

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/23/2018 – 10/6/2018**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Cody Smith checked a group of hound hunters in Baraga County. The group reported they had not seen a single track in days. Upon checking the party, the next day, they successfully harvested a mid-200-pound bear. The hunters were happy for the change in luck and continued to run their dogs in search of another bear.

CO Cody Smith patrolled the Sturgeon River Sloughs the opening morning of the North Zone duck season opener. Despite hearing many shots, hunters harvested a low number of ducks for the day. Multiple parties were checked having wood ducks, mallards, and Canada geese.

After returning to his patrol vehicle from checking waterfowl hunters, CO Cody Smith heard radio traffic from a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper directing an ambulance to the Baraga Plains area. CO Smith responded to the scene and was informed a father and son had been riding their ORVs when the father lost control of his four-wheeler and clipped multiple trees. The crash resulted in a broken leg. CO Smith provided first aid until EMS arrived.

CO Doug Hermanson responded to a complaint of a confrontation between a land owner and bear dog hunters. It was determined that no violation had occurred. Both parties were educated on how the trespass regulation reads.

CO Zach Painter worked several planned patrols targeting small game hunters in Gogebic County. CO Painter contacted a good number of grouse hunters who had very little success and reported a low number of birds throughout the county.

CO Ethen Mapes was on patrol near Ewen when he noticed an ORV without a registration sticker. Upon contact with the individual, they stated that their sticker was back at their friend's house just down the road. CO Mapes followed the individual to his friend's house where he was provided two stickers with Velcro attached to the back. The individual was cited for failing to display an ORV sticker.

CO Ethen Mapes checked many bird hunters over the weekend. Hunters are reporting lower numbers of birds in the woods.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to a search and rescue call for an elderly man who had become lost while returning from his bear hunt. CO Mapes worked with CO Brian Lasanen to locate the individual with the help of local first responders.

CO Ethen Mapes was checking firearms after a search and found one individual to have a loaded firearm and open intoxicants in their truck. The individual was cited for possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Ethen Mapes was patrolling a forest service road for hunters when he contacted a vehicle road hunting. CO Mapes approached the vehicle and witnessed two individuals struggling to case their firearms. A citation was written for possession of an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to a vehicle roll over along South Boundary Road in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (PMWSP). The tourist was trying to pull off to the side of the road when they slid down a small ditch. No injuries were sustained.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted a bear check station with what appeared to be a cub bear. After a closer look the fifty-two-pound bear was found to be an adult female.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted the Ontonagon County Sheriff's Office in serving a felony warrant. The suspect was taken into custody and lodged at the Ontonagon County Jail.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to an elderly gentleman who had fallen while trying to walk to his truck. CO Mapes comforted the subject and talked about hunting until the ambulance arrived. The gentleman was helped back to his home and medically cleared.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to the report of two lost hunters who were bird hunting in Ontonagon County. The subjects had become turned around after following several birds into the thick brush. CO Mapes utilized audible devices to locate the individuals and assisted them out of the woods.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen assisted the PMWSP with traffic control, lost hikers, and an overall high influx of tourists during the weekend.

COs Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen were the only law enforcement officers working in Ontonagon County when they were sent to a domestic assault in progress. The COs arrived and were able to contain the scene until Michigan State troopers responded from the next county.

COs Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes assisted the PMWSP with park patrols over the weekend. During the fall color season thousands of visitors visit the park to enjoy the fall colors at the Lake of the Clouds overlook.

CO Doug Hermanson contacted a deer hunter in Houghton County who had purchased his license online then immediately hunted and took a deer without having received his kill tags by mail. He was advised of his obligation to have kill tags in his possession before taking a deer and directed to surrender one upon receipt.

CO Doug Hermanson is working with a local land company to address trespass issues related to vehicles traveling on posted closed Commercial Forest lands.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County near Bessemer when he stopped to talk with an ORV stopped on the ORV trail. Contact with the ORV revealed the operator to be a fourteen-year-old without supervision. The operator said that he was going to pick up a friend on the ORV which was only made for one person. CO Painter contacted the guardian of the fourteen-year-old and educated them on the laws and the safety issues at hand.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County and assisted the Gogebic County Sheriff's Department on a medical call of an unresponsive female.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County near Wakefield and responded to a call of a subject who attempted to steal a flag from a porch. CO Painter was the first on scene and located the subject. The subject was detained due to having several warrants and possible theft. The owners of the flag did not want to press charges. A verbal warning was issued for the flag and the subject was advised of his warrants out of the Lower Peninsula and released.

CO Cody Smith checked multiple groups of waterfowl hunters near Baraga that were seeing varying species of birds entering with the cold front. CO Smith observed mallards, pintail, ring-neck, black duck, wood duck, hooded mergansers, green wing teal and bluebill being harvested.

COs Jenni Hanson and Zach Painter assisted Wildlife Division in recovering a wolf collar from a dead wolf that had traveled across from Wisconsin. The investigation is ongoing to determine the cause of death.

CO Jenni Hanson contacted numerous waterfowl hunters on Lake Gogebic. The hunters were successful and compliant with all waterfowl regulations.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon checked a group of field hunters on the early goose opener. License checks found one subject did not purchase a base license, waterfowl license nor a federal waterfowl stamp. A second hunter in the group failed to validate their federal waterfowl stamp.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon stopped an ORV operating on a state highway right-of-way at a high rate of speed. Further contact with the subject found they had an expired ORV license and only a current trail pass.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon responded to a complaint of a dead bear. The subject found a bear near one of his bait locations that was partially processed. The COs responded to the scene and recovered evidence to aid in the investigation.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted other agencies in an officer involved shooting incident in Dickinson County.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon assisted the Iron County Sheriff's Department with an ORV accident. The ORV operator was traveling too fast for conditions and failed to negotiate a turn. The ORV left the roadway traveling down a 15 ft. embankment and came to a stop after striking several trees. The subject was not wearing a helmet and was transferred to the hospital with serious injuries.

COs Jared Ferguson and Brian Bacon assisted the MSP in locating a trailer on private property that wasn't supposed to be there. COs Ferguson and Bacon walked several miles behind a gate and found the trailer covered in camo netting. Large amounts of trash were located along with several drug paraphernalia items. The investigation is ongoing, and attempts are being made to locate the owner.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint in western Iron County regarding a recreational trespass. CO Ferguson contacted the complainant who stated he called previously, and nothing was done. The complainant showed CO Ferguson pictures from his game camera showing an individual with a shotgun and no hunter orange on September 15th behind his "No Trespassing" signs. CO Ferguson located the subject in the pictures at a residence in Iron County who admitted to being on the complainant's land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint in Iron County regarding bear houndsmen trespassing on private property. CO Ferguson contacted the complainant who stated he was walking his dog and a bear was stalking him from behind. CO Ferguson went to the location and found zero evidence of a bear walking that road. The complainant stated maybe he was paranoid about bears because they destroyed his shed that contained his corn for deer. CO Ferguson continued his questioning and found the complainant has been baiting his deer stands year-round. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint of bear hound hunters in Iron County. The individual advised they put bait all around his property and that he did not feel safe. He also stated to CO Ferguson that he was going to pour bleach over their bait or shoot the dogs next time. CO Ferguson advised the complainant about the legal repercussions of his intended actions and the individual was not happy with the response given.

CO Jared Ferguson was on patrol in Dickinson/Marquette County line area when he observed three side-by-sides operating against the flow of traffic. CO Ferguson contacted the individuals who stated they could not see with the dust and that's is why they were driving like they were. A quick tutorial of responsible operator conduct was given. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call from a concerned citizen regarding a beaver running down the county road with a trap on its foot. CO Ferguson responded to the area in northern Menominee County. CO Ferguson followed the drag marks on the gravel road

back to a culvert where the trapper had several other traps set. CO Ferguson made contact with the trapper who was very diligent with his trapping etiquette and was trapping under a nuisance beaver permit.

CO Zach Painter worked several patrols targeting bear hunters in Gogebic County. Many of the hunters reported seeing bears with a fair number of hunters having been successful.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County near Watersmeet and observed an ORV without a valid ORV sticker. A stop of the ORV revealed that the operator had not attempted to transfer or obtain a title for the machine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic County near Wakefield when he observed an ORV traveling at a high rate of speed down the center of the roadway. A stop of the ORV revealed the operator to be a 13-year-old without supervision. CO Painter contacted the guardian of the 13-year-old and educated them on the laws and the safety issues at hand.

COs Jenni Hanson and Zach Painter assisted a Gogebic County deputy with a domestic assault at a campground in the Ottawa National Forest. The male subject, the assailant, was lodged at the Gogebic County Jail.

CO Jenni Hanson assisted two elderly individuals in removing their boat from an inland lake in Watersmeet Township. The subjects embarked on one last successful fishing endeavor before removing their boat for the season.

CO Jenni Hanson received a complaint from the RAP hotline of an individual bragging about a buck he shot in Iron County. With the help of Sgt. Marc Pomroy and CO Zach Painter, the COs conducted numerous interviews of the suspect and his family. It turns out the suspect was indeed bragging about a buck, but it was a buck he saw on his game camera. The deer he was in possession of was a roadkill deer and he provided a copy of the salvage tag to the COs.

CO Jenni Hanson was dispatched to retrieve a roadkill eagle off the highway near Bruce Crossing. The eagle was turned over to the Wildlife Division.

CO Jenni Hanson spoke with an individual who discovered a roadkill bobcat near Wakefield. The subject was requesting to keep the animal, but bobcat season is not open, therefore CO Hanson advised him he cannot possess it. CO Hanson turned the animal over to the Wildlife Division.

CO Jenni Hanson was informed of a possible bear cub that was being checked in at a local registration station in Gogebic County. Upon contacting the individual and having a better look at his kill, CO Hanson confirmed the bear to be a small adult bear.

CO Josh Boudreaux and Sgt. Brian Bacon responded to a road killed moose that was hit near the McFarland area in southern Marquette County. The responding agency indicated that the moose was still alive but was unable to walk and the agency was able to dispatch the moose. CO Boudreaux and Sgt. Bacon took the moose to a local processor and the meat was donated to a food pantry in Marquette County.

Sgt. Brian Bacon attended the national "Coffee with a Cop" program in Iron County. The attending agencies were Iron County Sheriff's Office, MSP, and Iron River Police Department. Many citizens attended from both inside and outside the area.

CO Jeremy Sergey received a report of a dead cub bear with a bullet hole through it in Menominee County. CO Sergey and the Menominee County Sheriff's Department are working on the investigation.

CO Jeremy Sergey received a complaint of deer carcasses thrown into the Chicagoan Slough in Iron County. The investigation continues.

CO Jeremy Sergey received information from a Wisconsin conservation warden about an individual in Dickinson County who had purchased resident Michigan fishing licenses while he was a Wisconsin resident. CO Sergey interviewed the individual. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Boudreaux was checking a group of bird hunters near the Dickinson/Marquette County line when he heard a report of a domestic assault in South Republic air over the radio. Being the closest unit, CO Boudreaux was requested to respond to the scene with a Marquette County deputy responding from Marquette. CO Boudreaux contacted all involved parties and assisted the deputy with interviews and the subsequent arrest of one party for domestic assault.

CO Josh Boudreaux contacted a group of four ORVs on the Marquette/Dickinson County line who were operating without helmets. Upon talking with the operators, CO Boudreaux discovered that one of the operators had a helmet in the back compartment of his ORV and the operator of the side-by-side had a helmet. CO Boudreaux had one of the ORV riders join the individual in the side-by side and made the other two put on helmets for the remainder of their ride so that everyone was operating in a legal manner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Boudreaux investigated multiple illegal ORV trails leading to blinds and tree stands. The investigations are pending.

