



CUTS LOOM AS STATE BUDGET TALKS CONTINUE

On Thursday, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved Gov. Rick Snyder's executive order to reduce state government spending for the current fiscal year by \$102.8 million.

Included in the order are \$17.8 million in Corrections cuts achieved by reductions to multiple programs, including workers compensation, electronic monitoring, prisoner re-entry and food service.

In addition, 20 prisons along with

SAI have been assessed monetary amounts to reach the reduction goal.

At this point, it is unclear how these savings will be achieved but "efficiencies" are expected to play a large role.

The House Appropriations Committee also advanced HB 4112 which cuts \$93.1 million from various departments. The bill includes an additional \$2.9 million cut from the Department of Corrections by shifting the funding source of parole and probation oversight fees.

Snyder's budget proposal for the 2016 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, calls for a decrease of \$65 million in the general fund corrections budget.

One source of savings will be the relocation of Kinross Correctional Facility. KCF inmates will be moved to the former Hiawatha Correctional Facility next year. No job losses are expected.

Budget hearings are expected to take several months and carry into early summer.

AROUND THE STATE: MCF OFFICERS UNCOVER ESCAPE PLAN; POSSIBLE ESCAPE ATTEMPT STOPPED AT STF; AMF OFFICER INJURED; FIGHTS CONTINUE AT MR

Muskegon officers thwarted a murderer's apparent escape plot Wednesday morning.

COs were doing a routine search of the yard when they found an inmate uniform painted black, lying in a trash can. In one of the pockets, they found hair clippings. Custody staff were able to identify an inmate number on the shirt. They searched the prisoner's cell and found a state-issued coat that had been painted white, a homemade compass, homemade maps, flashlights, yarn, oatmeal, meat, cheese and bottled water.

The inmate was in the honors unit due to good behavior. His placement in the honors unit may have provided him access to some of the items.

Patrick C. Daniel, the prisoner accused of planning an escape, was convicted in the murder of two people in the early 2000s, according to a media report.

Excellent job, officers! Despite ever-increasing demands to do more with less, you are still vigilant and keeping

communities safe.

A Central Michigan inmate crossed an e-field fence Sunday in what was possibly an escape attempt.

He triggered a zone alarm, and staff immediately responded and apprehended him. He did not reach the perimeter. The prisoner was in a Level I outpatient mental health housing unit. He was on a call out to use the law library at the time of the possible escape attempt.

Also over the weekend, a Level I inmate threw boiling water on a sleeping prisoner. The victim's face is blistered and peeling, an officer said. The assailant was attacked later in the day. The assaults are related to debts among the prisoners, an officer said.

A Baraga inmate headbutted an officer Wednesday, and the officer sprained his wrist while restraining him.

Two officers were escorting the

Level V prisoner to the rec yard when he headbutted one of the COs. The officers restrained him. The injured officer went to a hospital for wrist pain. He returned to work on light duty.

A Michigan Reformatory inmate needed staples and stitches after he was stabbed in the neck and head Feb. 6.

Several inmates in his Level II unit cornered him near the showers and assaulted him. Five inmates were sent to segregation. The attacked prisoner also went to seg for protection.

Other recent events at MR:

1/30 – two to seg for fighting; one to seg for possession of a weapon

1/31 – one to seg for possession of a weapon

2/1 – fight in front of chow hall

2/3 – one to seg for assault on staff; seg officer dressed out with water

2/4 – two to seg for fighting

2/5 – two to seg for assault and battery on staff; two to seg for fight in chow hall