



BARGAINING: CSC RECONVENES WEDNESDAY; UNIONS MEET WITH OSE TO DISCUSS HEALTH CARE

The Civil Service Commission is scheduled to take up state employee contracts Wednesday.

Last month, the four-person commission deadlocked on a vote to approve the impasse panel's recommendations but keep the status quo on health care. The commissioners decided to postpone a ruling and extend contracts until their Jan.15 meeting.

Commissioners have never tied on a contract decision. It was a truly historic move that could have serious ramifications. If the commission does not come to an agreement, all union contracts would be scrapped and em-

ployees would revert to working under Civil Service rules like non-exclusively represented employees.

The Commission extended contracts until the Jan. 15 meeting because of the deadlock. This postponement gave state employee unions time to demand OSE and Blue Cross Blue Shield provide health care utilization data that was not adequately supplied during negotiations. BCBS provided this utilization data to OSE Thursday, and the state employee unions met with OSE Friday to review it.

After reviewing the new data, the union coalition determined there were

savings that could be found without the State taking the drastic step of putting all employees into the new plan.

MCO and the CSEU will take one more stab at arguing our case Jan.15. This is our avenue to fight needless cuts. It's ridiculous the State would try to get more concessions when the state revenue surplus is approaching \$1 billion.

The CSC meeting starts at 10 a.m. and is open to the public. Members may come to hear the proceedings. The MCO parking lot will be open to members until it's full.

AROUND THE STATE: PAROLEE ESCAPES FROM DRC; EIGHT-MAN GANG FIGHT AT THE OAKS

A parolee in custody at the Detroit Reentry Center escaped from a work detail crew Dec. 28 and was at large for more than a week.

Adrian Clay was caught Monday after he was seen outside near DRC.

Clay was paroled Dec. 12 and sent to the reentry center. He and other inmates were being transported to the Detroit Detention Center to clean when an inmate jumped out of the van. Police requested citizens' help to find Clay.

Clay is serving time for carjacking and firearms crimes. He was scheduled to be released in April. He is now at RGC.

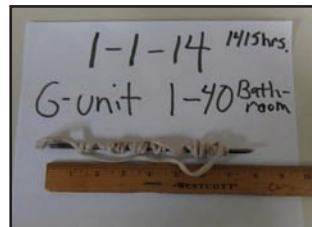
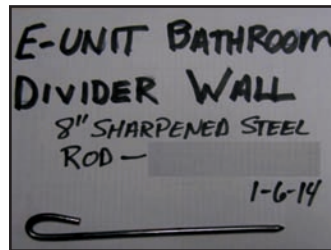
A fight broke out between members of rival gangs Jan. 2 at the Oaks.

The brawl happened just before 7 a.m. when the inmates were walking to breakfast. Officers don't know what prompted the

fight but said the prisoners involved were Bloods and Vice Lords. Officers had to use Tasers and chemical agents to break up the raucous. No weapons were found, and no one was seriously injured.

Tasers and chemical agents were used in an unrelated four-man fight at ECF last week.

These shanks were found this month OCF. Both weapons are about 8 in. Be careful and watch your back!



FUNDRAISER IN TRAVERSE CITY WILL HELP CO'S DAUGHTER

Members, enjoy a night out and help an officer's family at a slot tournament Thursday, Jan. 16. at the Turtle Creek Casino outside Traverse City.

The event will benefit Serenity Aug, an 8-year-old girl who is fighting blindness. Her father Eric Aug is an officer and MCO member at Pugsley.

The slot tournament starts at 7 p.m. The Grey Dragons motorcycle group is hosting the event.

If you can't attend the tournament, give online at <http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/sight-for-serenity/120371>.



BULLETIN

JAN. 15, 2014

COMMISSION APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL CONTRACT; MCO KEEPS MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON 12-HOUR SHIFTS

Commission approves controversial contract; MCO keeps mutual agreement on 12-hour shifts

The Civil Service Commission approved the impasse panel's recommendations on health care, wages and MCO's unit-specific matters in a two-year contract.

One commissioner proposed a one-year contract with status quo on health care. The commission deadlocked with a 2-2 vote on the measure.

Then the commission voted 3-1 to accept the impasse panel's recommendations, putting all employees into the new health care plan which requires higher deductibles, and giving them 2 percent raises effective Oct. 1 of each year plus a one-time 0.5 percent lump sum. Commissioner Robert Swanson was the swing vote. He said this was a "slap in the face," but leaving employees without a contract would be worse.

Commissioners also took the panel's side on unit-specific issues, including the LOU to extend current 12-hour shift pilot programs for at least one additional year. MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber urged the commission to vote against that provision, arguing MCO members and the Commission approved 12-hour shift LOUs with the understanding they would expire in October 2014. OSE originally wanted to give the Department authority to implement 12-hour shifts at up to 12 prisons. However, MCO was successful in maintaining mutual agreement on 12-hour shifts.

The new contracts go into effect immediately.

This fight isn't over. The legislature has 60 days after the governor's budget presentation to modify any wage increases. To change recommended pay raises, two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate would have to agree. The budget presentation is expected in early February. MCO will keep members informed.

To read the response from the Coalition of State Employee unions, go to <http://www.mco-seiu.org/2014/01/15/commission-approves-controversial-contract-mco-keeps-mutual-agreement-on-12-hour-shifts/>.

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LONG BARGAINING SEASON WRAPS UP; CONTRACTS AVAILABLE SOON

Officers and other state employees are now working under new contracts approved by the Civil Service Commission Wednesday.

We don't have a clean copy of the contract yet, but when we do, it will be posted to the website. Hard copies will be mailed to members in the next few months.

The Commission voted to approve the impasse panel's recommendations, even though the Coalition of State Employee Unions argued there was new health care data obtained earlier

this month that should be considered.

Of course, health care was the big ticket item in this round of bargaining. All state workers will be put into the new health care plan, which has lower premiums but higher out-of-pocket costs for employees.

The new health care plan does not take effect until October 2014.

MCO is working on a chart to summarize the changes, and the new contract itself will provide all details of the plan. Typically, retiree health insurance mirrors what current employees have,

so it will not be a surprise if the state changes retiree insurance as well.

The Commission also approved raises that were less than the Coalition of State Employee Unions wanted, but more than OSE proposed. **State employees will get a 2 percent raise October 2014; a .5 percent lump sum in October 2014; and a 2 percent raise October 2015.** The unions fought hard throughout the process. State employees deserve better. We appreciate the hard work you do and your solidarity in these times.

AROUND THE STATE: IBC INMATES HIDE SPUD JUICE; ECF INMATE BURNED

Bellamy Creek inmates jerry-rigged a handle on a utility room door so it could be opened from the outside.

They fastened a string to the inside handle and used magnets to attach the string to the bottom of the door. Inmates could pull the string under the door to open it.

Inside the utility room was a secret stash of sugar and spud juice. Drywall surrounding a vent had been removed.

The utility room was in housing unit 6, which is Level II.

A CO found the string and contraband Monday.

Also at IBC, about 30 plastic bags of spud juice were found Tuesday in an inmate's duffel bag in his cell. Each bag had about 20 ounces of liquid, officers say.

An ECF officer was stabbed in the calf while breaking up an inmate fight Monday.

It started when one convict threw boiling water in another prisoner's face. Then the water-thrower stabbed the burned inmate. One officer was stabbed in the scuffle.

An unknown substance had been mixed in the hot water to make it stick

on the prisoner's skin. None of the stab wounds were serious.

This happened in a Level II housing unit. The convict that threw the water is now in seg.

An AMF inmate used a piece of broken glass from a TV to slice an officer's hand Sunday.

The assault happened at lunch time. An officer was picking up trays, and when he opened an inmate's door slot, the prisoner started swinging the shard of glass. Another convict threw a tray on the floor and spit on an officer while he passed out trays Sunday.

MCO WITHDRAWS FROM OFFICER OF THE YEAR PROCESS

This year, MCO will not take part in selecting the Officer of the Year and will not have an official presence at the banquet.

The consensus of MCO leaders across the state was that the union should discontinue official participation in the selection process and banquet because the Department, in

recent years, has not shown genuine concern for officers. An annual banquet in itself, while nice, doesn't show DOC sincerely cares. Although we appreciate and congratulate those who have been selected as officers of the year at the facilities, MCO is exploring ways to acknowledge all officers during Correctional Officers Week.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Scholarship applications for the 2014-2015 academic year are now on the MCO website.

SEIU, Union Plus and MCO offer scholarships for children of active members. **The deadline for the Union Plus Scholarship is Jan. 31.** SEIU's deadline is in March, and MCO's is in June. *Good luck!*



AROUND THE STATE: CFP FIGHT INJURES TWO; DRUG FOOTBALL AT LCF

An FSA and a supervisor at the Forensic Center were hurt Tuesday while trying to break up a patient fight.

Three staff members tried to intervene in the altercation between two male patients. One of them, an FSA, was pushed. She hit her head and ruptured a disk in her neck. A supervisor was grabbed by the arm and thrown, tearing her rotator cuff.

There was adequate staffing at the time of the fight, an officer said, but staff members from another unit were needed to control the situation.

One of the injured employees is an FSA and the other is a supervisor. Neither has returned to work. The woman who suffered the neck injury was hospitalized two days.

One patient is now on two-to-one coverage.

Two people were arrested after throwing a football stuffed with three cell phones, 40 grams of marijuana and 20 hydrocodone pills over the fence at LCF.

An inmate's phone call tipped off prison workers about the contraband drop.

The man who left the drugs had just been paroled out of Lakeland this month!

Other recent events at LCF:

1/12 – Prisoner sent to seg for smuggling in visiting room and substance abuse. Another prisoner went to seg for assault and battery.

1/15 – Prisoner to seg for weapon

possession.

1/17 – Two prisoners to seg for fighting.

1/18 – 8-inch shank found in mop room.

1/20 – Prisoner with a cell phone and charger concealed in cracker box was walking on the yard.

1/23 – Tasers used to break up fight. One inmate had a large shank.

At least one pop bottle filled with spud juice exploded Tuesday at ARF.

Nine bottles of spud juice were behind the pop machine in 1 Block, and one of them exploded, possibly due to overheating. The same

day, more than a dozen bottles of spud were discovered in 3 Block.

An SRF prisoner complained of chest pains Jan. 16, but he had actually been punched and cut on his head and neck. He was treated at the facility.

Another SRF inmate was seriously stabbed Jan. 10. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Other events at SRF:

1/17 – Inmate found in possession of weapon. Another inmate was cut on the head while returning from dinner. Unknown assailant.

1/18 – Several pieces of metal and

weapons were found during a unit shakedown.

1/19 – Two inmates found with tattoo needles.

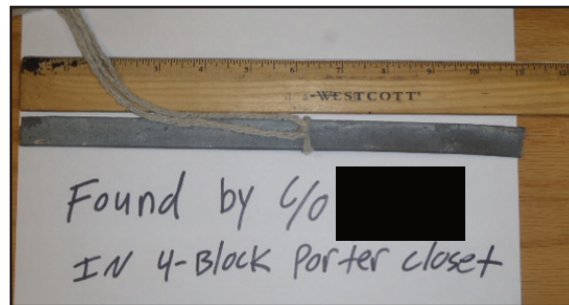
1/20 – Inmate in possession of weapon.

1/22 – 6-inch piece of sharpened metal found in prisoner's area of control.

1/23 – Inmate on inmate assault behind school building.

This 11-inch steel shank was found earlier this month at MPF.

On Dec. 26, an MPF inmate was stabbed in the neck with a pen. The inmate underwent minor surgery.



CHANGES COMING TO COTTON UNIT

The I-unit at JCF will be repurposed as a temporary segregation unit, officers were informed Thursday.

The new unit will house 92 beds for temp seg holding for all Jackson facilities.

A committee is being formed to discuss the transition, and MCO is arranging a meeting with the JCF warden next week to discuss ramifications.



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The man who left the drugs had just been paroled out of Lakeland this month!