CO Josh Boudreaux assisted an MSP trooper with an investigation regarding an ORV trespass. Using information from the individual's ORV sticker, CO Boudreaux assisted the trooper in determining the identity of the individual. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge attended the Recruit Class 9 fish identification/commercial fishing regulations class in Lansing. CO DeLonge assisted Commercial Fish Specialists

Corporal (Cpl.) Marvin Gerlach, Cpl. Nickolas Torsky, and CO Patrick Hartsig with hands on identification of Michigan's fish species.

CO Jared Ferguson followed up on a complaint of a deer hanging at a residence in Iron County without a tag attached. CO Ferguson contacted the subject who had harvested the antlered deer under a tribal kill tag.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint in Iron County of a deer with the backstraps removed that had been dumped. CO Ferguson contacted area landowners and determined that the deer was a road kill left on the side of the road.

CO Jared Ferguson had a complaint of a deer with an arrow in it. The deer was walking around and laid down in the yard at a residence in the city of Iron River. CO Ferguson responded and safely dispatch the deer.

CO Jared Ferguson took a complaint from a landowner in Iron County who stated that dogs were running through their property and chasing bear off their land.

CO Jared Ferguson responded to two deer that were dumped along a county road in Iron County. The investigation continues.

CO Jared Ferguson contacted a subject driving down the recreation trail in Iron County. The subject possessed an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson responded to complaint of ORVs operating in closed areas of state land. A bow hunter was hunting in his tree stand when three ORVs drove through the area. Patrols will be conducted in the area.

CO Josh Boudreaux conducted a presentation to Upper Peninsula Power Company employees in Ishpeming. The presentation covered tree stand safety as well as a review of hunter safety tips and hunting regulations. Many questions were answered throughout the presentation and employees were glad to have an opportunity to interact with the CO prior to deer season.

COs Brett DeLonge and Josh Boudreaux worked Lake LaVasseur for the North Zone duck opener. Shooting started promptly at the legal time with hardly a second to spare. Almost all hunters were successful with a mixed bag of birds and it was great seeing waterfowlers both young and old enjoying themselves during a safe first hunt of the season. A retired gentleman drove up from Ohio to hunt the North Zone as he made it his goal to hunt all three openers this year.

CO Josh Boudreaux received report of an osprey that was likely shot on Kawbawgam Lake. CO Boudreaux responded to the scene and met with the complainant, who had recovered the bird and delivered it to the Chocolate Raptor Center, where it later died.

CO Boudreaux interviewed multiple hunters and neighbors in the area and is following up on various leads. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Josh Boudreaux assisted an MSP trooper with a trespassing complaint involving an ORV. CO Boudreaux used information gathered from the ORV to identify the owner and gave the information to the trooper who was then able to close out the case.

CO Josh Boudreaux received a complaint of an individual catching salmon on the Dead River and then harvesting the spawn, leaving the remainder of the fish to rot. CO Boudreaux spoke with a couple anglers who provided a description of the individual believed to be the one responsible for the fish. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Brett DeLonge received a complaint of a bear hunting location that had several live trees cut on state land along with a permanent pop up blind without a name affixed to it. CO DeLonge investigated the blind for over a week until he was able to make contact with the hunter. The hunter explained that the trees were already cut but did accept responsibility for not properly marking the pop-up blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling the waterfowl opener in Marquette County and received a hunter trespass complaint on a local private lake. CO DeLonge responded and met with the landowner who filed the complaint on three waterfowl hunters that were trespassing on his bottomlands property of the lake. CO DeLonge contacted the hunters who were frustrated that the DNR was called for the complaint. CO DeLonge conducted a waterfowl and marine check. Afterwards, CO DeLonge explained the riparian rights of the landowner and addressed the trespass complaint. After a lengthy conversation between the hunters and the landowner, the hunters agreed to leave. A warning was issued for recreational trespass.

CO Brett DeLonge investigated an illegally harvested bear. The bear was taken outside the tribal treaty area. The hunters had registered the bear and put a different location on where the bear was taken. That area is extremely close to the boundary line and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Jeremy Sergey issued a citation to an individual who had shot a 9-point buck in Menominee County during the 2017 archery deer season without a valid license.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Brian Bacon conducted a patrol opening day of duck season. CO Sergey contacted an individual riding a side-by-side operating down a forest road in Iron County with two uncased shotguns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Brian Bacon contacted several ORVs operating on state land. Three of the ORVs contacted were unlicensed operating on a public road and two individuals were operating ORVs on a public road without helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Brian Bacon contacted two waterfowl hunters who had jump shot a small pond in Dickinson County. Upon checking the subjects who were successful in shooting one duck, one hunter had an unplugged shotgun and the other failed to validate their federal waterfowl stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Sgt. Brian Bacon assisted two individuals who reported they were trapped at their camp in northern Iron County due to the recent rain and flooded roads. The COs located the subjects and assisted getting them to the main road.

CO Jeremy Sergey received a complaint of people duck hunting on private property in northern Menominee County. The complainant told CO Sergey he knew the individuals were trespassing because he could tell which way the gunshots were coming from. CO Sergey walked the individual's property line and determined the duck hunters were not trespassing and the gunshots were coming from the opposite direction the complainant indicated. CO Sergey explained to the complainant the gunshots were echoing off his property.

DISTRICT 2

Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon and CO Mark Zitnik held the second session of hunter safety session at the Munising school. Over 30 students participated in the class.

CO Mark Zitnik received a complaint of several subjects camping on private property in Grand Marais. CO Zitnik located the campers and found an unattended fire and live trees being cut. He explained the violations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik participated on the panel of the live TV call-in program "Ask the DNR". CO Zitnik answered law questions from citizens around the Upper Peninsula regarding the current and upcoming hunting seasons.

CO Chris Lynch located several live traps set that were unattended. Upon checking the retail sales system, he noticed the trapper didn't have a current trapping license. CO Lynch interviewed the trapper and received a confession that the traps were set approximately a year ago and he had left the traps out after the season closed and hadn't checked them since. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Lynch and Stephen Butzin worked the waterfowl opener in Delta County. The COs encountered numerous violations including taking waterfowl before legal shooting hours, possessing toxic shot, hunting within the safety zone, no federal duck stamp, failure to exhibit hunting license, failure to sign duck stamp, unregistered boats and no personal floatation devices (PFDs). Several citations were issued, and numerous verbal warnings were given.

COs Chris Lynch and Stephen Butzin responded to a call of a lost mother with her 2-year-old son in the woods. After a short search, the COs located the mother and her

child, thankfully they were not in need of medical attention. The COs gave the mother and her child a ride to their car. The mother was very appreciative of the COs help.

CO Stephen Butzin located a bow hunter that was baiting well over the legal two-gallon limit in Masonville Township. The hunter was issued a citation for baiting more than two gallons.

COs Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch observed several ORVs traveling down a county road without valid registrations. A traffic stop was conducted, and one operator was issued a citation for not having a valid registration. Several warnings were given for non-working tail lights and headlights.

CO Stephen Butzin observed a vehicle with bird dogs parked off a forest two track road in Masonville Township. CO Butzin approached the vehicle and noticed one of the dogs was gone and two empty gun cases inside. He tracked the hunters and observed them shooting at several birds. Upon investigation, CO Butzin found one hunter without a valid base license. A citation was issued.

CO Bobby Watson was patrolling a busy gravel road that had an unusual amount of traffic due to the fall colors. CO Watson observed two ORVs, one of which did not have headlights on and did not appear to have an ORV registration sticker. It was also operating with an additional passenger for which the ORV was not designed. After making contact, it was discovered that the ORV did not have working headlights or brake lights and the operator was unaware that an ORV registration sticker was required within the national forest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint of a moose stuck in a cow pasture that was enclosed with an electric fence. Upon arrival, it was obvious the moose was stressed from all the attention and was pacing back and forth along the fence edge. CO Freeborn coaxed the moose to a gate at the far end of the pasture. CO Freeborn was able to open the gate and the moose ran to a nearby wood line.

COs Robert Freeborn, Stephen Butzin and Chris Lynch helped with the hunter safety field day at the DNR Pocket Park in Escanaba. The students enjoyed the hands-on training, and all passed their final test

COs Robert Freeborn and Steven Butzin received a call from dispatch that the local county units needed assistance with a naked man riding an ORV around a neighborhood on a chilly 43-degree day. The suspect has had several contacts with local law enforcement in the past and has been known to resist arrest. Upon arrival, the COs located the suspect in his back yard still lacking clothing. The COs tried talking to the suspect for several minutes but were unable to convince the suspect to get medical help. After some resistance, the suspect was taken into custody and transported to the local ER for a psych evaluation. The COs assisted the deputies at the ER until the staff had the suspect under control.

CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint regarding an elderly gentleman who appeared to be confused stopped along a county road in a side-by-side. CO Freeborn located the subject getting fuel at a local station. Upon talking with the subject, it was determined he was almost 90 years old and was just out for a ride with his dog while his wife went out with friends for the evening. Upon further investigation, the subject had an open beer in the ORV as well as an expired driver's license due to vision loss. CO Freeborn advised the subject that he could not let him continue but would find a way to get him home safely. CO Freeborn was able to get the subject back to his residence with the assistance of a friend of the subject.

COs Robert Freeborn and Stephen Butzin assisted local units in a two-car personal injury accident on US-2. The COs assisted with traffic control during the incident.

CO Michael Evink was heading to double up with a US Forest Service officer when a call came across the radio about a gentleman who was having stroke-like symptoms. The gentleman was from out of the state and his cottage was on a small secluded lake in the Hiawatha National Forest. CO Evink used his knowledge of the area to arrive on scene and direct EMS personnel to his location. He advised that the driveway was too steep and somewhat washed out for the ambulance to travel. Once EMS personnel checked the patient's condition, CO Evink used his truck to transport the gentleman to the waiting ambulance at the bottom of the driveway.

CO Michael Evink was on his way home from patrolling for ORVs when less than five miles from his residence he observed two dirt bikes traveling at him along a state highway. One of the riders was pulling a wheelie in the traffic lane. When the two riders noticed the CO truck, they rapidly accelerated. CO Evink activated his emergency lights to make a traffic stop. The bikes failed to stop and turned down the next ORV trail. CO Evink shut off his emergency lights and began to search for the bikes. CO Evink located dirt bike tracks heading down a dead-end trail. The dirt bikes were coming back out the trail when CO Evink again activated his emergency and both bikes came to a brief stop. This time only one of the two took off. CO Evink questioned the apprehended operator. After weighing his options, the bike operator was very cooperative. CO Evink transported the rider and his bike to the location where the second rider was located. CO Evink questioned the second rider acquiring a confession. CO Evink issued tickets for operating an ORV along a state highway, careless operation of an ORV, and failing to stop for an officer.

CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon worked the waterfowl opener on Forest Lake Basin. The COs encountered violations for possession of lead shot, no hunting licenses, no PFDs, and unregistered boats. A few tickets and several warnings were issued.

COs Colton Gelinis and Justin Vinson were on waterfowl patrol in Mackinac County for the opener of the North Zone waterfowl season. The COs observed several boats operate without navigational lights early in the morning. After the hunters got some shooting in, the COs contacted them and addressed the no navigational lights issue. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Colton Gelinas and Justin Vinson contacted a group of hound hunters in possession of a dead bear in Luce County. After further investigation, it was revealed that the bear was shot by a youth hunting under the Mentored Youth Hunt program who did not possess a bear kill tag for the 2018 bear season. The COs explained to the youth about shooting a bear without a license and the penalties associated. A report has been submitted to the Luce County Prosecuting Attorney for charges against the youth's mentor.

CO Justin Vinson received a complaint of a captive coyote in Mackinac County. After investigating and visiting the suspect's residence, it was determined to be a tribal matter. The investigation was turned over to Sault Tribe for follow-up.

Sgt. Mark Leadman located an illegal bear bait with chocolate on state land along with scent covered articles stapled into numerous trees around the site. Sgt. Leadman returned for several evenings until contact was made. The hunter admitted to placing the chocolate and advised his hunting partner was just down the road with the same bait. Illegal activity was addressed with both hunters. Enforcement action was taken, and the bait sites were cleaned up.

