deer hunters during an evening near the end of the muzzleloader season when he observed flashlights in the woods. CO Kovach was able to conduct surveillance and get close enough to hear the hunters talking. After a short time, it was apparent the hunters had located their downed deer. To CO Kovach's surprise, as the hunters began to drag the deer out towards the road, he could hear a youth say, "Hey, Dad! We forgot to tag my deer." The dad responded, "You're right, son, and I forgot to tag mine too." The two successful hunters stopped where they were and both went on to tag their deer. As the pair were finishing validating their tags, CO Kovach stepped out of the brush and identified himself along with congratulating them on their successful hunt. The father and son were very surprised to see the CO. Dad was extremely thankful for the youth's suggestion regarding the tags. As it turned out, this was the son's first deer. CO Kovach was able to issue a successful deer hunter patch to the enthusiastic youth.

While on a game patrol, CO Matt Zultak observed a burning pile of trash that contained hazardous materials. CO Zultak located and spoke to the person responsible for the burning waste. During the investigation a file was run on the subject who had a misdemeanor warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

BELLE ISLE

CO Pete Purdy contacted a subject with a loud/defective vehicle exhaust. The subject's driver's license was suspended due to an unpaid traffic ticket. He also didn't have a recreational passport to be in the state park. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn R. Strawn patrolled Belle Isle Park and assisted with a special detail of local COs which was formed to patrol the park during an unsanctioned event. The event was reported to Law Enforcement Division the day prior. The event was scheduled and posted on social media, which called for local race car and muscle car owners to meet on the island. The state park was flooded with motor vehicle activity. COs working the detail estimated over a thousand vehicles and 3500 people arrived. CO Strawn made traffic stops for careless driving and speeding. CO Strawn took enforcement action and issued warnings to several motorists throughout the shift.

While patrolling Belle Isle Park near Macarthur Bridge and the entrance to the island, CO Larn R. Strawn parked in a position to clearly observe the traffic coming across the bridge. While parked, CO Strawn caught the glimpse of a person in his mirror that approached the passenger side of his patrol truck and was trying to open the door. CO Strawn quickly got out and ran around the rear of the vehicle. Once around the vehicle, CO Strawn encountered a woman still attempting to open the patrol vehicle door. The woman seemed very distraught. After talking with her, CO Strawn discovered she was suffering from depression. She told CO Strawn she came to the bridge to jump off and

commit suicide. CO Strawn talked with the woman and ultimately convinced her life is worth living and that she could receive help. The woman agreed and decided she did not want an ambulance called. She just wanted to return to her home and be with her family. CO Strawn ensured the woman had enough money for a bus fare to her home. CO Strawn took her to a bus stop on Jefferson Avenue.

While on patrol for a special assignment on Belle Isle, CO James Zellinger was notified by Sgt. Damon Owens of vehicles parked in an improper manner on the island. The improperly parked vehicles were located and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol for a special assignment on Belle Isle, CO James Zellinger observed a motorist traveling well above the posted speed limit. Upon further investigation, it was determined the motorist was a minor and had not yet completed driver's training to receive a valid operator's license. The Wayne County Family Court is being petitioned for enforcement action.