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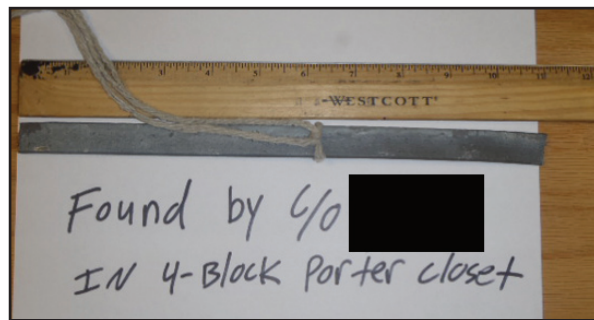
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CHANGES COMING TO COTTON UNITS

The I-unit at JCF will be repurposed as a temporary segregation unit and a pole barn unit is slated for closure, JCF officers have been told.

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A committee is being formed to discuss the transition, and MCO is arranging a meeting with the JCF warden this week to discuss ramifications.



SUPREME COURT WILL DECIDE RTW, 4 PERCENT

The Michigan Supreme Court will review the Right to Work and 4 percent lawsuits, the Court announced Thursday.

Both suits have been sitting with the Supreme Court for several months. In August 2013, the Court of Appeals ruled RTW applies to state workers. The Coalition of State Employee Unions (CSEU) asked the Supreme Court to consider the case.

In September 2013, the State requested the Supreme Court take on the 4 percent lawsuit. The Court of Appeals ruled the legislature overstepped its authority when it

demanded defined benefit recipients contribute 4 percent of their earnings to pensions.

The Court of Appeals rulings in the 4 percent and RTW cases contradict each other — one acknowledges the Commission’s authority while the other disregards it.

The CSEU’s argument in both suits is consistent: only the Civil Service Commission can change state employee salary and working conditions under the Michigan Constitution.

The Court has no deadline for issuing a ruling in either lawsuit. We’ll keep you updated.

READ BARGAINING DOCS, CONTRACT ONLINE

The 2014-2015 contract, a summary of changes and several documents filed with the Civil Service Commission are now on the MCO website.

Edit marks are still in the contract, but it is the final language.

We hope these items help members understand the how hard MCO fought for this contract. Please read these documents and take the time to understand them.

MCO appreciates the support members showed throughout bargaining. We’re stronger together.

AROUND THE STATE: AMF OFFICER ASSAULTED; GANG ACTIVITY AT OCF

A Baraga CO sustained minor injuries in an attack Thursday.

The officer was in a CO office in a general population unit when an inmate jumped him. A sergeant pulled his Taser but didn’t deploy it. Another officer came to help, and the inmate was restrained.

The attacked officer went to a hospital, but he returned to work later in the day.

The assailant is in seg.

Last week at Baraga, staff found three weapons made from metal pipe covers. The covers have been removed.

An Ojibway inmate was assaulted twice Jan. 24 and the beatings are believed to be gang related.

The hurt prisoner was beaten

before dinner chow and again after. Inmates kicked and punched him in the head. Alleged members of the Gangster Disciples thought he snitched on a gang member for threatening behavior, an officer said.

Six inmates involved in the attacks have been sent to higher level facilities.

The attacked convict wasn’t seriously injured.

IN MEMORIAM: FORMER SMF PRESIDENT TOM KERRINS

A former MCO chapter president passed away last week.

Tom Kerrins, 53, died Jan. 25 at his home in Traverse City. A Celebration of his life will be at 11 a.m. Feb. 8 at the Sisson Funeral Home in Gladwin. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m.

Kerrins was MCO chapter president at the former Standish Maximum Correctional Facility. He was working at Central Michigan Correctional Facility when he retired in 2010.

Please keep Kerrins’ family and friends in your thoughts.

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BULLETIN

FEB. 3, 2014

MURDERER ESCAPES IONIA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY 20 FEET FROM ABANDONED GUN TOWER

A four-time convicted murderer escaped from Ionia Correctional Facility Sunday, kidnapped a woman, and was on the lam for 24 hours before he was found in Indiana.

Inmate Michael Elliot left through the sally port, cut his way through two fences and slid under another fence. His escape would have been plainly seen by an officer in a gun tower 20 feet away, if the Department of Corrections hadn't ordered the towers to be unstaffed.

MDOC Director Dan Heyns admitted the prison has security problems, but didn't take responsibility for creating them and wouldn't answer reporter's questions about PSVs and gun towers at a press conference Monday.

MCO members and leaders have been telling him the reduction in PSV rounds and the non-staffing of gun towers make the facilities vulnerable. At three ICF labor management meetings, chapter leaders have pressed for the reopening of the towers. In June, the MCO chapter at ICF organized a protest of the gun tower closures. And in July, COs held a silent protest during the governor's speech at the Ionia Free Fair. They passed out informational flyers to the public about gun tower closures and other cuts that make the Ionia community less safe.

PSVs make rounds at ICF intermittently. The PSV driver also must operate phones and process visits, and recently, he's been told to watch his mileage and conserve gas, ICF officers say.

When a reporter at Monday's press conference brought up MCO's letter on Aramark's lax security, Heyns said Aramark had "nothing to do with this escape."

Reporters also questioned how Elliot, a four-time convicted murder, could be a Level II inmate. Heyns admitted money was a factor.

"We have to make decisions based on our resources," Heyns said. There are too many inmates serving life sentences to make them all Level V prisoners, he said.

MCO President Tom Tylutki has been at ICF, talking to members and administrators about what happened. Tylutki has also been speaking with the media about MCO's security concerns, which have been ignored by this administration for years.

Thousands of articles have been written about the escape. Will they listen to us now? As budget hearings start, MCO will continue arguing for proper security staffing and tools at our state prisons. Budget-driven corrections policy is poor public policy.

Watch your back and stay safe.

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GOV. RECOMMENDS JCF CHANGES IN FY 2015 BUDGET

Gov. Rick Snyder gave his 2015 FY budget recommendations this week.

He is recommending \$1.9 billion from the general fund for the Department of Corrections. The governor plans to increase spending for re-entry and community programs.

His recommendations include refurbishing the Cotton Correctional Facility to accommodate the growing number of elderly inmates and prisoners who require a high level of medical care. JCF is a good location because it's close to Duane Waters Health Center and secure hospital units, his budget recommenda-

tion says. The refurbishment is just a recommendation at this point. Nothing has been decided. The legislature will weigh in on the budget with hearings starting next week. The governor and legislature usually work on a budget for several months.

Also concerning the budget, Sen. John Proos, chair of the Senate Appropriations Corrections Subcommittee, wants to again push the DOC to get bids for privatizing a prison, MIRS news reported. There is no formal bid request at this time.

We'll keep you posted.

LOU REACHED ON CTO OT

MCO, OSE and MDOC have agreed on an LOU that addresses CTO overtime equalization, but it isn't in effect yet. The letter is being sent to the Civil Service Commission. The letter still needs interim approval by the state personnel director, which we expect to happen soon.

A copy of the letter is posted at mco-seiu.org.

AROUND THE STATE: BUSY TIMES AT CHIPPEWA; SHANKS AT STF, IBC

A URF inmate fought back Wednesday when a CO tried to take a shank from him.

An officer was searching an inmate when he felt a shank in the prisoner's boot. It was a 7.5 in piece of sharpened plexiglass. The convict bent over and grabbed the officer's hand when the CO took the weapon. He tried to pry the shank out of the officer's hands. The inmate gave up when another officer arrived and drew his Taser.

Also Wednesday, a level II inmate punched a housing unit ARUS in the head. He was knocked down but wasn't seriously injured.

Other recent events at URF:

2/1/14 – Level II inmate in possession of a weapon made from knee brace metal.

2/2/14 – Level II inmate placed

in seg for threatening behavior on an officer.

2/3/14 – Two level II inmates placed in seg for fighting.

2/4/14 – Level IV inmate found in possession of shank.

Level II inmate placed in seg for threatening behavior on staff.

Two level II inmates found in possession of metal bunk straps that could be made into shanks.

Two level II inmates sent to seg for fighting.

2/5/14 – Homemade cuff key found in inmate's possession during shakedown.

Feb. 5 at STF. It was held in place behind the JPay machine with a magnet.

These weapons were found recently at IBC.

The shank at was found Jan. 31. Officers think it was made from melted bags.

The blue weapon was the end cap of a bookshelf in the library.

Watch your back, watch your partner's back and stay safe.



The shank below was found





DIRECTOR TESTIFIES: ESCAPE HAD ‘NOTHING TO DO WITH BUDGET CUTS’

At a hearing Thursday before the Senate appropriations subcommittee on corrections, Dan Heyns continued to claim the gun tower closures and elimination of the full-time PSV rounds had nothing to do with the Feb. 2 escape at ICF.

“The root causes of this escape had nothing to do with budget cuts. The funding was there. It didn’t have anything to do with gun towers ... There were a lot of people out of the chute that

rendered their opinion about what had happened here and most of those people didn’t know what they were talking about.”

Heyns said he’s asked wardens to submit lists of their top five security needs and he’s asked for reviews of gate, fence, sally port, entrance and physical plant security. He also said shake-down procedures, inmate clothing color and snow removal protocol will be examined.

Heyns wouldn’t answer many

specific questions because investigations by the MDOC and attorney general’s office aren’t finished.

MCO still emphatically believes an escape wouldn’t have been possible if the gun towers were staffed.

ICF’s MCO chapter has brought up security issues at multiple labor management meetings. Now that there’s been an escape, the Department is scrambling to fix a variety of physical plant problems at ICF and other prisons.

AROUND THE STATE: ARF ATTEMPTED ASSAULT

A Gus Harrison inmate armed with two weapons tried to stab a facility administrator Feb. 6.

The attempted assault happened in a Resident Treatment Program Level IV housing unit. The prisoner had a pen and what was possibly a sharpened piece of floor tile in his left hand when he swung at the employee. A psychologist standing nearby grabbed the inmate’s arm, an officer said. All three of them fell to the floor.

Officers responded.

No one was seriously injured.

The inmate was taken to a segregation cell.

Recent events at SRF:

2.4.14 – Inmate found in possession of two weapons. One was in his underwear and the other was in his cell.

2.5.14 – Prisoner reported someone threw hot liquid on his face and neck while in the day-room. He was treated for burns.

CTO LOU APPROVED

The CTO overtime LOU has been approved by the Civil Service Commission. It is now in effect.

Read the LOU at mco-seiu.org.

SEIU SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

The deadline for the SEIU scholarship program is March 3. Find information on how to apply at mco-seiu.org. Information on the MCO Scholarship program is also online. MCO’s deadline is June 1.

Good luck!

ICF MEMBERS HOST LUNCH FUNDRAISER FEB. 19

Ionia Correctional Facility officers are planning a fundraiser for an ICF officer who was recently suspended. The event is Wednesday, Feb. 19 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Loyal Order of the

Moose Lodge at 869 E. Lincoln Ave. in Ionia. Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, chips and punch will be served for \$5 a plate. There will also be a raffle.

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HUNDREDS OF KINROSS PRISONERS PROTEST ARAMARK

About 200 KCF inmates formally protested Aramark food Monday.

They gathered on the north yard behind the kitchen at about 2:45 p.m. and walked one lap around the track. The inmates returned to their housing units after the peaceful demonstration, which lasted just under half an hour.

No intervention was needed, but KCF staff was well prepared. On Feb. 14, a supervisor got a kite about the protest. Prisoners' food complaints – shortages, odd substitutions and food temperatures – were detailed in the kite. Later, a CO was packing up an inmate when he found a flyer on the protest.

First shift officers were held over for the protest. The Department should ask Aramark to pay for the overtime!

Nearly 30 Aramark workers have been put on stop order since December, according to a news article on the protest.

RUO TECHNICAL APPEAL MOVES FORWARD: STATE FILES RESPONSE

The Attorney General's office has filed a response to MCO's technical appeal in the RUO classification elimination. Now a Civil Service Commission technical review officer will make a decision.