Sgt. Mark Leadman was patrolling Hunter Access Program (HAP) lands in Chippewa County when he observed several vehicles parked where it is posted "No Vehicles on HAP Lands." Sgt. Leadman contacted the group as they were packing up and leaving the property. The group had been hunting geese and ducks on the opening weekend and explained they had permission from the landowner to hunt and drive across the edge of the field. Follow-up with the landowner confirmed he had given permission. CO Tom Oberg was on Drummond Island when he came across a parked truck and trailer off a two-track road. CO Oberg heard an ATV on its way back to the location of the truck. When the ATV returned, CO Oberg noticed the driver was not wearing a helmet and did not have a current ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Oberg was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle approaching him quickly from behind. CO Oberg made a lane change to pass a slow-moving vehicle in front of him. At the same time the vehicle behind CO Oberg decided to pass. They quickly moved back over before CO Oberg had time to complete his lane change, almost resulting in the subject rear-ending CO Oberg. CO Oberg performed a traffic stop on the vehicle for careless driving. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint about anglers snagging and keeping foul hooked salmon on the Boyne River. CO Erratt watched the group of anglers and one kept another angler's foul hooked fish. CO Erratt ticketed the fisherman for retaining a foul hooked fish.

COs Andrea Erratt and Andrea Albert were patrolling the Boyne River and watched two anglers attempting to snag salmon. One was using a lure with a treble hook and the

other angler a bare treble hook with weights directly above on his line. As CO Albert crossed the river, CO Erratt observed the second angler turn his back and take the bare treble hook off his line, hiding it in his waders. CO Albert seized the first angler's rod while CO Erratt crossed the river and asked the second angler what he took off his line. He told CO Erratt his hook had broken off. CO Erratt pointed out that the clip at the end of his line had been opened and asked what was in his wader pocket. He produced the bare treble hook and said he had not brought any bait with him. Both anglers were ticketed for fishing with treble hooks on the Boyne River and warned for attempting to snag salmon with un-baited hooks.

CO Andrea Erratt patrolled Six Mile Lake on the opening day of waterfowl season checking only three hunters and two anglers. One of the anglers from Ohio stated he forgot to purchase a fishing license. CO Erratt collected bond and ticketed him for fishing without a license.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped an operator of an ORV who was driving on the main traveled portion of the roadway and not wearing a helmet. CO Erratt had ticketed the same man in 2016 for operating his ORV without a helmet on the same road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt and Sgt. William Webster responded to a complaint about illegal fishing activity on the Green River in the Jordan River Valley. While CO Erratt talked to the complainant, Sgt. Webster talked to a guy driving into the valley who said he was taking hooks to his friends because they had run out. CO Erratt followed the man to Pinney Bridge, quickly parking, and walking ahead of the man with the hooks. CO Erratt saw a fishing rod leaning against the bridge railing and walked toward the Jordan River where she observed a woman with a black rod and an angler moving a salmon further on shore. The angler admitted he had caught the salmon by hand. CO Erratt observed a tree branch that had been whittled into a spear tied to the line of the lady's fishing rod. A third man fishing in the group said he had found the spear and just tied it to the fishing line to try to get the salmon on shore. Sgt. Webster arrived and assisted as CO Erratt ticketed all three anglers for fishing on a closed trout stream. CO Erratt warned them about catching a salmon by hand, possessing a spear on a trout stream, and fishing with a treble hook greater than 3/8 inch on a river after August 1st. CO Erratt seized the spear, salmon, and lure with the large treble hook.

CO Andrea Erratt went to a turn-around at a sand trap in the Jordan River Valley and asked people driving out if anyone was in by the river. The man replied no, then asked if the Jordan River was closed to fishing. When CO Erratt replied yes, he answered I thought so and told her there were two guys fishing in the middle of the Jordan River just upstream. CO Erratt and Sgt. William Webster patrolled upstream and parked near the angler's truck. CO Erratt and Sgt. Webster checked the two anglers and ticketed them for fishing on a closed trout stream.

CO Chad Baldwin was patrolling an area of Fisherman's Island State Park when he saw an individual climb over a barricade to access the adjacent private property. CO Baldwin

contacted the individual who stated some of his friends told him that it was a good place to hunt for Petoskey stones. CO Baldwin advised the man that he was on private property and that he could instead utilize the several miles of shoreline that encompasses Fisherman's Island to search for rocks.

CO Chad Baldwin was checking for fishing activity on the Boyne River when he heard several anglers around the bend casting for salmon. One of the anglers was apparently having problems landing a fish so his friend told him to "get that Rapala out". Upon hearing this, CO Baldwin contacted the anglers and checked their gear to confirm they were abiding by the gear restrictions placed on the river. No treble hooks or illegal gear were located, but CO Baldwin educated them to ensure that no treble hooks were to be utilized on the river.

CO Chad Baldwin received a complaint about a raccoon that appeared to be "rolling around and dancing" in the complainants back yard. CO Baldwin contacted the complainant who stated that the raccoon seemed very friendly but that it was "a little off." By the time CO Baldwin arrived at the residence, the raccoon had apparently convulsed and passed away. CO Baldwin recovered the raccoon and submitted it to the lab for testing.

CO Andrea Albert has been working a couple trespass complaints and follow up is being done.

Sgt. William Webster participated in a public safety day at Home Depot in Petoskey. Over 100 kids and their families came to the event. Many great questions were asked, and the kids were excited to check out the equipment first responders use daily.

Sgt. William Webster responded to a RAP complaint of a male suspect spearing salmon in the Boyne River. When he arrived, the suspect was gone, but Sgt. Webster did contact three anglers walking toward the river with treble hooks attached to their lines. Sgt. Webster educated the anglers about the hook restriction and sent them back to their vehicle with the illegal gear.

Sgt. William Webster was contacted by an individual who was a successful hunter. When he loaded his 8-point buck onto his vehicle and drove down the road his kill tag blew off. Sgt. Webster was able to verify through pictures he had taken only hours before that he did have the deer tagged, but the tag had indeed blown off while traveling on the highway. The man was educated about securing the tag better and issued a permit to keep the deer.

CO Adam LeClerc was on ORV patrol in Emmet County enforcing illegal operation on an enclosed hill climb in the area. An older pickup was observed attempting to climb the hill but was unsuccessful. Upon rolling backward down the hill, the driver was surprised to see CO LeClerc waiting for him at the bottom. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Adam Leclerc and Kyle Cherry were working the Boyne River for illegal fishing activity. The two COs were able to catch two anglers using treble hooks tied directly inline attempting to snag salmon. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Duane Budreau was working the Boyne River when he contacted a subject that was casting a large ball of pink yarn towards a group of salmon. After observing his technique, CO Budreau determined that he was not snagging; however, the large amount of yarn was questionable. The angler was using a large treble hook. When CO Budreau contacted the angler, he stated that he was unaware of the hook restriction on the Boyne River. He was informed of his responsibility and cited for the violation of the hook restriction.

CO Duane Budreau was working the Boyne River and observed a subject standing on the cement abutment of the dam. After watching the subject perform a couple of different snagging techniques, ripping and then speed reeling CO Budreau contacted the individual. The subject was using a Rapala crank bait with three treble hooks attached. CO Budreau spoke with the angler of his observation of his illegal fishing methods and asked about the lure he was using. CO Budreau pointed to the tackle box full of the same type of lures. CO Budreau advised the angler of the regulations on the Boyne River and cited him for the violation.

CO Duane Budreau responded to a wildlife complaint in northern Emmet County, backing up the MSP trooper who received the initial call. The call was a badger had fallen through the ceiling of a home and was taking over the residence. Upon arrival at the residence, the badger was confined to an enclosed porch area. CO Budreau blocked off the doorway with a chest freezer preventing the badger from returning to the main part of the house. Utilizing an exterior door to the porch, CO Budreau reached in with his catch pole and captured the badger around its midsection. Since, the animal does not have much of a neck, it was quite difficult to secure it with the catch pole. The homeowner requested a complete search of his residence to make sure there were no more unwelcome homewreckers. It was determined that the badger had gained access to the home through the basement.

COs Adam LeClerc and Kyle Cherry conducted a covert patrol on the Boyne River in Charlevoix County. Multiple fishing gear violations were enforced.

CO Kyle Cherry responded to a report of a wounded elk during the September elk hunt in Otsego County. CO Cherry along with Wildlife Division staff assisted the group to track the blood trail for hours, but the elk was unable to be recovered. The wound was determined to be non-fatal.

CO Eric Bottorff attended the Pigeon River Advisory Council meeting and presented a summary of law enforcement activities in the Pigeon River State Forest and gave an update on current district officer staffing.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to the Cheboygan Dam and contacted an individual actively attempting to snag salmon. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki responded to a single vehicle accident on I-75 in Cheboygan County. The vehicle had reportedly left the roadway and struck several trees. CO Rosochacki and a Mackinac City Police Department vehicle were on scene within minutes of the accident. Upon their arrival, the vehicle was unoccupied. After canvassing the area, the CO, officers, and deputies were able to locate the driver walking down a service road. The subject was contacted and transported by EMS for a mental evaluation.

COs Tim Rosochacki and Kyle Cherry responded to the Pigeon River County for a report of a lost juvenile male. The lost individual was part of a group of at-risk youth camping in the state forest. This was the second youth reported missing that day from the same group. Upon the COs arrival, and a quick look around the area, the male returned to the camp. He stated that an animal had startled him, and he ran into the woods in the wrong direction. Besides being thirsty he was ok and returned to the group.

CO Tim Rosochacki received a complaint of a sick elk in Cheboygan County. The elk was located, dispatched, and turned over to Wildlife Division for testing

CO Paul Fox handled multiple baiting and feeding complaints in Alpena County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox observed an ORV travelling down a county road in Alpena County. The ORV did not have a valid ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling the 9th Street Dam in Alpena when he observed two individuals using marijuana. Upon contact and investigation, it was determined that the suspects were in violation of their medical marijuana cards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba was able to make numerous contacts during opening day of duck hunting season. Hunters were having varied success due to the lack of wind during the morning hunt. CO Sklba noted various violations; possessing/use of toxic shot, no license in possession, and failure to provide PFDs on a vessel. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sidney Collins was first on the scene to a rollover accident in Montmorency County. A pickup truck pulled out in front of a semi-truck hauling wood. The pickup truck was struck on the passenger side and flipped over. The female passenger in the vehicle was pulled out and assessed. The female passenger was sore from her seatbelt. She was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. CO Collins assisted the Michigan State Police with the scene.

