



AROUND THE STATE: TENSE SITUATIONS AT MTU AND AMF; DRYER FIRE AT COTTON; ARAMARK STORY CONTINUES TO UNFOLD

More than 100 MTU inmates marched into C-unit and refused to disperse Monday.

They refused orders to lock up. When more staff arrived in the unit, many of the prisoners locked up. About 30 remaining prisoners complied only after one inmate gave them a nod.

Nearly 20 inmates were either sent to segregation or transported to ICF. Eighteen inmates received misconducts for failing to disperse. One prisoner was written an incite to riot misconduct. No one was hurt.

The facility was placed on lockdown until Tuesday. Officers tell MCO the warden and administration handled the situation well.

A fight Wednesday that involved nearly 20 inmates was the largest in AMF history, an officer said.

The melee happened on the housing unit 4 yard and is believed to have been gang related. Inmates refused initial orders to disperse. Two Tasers and chemical agents were deployed to gain

control of the fight. A lockdown at the facility has been lifted. No life-threatening injuries were reported to MCO.

Officers at STF have found several gallons of spud juice in the past few weeks.

Thirty pounds of spud juice was found in the G-unit bathroom during a shakedown last week. Three inmates were intoxicated.

Officers found 20 bottles of spud juice later in the week in an E-unit bathroom shower.

The Blackman Township Fire Department responded to a dryer fire at Cotton Thursday.

Mop heads were placed in the dryer and caused the fire, an officer said. The officer wasn't certain who put the mop heads (which are supposed to be air dried) into the dryer.

No injuries were reported.

The Department is now saying 74 Aramark employees have been stop ordered around the state.

This updated number was released the same day AFSCME and MCO urged the governor to terminate the Aramark contract and make prison food service a state function again. Many of the laid-off food service workers would return to work if given the chance, AFSCME says. The unions announced their request at a press conference.

Also on Thursday, Senate majority leader Randy Richardville said he thinks the state should rebid the contract. MCO and other unions believe rebidding isn't the answer.

MCO's foremost concerns are prison safety and security. Aramark employees' high turnover rate due to stop orders, firings and resignations undermine safety and security. Turnover will be a concern with any private company that pays low wages. Lost keys and failure to secure critical tools also hurt safety and security.

To read this week's news coverage of prison kitchen issues, go to mco-seiu.org.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE FACEBOOK GROUP?

The MCO Facebook group launched Tuesday and has nearly 200 members.

Group members were among the first to hear about AFSCME and MCO's formal request of Gov. Rick Snyder to terminate the Aramark contract.

Please note the group is for dues-paying members only. All requests are checked against MCO's membership

files. Retirees are not being admitted.

If you submitted a request but have not been accepted, we could be having a problem confirming your membership status. You can email mail@mco-seiu.org for help.

Keep your requests coming! To find the group, go to mco-seiu.org and click "join the facebook group" on the right, or go to Facebook and search for Michigan Corrections Organization.

COPS DAY COMING SOON

COPS Day at the Ionia Free Fair is July 23.

Corrections officers and other law enforcement officers are welcome to come out and get free snacks, toys, MCO gear and discounted ride wristbands. The fun starts at noon at the hospitality center in the Administration Building. The fairgrounds are located at 317 South Dexter Street in Ionia.