The technical review officer reviewing the case has the authority to reinstate the RUO classification going forward but cannot order back pay, according to Civil Service rules. William Hutchens, a Civil Service hearing officer presiding over a grievance filed on the RUO

elimination, could order back pay. The grievance is on hold until the technical review officer determines if the RUO position should be reinstated.

The technical review officer has no deadline for making a decision. MCO or the AG's office can appeal the technical review officer's ruling to the entire Civil Service Commission and then to the state circuit court.

We know this is a long process. We'll keep you posted.

SRF CO ASSAULTED TODAY

A Saginaw inmate attacked an officer on a stairwell this morning, and both of them fell about 8 feet to the floor below them.

A responding officer heard punching and shouting before seeing them fall. The inmate continued to fight while responding officers restrained him.

The CO received a cut that needed 15 stitches, but that appears to have been the only injury. The officer was sent off site for care.

The inmate is in segregation.

MCO hopes the officer recovers quickly. Stay safe in there.

CONTRACT NOTES: CHART DETAILING HEALTH CARE CHANGES ONLINE

From the MCO website, members can find a chart OSE prepared with details on the new health care plan. All changes will go into effect Oct. 12, 2014, except for the new deductibles and out of pocket maximums. **New deductibles and out of pocket maximums do not take effect until Jan. 1, 2015.** The chart indicates new deductibles and

out of pocket maximums take effect in October, but they do not.

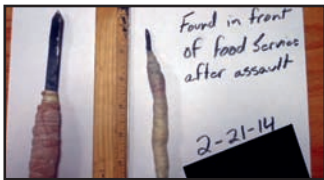
The health care appendix in the contract approved by the Civil Service Commission (and on the OSE and MCO websites) contains inaccuracies. These errors are being fixed. The corrected version will go back to the Commission for approv-

al, which we anticipate will be done without difficulty. When looking at the contract, please note that appendix H-2 will be updated.

The MCO website also has a link to information about optional benefits offered to state employees. If you want to take advantage, you must enroll March 24 - April 11.

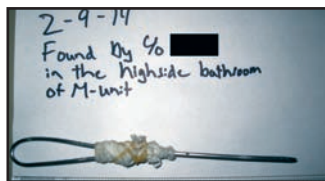
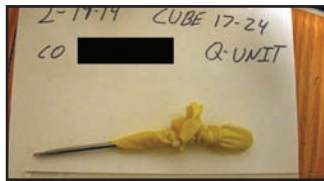


AROUND THE STATE: SEVERAL SHANKS FOUND AT PUGSLEY, CENTRAL MI



The shanks at left were found this month at MPF.

MPF officers report there's been a lot of gang activity at the facility.



These shanks were found at STF this month.

An RGC inmate bit an officer Sunday.

The prisoner was being combative with nursing staff, and the CO grabbed his arms to restrain him. The inmate bit the officer on the forearm.

The officer went to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

SRF officers found two weapons on the 500 unit yard after an inmate-on-inmate assault Sunday.

While inmates thought officers were busy responding to the fight, two prisoners were seen passing shanks in the housing unit.

The unit was locked down.

GUN BILL STALLED; CONTACT YOUR SENATOR

The bill that would allow COs to carry firearms in pistol-free zones is sitting in the state Senate.

The Senate judiciary committee approved H.B. 4133 in December, but there's been no movement on the bill since then.

MCO encourages members to contact their state senators and ask for a vote. From the MCO website, you can look up your senator and send them an email. You can also look up your senator to call their office.

OSE: PAYCHECKS LATE

OSE informed MCO paychecks were mailed Thursday instead of Tuesday. OSE said this was "due to an issue with the mailing process." Checks should be received Friday (today) or Saturday.

This hold up should not affect employees signed up for electronic funds payment.

OSE apologized for the delay.

NEW HEALTH CARE PLAN INFO ONLINE

In case you have not heard, appendix H-2 in the contract approved by the Civil Service Commission (and on OSE's and MCO's websites) contains inaccuracies. This appendix addresses

health care. It will be corrected before printing.

Information on the new health plans, including cost comparisons, is available from the MCO website.

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TOWER OFFICER FOILS MACOMB PRISONER'S ESCAPE PLAN

An officer in a gun tower thwarted an MRF inmate's possible escape attempt March 4.

At about 8:30 p.m., the CO saw a Level IV inmate scaling an interior fence. He was supposed to be heading back to his housing unit after receiving meds. The tower of-

ficer made a radio call for help while watching the prisoner's movement.

The inmate made it over the fence from the Level IV yard into the big yard. He was immediately apprehended by yard staff and a PSV officer. He was taken to segregation and the Level IV unit was

locked down for the night. MRF officers say this inmate has attempted to escape before.

Nice work, officers.

This only strengthens MCO's argument that gun tower staffing is fundamental in keeping prisons and communities safe.

DOC CONTINUES TO SAY FAILURE TO FOLLOW POLICY LED TO ESCAPE

Last week, the Department released its investigation report on the ICF escape Feb. 2.

The report echoes statements Director Dan Heyns has said, claiming the escape wouldn't have happened if policies and procedures were followed. But it also reveals to the public security lapses,

including a misaligned zone sensor, that allowed Michael Elliot to escape.

MCO has reviewed the report. MCO believes, and is prepared to show, that many of the conclusions of the department are inaccurate. MCO is preparing to contest any unjustified discipline that may be

issued to officers. MCO cannot relinquish any details from the union investigation pending future litigation. Suffice it to say that MCO believes that a true neutral arbitrator will find that the department's failed policy in maintaining security and regular training will be the "critical failure" that led to the escape.

CO HIRING EXAM GOES BY THE WAYSIDE AGAINST MCO'S PROTESTS

The Training Council has recommended ending the CO hiring exam, and the Civil Service Commission has given its stamp of approval.

MCO Executive Treasurer Bill Henderson, who represents correc-

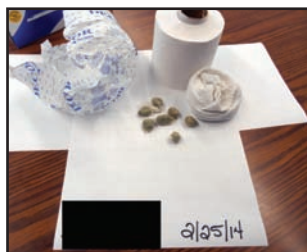
tions officers on the Training Council, was the only council member to vote against eliminating the test. Henderson and MCO are against anything that lowers CO hiring standards.

The Civil Service Commission

has approved the change. Corrections officer job information on the Commission's website states "a written test is no longer administered."

We will continue to fight for more stringent professional standards, including training and testing.

MARIJUANA FOUND IN TOILET PAPER ROLL



STF officers found marijuana in a sock in an inmate's toilet paper roll Feb. 25. The inmate was a Level I in the N-unit. He is now in a Level IV unit at SLF.

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DOC FINES ARAMARK FOR OVERFAMILIARITY, FOOD SCREW UPS

About three months after Aramark took over food services, the Department of Corrections is fining the company \$98,000 for breach of contract.

The fines include \$1,000 for each of 12 employee rule violations, including overfamiliarity. The remainder of the fines stem from food shortages and substitutions.

More than 30 Aramark employees – 10 percent of all hires – have been placed on stop order, according to a letter the Department of Corrections sent to Aramark. Dozens more have walked off the job. In the last five years state employees ran food service, three workers were put on stop order.

The DOC's letter claims there's been overfamiliarity, food shortages and substitutions, and insufficient training.

As corrections officers know, frustrated inmates aren't taking this lying down. About 200 Kinross Correctional Facility inmates staged a protest last month to protest Aramark food. Inmates at Baraga Correctional Facility and Marquette Branch Prison have tried hunger strikes.

In January, MCO sent a letter to the Department of Corrections detailing Aramark employee rule violations, overfamiliarity complaints and food shortages. When the letter

went public, the DOC said many of our accusations weren't true or were overblown. Now, two months later, the Department sends a letter specifically chastising Aramark workers for overfamiliarity, including "sexual relations with prisoners," improper handling of dangerous tools and food shortages. The Department's public relations team is doing some fancy footwork to gloss over this.

MCO believes Michigan residents deserve to know the truth about the myriad of problems Aramark has caused. MCO is continuing to share our concerns with the public and the Department.

WOODLAND INMATE OBTAINS RAZOR, CUTS HIMSELF WHILE POAs 'WATCH TV'

Two Prisoner Observation Aides at WCC allowed inmates to pass a razor, and one of the prisoners sliced himself so bad he was sent to a hospital.

It happened last week. The inmate on observation told his POA he wanted a razor. The POA said, "I don't care," then he continued to watch TV," the prisoner wrote in a grievance filed this week.

An inmate in the dayroom slid a razor wrapped in paper under the cell door. The prisoner in the cell cut himself. A new POA came on duty, and the prisoner asked the POA to let him keep cutting.

When the inmate stopped hurting himself, he pushed the razor under the door. The POA kicked the razor to an inmate in the dayroom.

Later, the injured inmate panicked

and asked the POA to call an officer. The inmate credits the responding officer for saving his life.

"This injury would not have happened with an officer watching me," he wrote in the grievance.

The two POAs have been shipped out.

Several POAs have quit since this happened because they don't feel safe, officers say. At WCC, POAs (all Level I inmates) are required to sit outside cells in the dayroom where Level IV inmates are walking around.

One WCC officer aptly said, the DOC administration "put their faith in convicted felons to watch and protect the mentally ill prisoner from self-harm, and in this incident the POAs took part in allowing it to happen."

ATTENTION CFP MEMBERS: SECONDARY BARGAINING SET

The Department of Community Health has asked for secondary bargaining. MCO isn't sure exactly what OSE will propose but suspect it concerns separating overtime between the security FSAs and nursing FSAs.

MCO members at the Forensic Center received a mailed survey this week. Please fill it out and mail it back to MCO by March 18. If you have not received a survey, please email jeff@mco-seiu.org.

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ARAMARK UPDATE: DRUGS SMUGGLED INTO JCF; MCSC NOT THRILLED

An Aramark worker smuggled two large bags of marijuana into the Cotton Correctional Facility Wednesday, the same day MCO and others urged the Civil Service Commission to reject the Aramark contract.

The Detroit Free Press quoted a Michigan State Police lieutenant as saying the 19-year-old food service worker “succumbed to some pressure from the inmates.” The number of Aramark workers placed on stop order is ap-

proaching 40 – roughly 10 for every month of the contract.

Here are a few of the Aramark incidents MCO was informed of this week:

- A food service employee at Lake-land was escorted off the grounds after she was found with a love letter to an inmate.
- An Aramark worker at Gus Harrison didn’t record and couldn’t remember which inmate was issued a dough cutter. The emergency response team

combed the entire prison today, but the tool has not been found.

- Also at ARF, drink flavoring packets, onions and more than 35 pounds of ground beef were found in the restroom used by inmate food service workers.

The Civil Service Commission seemed unsettled by all the complaints about Aramark. To read more about Wednesday’s MCSC hearing, go to mco-seiu.org.

AROUND THE STATE: OFFICERS AT JCS AND LRF HURT; GANG FIGHTS AT LMF

A Cooper Street officer’s ankle was broken during a fight with a Level I inmate in the A unit last week.

The officer was walking the prisoner back to his bunk and noticed he had a TV. The convict was on a loss-of-privilege order, so the officer confiscated the TV.

The inmate came to the officer station to take his TV, but the CO got in his way. The prisoner rammed him into the desk, and they both fell to the floor. Officers responded.

The injured CO will undergo ankle surgery Monday, officers say.

Alger has seen a wave of gang-related brawls over the past week.

Six inmates fought March 15 in front of a housing unit during dinner chow lines. An officer in a gun tower fired a warning shot and three Tasers were deployed to break up the melee. No serious injuries were reported.

Two more fights broke out Sun-

day and Monday during chow lines. Wednesday there was a scuffle on the day shift small yard. A total of 10 inmates were sent to segregation as a result of these fights.

The altercations appear to have been between the Bloods and the Gangster Disciples, officers say.

A Brooks inmate threw a hot, sticky liquid on an officer’s face and neck Tuesday.