CO Sidney Collins received several baiting complaints. Several subjects were found to be in violation. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

Sgt. Bigger noted an angler fishing in a secluded area near the National Park Service parking area. Sgt. Bigger made contact and the angler quickly disassembled his rod and started asking numerous unrelated questions about weather, locations to fish, among others. After answering several questions, Sgt. Bigger pointed out that the fishing gear the angler was using was not only in violation of the single point hook restrictions, but also in violation of being greater than 3/8" point to shank. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the closed waters near the Platte River Fish Hatchery, Sgt. Dan Bigger located subjects well inside the posted closed area. Sgt. Bigger made his way to their location and called them to shore. The anglers stated they were unaware of the closed area rule. Sgt. Bigger walked them to the posted "Closed to Fishing" sign and pointed out their tackle boxes that they had set at the base of the sign. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a night patrol on the Platte River, Sgt. Dan Bigger noted several subjects inside the 300' line of the Platte River lower weir. The subjects did not have any fishing gear while in the water and were enjoying being in the same waters with several thousand salmon. Sgt. Bigger observed the subjects leave this area and begin down a path along the river. Upon reaching a point just inside the wood line, the subjects picked up fishing gear they had left there. Sgt. Bigger was able to follow the group unnoticed and observed them fish for a few minutes before one of them walked into the river and grabbed a fish by hand. Sgt. Bigger contacted the subject and was told that one of the other subjects in the group had received a citation earlier in the week in Manistee County. The subject who caught the fish by hand was found to have 11 prior DNR related issues. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Dan Bigger was observing the fish cleaning station from a distance when several subjects approached to clean their fish. Sgt. Bigger went to congratulate them on their catch and checked licenses. Upon reaching the last group, it was found that the angler did not have a fishing license and did not realize he would be checked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin was patrolling in Benzie County at the Homestead Dam when he noticed an individual snag a king salmon and place the fish on his stringer. The angler started walking to his vehicle when CO Haskin stopped him and advised him of the violation. Enforcement action was taken. Shortly after, CO Haskin was still patrolling in the same area when he again noticed an individual snag a fish and add it to his limit by putting it on a stinger. Contact was made, and enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a multiple shots complaint on the upper waters of the Betsie River, CO Rebecca Hubers checked a waterfowl hunter who stated his gun was plugged with the manufacturer's plug. Checking the firearm, CO Hubers observed the hunter was using smaller shotgun shells and the gun was capable of holding more than three. During the license check, CO Hubers found the subject also failed to purchase a Michigan waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken.

During patrol along the Betsie River, CO Rebecca Hubers observed a subject holding a foul hooked fish longer than to immediately release it. While watching to see if the subject intended to put the illegally caught fish on a stringer, CO Hubers witnessed the subject remove and retain eggs from the female salmon before releasing the fish back into the river. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Amanda McCurdy was on patrol at the Platte River and approached an individual at the fish cleaning station. She inquired as to how many fish the angler had and he reported seven. CO McCurdy educated the man regarding a person's daily possession limit and the angler admitted he was aware that he was in possession of too many fish but did not have the means to freeze them. CO McCurdy issued a citation for possessing an over-limit of salmon.

COs Will Kinney and Amanda McCurdy were on foot patrol on the Platte River and observed two individuals catch a fish. While retrieving the fish, it became apparent that the fish was foul hooked in the back. COs Kinney and McCurdy observed the anglers retain the fish and attach it to a stringer. Moments later, the other angler hooked into another fish. This fish was also foul hooked, and the angler retained this one as well. COs Kinney and McCurdy then approached the anglers, issuing citations for both violations and seized the two fish.

While on waterfowl patrol on Little Platte Lake, Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Amanda McCurdy checked a hunter who did not have a waterfowl license or federal duck stamp. A citation was issued for hunting without a license and a warning was issued for failure to purchase a federal duck stamp. Later in the day, Sgt. Bigger and CO McCurdy were on fish patrol along the Platte River. They were conducting license checks when Sgt. Bigger noticed an angler who had three, single hooks attached to his fishing line. On the Platte River, anglers can only use one, single pointed hook. A file check returned that the subject had a misdemeanor warrant out of Clinton County for failing to handle a DNR citation previously issued. The subject was advised and released for the warrant, and two additional citations were issued for fishing without a license and using an illegal fishing lure.

COs Patrick McManus and Amanda McCurdy were working waterfowl hunters on Big Platte Lake when they noticed one of the vessels the hunters were using had a watercraft registration that had been expired for two years. The owner stated they had just taken it out of storage that day and were unable to go to the Secretary of State's office to pick up a valid registration because it was currently a Sunday. CO McManus reminded the subject that they had the last two years to obtain a valid registration

before waterfowl hunting on this Sunday. The subject agreed and was issued a citation for the unregistered watercraft.

CO William Kinney has been patrolling the Platte River in Benzie County for fishing activity. CO Kinney issued several citations for violations such as keeping foul hooked fish and anglers attempting to snag salmon. CO Kinney had one angler attempt to snag a fish while the he was standing on the riverbank in front of him.

CO William Kinney responded to a RAP complaint in Grand Traverse County that multiple individuals were fishing a closed trout stream near Traverse City. Upon arrival, CO Kinney observed several anglers fishing in the closed stream. Contact was made, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Stowe participated in a group patrol targeting illegal fishing activity on the Betsie and Platte Rivers. During the patrol, CO Stowe and Sgt. Dan Bigger located a subject retaining fish not hooked in the mouth. When confronted, the subject admitted to retaining four salmon that were foul hooked. Enforcement action was taken, and the fish seized.

CO Rich Stowe and Sgt. Dan Bigger were on a night time foot patrol of the Platte River when they observed a group of anglers using marijuana and verbalizing to one another that there is no way the DNR is out here. Contact was made, and enforcement action taken.

CO Rich Stowe, while on foot patrol on the Platte River before daybreak, observed two subjects acting suspiciously in the closed area below the fish weir. Further investigation showed that one subject was attempting to catch schooled fish by hand. Contact was made, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Vanderlinde located two individuals fishing on the closed waters of the Betsie River. Enforcement action taken.

CO Justin Vanderlinde observed three anglers attempting to foul hook salmon in the Betsie River. Enforcement action taken.

CO Steven Converse was on a late-night patrol at Tippy Dam when he observed a subject fishing from a boat and using illegal tackle. CO Converse also noticed that the subject was keeping foul hooked fish. CO Converse contacted the subject and discovered that the subject had six salmon on his stringer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse observed a subject fishing without bait on two treble hooks tied in-line above weight. When contact was made, the subject admitted that he knew better because he had received a ticket from CO Scott MacNeill two weeks prior for the same violation.

COs Steve Converse and Joe Myers were on patrol at Homestead Dam when they observed a subject using an illegal treble hook and blatantly snagging salmon. Once contact was made, it was discovered that the subject not only had fish on a stringer but there were additional fish in his vehicle. The subject was found to be three fish over-limit and to have a prior snagging conviction. The subject was charged for Snagging 2nd and over-limit of salmon.

COs Steve Converse and Jason McCullough were on patrol along Bear Creek when they located two subjects snagging fish with weighted treble hooks. The subjects were found to have taken four fish with the illegal hooks. The fish were seized, and tickets issued.

CO Scott MacNeill patrolled the Manistee River and its tributaries and observed dozens of violations including: snagging fish, illegal fishing gear, possessing fish illegally taken, fish in closed waters, and recreational trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott MacNeill received a complaint of individuals netting fish in a closed stream in Manistee County. With the assistance of COs Steve Converse, Ben Shively and Jason McCullough, surveillance was made on the stream and multiple individuals were observed netting and snagging several fish right out of the closed stream. After contacting the suspects, dozens of salmon were found at their fishing camp. Following a short investigation, five of the eleven individuals at the fish camp were cited for multiple fishing violations.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Ryan Andrews located three subjects on the Pere Marquette River snagging salmon. The COs witnessed two of the subjects aggressively snagging and hook into numerous fish that were not hooked in the mouth. The subjects were also using treble hooks which are prohibited on the Pere Marquette River. The subjects kept three fish that were all foul hooked. The COs contacted the subjects who said that they lived four hours away and did not want to go home empty handed thus the reason for snagging. The subjects were educated on fishing regulations. The fish were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was watching a subject fish using bare treble hooks on the Pere Marquette River where treble hooks are prohibited. Just as CO Killingbeck made contact, the subject saw a salmon swim by while attempting to get his hook into the hole where the salmon was, and the subject slipped and fell into the river. The subject surfaced gasping for help and grabbed onto the shore but was already in too much shock to get himself out of the water. CO Killingbeck was able to drag the subject up the embankment and onto shore. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he has cardiac problems and was beginning to have chest pain and felt like he was going to pass out. The subject had also begun to experience uncontrolled shivering and CO Killingbeck recognized the early stages of hypothermia. CO Killingbeck called for EMS and assisted the subject out to a nearby road. As they approached the roadway, the subject became nearly unresponsive and collapsed on CO Killingbeck. CO Killingbeck dragged the subject to the roadway and provided first aid until EMS arrived.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Ryan Andrews walked into a remote area of the Pere Marquette River in western Lake County near dark. The COs located several subjects attempting to snag salmon. The COs spent several hours watching the subjects unsuccessfully attempt to snag using bare treble hooks that are prohibited on the Pere Marquette River. During the time spent watching the subjects, COs Killingbeck and Andrews witnessed the subjects throwing cigarette butts and garbage into the river. The COs contacted the subjects who admitted to attempting to snag salmon and using the illegal gear. The COs explained regulations to the subjects and enforcement action was taken.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Ryan Andrews were first on scene of a subject fishing who fell in the river and broke his leg. The subject was in a remote area and was removed by boat. The COs splint the subject's leg and assisted him into the boat. The subject was floated down to an access site where he was transferred and loaded into an ambulance.

While looking for over-baited sites in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski located a large bait pile prior to deer season and noted its location. CO Publiski returned the first weekend of bow season and located the subject sitting over the bait pile that had now grown in size. The subject had added 200 pounds of shelled corn and approximately 20 gallons of sugar beets to the already over-baited site. Enforcement action was taken.

Working the duck opener in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski contacted two subjects hunting on Pere Marquette Lake. While one subject was all set with his licenses and gear, the other subject was not in possession of his licenses and was using an unplugged shotgun to hunt waterfowl. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Publiski and Josiah Killingbeck were working the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River and located four subjects attempting to snag fish. The COs watched as the subjects were casting large treble hooks over the fish beds and trying to snag fish. As the COs contacted the subjects and inspected their gear closer, they noted that the subject's treble hooks had gaps of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch and had 2-ounce lead pyramid sinkers tied with 50-pound braided line to the bottom of the hooks. The subjects were cited for multiple fishing violations.

Working the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River, CO Kyle Publiski watched as two subjects were walking the banks of the river looking for fish. CO Publiski followed the subjects up and down the river noting that every time the subjects saw another angler they hid their fishing rods along the river. After about an hour, one of the subjects began casting in attempt to snag salmon. CO Publiski contacted the subjects and found they were using large treble hooks tied on a piece of wire and on that wire were 11mm sockets painted red for weight. Enforcement was taken for the illegal gear.

While walking the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River, CO Kyle Publiski watched two subjects snagging salmon with illegal gear. The subjects then filleted their fish along the river and trespassed onto posted private property to dispose the salmon carcasses. They stuffed the filleted-out fish in the bottom of their large backpacks and headed for

their vehicle. CO Publiski was able to make contact before the subjects made it to their vehicle. The subjects denied having any fish until CO Publiski advised them he watched them hide the fillets in the backpacks. Fifty pounds of salmon fillets were in the backpacks and the subjects were charged with several fishing violations.

CO Angela Greenway was contacted by CO John Byars with information of a subject who shot two deer and bartered them for beer and liquor.

CO Angela Greenway participated in a field day for the Morley Elementary School class at a local farm. There were approximately 80 students who participated in the activities. The day-long event consisted of a corn maze, horse pulled wagon ride and ended with CO Greenway's presentation of the renewable resources. On display were furs and pelts from Michigan animals, their habitats, laws and regulations and why they are important to help manage habitat for survival. CO Greenway also discussed our role as conservation officers.

Sgt. Michael Bomay along with COs Angela Greenway, Troy Mueller and Mike Wells conducted a group patrol for waterfowl enforcement on the Martiny Chain of Lakes in Mecosta County. Over fifty waterfowl hunters were contacted, and enforcement action was taken on license and marine equipment violations.

Sgt. Michael Bomay and CO Troy Mueller conducted a fence inspection of a Privately Owned Cervid facility that has had compliance issues. Several deficiencies were documented and brought to the attention of the facility owner for repairs.

Sgt. Michael Bomay worked Tippy Dam for compliance with anglers fishing for salmon. Enforcement action was taken for subjects retaining foul hooked fish and utilizing illegal gear along the Manistee River.

