



AROUND THE STATE: BIG FIGHT AT DRF; FOOD PROBLEMS CONTINUE

A 10-man fight broke out at DRF Sunday while Level IV inmates were walking back from breakfast.

The Level IV units were locked down and didn't return to normal operations until Thursday.

Four of the prisoners had weapons, but none of them appear to have been used in the melee. Eleven Taser cartridges were deployed. No staff members were injured. None of the inmates suffered serious injuries.

Ten convicts received fighting tickets; one received a ticket for inciting a riot; and one ticket was issued for failure to disperse. One of the fighting tickets was later dropped. The inmates

involved were either shipped out or sent to seg.

The cause of the brawl isn't clear, an officer said.

Disturbing stories about Aramark food service continue to pour in to MCO.

May 11, undercooked chicken was served at ARF. Prisoners were allowed to take the chicken to the unit microwaves to cook it.

Raw meatballs shut down some food lines at STF May 7. They were replaced with cooked meatballs, but later food service ran out of meatballs and noodles. Half of a unit received

chicken patties instead.

Also at STF, food service ran out of beans, cabbage and bread pudding April 29.

And on April 28, there was a shortage of mashed potatoes and turkey at STF.

ARF EMPLOYEE SNATCHES FUGITIVE

An off duty ARF employee helped catch a parole absconder after the man tried to bolt from a deputy.

It happened May 4. Jim Eaton was the passenger in a car when he noticed a parked Monroe County sheriff's deputy's car. Then he saw a man take off running from a deputy. Eaton jumped out of the car and chased the man. An off-duty Toledo police officer also pursued the man. The off-duty cop grabbed the absconder, and he and Eaton took him to the ground.

The fugitive was wanted for violating parole in Tennessee, where he had served time for murder, according to media reports.

Eaton is the grievance coordinator at ARF and an ERT team member. Way to go, Eaton!

PORTAL-TO-PORTAL MEDIATION UNSUCCESSFUL

MCO and state attorneys met for required mediation Wednesday in the portal-to-portal lawsuit.

"The employer refused all of our offers to resolve the matter," MCO legal affairs coordinator Jeff Foldie said.

The lawsuit is at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. It will now go before a panel of judges. MCO must submit a brief by May 27.

Go to mco-seiu.org for a list of officers who have signed lawsuit opt-in forms.

HAVE YOU TAKEN ACTION ON S.B. 909?

S.B. 909 is still alive in the senate, so if you haven't already done so, call your senator and ask them to vote no.

If passed, this bill would limit the state prison population to 38,000 inmates. The additional 6,000 inmates currently in the custody of the MDOC could be transferred to jails, private facilities or be released. No hearing date has been set for the bill.

MCO has sent letters asking for a no vote to all Michigan state senators, and MCO is speaking to senators about this bill. Lobbying efforts will

continue until this bill is put to rest.

On the MCO website, you can find a Speak Out campaign which will allow you to quickly look up your senator and send them an email. But writing letters and calling, even if you have to leave a message, is best. Calls and letters carry more sway with legislators.

Remember, we're all we've got. Stand up for your community and your job – tell your senator to vote NO!

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