The CO went to a hospital for burns. Further details on his injuries weren’t available.

The liquid had been heated in a microwave. After the inmate threw it in the officer’s face, he ran out of his unit and went to a meeting spot behind another unit, where another prisoner was waiting with a change of clothes. Yard staff and tower officers caught them.

The inmate who threw the liquid was shipped out, while the accomplice is in seg at LRF.

MCO FIGHTS RETALIATION

An MCO chapter official at Gus Harrison has been retaliated against for his efforts to defend a member placed on stop order, MCO’s attorneys allege in an Unfair Labor Practice filing.

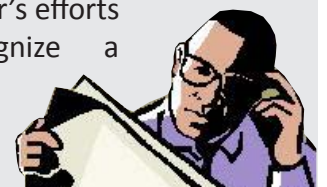
The ULP accuses a captain and higher ups at the facility and in the Department administration of one count of retaliation and one count of interference and restraint.

“It is an unfair labor practice for the Employer to interfere with, restrain, coerce, discriminate against, or retaliate against employees in the exercise of rights granted by (Civil Service rules),” the ULP states.

WINTER MCO REPORT ONLINE

The Winter MCO Report is available now at mco-seiu.org/publications/mco-report.

This issue has articles on bargaining, MCO’s involvement in a U.S. Supreme Court case that could affect all public employee union members, and one officer’s efforts to recognize a CO’s forgotten sacrifice.





AROUND THE STATE: MR, SLF LOCKED DOWN FOR VIOLENCE

Nearly half of the inmates at Michigan Reformatory refused to eat a BBQ pork meal Monday.

Only a handful of Level II inmates from the I3, I4 and I5 housing units would eat the lunch meal, officers say. Out of 1,269 inmates, only 688 went to lunch chow.

There have also been scads of fights, which led to a lock down March 17-19.

At MR, 65 inmates have been put in seg since March 14. Some were relocated for protection.

STF officers have found several rod-shaped shanks lately, like those pictured at right.

A few weeks ago, food service racks were found unsecured in a pile. Six rods went missing from three racks. The racks were secured in an office.

The weapons at right and bottom right are just a few of many found this month at DRF.

The top weapon is apparently made out of heater vents.

SLF has been plagued with so many fights and disturbances, about 50 inmates have been sent to segregation since March 1 and the prison has been on lock down for five days. Officers say some of

the activity is gang related.

Here are some details on certain incidents:

3/10 – three prisoner fight. One inmate’s throat was slashed with a razor. He was hospitalized two days.

3/13 – inmate-on-inmate assault. One prisoner in possession of a weapon.

3/14 – inmate-on-inmate fight.

3/15 - inmate-on-inmate fight with weapon.

3/16 – two inmates sent to seg for possession of weapons.

3/17 – assault on staff. No injuries.

3/20 – threatening behavior on staff.

3/21 – assault on staff. No injuries. Two separate inmate-on-inmate fights.

3/22 – two separate inmate-on-inmate fights. Prisoner stabbed while leaving big yard. A critical tool was discovered missing from a dishwasher. Food service employees are responsible for inventorying this tool, but it had not been reported missing.

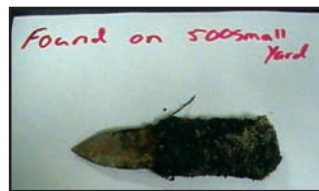
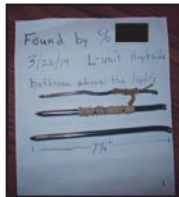
3/23 – weapon apparently made from missing tool was found.

3/24 – inmate assaulted staff when approached for shakedown. Prison put on lock down. No staff injured.



The weapon above was found under an inmate’s locker today during a shakedown at LCF. It is a vacuum cleaner hose held together with pieces of a mop head and zip ties. The head is a sharpened rock.

Stay safe and watch your back.



HELP AN RGC CO'S FAMILY FIGHT CHILDHOOD CANCER

Buy a wristband or key chain to help an RGC officer's daughter fight cancer.

Officer Charles Fausak can make a wristband or key chain in any color. Wristbands are \$5 and key chains are \$3. All proceeds will go to Officer Christopher Pluymers. His 4-year-old daughter has cancer. She is being treated with chemotherapy and radiation.

For information on sizing or to place an order with Fausak, email him at jeepiv87@yahoo.com.



BENEFITS NEWS: LOANS AGAINST 401(K)S CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

As of March 15, employees with a 401(k) may no longer take out loans against the employer's contribution to the retirement account. Employees may take out a loan against their contribution to the account only.

MCO and other state employee unions were not given advance notice of this change. Rules about loans against 401(k)s are not bargained.

MCO and the Coalition of State Employee Unions are seeking legal advice and investigating possible action we can take.

Also, ING U.S., the retirement plan record keeper, is changing its name to **Voya Financial**. You may see either or both names on statements. The plans themselves are not changing.

The Benefits for Life open enrollment period ends April 11.

Benefits for Life offers state employees discount insurance plans, a legal protection plan and more.

For details, go to Michigan.org/employeebenefits.

BUDGET UPDATE

State budget hearings are on hold while the legislature is on recess.



Last week, the House revealed a budget for fiscal year '15 that, if passed, would require the Department of Corrections to put out bids for a private facility for mentally and physically disabled inmates. The House appropriations subcommittee on corrections approved the budget.

While this is concerning, it's still early in the budget process. The Senate hasn't introduced its version of the budget.

We'll keep you updated.

AROUND THE STATE: MORE ARAMARK PROBLEMS; RASH OF FIGHTS AT DRF

Three URF inmates got into a fight this week over a female Aramark employee. One of the prisoners was stabbed with a six-inch screw. He was not seriously injured.

Officers say the woman spent a lot of time with one inmate in particular and was bringing in tobacco. She resigned.

Marquette inmates are taking turns at a hunger strike.

About 20 prisoners are on strike at all times. When a few start eating again, others join the strike.

The protest started March 27 and was still going on as of Thursday's evening meal.

Officers say the inmates are mad about subpar Aramark food.

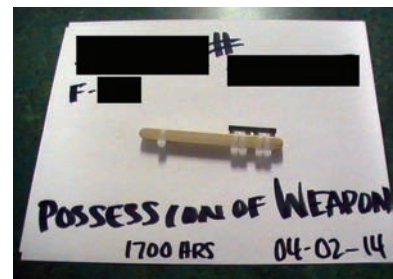
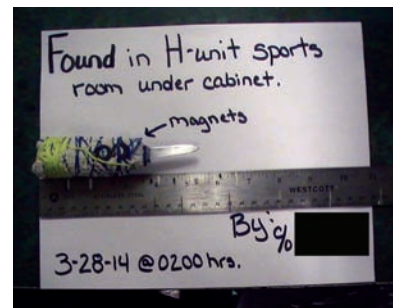
The Level IV units at DRF were

on lock down Saturday through Wednesday after a flurry of activity.

On Saturday, two convicts attacked another inmate while he was returning from chow. One of the assailants gave the victim a 3-inch slash across the face. The wound bled profusely, and the inmate was sent to a hospital for treatment. Now he's back at DRF and in seg for protection.

Both of the attackers had weapons made from desk parts, officers say. The desks are now being removed from Level IV units.

There was also a four-man fight Saturday at DRF. All of them were sent to seg, but some of them have been



bounced in and out of seg due to space constraints. Some of them were transferred to other facilities.

At least six weapons were found at DRF in the last week. Two are pictured at left.

Other recent events at DRF: 3/25 - inmate-on-inmate fight. One in-

mate was Tased. Both taken to seg.

3/26 - inmate-on-inmate fight. Both taken to seg.

3/31 - inmate-on-inmate fight with a lock in a sock.



AROUND THE STATE: FIRE AT LMF; MPF INCIDENT EMPHASIZES LEVEL PROBLEMS

The young second-shift officers at LMF kept their cool during a fire and evacuation April 11.

The fire broke out in the Birch Unit at about 7 p.m. after an inmate jiggled wires in an electrical outlet, officers say. He was removed from the cell. His mattress was charred, and smoke damaged the cell. The prisoner is still receiving outside medical care.

Three LMF officers suffered smoke inhalation and were treated at hospitals. They were treated and released, and all have returned to work.

The second-shift staff received praise from supervisors and the responding fire department for their professionalism, teamwork and quick action throughout the emergency. About half of LMF second-shift officers have fewer than three years in. *Congratulations, second shift. You performed well when tested.*

Other recent events at LMF:

4/7 – inmate fight while returning

from big yard. One weapon. No serious injuries. Taser deployed. Three sent to segregation.

4/9 – inmate fight while returning from chow. Inmate slashed in the face with weapon crafted from a razor. Taser deployed. Three sent to segregation.

4/10 – inmate fight with weapon in Maple Unit. Three sent to segregation.

Michigan’s Level 1 prisons have become so dangerous, one convict rushed the perimeter fence five hours after arriving at MPF so he would be shipped out to a higher level facility.

It happened at about 10 p.m. April 10. The inmate ran to the fence and shook it. He told staff he would try anything except violence to get out of Pugsley. The prisoner got his wish – he’s in segregation at Brooks.

MPF officers say it’s not uncommon for an inmate who just arrived at

the facility to say he’s afraid to enter a housing unit and would rather be in segregation.

Other recent events at MPF:

4/7 – Three to four inmates wearing masks attack an inmate. A total of seven weapons were found.

4/16 – Inmate slashed ear-to-ear. Slashed while on a walkway. Movement has since been restricted on the walkway. Also, an 11.5 in. typewriter rod whittled into a shank and shears were found.

4/17 – Another 11.5 in. typewriter rod found.

An SMT inmate was slashed on the side of the face with a razor blade March 31.

He was attacked while on a walkway and was transported to a hospital by ambulance. His injuries required surgery. He was transferred to another prison.

DEPARTMENT CRACKS DOWN ON PHOTOS

KYI readers might notice fewer weapon photos published in future editions thanks to a Department memo.

In an April 8 email, a Department administrator takes note of “seeing our evidence photographs in a local union newsletter” and instructs wardens to stop sending photos to staff by email. Now photos must be shared with staff some other way.

In the past, found weapons and prison activity were discussed at pre-shift meetings, but the Depart-

ment eliminated those to save money.

We all know there is contraband in the prisons, and it’s our job to find it.

MCO will stand firm in our commitment to raising public awareness of the dangers corrections officers face. Because a picture is worth 1,000 words, weapons photos were an easy way to do that.

We will continue to tell the public about the true nature of your job and work environment.

IN MEMORIAM:

CYNTHIA BRIGGS



TCF Corrections Officer Cynthia Briggs, 49, passed away unexpectedly on April 6.

Officer Briggs was a 12 year veteran of the MDOC, an MCO shift steward and a veteran of the United States Marine Corp, and she is survived by her husband and two children.

Officer Briggs will be greatly missed by her family, friends and coworkers.

Please join us in wishing peace for Briggs’ family.



SENATOR INTRODUCES BILL THAT WOULD CAP STATE PRISON POPULATION CALL YOUR SENATOR NOW ON THIS BACK-DOOR PRIVATIZATION SCHEME!

On Thursday, Sen. John Proos, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Corrections, dropped a legislative bomb with introduction of Senate Bill 909.

Under the proposed legislation, the housing and security of inmates with the Michigan Department of Corrections would be capped at 38,000 prisoners and additional inmates would be placed in jails, private entities, or released. Many see this as a last-ditch, back-door effort to privatize a prison in Michigan.

If approved by the legislature and governor, S.B. 909 could lead to the closing of up to six facilities and hundreds or thousands of layoffs throughout the state. There are roughly 44,000 inmates currently in MDOC facilities.

MCO is already on the offensive. Officials have spoken with several key legislators, but we need every member to contact their state Senator and tell them to oppose this incredibly dangerous and ill-conceived reform.