CO Ben Shively was working a tributary in Oceana County when he observed a van stop along the edge of the road. A male and child jumped out of the vehicle and ran past "No Trespassing" signs down to the creek. CO Shively watched the male subject jump into the creek and pull out a 20-pound king salmon and throw it up on shore. CO Shively contacted the subject for taking fish by illegal method and recreational trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was working a tributary in Oceana County and observed two subjects come down to the creek without fishing gear but were actively looking for fish and calling out where they were. The subjects left the area and CO Shively sat on the creek. Shortly after dark, the same vehicle returned to the creek and the subjects got out and began to fish. CO Shively observed one subject attempt to snag a king salmon in the back and then watched the second subject come up from behind with his net and attempt to net the fish by using the tip of his fishing pole to corral the fish into the net. CO Shively contacted the subjects pertaining to their attempted snagging, attempt to take fish by illegal method, and use of illegal fishing gear (treble hooks). Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Shively and Jason McCullough were working along Tippy Dam in Manistee County when they located a group attempting to snag king salmon and using illegal fishing gear (lure made primarily of lead). Contact was made with the group and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol in an area that contained two illegal ground blinds that he had received a complaint on earlier this summer. Upon his approach to one of the blinds, CO Wells observed a pick-up truck driving away from the blind. CO Wells made contact with the driver of the vehicle and observed an uncased rifle in the front passenger seat and noticed that the rifle had a silencer installed on the end of the barrel. The driver admitted it was loaded in the magazine but not in the chamber of the firearm. CO Wells asked the subject why he had possession of the loaded/uncased firearm and the driver advised that he brought it because he was thinking about hunting squirrels. CO Wells asked the subject if he had any hunter orange clothing in the vehicle and the subject responded that he did not. CO Wells explained the violations of the uncased/loaded firearm, blind left out after season on public lands, baiting deer, and no hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on a complaint of trespassing when he observed two vehicles parked at a bridge along a stream in Oceana County. CO Wells was able to locate one subject using an illegal treble hook with yarn attached to the hook. A short time later, four more subjects joined up with the subject at the bridge. These subjects had possession of several salmon. CO Wells contacted the anglers as they trespassed onto the private property leaving the river. Three of the subjects had illegal treble hooks on their rods and all gave admissions to using the treble hooks to fish. CO Wells informed them that treble hooks are illegal unless attached to a lure and all subjects advised that were not aware of this. The three subjects with the illegal treble hooks were cited for the violations. Enforcement action was taken to address the trespass.

CO Mike Wells was on a Newaygo County two-track when he observed a pop-up blind set up 25 yards from the roadway. CO Wells made a third check of the blind and contacted a subject inside hunting with a crossbow. CO Wells checked his deer licenses and advised him of the violations of no name and address on the blind and the presence of the deer bait. The subject stated that he was not aware that baiting of deer was illegal. The subject was cited for the bait violation with a warning issued for the blind violation.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of subjects fishing closed waters in Oceana County. CO Wells located two unoccupied vehicles at the bridge. CO Wells monitored the vehicles and a short time later two subjects were observed crossing the roadway with a fishing gear and approach the vehicles. CO Wells contacted the anglers and discovered one subject did not have a fishing license. Both subjects were advised of the closed season on this stretch of water and a citation was issued for fishing on closed waters.

CO Jeff Ginn followed-up on a bait site he had located in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. He waited nearby for the hunter to exit the woods at dark. CO Ginn made contact with the hunter to discuss the baiting regulations specific to Newaygo County and the CWD regulations. The hunter stated he was indeed aware of the regulations but decided to place the bait anyway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a midnight RAP complaint of a possible illegal deer being processed at a residence. Upon arrival, CO Ginn contacted two individuals skinning the deer. The deer was not tagged properly. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted the Newaygo County Sheriff Department on an ORV personal injury accident involving five critically injured patients. All subjects were transported to a local hospital and the investigation is still open.

CO Jeff Ginn was working before light on the archery opening morning when he overheard EMS being dispatched for an unresponsive female. Upon arrival, CO Ginn, along with fire and EMS personnel, worked feverishly until they were able to restore the patient's pulse prior to transporting her to the hospital.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted with a shoplifting complaint which had just occurred. CO Ginn assisted with a perimeter position containing the suspect within the area. CO Ginn observed a man walking down a side road matching the description of the shoplifter. CO Ginn contacted the subject, who was later determined to be the suspect. He was turned over to MSP.

CO Troy Van Gelderen was patrolling near federal land when he noticed the county road completely torn up by ORV tracks. CO Van Gelderen followed the tracks that eventually led to a camper in the woods. Next to the camper, there was a hill blocked off with ORV tracks up and down it destroying the habitat. CO Van Gelderen then found two subjects with ATVs. CO Van Gelderen asked them why they were tearing up the roads and hillside. The subjects said that they saw other dirt bike tracks, so they thought they were okay to be there. Enforcement action was taken, and the ATVs were loaded up.

CO Van Gelderen found a subject and his son fishing on the White River. CO Van Gelderen noticed that the subjects were using illegal gear and issued a ticket for the violation. Later that day, CO Van Gelderen was patrolling further down on the river and watched two subjects attempt to snag salmon. One subject illegally hooked a few fish before CO Van Gelderen crossed the river and made contact. It proved to be the same father and son from earlier in the day. CO Van Gelderen wrote the father another ticket for snagging salmon.

CO Van Gelderen was watching a subject attempt to snag salmon out of a hole for an extended period. During this time, CO Van Gelderen watched the subject throw cigarette butts into the water and noticed that his fishing tackle was illegal. When CO Van Gelderen made contact with the subject, he quickly bit his line off and said that he

just lost his tackle in a snag. Several tickets were issued for littering, snagging, and illegal gear. The subject had driven there on a suspended driver's license and while dealing with the subject, his friend walked up with illegal gear on his line and did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken with that subject also.

CO Van Gelderen wrote several tickets for illegal fishing gear along the White River. Several subjects were using treble hooks and trying to snag fish.

CO Varriale had a jury trial for an illegal deer where the subject did not show up. The judge dismissed the jury and issued an arrest warrant for the subject. Minutes later, the subject arrived and was immediately arrested. He was in violation of his probation by not showing up to court for felonious assault and found guilty of the illegal deer. The subject is still in jail awaiting sentencing on the illegal deer.

DISTRICT 5

While patrolling Broomhead Road in Grand Traverse County, CO Mike Hearn observed two ATVs pass his location. They were operating two wide in the middle of the road at a high rate of speed. When CO Hearn activated his emergency lights, one of the ATVs accelerated and sped off. The driver of the second machine initially told CO Hearn he did not know who was operating with him. After further interviewing, the driver advised that his son was on the second machine, and it was being operated by his son's unlicensed juvenile daughter. Information was obtained and follow-up with the son is pending for enforcement action.

During a night patrol, CO Mike Hearn observed a group of 20 ATVs operating along a remote county road on the Grand Traverse/Kalkaska County border. CO Hearn attempted to stop the group after they left the road and started to drive cross country on public land through the woods. CO Hearn was only able to contact the last machine in the group as the others fled once his emergency lights were activated. The operator stated he did not know who he was riding with and was only able to identify his friend that had invited him. The operator was cited on scene for the ORV violation. An investigation is on-going to identify the group and its operators for additional charges.

CO Mike Hearn was checking a deer stand on state land in Rapid River Township of Kalkaska County when he observed an excessive bait pile consisting of 30 gallons of corn, sugar beets, and carrots. While checking the stand, CO Hearn located a crossbow and gear bag at the base of the stand. On the side of the bag, CO Hearn observed a loaded handgun secured on an external pocket. CO Hearn sat on surveillance of the stand. After approximately 30 minutes, the owner returned on an ATV. The owner was issued a citation to address the baiting violation. The hunter, a valid Concealed Pistol License holder, was advised that it was not in his best interest to leave a handgun or crossbow unattended on public land.

CO Mike Hearn was contacted by a concerned hunter after he and his hunting dog came across a line of razor wire strung along the ground on state land in Kalkaska

County. CO Hearn located the 100' section of razor wire and was able to determine that it had been used by the military during a training session at Camp Grayling. The wire was inadvertently left on state land after the area had been cleared. The military was contacted, and the razor wire was promptly removed.

While working the waterfowl opener, CO John Huspen received a safety zone complaint along the North Branch of the Au Sable River. CO Huspen located a van at the next bridge south of where the complainant had witnessed the first shots. CO Huspen sat at the bridge awaiting the arrival of the waterfowl hunters. While waiting, CO Huspen heard several more shots. Upon contact with the two subjects, CO Huspen observed each subject had a shotgun and crossbow in their possession. The hunters stated they had heard from a friend that the North Branch of the Au Sable River was a great place for both duck and deer hunting. CO Huspen checked the ducks the men had shot along with their shotguns, one of which did not have the required plug for waterfowl hunting. CO Huspen explained to the hunters that they could not be in possession of a crossbow for deer hunting while also in possession of a firearm. CO Huspen asked the subjects if they had PFDs and they stated they did not know they needed them in a rowboat. CO Huspen educated the hunters on numerous rules and regulations pertaining to their activities. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen received a complaint of excessive baiting in Crawford County. CO Huspen located the stand where the owner was hunting deer. He asked the hunter if he knew the laws regarding deer bait. The man stated "yes, about one bag." Then he informed CO Huspen that when he arrived at his hunting location, the sugar beets had not been consumed by the deer. He really didn't want to carry the apples he brought back out, so he just dumped them on the bait pile and hoped no one would show up. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Charlie Jones and Craig Neal were on patrol in Missaukee County when they observed a pick-up truck full of firewood pull onto the roadway from a state land two-track. The COs conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. After contacting the operator, it was determined he did not have a permit to cut firewood on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Charlie Jones was on Rapid City Road when Kalkaska Central Dispatch called out a domestic violence in progress inside a vehicle on the same road. CO Jones noticed the vehicle and contacted the female driver. The male subject associated with the incident had left and began to walk west on M-72. The MSP assisted CO Jones by contacting the male subject. It was determined that no domestic violence had taken place and the female subject was operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. She was taken into custody and lodged at the Kalkaska County Jail.

CO Matt Zultak and Sgt. Brian Olsen contacted two hunters in Roscommon County who had constructed two large elevated stands on state land. The stands had been left on state land for multiple years, had no identification on them, and were over baited. In addition, shooting lanes had been cut through the woods and ORV trails had been

made. The two hunters were cited for their violations and advised to remove the illegal stands.

COs Chuck McPherson, John Huspen, Ben McAteer, Matt Zultak, Craig Neal, Charlie Jones, and Sgt. Brian Olsen conducted a hunter safety field day at the Roscommon Customer Service Center. Students received hands-on experience with handling firearms, archery equipment, and tree stand safety. The field day is provided after students either complete a home study or online hunter safety course. The students are required to complete the field day that also involves a written test to receive their hunter safety certificate.

CO Jon Warner assisted in the search and location of a Beechcraft Super King Air, turbo-prop airplane that was on approach to Wurtsmith Airport when it crashed in the national forest approximately 4 miles from the end of the runway. The airplane wreckage was located in a heavily wooded lowland in Iosco County. The incident is being investigated by the MSP and Federal Aviation Administration. The MSP, Oscoda Police Department, Iosco County Sheriff's Department, and U.S. Forest Service were all involved with the search.

CO Tyler Sabuda received a call to assist in locating a lost hunter in a swamp in neighboring Alcona County. Working with the Alcona County Sheriff's Department they were able to locate the hunter and return the young man to his family.

COs James Garrett and Casey Pullum conducted a joint patrol in Oscoda County during the archery deer season. The COs located a truck parked at the beginning of a trail leading to an illegal deer bait they had previously found weeks earlier. The COs walked into the baited location to find a father and son hunting in a blind with a crossbow. The COs addressed the illegal bait and the lack of identification on the hunting blind. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ethan Gainforth and Steve Lockwood spoke to a group of hunter safety students at the Harrison Sportsman's Club on September 29th. Approximately 30 students attended the class and listened to the COs presentation about conservation laws as well as safe and ethical hunting.

