



AROUND THE STATE: STAFF ASSAULT PREVENTED AT DRF; LCF WINS COMMUNITY AWARD

A Carson City officer stopped what could have been a serious staff assault when he pepper sprayed an armed inmate.

The attempted assault happened in the Level IV 500 unit Saturday. An inmate holding a weapon – described as a steel triangle with a sharpened point and cloth handle – lunged at an officer. A nearby CO immediately pulled his pepper spray. The inmate looked at the second officer and was sprayed in the face. He dropped the weapon.

No staff members were injured. The prisoner was sent to seg. The situation is under investigation.

Officers say they are uncovering weapons regularly in the two Level IV units at Carson City. The day after this incident, at least one weapon was found in the Level IV units. Another weapon was found on an inmate Monday. A tattoo needle with a motor was also found that day.

Three Trinity employees walked off the job Wednesday at Cotton.

The trio had been reprimanded for performance issues, according to an

MDOC spokesperson. Other Trinity staff were called in to work and chow lines ran normally. Additional officers were called to the chow halls to supervise meal lines, the spokesperson said.

A Lakeland Trinity employee was placed on stop order this week.

This employee is suspected of bringing contraband into the prison, officers say.

Congratulations to Lakeland Correctional Facility for winning the Outstanding Community Organization award from the Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce!

The prison staff raises money for and participates in several great programs, including the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and Shop with a Cop. Last year, the prison donated almost 10 tons of produce and other food to area food banks. They also donated about 1,200 pumpkins to schools.

When prison staff share their time and resources in their communities, they shine a positive light on corrections. Thanks, Lakeland!

UPDATE ON SALARY, JUSTICE REFORM BILLS

The legislator who wrote the bill to publish state employee salaries could possibly be backing off.

This change came a few days after the Mackinac Center published wildly inaccurate salary data, then retracted it. On Tuesday, the Mackinac Center put up new salary information that seems more likely to be correct.

Rep. Brandt Iden, who introduced [HB 4301](#), said the state doesn't need to expend resources on a salary database if private entities will, according to media reports. Representatives are still considering the legislation.

MCO is strongly opposed to the publishing of MDOC and MDHHS members' salaries in this manner. We'll keep monitoring this situation.

Gov. Rick Snyder signed most bills in a justice reform package Thursday.

Snyder signed bills that will change the penalty for some parole and probation violations, define recidivism, and more. He vetoed a few bills in the package.

[Read more details on what Snyder signed in this article.](#)

See the [March 10](#) and [March 17](#) KYIs for more details on these bills.

SIGN UP NOW FOR BENEFITS FOR LIFE PLANS

The 2017 Benefits for Life Open Enrollment period is going on now and will end Friday, April 7th, 2017.

Benefits for Life plans are optional benefits in which employees pay 100% of the cost of coverage. Plan highlights include enhanced accident insurance, supplemental term life insurance, and more.

Eligible employees are encouraged to visit www.BenefitsforLife.org to review existing coverage, make changes, or enroll. The online enrollment process is

simple, and should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Remember to select Register instead of Login when visiting the enrollment site as usernames and passwords created in prior years are no longer valid. If you would like further information or prefer to enroll by phone, call the Benefits for Life Call Center at 888-825-8395, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

-Information provided by the Michigan Civil Service Commission.

Spring has sprung! Win tickets to the Tigers' game April 9

MCO has scored Detroit Tigers tickets for the April 9th game versus the Boston Red Sox.

To enter to win, you must answer the trivia question below and email your answer to Tara Nichol, tara@mco-seiu.org, by Monday April 3, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Three lucky winners will each get 5 tickets to the game. You must email Tara from your personal (not state) email. Winners will be notified by email. Good luck!

Question: Which Tigers player won the AL Rookie of the Year last season?