Look up your senator by going to

mco-seiu.org and clicking "Find your legislators" at top right. From there, you can find your senator. You can email them directly from the website, but we recommend you look up their phone number and address because phone calls and good old fashioned letters carry more sway with legislators, even if you have to leave a message.

MCO will launch more actions to fight this legislation next week. Watch your KYIs and the website.

AROUND THE STATE: TEEN STROLLS AROUND IONIA PRISONS

A teenager carrying a backpack with what appeared to be stolen items was apprehended outside of the Michigan Reformatory Thursday morning.

The sally port gun tower officer was the first MR employee to notice the trespasser as he approached the facility at about 6:30 a.m. An hour earlier, an ICF sergeant leaving the facility spotted a person walking on prison grounds between ICF and MTU. An emergency count was taken at ICF and the perimeter was searched.

The teen was detained outside MR. A sergeant found knives, IDs and other items in his backpack. Sheriff's deputies arrested him for felony trespassing and possession of marijuana.

An ARF inmate stood at a fence and triggered an alarm possibly because he wanted to go to segregation for protection, officers say.

The Level II prisoner slipped away

during lunch chow lines Wednesday and went to the fence behind his housing unit. He tripped an alarm, and the control center officer radioed an alert. Housing unit and yard officers responded. The prisoner received an out-of-place ticket. He is now in segregation.

Also at ARF, an inmate was slashed across the cheek with a razor attached to a popsicle stick. It happened April 11.

MPF officers are finding shanks everywhere.

Last week, weapons were found in a table leg during a shakedown of the dayroom. Officers say they are finding many weapons in table legs. Inmates are also picking wire ties off of fencing to straighten into weapons, officers say.

A live shotgun shell was found during yard cleanup Wednesday at

KCF.

The shell was rusted, and officers don't know how long it may have been there.

It was found in an area where contraband has been thrown over the fence in the past.

Recent events at DRF:

4/16/14 – inmate-on-inmate fight. One inmate sent to a hospital for an injury sustained when he hit his head on concrete.

4/18/14 - More than 8 gallons of spud juice was found in a hole in a wall in H unit.

4/20/14 - Inmate placed in a Level IV for sexual misconduct on an Aramark employee. The offense was reclassified as a sexual assault the following day and the inmate went to seg.

Two separate inmate-on-inmate fights.

Inmate found in possession of tattoo parts.



CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL ELECT NEW BOARD MAY 8

The MCO Central Committee will elect a new Executive Board May 8.

The nominees are listed below. Those with a * by their name are incumbents.

Candidate for President:

- Tom Tylutki*

Candidate for Vice President:

- Andy Potter*

Candidate for Treasurer:

- Bill Henderson*
SRF Recording Secretary

Candidate for Recording Secretary:

- Brent Kowitz*
SMT Vice President

Candidates for Executive Board Member at Large:

- Paul Jensen
ICF President
- Tim Blain
STF President
- Ray Sholtz
SLF Vice President
- Ed Clements*
AMF President
- Paul Jones
RGC President
- Cary Johnson*
JCF Chief Steward
- David Pasche
MTU Vice President
- Patrick Leavitt
DRF Vice President
- Byron Osborn
URF President

See next week's KYI for results.

MCO REINSTATES 12-HOUR SHIFT VOTING

The MCO Board is again authorizing interested chapters to vote on 12-hour shifts.

The window period is open now and ends Oct. 1, 2014. Procedures are stated on the MCO website and generally follow the previous guidelines, which require a petition signed by at least 50 percent of MCO chapter members asking for a vote. The

goal should be to complete voting by Oct. 1.

The Impasse Panel's crafted Letter of Understanding has the effect of disallowing facilities that currently have 12-hour shifts from voting again. However, the Board has determined all other chapters may hold a vote – even if they have voted once before.

THERE'S STILL TIME! CONTACT SENATORS ON S.B. 909

Have you asked your state senator to vote no on S.B. 909?

This week, MCO created a Speak Out campaign on our website so members and others can quickly contact their senator on this bill.

Remember, S.B. 909 would cap the state prison population at 38,000. The

additional 6,000 inmates in the custody of the MDOC could go to private prisons, county jails or be released.

The senate did not take action on the bill this week. No hearing has been scheduled.

Go to mco-seiu.org to contact your senator now.

JOIN US AT WEDNESDAY'S CIVIL SERVICE MEETING

Don't forget, unions and other groups concerned with outsourcing in Michigan will speak at the Civil Service Commission meeting May 7.

We're asking the commission to take steps to examine its rules regulating approval of vendor contracts. The current rules should be changed or

clarified to take quality, not just dollars, into consideration.

Interested members are encouraged to attend the MCSC meeting at 10 a.m. The MCSC meets at Capitol Commons, 400 S. Pine, Lansing. Members may park in the MCO parking lot until it is full.

UPDATES FROM ECF: METAL MISSING FROM HOT BOX

A 2-foot-long piece of metal was discovered missing from a food service hot box Monday at the Oaks. It hasn't been found.

Also Monday, an officer found a shank when he shook down an inmate who was acting strange while on the yard. Good job! One ECF officer

told MCO, "We're a weapons factory right now."

On April 25, ECF Officer Doug Russell performed the Heimlich maneuver on a choking inmate, dislodging food stuck in the prisoner's throat.

Good work, CO Russell!



NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTED

The Central Committee elected a new board at today's meeting in Lansing.

The trustees are:

- URF President Byron Osborn, 88 votes
- SLF Vice President Ray Sholtz, 81 votes
- JCF Chief Steward Cary Johnson, 60 votes
- AMF President Ed Clements, 55 votes
- RGC President Paul Jones, 53 votes

Johnson and Clements were incumbents.

Other candidates were:

- ICF President Paul Jensen, 46 votes
- MTU Vice President David Pasche, 37 votes
- STF President Tim Blain, 26 votes
- DRF Vice President Patrick Leavitt, 7 votes
- President Tom Tylutki, Vice



The new Executive Board took the oath of office today.

President Andy Potter, Treasurer Bill Henderson and Recording Secretary Brent Kowitz ran unopposed.

Congratulations, Board members!

UNIONS TAKE UP OUTSOURCING RULES WITH MCSC

Representatives from several unions and a mental health professional testified at Wednesday's Civil Service meeting, urging the commission to form a workgroup to examine rules related to outsourcing.

"We're losing control of our public functions," said George Heath with SEIU 517M.

MCO officials didn't speak but submitted a written statement requesting a workgroup.

The Commission didn't authorize

a workgroup at Wednesday's meeting, but Commission Chairman Thomas Wardrop said the comments would be taken into consideration.

Unrelated to the meeting, the Commission deadlocked on a challenge of the food service contract, according to media reports. AFSCME Council 25 and the Michigan Association of Governmental Employees filed the challenge. The deadlock means the Aramark contact stands. The commission released an opinion Wednesday.

MCO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

Don't forget, MCO scholarship applications are due in just a few weeks.

Applications must be postmarked by Monday, June 2 for consideration.

The postmark deadline is usually June 1, but MCO has extended the deadline one day because June 1 is a

Sunday.

Applicants must be enrolled in college this fall, and one of their parents must be an MCO member in good standing for at least the past three years.

Print an application at mco-seiu.org.

DRUG ARREST AT JCF

A visitor at JCF Saturday admitted to smoking marijuana in her car in the parking lot.

Staff thought the woman smelled like the drug and was acting strange. When asked, she admitted she smoked marijuana.

A deputy sheriff searched her car and found marijuana.

She was arrested.

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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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THANKS FOR STEPPING UP TO FIGHT S.B. 909!

Members, thank you for contacting your senators on S.B. 909. Keep it up!

Remember, this bill would arbitrarily cap the state prison population at 38,000. That means about 6,000 inmates would be sent to private prisons, jails or be released.

Many members have shared with MCO the letters and emails they sent to their senator and responses they received. This helped us to continue

to gauge how senators would vote and strategize to kill this bill.

Continue to call, send letters and email your senators. Calls and letters carry more sway with legislators, even if you have to leave a message. But if you would like to send an email, go to mco-seiu.org to quickly find and email your senator.

Thank you for your astounding support!

STATE REVERSES RESTRICTION ON 401(K) LOANS

State employees in the defined contribution plan are once again allowed to take out loans against the employer's contributions to their 401(k).

As MCO reported last month, the state decided employees could take out loans only against money they contributed to a 40k(k). The change went into effect March 15, and unions were not given any notice.

After receiving a call from a

member last week, MCO confirmed the state is again letting employees take out loans against the employer's contributions as well. We don't know why the state reversed itself.

The number of loans an employee may have against their 401(k) will change, ORS has said. Beginning Jan. 1, 2015, only one loan may be outstanding at any given time.

For more information, contact ORS at (800) 381-5111.

ESCAPE ATTEMPT AT MTU

A PSV officer stopped a possible escape attempt Wednesday at MTU.

The prisoner climbed to the top of the interior fence behind the A unit, officers said. It was about 9:15 a.m., and he was supposed to be on small yard near the unit. He was at the top of the fence when an officer making a round spotted him and ordered him down. The startled inmate let go and fell back inside the fence. He got up and started to run, but officers caught him.

The prisoner, who had just transferred from WCC to MTU Tuesday, was shipped out. **Good work, officers.**

IN MEMORIAM: CHAD CHARLES

An ERT member passed away after collapsing during a training exercise.

Chad Charles, 42, died Wednesday. He worked at MCF.

Charles was clearing a building when he collapsed. ERT members tried to resuscitate him. They did everything they could until paramedics came to the scene.

Visitation will be 1 p.m.-3 p.m. June 4 at the Luther Lions Club in Luther, MI. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. His ashes will be scattered after the service.

Flowers may be sent to Pruitt Livingston Funeral Home, 225 W. Upton Ave., Reed City, MI 49677.

MEMBER-OWNED HOCKEY LEAGUE HOLDS TRYOUTS

The new Ironwood Fighting Yoopers Junior Hockey Team, which is owned by an MCO member, will hold tryouts next month.

Hockey players ages 16-20 may try out June 28-29 at the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center in Ironwood. The try out fee is \$125, and contenders must bring their own equipment (jerseys are provided). Interested players should sign up at yooperhockey.com.

The Ironwood Fighting Yoopers is part of the Minnesota Junior Hockey League.

Scott Kellet, a member at OCF, owns the league. Kellett has 22 years of experience as a hockey coach. He started the Fighting Yoopers to prepare young people for college teams.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE!

Don't forget: MCO scholarship applications must be postmarked June 2!

The postmark deadline is usually June 1, but MCO has extended the deadline one day because June 1 is a Sunday.

More details and applications are online at mco-seiu.org.

SPRING MCO REPORT ONLINE

The Spring MCO Report is available now at mco-seiu.org/publications/mco-report.

It highlights officers' volunteer work, corrections careers in other states, the executive board's efforts to build a better union, and SEIU's efforts to help MCO manage the fall-out of the ICF escape.





AROUND THE STATE: VIOLENCE SURGES AT KCF; MORE THAN A DOZEN ECF INMATES SENT TO SEG; MCF UNIT LOCKED DOWN AFTER STABBINGS

Officers say there has been an average of three stabbings a day for more than a week at Kinross, a Level II. The fighting is gang related, MCO is told. As of this morning, there were only two open cells in segregation and segregation overflow.

On May 22, three inmates were seriously hurt in a huge fight. One person was struck with a lock on a belt, one prisoner's face was slashed, and one inmate was stabbed in the back of the head, back and shoulders. Three assailants were identified. It happened in front of E-unit.

The next day, a prisoner struck another inmate with a padlock.

Three inmates were sent to hospitals after another fight over Memorial Day weekend. One inmate's ear was nearly sliced off, while another convict was hit in the head with a lock on a

belt. A third inmate suffered a puncture wound in his lung.

Also over the weekend, a visitor was caught passing an unknown substance. The substance was in balloons concealed in a candy bar wrapper.

There was also a stabbing in B-unit May 27. The inmate was sent to a hospital.