CO Steve Lockwood investigated a complaint of a gunshot near a field and possibly on the complainant's property. While checking the area, CO Lockwood located a subject returning to his vehicle from the nearby Cedar River. After speaking with the angler about gunshots in the area, CO Lockwood checked the angler for compliance with fishing regulations. When asked about his fish, the angler stated he had caught a few. The angler pulled his limit of trout from his creel; however, CO Lockwood observed several more fish. CO Lockwood located an additional four more trout within the angler's creel. Enforcement action was taken for possession of an over limit of trout.

DISTRICT 6

COs Josh Russell and Dan Robinson were patrolling Montcalm County when they observed a litter pile. The COs dug through the pile and found a name and address. The COs went to the address and contacted the individual whose name was found in the pile of garbage. The subject denied putting the trash there and vowed to find out who did. A few days later the subject called back with the person who had dumped the garbage. The garbage pile was picked up and a citation for littering was issued.

COs Josh Russell and Michael Haas were patrolling Montcalm County when they received a complaint of a deer being taken illegally. The COs began an investigation into the complaint. During the investigation, COs Russell and Haas were able to track down the suspect and located the deer kill site. After interviewing the suspect's girlfriend, she admitted to purchasing a deer license and giving it to her boyfriend. The suspect was later contacted and admitted to shooting a buck and placing his girlfriend's tag on it. The deer was taken and a citation for over limit of bucks was issued.

CO Josh Russell was on patrol in Montcalm County at dusk when he noticed an ORV without a light operating on the roadway. CO Russell performed a traffic stop and found other violations. A citation for no ORV sticker was issued.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was patrolling back roads in Saginaw County. As he approached a major intersection, an ORV flew by at a high rate of speed. CO Gowenlock began pursuit and after two miles he was finally able to overtake the ORV which was traveling at 70-mph in the middle of the traffic lane. CO Gowenlock conducted an enforcement stop on the ORV. When contacted, the driver stated he doesn't like driving 25-mph on the road because he feels he's going to get hit by other cars. CO Gowenlock told him that his statement didn't make sense seeing how he was going 70-mph in a 55-mph zone. With that information the suspect had nothing to say. The driver was issued a citation for operating an ORV at an unreasonable speed.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint of excessive bait on the opening day of bow season. CO Gowenlock responded to the location and found a hunt site which had approximately 20 gallons of bait. The suspect was contacted and admitted to placing the bait out. He went on to say that he was told by a friend that it was too much bait and had already picked up 10 gallons. A citation was issued.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a RAP complaint alleging that a youth hunter had taken two deer during the liberty hunt. Upon investigating the complaint, CO Hobkirk found that the youth hunter had taken two deer, but one was an antlerless deer and the other was an antlered deer. Since the antlerless deer season and the youth deer hunt are on the same weekend there was no violation regarding deer numbers. However, the hunter and his parent did not validate and attach a kill tag to either deer. The youth hunter was educated about the regulations for tagging a deer and his mother was cited for possessing an untagged deer.

COs Seth Rhodea and Robert Hobkirk went to Midland County to work the middle zone waterfowl season opening day. The COs checked hunters at the Kawkawlin Flooding

area. Many hunters were checked with four citations being issued. Violations included license issues, unplugged shotgun, and a marine violation.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling in Midland County for the middle zone waterfowl opener when he contacted a group of waterfowl hunters returning to the launch after the morning hunt. Several marine safety violations were located on the boat and one of the hunters was found to not have all the required licenses to hunt waterfowl. Citations were issued to address the violations.

In Bay County, CO Joshua Wright received a RAP complaint that a neighbor could see a person cutting up a deer the night before bow season opened. When CO Wright arrived at the scene he was told by the property owner that his five-year-old daughter shot the deer the night during youth season. CO Wright explained that the liberty hunt was the weekend prior and asked to see the tag that was on the deer. The deer license was purchased after the property owner stated he was out with his daughter. During the investigation, the suspect admitted that the deer was not shot by his five-year-old daughter but by himself with a shotgun. The suspect was arrested on a local warrant and charges are pending prosecutor review.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Elementary after a suspicious call was received by staff. CO Bucholtz assisted the Huron County Sheriff's Office with securing the grounds and interiors of the two onsite schools. All students were released without incident.

While checking goose hunters during the early goose season in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz located one with an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking state forest land in eastern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas contacted a gentleman driving down a forest trail. CO Haas pulled alongside the man's vehicle and began to speak with him. The man stated that he had been picking up empty bottles and cans from the trails. CO Haas didn't see any cans or bottles in the vehicle other than an open beer can in the man's center console and multiple other full beer cans on the passenger seat. While inspecting the cans, CO Haas noted how the cans were still cold and the can in the center console was half full. The man then admitted he had been drinking and driving down the trails and not picking up empty cans. It was also discovered that the man did not have a valid driver's license and enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Haas and Dan Robinson were patrolling state forest land in Midland County that was closed to motor vehicle use when they encountered a man operating a truck in a closed area. The man exited his vehicle and was in the middle of moving a large log out of his way when the COs contacted him. There was a large dirt barrier and a log next to a locked gate; the man had hit the log on his way into the closed area and stated he was moving it out of the way, so he didn't hit it again. The COs advised the man that the log was in place to prevent access to the area since people were attempting to drive around the locked gate. A citation was issued to address the violation.

While on patrol in Midland County, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were talking to a group of campers when a truck approached and turned around. While speaking to another group of hunters, the COs observed the same truck approach, turn around and leave again. The COs, thinking it was strange, caught up to the truck and made a traffic stop based on several motor vehicle equipment violations. The driver stated he was going to be meeting a friend but didn't know where he was on the state land. As it turned out the driver did not have a driver's license and enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Robinson and Josh Russell participated in the national "Coffee with a Cop" at the Cops and Doughnuts - Central Precinct in Mt. Pleasant. The COs talked to other law enforcement officers from various agencies as well as customers who stopped in to ask questions or thank the area officers for their service.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas received a complaint that two subjects were seen walking into a state game area with shotguns without wearing hunter orange. The COs worked down to the location and located a vehicle in the area. The subjects were heard shooting as they walked towards the road. The COs watched the hunters come out of the woods, without hunter orange, and carrying a shotgun and a rifle. After talking with them, both hunters were found to be relatively new to hunting, one was hunting with an apprentice license. Several safety issues were addressed, including carrying their guns without the safeties on, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and the hunter orange violation. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chris Holmes received information that a subject was possibly in possession of an untagged deer in his vehicle. CO Holmes was able to obtain gas station surveillance footage of the subject and vehicle providing a possible suspect. A subsequent interview with the suspect the next day resulted in a confession. The deer was transported and processed at a residence in another county. Charges will be sought for taking a deer without a license and transporting an untagged deer.

While conducting training at the Plainwell Customer Service Center, COs Richard Cardenas, Tyler Cole, Justin Ulberg and James Zellinger approached a subject checking in a deer at a DNR Check Station. The subject claimed his son had shot the deer the night before. CO Zellinger noticed the deer license on the deer had not been purchased until 9:16 pm on the same night. When brought to the attention of the subject, he explained he had no idea his son had bought his tag after shooting the deer the night before. The COs are following up with the subject responsible and charges will be sought through the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Richard Cardenas and Pete Purdy responded to a complaint in the Barry State Game Area of a vehicle seen driving around with a gun barrel sticking out of a window. They patrolled the area and eventually located the vehicle on a seasonal roadway in the Barry State Game Area. As they approached the vehicle they witnessed

two-gun barrels sticking outside of the vehicle's windows. CO Cardenas and Purdy conducted a traffic stop and discovered they possessed two pellet guns and a variety of small game and protected species that had been taken from the motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Chuck Towns received a RAP complaint of multiple subjects fishing in a trout stream during the closed season. Upon investigation, it was determined that all four subjects were fishing in the closed stream, only two had valid fishing licenses and one subject had a fugitive warrant out of Texas for drug possession and violating probation. The subject was lodged pending extradition back to Texas.

Sgt. Chuck Towns responded to a report of a hunting accident in the Allegan State Game Area. Upon investigation, it was determined that a squirrel hunter saw movement next to a tree approximately 20 yards away and shot at it with a 12-gauge shotgun. The movement happened to be his hunting partner's face. The shot caused serious injury to the man's face, eye and jaw. He was eventually air lifted from Allegan General Hospital to Kalamazoo for treatment. The victim was not wearing any hunter orange garments. The investigation continues, and charges are pending.

COs Zach Bauer and Tyler Cole were on patrol in Van Buren County when they noticed an angler fishing on a trout stream. The COs made contact and noticed the angler was using a multi pointed hook on a gear restricted stream. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Travis Dragomer and Zach Bauer were checking hunters on a piece of hunter access property (HAP). The COs contacted one hunter walking out of the woods who stated he didn't have his tags on him and he left them at home. Further investigation revealed an uncased crossbow in the subject's vehicle and the hunter didn't sign the sign in sheet required while hunting on HAP land. While the hunter was looking for a case for his crossbow in his truck the COs noticed a flashlight mounted on the hunter's crossbow. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page, while working a closed stream, observed a male subject with three young children watching salmon in the river. After a short time one of the young kids handed the father a pole and began carrying around a newborn near the water so that the dad could fish the closed stream. After a short observation, CO Page contacted the subject who was actively fishing when CO Page approached. When CO Page got closer the subject handed his daughter the pole and picked up the baby stating that he was not fishing. After a short talk the subject admitted to fishing the closed stream even after a passerby told him it was illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page and Sgt. Stephen Mooney observed a truck drop off two individuals who began running across the road towards a stream as the truck drove away. The COs were a short distance behind and estimated roughly a five second gap between the time the individuals crossed the road and the time the COs had them back in sight. As the COs got the individuals back in sight they were already fighting a salmon that was hooked in the back. As Sgt. Mooney approached, the subject broke off his line. The

two individuals were identified as juveniles and were warned and educated on the penalties associated with snagging.

While patrolling a gear restricted stream in Van Buren County, CO Tyler Cole observed three subjects fishing. A check revealed that all three of the anglers were using illegal gear. After contact and checking for licenses and any fish caught, it was found that two of the three subjects had priors for using illegal gear in the same stretch of the river. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a closed section of the Black River, Van Buren County, CO Tyler Cole checked two subjects that had just landed a fish. After contact was made, the subject stated that he had hooked the fish in the cheek and was excited to have been able to land it. The subjects were new to fishing and were not aware that the fish had to be hooked in the mouth to be able to take possession of it. The fish were released, and CO Cole educated the subjects on various fishing regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Micah Hintze received a complaint from the RAP hotline of a hunter possibly taking a deer in Cass County during the closed early antlerless season. CO Hintze arrived at the location given and observed the individual just finishing packaging the deer meat into freezer bags. Through the interview the hunter admitted to taking the deer during the liberty hunt weekend and thought the early antlerless season was open statewide to everyone. The firearm used was seized and pictured for evidence along with the deer hide and meat. Charges are pending with the Cass County Prosecutor.

