



AROUND THE STATE: VIOLENT WEEK AT MPF; PESTS SHUT DOWN JCF CHOW HALL

Pugsley, a Level I facility, has seen at least five slashings since June 5, and much of the violence is gang related, an officer said.

On June 6, two prisoners were stabbed on the yard at about the same time. Officers believe prison-made shanks were used in both assaults but no weapons were recovered. The stabbings were not life-threatening. Also that day, an inmate was beaten in housing unit 2.

The next day, an inmate beat a prisoner in unit 2 with a lock in a sock. The aggressor was reportedly wearing a mask. The weapon was not recovered. The injuries were not life-threatening. After the assault, the assailant climbed over an 8-foot wall that separates the wings in unit 2.

There was another slashing in unit 2 June 11. Again, the attackers, who were reportedly masked, retreated over the wall that divides the wings.

A chow hall at Cotton remains closed after being overrun with mice and fruit flies.

The warden shut down temp-side food service operations late last week due to the pests.

“It was out of control,” an officer said. “They were damaging lots of food.”

MCO chapter members at JCF believe Aramark is responsible for the problems. They say kitchen cleanliness has declined since the company took over.

Level I and IV inmates ate in the temp-side chow hall, but they are now

dining in the Cotton chow hall where Level II prisoners eat.

At the beginning of the week, evening chow was running into third shift. Inmates are now eating sack lunches, which has helped alleviate dinner delays, the officer said.

The situation has caused some security concerns. Prisoners are not receiving sanctions for tardiness due to the dining situation. Inmates also have some freedom to move around in places they wouldn't ordinarily be.

Staff will reassess the closed chow hall Monday.

A high-ranking Aramark employee at Baraga was let go last week, an officer says.

Also at AMF:

May 4 - an Aramark employee took only two pans of taco meat instead of four from the main prison to the camp. The employee decided to use a smaller serving scoop, which angered inmates. A lieutenant diffused the situation by talking with prisoners and handing out ice cream.

May 16 - green bean shortage delayed food service lines for one hour.

May 26 - housing unit staff ran chow lines for housing unit 8. No Aramark employees showed up in the unit, and when officers spoke with Aramark workers in the main kitchen, they said they were not comfortable serving in unit 8.

At SLF, two Aramark workers were put on stop order last week for overfamiliarity.

LAWSUITS MAY NOT BE HEARD ANYTIME SOON

MCO's attorneys say it's unlikely the Supreme Court will take up the 4% challenge or the Right to Work lawsuit before its summer recess.



Last week, MCO and other plaintiffs in the RTW case filed a reply to the defendant's brief on appeal.

Next, the Supreme Court should schedule oral arguments.

Back in January, the Supreme Court announced it would examine both cases but did not say when. The justices have no deadline for hearing or deciding cases.

CONTRACT PRINTING UPDATE

The 2014-2015 contract has been sent to an outside printing company.

Copies will be dropped off at the post office in late June and are scheduled to arrive at members' homes in early or mid-July.

Printing was delayed because the parties went to impasse, and the Civil Service Commission didn't approve the contract until Jan. 15.

You can read the final version of the contract at mco-seiu.org.

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