At the Oaks, about 14 inmates went to segregation and a unit was locked down for two days last week after a massive fight.

The clash started in the Level IV commons area on the way back from chow. About 15 Taser cartridges were used to break it up. Two warning shots were fired. Members of several gangs were involved, officers say.

One inmate needed about 10 stitches near his eye. No other serious

injuries were reported. No staff members were injured.

Eleven inmates at MCF went to segregation this week due to recent stabbings in unit 2.

One inmate was stabbed Tuesday in Unit 2. Another prisoner was stabbed in the same unit the next day.

On Thursday, the unit was shaken down during a siren drill. Some contraband was found. The unit reopened only to be locked down again after two convicts were stabbed. Unit 2 was shaken down again today, and it was still on lock down as of this morning.

"A stockpile of especially nasty shanks" was discovered in hollowed-out wall behind an inmate's corkboard in H-unit, an ARF officer said. They were found May 22.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: CRISIS FUND GOLF OUTING IS FRIDAY, AUG. 15

Join us for the 18th annual Crisis Fund Golf Outing Aug. 15 at Ledge Meadows in Grand

Ledge.

The Golf Outing is the one and only golf event MCO hosts each year, and it's the Crisis Fund's biggest fundraiser. The Crisis Fund donates money

to members facing a catastrophic situation.

To get a registration flyer, look up the event in the calendar at mco-seiu.org or call MCO at (800)451-4878.

CHANGE IN FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHAD CHARLES

Funeral arrangements for Chad Charles, the ERT member who passed away suddenly last week, have changed.

Visitation is now scheduled for 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. June 4 at the Pine River Area High School, 17445 Pine River

Rd., Le Roy, MI, 49655. A funeral service will follow at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, cash donations may be made to the family to help cover funeral costs. Mail donations to Larry Charles, 609 Maple St., Luther, MI 49656.

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CORRECTIONS BUDGET MOVES FORWARD

On Thursday, the Corrections Conference Committee met and approved the MDOC budget for the 2015 fiscal year.

A major change to the \$2,040,521,700 budget included removal of a section requiring the MDOC to release an RFP for a non-state run, non-secure, nursing home facility to house mentally or physically disabled prisoners. The proposal claimed a savings of \$5 million dollars, but the privatization ploy was sensibly removed by the conference committee.

The committee consisted of six members, three members from the Senate (John Proos – R, Roger Kahn - R, Glenn Anderson – D) and three members from the House (Joe Haveman – R, Earl Poleski – R, Andrew Kandrevas – D). The committee approved the conference report by a vote of 5-1, Andrew Kandrevas being the lone “No” vote.

To view the report, go to legislature.mi.gov and search for bill 764.

The budget now goes before each chamber, and if approved, moves to the Governor.

AROUND THE STATE: ERT RESCUES MISSING WOMAN; NCF INMATE STABBED; FOOD DELAYS CONTINUE AT STF

An ERT member from Newberry found an elderly woman lost in a densely wooded area north of her home in Rudyard Wednesday.

ERT members from Kinross, Chippewa, Alger and Newberry assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff’s Office with the search. According to media reports, the sheriff thinks the woman may not have made it another night in the chilly woods. She was taken to War Memorial Hospital.

Congratulations to the entire Emergency Response Team on a job well done!

An NCF inmate was stabbed Monday evening on the big yard.

The injury was life-threatening. The prisoner was taken to an emergency room in Newberry before being transported to Marquette General Hospital.

The attacker was placed in segregation. He was transferred Thursday.

A Level II inmate at ARF slashed another inmate May 29 in the weight pit. The assailant went to seg.

STF is experiencing some type of food delay nearly every day.

Recent occurrences:

May 31 - west side chow line delayed 1.5 hours. Food production difficulties.

June 1 - east side chow lines delayed 20 minutes. Meat shortage.

Cookie shortage on west side.

June 2 - half-hour delay on east side. Pan of BBQ pork was stolen.

June 5 - shortage of french fries on the east side and shortage of french fries and pizza on west side.



IN MEMORIAM: ADAM LADD AND GARY BUSSELL

MCO member Adam Ladd, 39, died in a tragic accident May 30. Ladd worked at Cooper Street and had almost 12 years in. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

Visitation and a funeral was Tuesday in Hillsdale.

Retired MCO member Gary Bussell has also passed away.

Bussell worked at Riverside and most recently at Carson City before retiring in 2006. He also served in the Vietnam War.

Bussell leaves behind a wife, four children and other family members. His nephew, Kirk, and sister-in-law, Jamie, work for MDOC and his brother, Dave, is retired from the Department.

Bussell died Wednesday. His funeral was today.

A memorial service for Chad Charles, the ERT member who collapsed during a training exercise, was held Wednesday.

Please join MCO in praying for the families and friends of these three men.

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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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AROUND THE STATE: CO WITNESSES DRUG DROP AT COTTON; FIRE AT THE OAKS; STASH OF WEAPONS FOUND AT WEST SHORELINE

Thanks to a CO's quick action, a Detroit man faces three felony charges after allegedly throwing a football stuffed with drugs and cell phones over a fence at JCF.

Officer Dan Keiser (the JCF MCO chapter's second vice president) was sitting in his car during his break Sunday morning when he saw a car pull into the employee lot. A man jumped out of the passenger seat and threw a football over the exterior fence, but it fell short of the interior fence and landed in the perimeter road. Keiser yelled at the car to stop. The car occupants, including the man who threw the ball, were detained.

The football contained cell phones, chargers, tobacco, marijuana and a white substance believed to be heroin.

Christen Deon-Sterling Moore was arrested and charged with two counts of furnishing contraband to a prisoner and one count of furnishing a cell phone to a prisoner, according to media reports.

It's sheer luck Keiser was on his lunch break and saw this drug drop occur. Even so, a Department spokesman defended random patrols in comments made to the Free Press this week. Find the article and other MDOC news at mco-seiu.org.

Officer Keiser deserves a pat on the back!

No one was injured in a fire at the Oaks warehouse Tuesday.

The warehouse fire alarm sounded at about 5 p.m., when no inmates or staff were in the building. The struc-

ture sustained smoke and water damage. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Pugsley inmates work in the warehouse. They have been on site this week for cleanup, an officer said.

Violence continues to agitate at Pugsley.

On Thursday, an inmate was badly beaten in Unit 2. He was taken to a hospital. An officer said the inmate told investigators the attack was extortion to get commissary money.

Another MPF prisoner was stabbed more than 20 times June 9.

Pugsley is a Level 1.

A West Shoreline inmate was brutally assaulted June 12.

He suffered three stab wounds and several slashes. The man was taken to a local hospital, and was later transported to a larger hospital with a secure wing. The prisoner returned to MTF Thursday.

In an unrelated search for cell phones the same day, seven metal weapons were found.

"We usually don't find that many in two months," an officer said.

West Shoreline is a Level 1.

An SLF officer wasn't injured when an inmate tried to slice him in the chow hall June 6.

The afternoon shift food service officer noticed an inmate had something in his waistband. When the CO stopped the prisoner for a shakedown, he pulled out a shank and tried to

strike the officer in the shoulder. Staff took him to the ground.

The inmate is in segregation.

STF Officer Jeffrey Fowler found more than 10 gallons of spud juice in a shakedown June 10.

"He is called the 'Fox' because he has a nose for spud," a fellow STF officer said.

Good work, Officer Fowler and all the Central Michigan officers who sniff out spud.

ST. LOUIS MEMBERS APPROVE 12-HOUR SHIFTS

SLF members passed 12-hour shifts Thursday by a vote of 107 to 87.

St. Louis is the first facility to hold a 12-hour shift vote since the Executive Board allowed voting on the issue to resume. All 12-hour shift voting was paused during bargaining during the fall and winter months.

Pugsley, Newberry and Muskegon have 12-hour shifts.

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MEMBERS, LOOK FOR THE NEW MCO FACEBOOK GROUP NEXT WEEK

MCO is bringing back Facebook but doing things a little differently this time.

MCO will create a closed Facebook group for members only. The new Facebook group launches Tuesday, July 8. Starting that day, you can search for Michigan Corrections Organization and submit a request to join. All requests will be reviewed by MCO central office staff, and only dues-paying members will be allowed to join.

Also, there are new guidelines for use. You can review them in the “about” section displayed on the right when viewing the group.

The Facebook group will be monitored and overseen by an advisory committee of MCO members.

Please note that your request could take a day or more for approval. We anticipate receiving multiple requests every day during our first several weeks,

so it could take some time for staff to review and approve your request.

This group is intended for MCO dues paying members only as a way to more effectively communicate and build solidarity while we’re getting attacked on all sides. Please continue to contact your labor rep for contract and grievance questions.

We hope you will find it beneficial. Please join next week!

AROUND THE STATE: MORE KITCHEN PROBLEMS AT RGC, SMT, JCS

JCS inmates observing Ramadan staged a sit-in at the chow hall Tuesday to protest the sack lunches they were receiving twice a day instead of hot meals. More than 20 inmates participated.

Officers say in past years, Ramadan observers went to the chow hall for two hot meals a day, one before sunrise and one after sunset. This year, they were given sack lunches to take to the units.

After the protest, the deputy warden held a meeting with the inmates and an Aramark representative. They started getting hot meals today, officers say.

Three pallets of potatoes were trashed Tuesday at RGC after an officer noticed they were crawling with maggots. Inmates were trying to pick out the edible potatoes, like an Aramark supervisor reportedly told them to do, an officer tells MCO.

“When I looked closer, they all had maggots on them ... the maggots were crawling all over all of them,” the CO said.

A lieutenant and eventually the warden were called to the kitchen. The warden ordered the potatoes to be thrown away.

Maggots were discovered in serving line equipment at Parnall June 27. As many as 60 SMT inmates had symptoms of food-borne illness this week, but the cause of the sickness hasn’t been confirmed.

Maggots were found in a crack where the sneeze guard meets the serving line. The crack was supposed to be sealed with caulk.

All transfers to or from SMT have been suspended due to the illness.

In an interview this week, Rep. Joe Haveman, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations and the former chair of the House corrections budget committee, said it’s too soon to know if Aramark should go.

Haveman said he’s not ready to return to state-run food service, adding “perhaps we just picked the wrong

contractor.”

“Whenever a private contractor comes in to work for us, the unions are right there to flyspeck every problem they have,” Haveman said in the interview on Current State, a public radio talk show. “When the state employees and the unions themselves are doing this work, there is not someone reporting back to the news media every time there’s a problem. Just to say this was a problem since Aramark came in, I don’t think is fair.”

Corrections officers with decades of experience tell MCO they’ve never seen anything like the food problems they’re seeing now, and an MDOC spokesman was quoted by the Detroit Free Press as saying he can’t recall anything like an outbreak of maggots in a prison kitchen. In media reports this week, even Gov. Rick Snyder expressed frustration with Aramark’s service.

Haveman said he is personally meeting with Aramark soon.

Read articles about kitchen sanitation and other MCO and MDOC news at mco-seiu.org.



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.



AROUND THE STATE: TONS OF SHANKS FOUND AT MTF AND JCF; MORE THAN 80 FOOD SERVICE STOP ORDERS RECORDED

13 shanks were found in one day at Cotton.

The weapons appeared to have been made out of locker metal. They were inside a hole in a wall adjacent to a porter closet in a Level 1 unit. Officers uncovered them during a shakedown.

Officers found 19 shanks in a shakedown Sunday at MTF.

The weapons were discovered a few days after three inmates were stabbed in housing units. One inmate was attacked in the Broadway unit, and two others were assaulted in the Henry unit.

The three inmates were treated at a local hospital and returned to the facility the same day. They were transferred.

Four Aramark employees were fired from IBC Wednesday for overfamiliarity.

Video surveillance footage showed the workers had been kissing and sexually touching inmates in a walk-in cooler.

An MDOC spokesman called four firings at a single facility in a single day “unprecedented,” according to media reports.

More than 80 Aramark employees

have now been stop ordered.