CO Justin Ulberg and BJ Goulette followed up on a complaint for CO Angie Greenway in which a 17-year-old shot a buck during the youth deer season in Mecosta County. COs Ulberg and Goulette contacted the father of the hunter and a confession was received. The father indicated that he thought a 17-year-old could hunt during the youth season. The father stated that after his son shot the deer he was informed that the youth deer season is for 16-year-olds and younger. The father then admitted to tagging the deer with his 14-year-old son's deer tag to try to cover up the violation. The deer was seized, and enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Ulberg and Ivan Perez observed a suspicious angler fishing on the Rogue River in Kent County. The angler appeared to be walking up and down the river trying to sight salmon. Once the angler located a salmon, he would cast a spoon and attempt to snag the fish. CO Ulberg observed the subject foul hook a salmon in the back and proceeded in putting the fish on a stringer. Further investigation revealed that the angler had altered the spoons he was fishing with by putting illegal sized treble hooks on them. The fish and angler's fishing pole were seized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg received a complaint of a subject baiting geese with corn in a field in Newaygo County. The next morning Sgt. Jeff Rabbers and CO Ulberg responded to the field prior to daylight and set up to observe the hunters. Shortly after daylight a group of

four hunters took their limit of geese in approximately 25 minutes as a large amount of geese tried to land in the field. While observing the hunters, CO Ulberg noted one hunter driving around on an ATV chasing after crippled birds. The hunter had his shotgun slung over his shoulder and not properly cased. After the subjects were done hunting, Sgt. Rabbers and CO Ulberg contacted the group and questioned them about the bait. One of the hunters admitted to placing the bait. Twenty geese were seized, and enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Greg Patten received two calls through the RAP hotline of two subjects in a boat with a duck on a leash in Spring Lake. Both callers thought that the subjects were duck hunting but didn't hear any shots. One caller reported that the subjects had "hunting cloth" on their boat. CO Patten responded to the area and located the two subjects as they were coming ashore. One of the subjects was carrying a Rouen duck. The subjects said that they had been fishing. The subject with the duck said that he bought it at a local farm. It turned out that the owner of the duck was taking it for a swim while he was fishing. Checking further, CO Patten determined that the subjects did not have any personal flotation devices (PFDs) in their boat. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Ionia County, CO Jeremy Beavers checked angler activity at the Portland Dam. From the parking area, CO Beavers observed all subjects fishing before making contact. During this time, one subject looked at CO Beavers and stopped fishing. During his checks, CO Beavers asked the subjects for their fishing licenses. At this time, one subject stated he did not have one. He went on to say he knows he needs one but was taking his chances since he does not fish that often. The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license.

DISTRICT 8

CO Mike Drexler was on patrol in Washtenaw County when he observed some fresh ORV ruts on the roadway and in a DNR picnic area. After waiting approximately five minutes the ORVs were spotted on the road and CO Drexler conducted a traffic stop. The operators were both 14-years-old and the CO escorted the juveniles back to their parents. Enforcement action was taken for operating on the roadway, unsupervised juvenile operators and operating ORV on state land.

COs Mike Drexler and Brandon Hartleben attended a hunter safety class at the Chelsea Rod and Gun Club. CO Drexler spoke to the class about the duties of a conservation officer and educated the students about various conservation and natural resource laws. The COs stayed after the class and answered many CWD questions and general hunting questions.

CO Andrew Monnich was on patrol checking the Onsted State Game Area for any deer hunting activity when he noticed a drag trail coming out of the woods. CO Monnich went in the woods to check it out and located three gut piles that all led back to a large bait pile and tree stand. CO Monnich knew who the stand belonged to due to a baiting incident last season. CO Monnich checked the hunter's license and it showed that he

had bought his license early opening morning and at noon. With some checks at the local retail stores CO Monnich was able to track the hunter on surveillance cameras. CO Monnich interviewed the individual who ultimately confessed to killing three deer, not tagging a doe, and using a tag of another. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy assisted the Livingston County Sheriff's Department with traffic control for an accident involving a car and pedestrian. The pedestrian was struck and killed while trying to cross five lanes of traffic on Grand River Ave.

CO Pete Purdy was on boat patrol on Lobdell Lake when he observed a pontoon with no MC numbers on one side. In addition, the vessel was displaying an expired 2018 registration. The operator stated that he hadn't been stopped or checked all summer for the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt Troy Bahlau and COs Chris Reynolds, Jeff Goss and Chris Maher conducted patrols on both Saturday and Sunday along the Ohio and Indiana borders focusing on possible illegal importation of deer into Michigan. These were conducted covering morning, mid-day and afternoon patrols along main entries and secondary roads entering the State of Michigan. The COs also conducted spot checks and inspections of nearby processors. Traffic was heavy, but no violations were observed.

COs Josh Jackson and Nick Wellman presented at Branch Area Career Center to the criminal justice program. Students from several local high schools attend the career center with the opportunity to gain an insight on criminal justice and law enforcement. The COs talked with the high school students about the duties of a conservation officer and other highlights of the DNR Law Enforcement Division.

COs Chris Maher and Chris Reynolds stopped at a local processor in Hillsdale County for an inspection and found the head of an eight-point white-tailed deer in the freezer. CO Maher inspected the tag and noticed the hunter was only three-years-old. COs Maher and Reynolds interviewed the father of the three-year-old boy and determined he was not the one who shot the eight-point buck during the youth hunt earlier in the year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher spent opening day of bow season contacting hunters at locations where he previously found bait on both private and state land prior to the beginning of the season. Recently there has been a ban placed on baiting to help prevent the spread of CWD. CO Maher contacted three different hunters that morning. In each instance the bait was cleaned up and none of the hunters were currently using bait. Each hunter stated that they were unaware of the ban at the time they placed the bait and when they found out about the ban they cleaned it up. Everything else in each instance was legal. CO Maher took the opportunity to educate the hunters.

CO Chris Maher spoke at the Hendee Drain Deer Co-Op meeting. There he had discussions with 15 individuals about roles and responsibilities in managing deer as well as new laws and regulations pertaining to CWD. The group was very enthusiastic asking many questions and partaking in discussions.

COs Chris Reynolds, Nick Wellman, Carter Woodwyk, Jeff Goss, Chris Maher and Jason McCullough worked a booth at the Hillsdale County fair and ran the hunter safety laser shot trailer. The COs also answered questions related to hunting, fishing, hunter education, marine and ORV laws for hundreds of the fair's attendees.

COs Carter Woodwyk and Chris Maher attended a chronic wasting disease (CWD) informational meeting hosted by DNR Wildlife Biologist Dennis Tison. Multiple hunting groups and cooperatives were in attendance to gather the information and spread it amongst their groups. Approximately seven (7) representatives were in attendance from different groups.

CO Carter Woodwyk located a campsite in Hillsdale County on October 1st, 2018. CO Woodwyk followed up at the location of the campsite a few days later to assure no trash was left behind by the occupants. When the CO arrived, he located multiple larger pieces of litter scattered throughout the camping site. The CO happened upon the camper a few days after locating the litter and confronted him about leaving the trash. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn was on routine patrol on the opening day of archery deer season with a cameraman from the Wardens television show. DNR dispatch contacted CO Thorn and requested that he respond to a school in Okemos where deer were caught in a bathroom. CO Thorn and the cameraman responded to the scene to find that two deer had jumped through a window at Central Elementary School in Okemos and were trapped in a bathroom. With help from Meridian Township Police Department and Ingham County Animal Control officers, CO Thorn was able to remove the deer from the school without further harming the deer or endangering anyone at the school.

While travelling through Lansing on patrol, CO Thorn observed a vehicle stopped in a lane on Waverly Rd by the Grand River. CO Thorn further observed an apparent domestic dispute as well as a man throwing a cup into a bush. CO Thorn contacted the two individuals who were only having a verbal argument at that point. Further investigation revealed that the female had a warrant for her arrest. She was lodged at the City of Lansing jail.

Because of a complaint, CO Thorn located a large bait pile hidden in some woods approximately ½ mile off the road in Ingham Township. CO Thorn checked the location a few times to locate the hunter. CO Thorn was finally able to make contact and found that the hunter had recently placed even more bait out. The man was fully aware that baiting of any kind was illegal in the current area. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting on a tip from a DNR dispatcher, CO Thorn investigated an incident that involved an antlerless deer possibly taken without a license. CO Thorn was able to gain a confession from the hunter that he had shot the doe and then purchased a license afterwards. While investigating, CO Thorn also found that the hunter was using bait in a no-bait zone. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn R. Strawn was patrolling the Rose Lake State Game Area when he received information over the radio of a reported person with a gunshot wound at a cemetery nearby. CO Strawn was nearby and arrived within a minute of the first call and was first on the scene. Unfortunately, the subject showed no signs of life and had suffered an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. CO Strawn secured the scene, updated the additional responding units, processed the scene for evidence and initiated an incident report. CO Strawn turned the report and scene over to the local medical examiner.

CO Larn R. Strawn patrolled the Maple River State Game Area to check on a hunting stand and an illegal bait pile which had been placed a month earlier. The bait had been maintained over the weeks and CO Strawn was confident the culprit would be hunting the opener. While checking the stand, CO Strawn contacted a bow hunter hunting over the illegal bait and in the illegal tree stand. The hunter admitted to placing the tree stand but denied hunting over the bait. The hunter exclaimed that someone else surely put the bait out in front of his stand. CO Strawn walked the hunter out of the game area and back to his truck where he pointed out to the subject he had more of the bait still in his truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn R. Strawn patrolled the Muskrat Lake State Game Area for bow hunting activity on the opener. While checking on a truck at one of the access site parking areas, CO Strawn noticed an empty plastic bag in the back of the truck. The bag was suspiciously like bags that carrots are sold in. CO Strawn walked out into the game area and was able to find the foot tracks left by two hunters. CO Strawn successfully tracked down the hunters who were hunting in portable ground blinds. One of the hunters was hunting with a pile of carrots about 15 yards in front of him. When CO Strawn asked the hunter about the carrots the hunter claimed he did not put them there and that someone else must have put the carrots out in front of his blind before he got there. The hunter said he saw the carrots as soon as the sun came up. CO Strawn reminded the hunter that it was now afternoon and he was still hunting over the bait. CO Strawn noticed the man was holding his cell phone during the contact and mentioned to the hunter that instead of hunting over the bait he could have used the phone he was holding to call and report the bait to the RAP line and choose to hunt a different location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig responded to a report of a vehicle crash in which the driver had left the roadway, hit a tree and fled on foot into a business park adjacent to a wooded area. The Eaton County Sheriff deputies and CO searched the area for the suspect but were unable to locate him. A tip led them to search his residence a mile away which did not result in locating the suspect. The CO doubled back to the area of the business and located a foot print in the mud near some woods. The CO followed a trail and observed a few additional tracks that led to an elevated metal shipping container. The CO observed a man attempting to hide under the container and ordered him out from under it and made an arrest of the driver that had fled from the accident. The driver admitted to falling asleep while driving because he had not slept in days due to using

methamphetamine. While loading the suspect into an EMS vehicle to be evaluated for his injuries sustained from the accident, a vehicle approached the deputies and CO to ask about the status of the driver. When contact with the vehicle was made the odor of marijuana was detected and the front passenger attempted to hide a box underneath his right leg. When the CO asked him for the box the passenger attempted to put it on the floorboard of the vehicle, but reluctantly turned it over to the CO. When the CO opened the box, he found what appeared to be methamphetamine and a powdery substance in a separate bag. The passenger was placed under arrest and while searching him the CO also found marijuana and a pipe in his sweatshirt. When questioned, the man stated that the box containing drugs he had in his possession was found just a short time ago on the side of the road and that the shirt belonged to the driver of the vehicle. The passenger was also found to have an active warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Ludwig was investigating a violation at the Charlotte State Game Area when he observed a hunter wrapping up his hunting day. The CO observed the hunter trespass onto an adjacent farm field and mark the location of his tree stand so that he could walk the field back to his blind the next time out hunting. The CO contacted the man at his tree stand and it was also discovered that the stand was unlabeled, a requirement for leaving the stand out overnight. The CO discussed the violations with the hunter including the two no trespassing signs the hunter had passed getting onto the adjacent field. The CO also advised the hunter that he needed to clean up the litter that he had left beneath his stand. The CO also advised the hunter that it seemed odd that he had driven to the game area considering his driving privileges were suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier received a complaint of youth hunters trespassing on private property in Eaton County. The incident occurred several days earlier, but the property owner decided to call the RAP hotline when he found a dead deer in his backyard. CO Schluckbier searched the property and found evidence to support the trespass complaint. After further investigation, he found that the youth hunter had shot two deer but failed to recover the one. While interviewing the youth's mentor, he found that he was not properly licensed and allowed the youth to trespass while looking for the downed animal. All violations were addressed with both the youth hunter and mentor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier received a complaint of a social media post depicting a father inadvertently pointing a handgun in an unsafe direction while the youth hunter posed with his deer. CO Schluckbier followed up with the subjects in the photograph and found several violations had occurred. The father admitted to not wearing hunter orange, not possessing a valid hunting license as a mentor, and dispatching the deer for the youth hunter. CO Schluckbier educated the subjects on firearm safety and enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Katie Stawara assisted Corunna Police Department on a call regarding a suicidal five-year-old that had locked herself in a vehicle. The child was reported as being

violent in the past and suspected of having bipolar disorder. Officers on scene were able to unlock the vehicle but the child remained inconsolable. Officer Stawara was able to help calm the child with a stuffed animal toy she had in her patrol truck. The child was transported by EMS to have an evaluation conducted at a nearby hospital.