An MBP officer tells MCO there’s been a sharp increase in substance abuse issues this year.

In 2013, there were 48 instances of inmates being drunk. As of this week, there have been 61 cases in 2014. Officers attribute this to the ease of taking ingredients out of the kitchen.

Today an MTU Aramark worker was pulled over by law enforcement on M-21 near the facility.

He was placed in handcuffs. He did not show up for his shift that started at 11 a.m., officers say. Officers believe he was on his way to work when he was detained. Further details were not available.

A different MTU Aramark worker was stop ordered this week. She refused to allow COs to pat down an inmate food service worker.

In light of the Bellamy Creek debacle, MCO reinforced the message this week that overfamiliarity and turnover have a negative effect on the safety and security of prisons. Union officials were on TV newscasts in Grand

Rapids, Lansing and Jackson. A Detroit Free Press story quotes MCO also.

And on Sunday, the Detroit Free Press and the Lansing State Journal published a package of Aramark stories based on more than 3,000 MDOC documents obtained through open records requests.

Read these stories and more news at mco-seiu.org.

Food shortages and substitutions continue at STF. Here are some recent events:

7/9 – Corrections officers prepared food and supervised inmates in the kitchen when Aramark did not show up for early-morning Ramadan meal preparation. An officer and a sergeant oversaw Ramadan food lines.

7/11 – West side chow lines ran out of fish. Delay was 15 minutes.

7/13 – On first shift, east side chow hall ran out of meat twice. First delay was 45 minutes. Second delay was 12 minutes. On afternoon shift, east side chow lines ran out of beef stroganoff twice. Delay was 45 minutes. Polish sausage and fries were substituted.

PLAN SUMMER FUN WITH MCO MEMBER DISCOUNTS



Have you checked out MCO discounts lately?

Members can get special discounts to Cedar Point, Kalahari (Wisconsin Dells and Sandusky), Great Wolf Lodge and Mt. Olympus, just to name a few!

To peruse deals, visit mco-seiu.org/uniontools/discounts.

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BULLETIN

JULY 25, 2014

TECHNICAL REVIEW OFFICER SIDES WITH MDOC IN THE RUO DISPUTE

A Civil Service Commission technical review officer ruled against MCO in the RUO classification suit.

The review officer stated that the Department's decision to abolish the classification did not violate a Civil Service rules and was not "arbitrary and capricious."

"I find the positions properly classified as corrections officer and corrections medical unit officers," the review officer wrote in the report.

Among other things in the conclusion, the review officer wrote, "The DOC has provided a reasonable rationale for the abolishment of the RUO and CMUO positions and the establishment of CO and CMO positions. While the method used to implement the change is not typical, the change was made within the parameters of the Michigan Constitution and CSC rule 6-4.1, *Management Rights*."

The decision was delivered to MCO shortly before 5 p.m. today. MCO is reviewing the 59-page report.

MCO is deeply disappointed with this unjust decision. This has been a long, frustrating process for everyone involved, but it isn't over yet – the union will be filing an appeal to the full Civil Service Commission.

We'll keep you updated on this continuing fight.

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AROUND THE STATE: MAGGOTS FOUND IN POTATOES AT TWO MORE PRISONS; ICF MEMBERS WILL PICKET FOR A SAFER PRISON

Maggots were discovered yet again this week in potatoes at two prisons.

About 4,500 pounds of potatoes at Alger were thrown away Wednesday. A CO smelled something foul on the kitchen loading dock and found the infested potatoes. The officer called the deputy warden, who ordered the potatoes to be trashed.

Maggots were also found Wednesday morning in potatoes at the Oaks. Details such as how many potatoes may have been discarded weren't available.

The Attorney General's office has released a report of its findings on Michael Elliot's escape from the Ionia Correctional Facility Feb. 2.

The AG recommended MDOC staff the gun towers and reinstate the full-time PSV position.

MCO issued a media statement, pointing out that this is what union leaders have been saying for years. MCO is urging the MDOC administration to carefully consider the AG's report and follows its recommendations.

On Tuesday, Gov. Rick Snyder said he'll decide whether to terminate the Aramark contract in "the next week or two," according to media reports.

A few weeks ago, it was reported that a decision would be made by the end of the month.

We'll keep you posted.

Officers at SLF had to deploy several Tasers to gain control of a

fight involving about a dozen prisoners.

The melee broke out Monday afternoon while inmates were returning to a housing unit after yard time. Weapons were recovered. An officer said the fight was between Bloods and Latin Counts members.

Beams surrounding a volleyball court at DRF were removed Tuesday after staff discovered inmates were pulling metal stakes from the boards.

Under the beams, inmates had buried nails, screws, other metal pieces and tobacco cans filled with matches.

Four benches were also removed from the yard because inmates were trying to remove nails and screws from them.

Eighteen shanks were found in four days last week in one unit at JCF. Six inmates were sent to segregation.

And on Monday, two cell phones were found. One cell phone was found on an inmate July 18.

CO Morey was awarded a Coin of Excellence for finding several shanks in the past month, and CO Castilla received a coin for his part in apprehending an inmate with a cell phone. CO Roark was also given a coin for catching an inmate with a cell phone.

Thanks for your hard work, officers!

Recent events at SRF:

7/18 – Two officers found a 7-inch shank while scanning the yard with metal detectors.

An inmate was sent to Level IV for possession of a weapon.

7/20 – Officer found 7-inch weapon made out of locker metal in a prisoner's area of control. Prisoner moved to Level IV.

7/21 – Officer found 9-inch piece of sharpened locker metal in an inmate's area of control. Inmate moved to Level IV.

7/22 – Officer found more than 6 homemade cigarettes.

Another inmate was moved to Level IV for threatening behavior against an officer.

The ICF chapter will hold an informational picket Friday, Aug. 8 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. outside of Ionia Correctional Facility, located at 1576 W. Bluewater Hwy. in Ionia. All are welcome.

Security weaknesses that allowed Michael Elliot to escape – unstaffed gun towers and the lack of a full-time PSV officer – have not been corrected. ICF officers believe the public should be aware that the safety of their community is still compromised.

See you there.



From left: CO Morey, Warden Haas, Sgt. Gorang and CO Castilla



AROUND THE STATE: CABBAGE TRASHED AT MBP; TCF OFFICER BREAKS UP FIGHT; MORE ARAMARK STOP ORDERS AT EGELER

600 pounds of rotten cabbage was thrown away at Marquette Branch Prison Tuesday.

It had been in a cooler, an officer said.

Two Aramark staff members at RGC were placed on stop order Wednesday. Further details couldn't be confirmed today.

An MCF Aramark employee had pills in her shoes when she was shaken down Sunday morning. She was escorted off prison grounds.

MCO hasn't heard any official news this week on whether the Aramark contract will be canceled. Media reports have said The Department and Gov. Rick Snyder were giving

Aramark until about the end of July to improve.

An officer intervened in a fight at Thumb Correctional Facility and prevented an inmate from being stabbed an additional time.

The attacker had pinned his cellmate to the bed and was choking him when an officer entered the cell. The CO grabbed the assailant's arms and broke up the fight. The attacker had an improvised ink pen, which he had used once already to stab his cellmate.

Good work, officers!

ICF recent events:

7/25 – 6 razor blades found in an inmate's area of control.

7/28 – 9 gallons of spud juice found during food service shakedown.

DRF recent events:

7/26 – Inmate found in possession of 8-in. sharpened rod. Another inmate was found in possession of razors attached to a popsicle stick. A third inmate had a sharpened piece of metal attached to a pen. Also a three-on-one inmate fight.

7/27 – Inmate fight. One moved to segregation.

Reminder: In light of the Attorney General's report on Michael Elliot's escape, ICF members will hold an informational picket Friday, Aug. 8 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The picket will be outside of Ionia Correctional Facility, located at 1576 W. Bluewater Hwy. in Ionia. All are welcome.

CRISIS FUND GOLF OUTING SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE IS NEXT WEEK

Don't forget, the 18th annual Crisis Fund Golf Outing is Friday, Aug. 15.

The deadline to sponsor a tee or cart sign is 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8. Anyone who sponsors by the deadline will have their name or company

name included on a special donor banner that will be prominently displayed at the outing.

The event will be at Ledge Meadows Golf Course in Grand Ledge.

The Crisis Fund supports MCO members facing catastrophe. It's a

great way to support your fellow officers through times of tragedy.

To donate, call (800)451-4878 or mail checks to 421 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933.

IN MEMORIAM: ALGER OFFICER SHAY SJOHOLM



Alger Officer Shay Sjoholm, 30, passed away suddenly July 27. He was a corrections officer for almost four years.

A funeral service will be today

at 6 p.m. at Bjork & Zhulkie Funeral Home, 400 N. 3rd Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849. Visitation is from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please pray for peace for Officer Sjoholm's family, friends and coworkers at LMF.

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BULLETIN

AUG. 8, 2014

GOV. SNYDER: ARAMARK IS HERE TO STAY *MCO SAYS \$200,000 FINE IS JUST A SLAP ON THE WRIST*

The governor's decision to keep the Aramark prison food service contract and to move ahead with substandard service is an outrageous mistake.

"MCO is very disappointed, and we are concerned problems with the private vendor will remain," MCO Executive Director Mel Grieshaber said.

Prison kitchens have been plagued with food shortages, unauthorized substitutions and sanitation issues. Corrections officers have had to manage a variety of security threats, including overfamiliarity and sexual contact between Aramark workers and inmates, the introduction of contraband and prisoner demonstrations and unrest. To date, nearly 100 Aramark employees have been fired – approximately one-third of its workforce.

"To impose a \$200,000 fine on the company is simply a slap on the wrist within the context of a \$145 million contract," Grieshaber said.

It appears the governor and certain legislators refuse to take an objective approach in dealing with this contract.

MCO will continue to talk to its members and push the state to find safe solutions to save money – not ones that put officers and inmates at risk.

Officers, please continue to update your supervisors and MCO on issues you observe in prison kitchens.

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AROUND THE STATE: RMI INMATE TRIES TO ESCAPE THROUGH FRONT GATE; MORE SPOILED ARAMARK FOOD ENDS UP IN TRASH

A Michigan Reformatory inmate had a simple escape plan – pretend to be a visitor.

The prisoner tried to walk through the front gate after a visit Sunday. He told officers he didn't have an ultra-violet stamp on his hand because they didn't give him one when he entered. Officers asked him to show his ID, but of course, he didn't have one. The convict was wearing his authorized street clothes.

When it was clear the jig was up, the inmate said it had been a mistake. He cooperated with officers and was transferred to ICF.

Also at RMI, a 13-man fight broke out on the way to chow July 31. Another fight started around the same time during the walk to chow. An officer says the altercations were gang related. No serious injuries were reported.

Officials placed the facility on lock down. The lock down was lifted for Level II inmates Thursday.

A West Shoreline inmate has been taking selfies while on the yard and posting them to Facebook.

The prisoner had a cell phone on him when he was searched Wednesday. His area of control was then searched, and officers found a cell phone charger, spud juice and marijuana.

The convict has been transferred to another facility.

Brooks has had several stabbings and fights in the last two weeks.

7/27 – In Dublin unit (Level IV), prisoners stabbed another prisoner in the back.

7/28 – Nine shanks were found on Dublin unit yard.

7/29 – Inmate-on-inmate stabbing in Dublin unit.

8/1 – Fight on Eastlake unit (Level IV) yard.

8/6 – In Dublin unit, a prisoner armed with an 8-in. shank stabbed another prisoner in the back and arm.

Several metal pieces stripped from a dryer were found in a trash can last week at Bellamy Creek.

Problems with Aramark food haven't subsided, but there hasn't

been any announcement yet as to whether the contract will be canceled. How is Aramark saving the state money if hundreds of pounds of food are being thrown away every week?

Here are a few recent reports of spoiled food MCO could verify:

- Nearly three dozen boxes of lettuce and 14 bags of carrots were discarded from an IBC kitchen Wednesday. The food was expired.