CO Robert Slick was patrolling Rose Lake State Game Area when he observed an individual walking along the road with a long bow. CO Slick contacted the individual and asked what he was doing. The individual stated that he was scouting for deer and took his bow for squirrels. CO Slick then asked where his hunter orange was. The individual then removed his hood and was wearing an orange cap. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Rich Nickols spoke at a hunter education class at the Rose Lake Shooting Range. There were about 40 people in attendance.

Sgt. Rich Nickols conducted a foot patrol of a Consumer's Energy corridor to look for illegal hunting and trespass activity. During the patrol, Sgt. Nickols located a subject living in a tent on the property. The subject said he had been living on the property for about two weeks. The subject had multiple warrants for his arrest, but no agencies would pick up. He was also the person involved in several check subject calls from the area but could never be located. During the contact, Sgt. Nickols found a bag of shelled corn outside the subject's tent. When questioned about this, the subject stated he thought about going deer hunting and that he had a bow inside the tent. Sgt. Nickols explained the hunting rules and that baiting was not allowed. No bait was found during the patrol, but three tree stands were located.

DISTRICT 9

CO Jessie Curtis fielded a complaint of loose swine in Lapeer County. Multiple complaints came in that a farmer had multiple pigs escape, one of which was pregnant and there were now at least 20 pigs running loose destroying farmer's crops. Some hunters had even called the RAP hotline to ask if they could shoot feral hogs in the area. CO Curtis investigated the area and was informed that pigs were recaptured by the farmer. To date no farmer has come forward about any crop damage and the incident has also been forwarded to wildlife division.

While working ORV patrol in Macomb County, COs Kris Kiel and Joseph Deppen were checking a local area known for trespassing. Two vehicles entered the area by jumping the curb and started mudding around the property. COs Kiel and Deppen stopped both vehicles. Multiple violations were addressed including: ORV trespass, unregistered ORV, and possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol during the archery deer opener, CO Joseph Deppen was checking on hunters in a forested area. The early downpour kept most hunters out of the woods. CO Deppen was checking the area and found three bait piles well over the two-gallon limit. CO Deppen returned to the location later in the evening and contacted hunters at

the bait sites. The hunters were educated on how to measure out two gallons and how to spread out their bait over a 10 x 10 area. Enforcement action was taken.

While on ORV patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen encountered a truck trespassing in a local problem area. The driver was stopped and when questioned about why he was driving in the area, the driver said, "My buddies said this was a great place to go mudding, it's my first time." CO Deppen told the driver this was private property and he cannot go mudding where he pleases. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner was at the Lapeer Shooting Pit checking on the target shooting activity. While there, he observed one person shooting a bowling pin and two others using plastic cones as aerial targets. CO Gardner contacted all three individuals and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey contacted a subject trespassing on an ORV who had driven past a hunter's tree stand. The subject did the same thing last year and was given a warning to stay off the property. This time his excuse was that he did not think it was a big deal because it wasn't deer season yet. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey contacted a subject hunting over two large bait piles next to Chesterfield Township property. The subject stated that the landowner put all the bait out for the raccoons. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey conducted a deer processor inspection. The owner had been given multiple warnings last year for incomplete records. The COs discovered the records were missing the same information as last year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol checking goose hunters when he spotted a vehicle parked on a road leading to state land. CO Silorey looked in the window of the vehicle and observed a box of goose decoys and a shotgun case. CO Silorey set out on foot to do a quick check on the hunter. After hearing several goose calls, CO Silorey found the hunter, who was packing up due to the heavy rain coming down. CO Silorey checked the hunter's license and shotgun. When CO Silorey asked to see what type of shells he was using, the hunter hesitated for a moment then pulled several rounds out of his pocket. CO Silorey asked the man to show him inside his pack that he had with him just to verify there was no more ammunition. The man paused for a moment, then stated he did have more in there. In the pack there were multiple rounds that were rubber banded together. The man stated that they are all steel shot. CO Silorey looked at one of the packs which was "Kent Fast Lead." Multiple rounds of lead shot were found. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey and Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint from dispatch reference a hunter using too much bait for deer in St. Clair County. COs Silorey and Kiel were not far from the location of the call and responded within minutes. After searching the area, COs Silorey and Kiel found multiple stands with illegal "tube feeders" and gross over

limits of bait near each stand. COs Silorey and Kiel were able to follow a foot path back to a residence, where they found the suspected owner of the property. The owner stated that another family member hunts the property and that he does not hunt. The property owner was able to get the subject on the phone for CO Kiel. CO Kiel told the subject to come over to the property. The subject arrived and immediately stated that he knew he had too much bait out and that he was in the wrong. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam Beuthin was on patrol in Monroe County checking anglers at Lost Peninsula when he observed a subject walking toward a vehicle with a bucket and fishing pole in hand. When CO Beuthin made contact, he asked if the man had any luck and to produce his fishing license. The man produced 15 bluegills but no fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Ingersoll was patrolling Point Mouillee State Game Area when he observed three individuals and two dogs walking along one of the dikes in the wildlife refuge. CO Ingersoll contacted the individuals and asked them what they were doing. They advised CO Ingersoll that they were trying to train their new puppy. CO Ingersoll advised them that they were not allowed in the wildlife refuge and asked if they saw the sign that they walked past that said, "Do not Enter September 1st through December 15th." The individuals stated that they did not, and CO Ingersoll walked them back to the signs and advised them where they were located. The individuals were educated on the importance of staying out of the refuge and given a verbal warning.

COs Keven Luther and David Schaumburger conducted an ORV patrol in Wayne County. The two COs worked with Maybury State Park rangers during a portion of the patrol. During the patrol of the state park the two COs located a few areas of the fence that had been vandalized.

CO Danielle Zubek presented for the third-grade class at Keller Elementary School in Royal Oak. Approximately 70 students attended the presentation. CO Danielle Zubek explained the job responsibilities of a conservation officer and the role COs have within the government. During the presentation, the students were very interactive and asked many questions. The students were able to handle antlers from white tail deer and elk, furs, and experience how COs patrol on an ORV, PWC, and in a patrol truck.

CO Justin Muehlhauser investigated a complaint of excessive bait piles upon Genesee County Land Bank property. While CO Muehlhauser was inspecting the property, he came across three locations which were heavily baited with corn, carrots, apples and sugar beets. As he was getting ready to leave, CO Muehlhauser encountered a man in the woods behind his house. The CO explained the reason for his presence and the man said that he did not know who the deer hunting sites belonged to. The CO pressed the man further and confronted him with a photo of himself tending to one of the hunt sites. The man knew he was caught and took responsibility for each of the hunt sites. He agreed that the bait was excessive and returned later that evening to clean up the bait. Enforcement action was taken for the baiting violation.

COs John Kamps and Justin Muehlhauser responded to a complaint of two subjects shooting at geese on a golf course. The COs contacted the suspects in the parking lot of the golf course. Upon interviewing the subjects, it was determined that the two individuals brought their shotguns onto the golf course during their game of golf. While playing golf, the subjects shot and killed geese on the course. It was also determined that one of the individuals was in possession of an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a development property for hunting activity, CO Justin Muehlhauser and Sgt. Jason Becker encountered a juvenile operating an ORV on the property. It was determined that the juvenile did not have permission to be on the property and was not under parental supervision. The COs escorted the juvenile back to his residence and discussed the violations with the parents.

While on patrol in Oakland County, Sgt. Jason Becker received a call from MSP that there had been a roll over crash on I-96 near his location. Sgt. Becker was the first law enforcement on scene and assisted EMS while they performed CPR. Once more EMS staff arrived on scene, Sgt. Becker checked the area with MSP and deputies for any passengers that might have been ejected from the vehicle. EMS personnel cared for the single patient and MSP investigated the crash.

CO Adam Beuthin was on patrol in Monroe County when he observed a large amount of black smoke coming from a residence near the Swan Creek access site. When he arrived at the residence the CO observed a subject throwing clothes, plastic bottles, clothes hangers, diapers and other objects onto a large fire. When the CO talked to the subject he told the CO he didn't have a burning permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam Beuthin was on patrol in Monroe County when he observed two subjects fishing at the Swan Creek access site. When the CO contacted the subjects, one of them told him he didn't have a fishing license, the second subject said he thought he had a license but wasn't sure. After confirming neither of the subjects had fishing licenses, enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Ingersoll responded to a rollover accident along I-75 where a vehicle had rolled over multiple times. CO Ingersoll was first on scene and upon arrival all three individuals had already exited the SUV that had rolled over. All three individuals were okay, and the driver received a minor laceration to his head. Among the three passengers, one of them was a one-year-old who was sitting in his car seat that was rear facing and strapped in properly. All three occupants of the vehicle were shaken up but were relieved that there was only one minor injury.

CO Nick Ingersoll was patrolling Pointe Mouillee State Game Area when he observed a vehicle drive down Roberts Road and start to fish tail. CO Ingersoll observed the driver start to drive carelessly and initiated a traffic stop. CO Ingersoll asked the driver what he was doing, and the driver advised the CO that he was just having fun. CO Ingersoll

asked the individual if he thought that was dangerous because if he lost control he could end up in the canal next to the road. The driver stated that he was being dumb, and that he should not be driving like that. The driver also stated that he was just trying to show his friends a good time. CO Ingersoll asked the driver if he had ever been stopped for this before and he stated he had two other times. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Ingersoll was patrolling the DTE Hot Ponds in Monroe when he contacted two anglers. CO Ingersoll asked the anglers how they had been doing and they stated they caught a few. CO Ingersoll checked their fish and observed an undersized channel catfish in their bucket. CO Ingersoll advised the anglers that they were in violation of possessing an undersized channel catfish. After CO Ingersoll advised the anglers of the violation, they proceeded to ask the CO if they could just get a break since it was only one. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger received a call from a hunter who just signed a lease on 35 acres of property. The hunter stated he was walking the property and found numerous stands and blinds from an unknown individual. The CO reviewed the contract along with the township deed and determined that someone was trespassing on the property. The CO contacted the trespasser and advised that although the property was not posted, he was trespassing, and needed to remove his property immediately.

CO Dan Walzak received a report from the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area that an angler had called the office stating he had found a handgun on one of the refuge dikes in the game area. After providing the location of the handgun, the game area office advised the caller that occupying the refuge was not permitted at this time of year and he would have to leave that area. Upon CO Walzak's arrival, he found the caller and a friend still in the refuge approximately 100 yards past where the handgun was found and 250 yards past two posted signs prohibiting entry. Turning to the caller, CO Walzak asked why he remained in the refuge after being told that he would have to leave. The subject responded by saying that he figured since they were there, they would walk a little farther and go fishing. Along with everything else, a check revealed that the second subject had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken for occupying the refuge when posted against entry and the subject with the warrant was advised and released per the arresting agency. The handgun was found to be a starter pistol – a blank gun often used to train hunting dogs.