- About 200 pounds of spoiled potatoes were discarded at MBP Tuesday.

Also, there was a chicken shortage at OCF Sunday. More than three dozen inmates were given chicken patties instead.

12-HOUR SHIFT UPDATE

Members at Central Michigan rejected 12-hour shifts in a vote Wednesday.

109 members voted yes and 154 voted no.

Also this week, a petition for a 12-hour shift vote at Bellamy Creek did not have signatures from half of dues-paying members at the facility.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: CHILDREN'S DAY PICNIC AUG. 23

Employees at Detroit-area facilities and all MCO members are invited to the Children's Day Picnic Saturday, Aug. 23 at Lower Huron Metro Park in Belleville.

This year's picnic will have a 60-foot slide, Disney characters,

live jazz, a DJ, bounce house, photo booth, video game bus, card tournament and of course lots of food and ice cream.

Bring the family to this great free event! The fun starts at 11 a.m.

See you there!

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AROUND THE STATE: OFFICERS PROTEST GOV.'S ARAMARK DECISION; JCF STAFF MEMBER STABBED

A Resident Unit Manager stabbed with an ice pick last week has not returned to work.

A Cotton inmate attacked the RUM Wednesday at about 3:45 p.m. He was stabbed about 8 times. The prisoner confronted the RUM in a vestibule, an officer said. The attacker has been transferred to a higher-custody facility, the Department said in a release.

MCO wishes the RUM a quick and full recovery.

Nearly 100 people protested the continuation of the Aramark contract at a rally outside Gov. Snyder's office Thursday.

Several media outlets covered the event. Go to mco-seiu.org to read coverage of the protest. Snyder has moved oversight of the contract to his office, which is exempt from Michigan's Freedom of Information Act. This concerns MCO and it touched a nerve with reporters.

Also last week, MCO introduced a timeline of the partnership between

MDOC and Aramark. It documents action MCO has taken, media reports and more. Check it out at mco-seiu.org.

An Aramark worker was driving a state vehicle when the employee hit a trash cart, pushing it into an inmate, Baraga officers said.

Aramark workers prepare the food at the main prison, then drive it to the Level I unit in a cargo truck. The worker was driving the vehicle from the Level I unit to the prison to pick up more food when the cart was hit and pushed into an inmate. The driver didn't stop, officers say. The prisoner was not injured.

The employee was sent home but returned to work the next day.

Baraga officers also tell MCO some inmates are refusing meal trays in protest of the quality and quantity of the food, in addition to the condition of the trays.

More than 20 inmates rejected trays at breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday.

GREY DRAGONS RIDE AND CHILDREN'S DAY PICNIC SATURDAY

Don't forget, the Children's Day Picnic is Saturday at Lower Huron Metro Park, Woodcreek Section, 17845 Savage Rd., Belleville, MI 48111.

There will be food, ice cream, a bounce house, video game bus, card tournament and more. The fun starts at 11 a.m.

This event is free to all MCO members and MDOC employees at Detroit-area facilities.

The Manistee chapter of the Grey Dragons Association of Michigan will ride Saturday to benefit the MCO Crisis Fund.

Meet at the Saddle Up Gas & Grocery on US 31 on the north side of Bear Lake. The ride leaves at 8 a.m. The cost is \$20 per bike.

This ride is an annual fundraiser for the MCO Crisis Fund.

Don't be a stranger – come out to one of these great events Saturday!

SIGN UP NOW FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance open enrollment is going on now and ends Aug. 29.

All employees will be under one health care plan starting Oct. 12, and participants will notice changes in their coverage, as MCO reported during bargaining.

For more information:

- To review plan changes, visit http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,4614,7-147-22854_22984-320528--,00.html.
- For more info on the enrollment period, visit Michigan.gov/ioe.
- To enroll online, go to www.mi.gov/selfserv.
- For assistance by phone, call (517)335-0529 or (877)766-6447.

IN MEMORIAM: OFFICER KIP O'NEILL

Pugsley Officer Kip O'Neill passed away Aug. 8.

O'Neill, 52, had been an officer for 15 years. A funeral was held Thursday.

Survivors include his wife, Pat O'Neill; son

Cole O'Neill; daughter Melissa O'Neill; and son Matt McCormick and his wife Ashley.

Please join MCO in wishing for peace for O'Neill's friends and family.





AROUND THE STATE: OFFICERS ASSAULTED AT THUMB AND SAGINAW; PARNALL INMATES TRY TO SNEAK METAL ROD OUT OF KITCHEN

An unidentified inmate threw bleach in an officer's face Aug. 12 at TCF.

The CO rinsed his eyes in an eye wash station and was taken to a local hospital by ambulance. At the hospital, the substance was confirmed to be bleach.

The officer was making rounds in the Level II Cord housing unit when a prisoner blindsided him with liquid to the face.

MCO wishes the officer good luck in his recovery.

A corrections officer assigned to the chow hall at Parnall caught an inmate taping a 13-in. metal rod to another prisoner's back Monday in the kitchen.

The rod was possibly from a baking rack. The inmates were removed from food service.

The next day, the corrections officer found five gallons of spud juice in the kitchen.

Also at SMT, one inmate was hospitalized after a three-on-one fight Sunday. It happened on the yard. No staff were injured.

Parnall is a Level I prison.

Bottles of spud juice and several shanks, two of them hidden inside pool tables, were uncovered in a shakedown Wednesday at Saginaw.

Officers searched the 700 unit, a Level II, due to rumors of a potential

attack.

Three shanks were found – one in a bathroom, one in a flower bed, and one inside a pool table. In the same flower bed, officers found four bottles of spud juice.

A shank was also found in a pool table in another housing unit.

Also on Wednesday, a gun tower officer and a sally port officer spotted a suspicious truck on the perimeter road. The driver was detained, but it was later determined he was just lost.

The tower was staffed because inmates were on the yard.

Other events at SRF:

8/12 – Inmate-on-inmate assault while returning from chow.

8/13 – A prisoner punched an officer in the face when he opened the door for healthcare. No serious injuries were reported. Later that day, a 5-in. shank was found in a tool locker.

8/14 – Officer Perkins responded quickly when an inmate started choking on spaghetti in the chow hall. Perkins was able to dislodge the food. Good job, Officer Perkins!

8/15 – An inmate was found with



Weapons and spud juice found Wednesday at STF.



a powdery substance. It was sent for testing.

Five pieces of metal were found during a Q-unit shakedown Wednesday at Central Michigan.

Two of the pieces had been whittled into shanks. Some of the weapons were found in trash cans in common areas. Two were found under an inmate's locker.

Spud juice and other contraband was also found. Q-unit is Level I.

SUMMER MCO REPORT ONLINE

The Summer MCO Report is available at mco-seiu.org/publications/mco-report.

Read about the new Executive Board; the interplay of the branches of Michigan government and why elections matter; and the addition of a Michigan CO's name to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

If you have not received an MCO Report in the mail, please call the central office and we will mail you one.





AROUND THE STATE: DRUNK INMATE BRAWLS WITH OFFICER AT STF; 8-MAN FIGHT AT SRF; SPUD JUICE DELUGE AT STF, DRF, JCF

An inmate called for help when a drunk prisoner attacked an officer, who was alone in a housing unit with 160 inmates.

The assault happened on third shift last week in Q-unit at Central Michigan while his partner was on his lunch break.

The officer gave the prisoner a pass to leave the unit, and as the inmate was accepting it, he put his hand on the officer's face. The CO pushed him off. The inmate began punching him in the face, and they fell to the floor. Other prisoners approached and egged on the fight. The officer couldn't reach his PPD, but he was able to ask one nearby inmate to dial the command center.

"Another minute, I'd have been stomped or dead," the officer told MCO.

At one point, he was able to reach his pepper spray. The only place he could release it in the melee was into the inmate's mouth.

The officer had previously asked a prison administrator to move the combative inmate.

The officer was taken in a state car to a hospital. He suffered a fractured ankle, a back sprain and elbow and wrist injuries.

The inmate was intoxicated, and that contributed to this assault, the officer said. Drunkenness is on the rise, and gallons of spud juice are being found frequently at STF, he said.

Q-unit was shaken down the day after the fight. Spud juice and five pieces of metal were confiscated.

Eight Tasers were deployed Monday to quell a chow hall fight

at Saginaw.

At least 8 inmates were involved. No staff were hurt, and no serious inmate injuries were reported.

Two gallons of spud juice, one pound of sugar and two shanks were found during a chow hall shake-down at Carson City last week. COs also found empty bottles that smelled like fermented liquids.

Second shift yard officers performed the shake down. Good job!



The Cotton chapter raised more than \$2,000 for the MCO Crisis Fund at a BBQ and raffle Wednesday. Way to go! Parnall held a BBQ today. From left: MCO Treasurer Bill Henderson; MCO President Tom Tylutki; Cotton Chief Steward and MCO Board Member Cary Johnson; Cotton Chapter President Arthur Alvarado; and Cotton Warden Randall Haas. Go to mco-seiu.org for more Crisis Fund news.

Tons of contraband was found in a kitchen at Cotton.

A box of sugar packets, four gallons of spud juice, flavored drink packets, three onions, an empty container and fish were found in the ceiling tiles Monday in Cotton Food Service chow hall. More drink packets and spud juice was found in the dish tank.

That evening, a huge mess was left in the kitchen. Trash cans were overflowing, and food was left on trays, in sinks and

on the floor.

More sugar, orange juice and drink flavoring were found in hiding spots Tuesday. Sixty pounds of hamburger went missing from the Temporary Food Service chow hall that day also.

DOC PUTS A STOP TO NEW 12-HOUR SHIFT PILOTS

New academies leave prisons too short for 12s

The Department will not consider allowing additional facilities to transition to 12-hour shifts due to staffing shortages.

An administrator sent an email to MCO officials this week, saying this was the "prudent course of action" given CO vacancies around the state. The memo indicated consideration of 12-hour pilots is on hold until more

officers are hired.

Several times, MCO has expressed concerns with the Department about the new academy structure and warned that hiring could become a challenge if paid training was eliminated.

This is just one more way staffing shortages have affected operations. MCO will monitor this situation and share developments with members.



LEGISLATORS RETURN TO LANSING NEXT WEEK; GUN BILL STILL DORMANT

The Michigan legislature returns from its summer recess Tuesday.

Here's a recap of what happened over the spring and summer:

- Legislators left for the break without doing hardly anything. For instance, they couldn't agree on a plan to fix our roads – arguably the most important, far-reaching issue before them this year.

- Lawmakers told MCO S.B. 909, which would arbitrarily cap the state prison population, will probably not come up for a vote.

Who knows what they might cook

up during the lame duck session after the November election.

MCO will keep members posted on important bills.

Still no action on gun bill

On Nov. 12th, 2013 the Michigan House of Representatives passed House Bill 4133, a law that would allow current and retired state corrections officers to carry guns in pistol free zones. MCO supported the bill and testified on its behalf.

MCO also testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was

reported out, without amendment, on Dec. 4th, 2013.

Nine months later, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville has yet to take a vote, despite lobbying and hundreds of letters, phone calls and emails from MCO members.

Had enough? Call Randy Richardville and demand he quit stalling and start taking action.

Contact Richardville at (517) 373-3543 or at SenRRichardville@senate.michigan.gov. His mailing address is: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536.

AROUND THE STATE: CO ASSAULTED AT BROOKS; SPUD JUICE FLOWS AT ECF

An LRF inmate punched an officer at least seven times in the chow hall Tuesday.

The CO went to a hospital, but returned to work later in the week. His injuries were not serious, another officer said. The prisoner did not

have a weapon.

The inmate, a Level IV, had to be Tased to stop the assault. He was taken to segregation before being transferred to ICF.

About 40 gallons of spud juice

and five weapons were found in the last month in one housing unit at the Oaks.

The spud juice was found in about a dozen cells in unit 6, a Level II. There are 96 cells in the unit. One weapon was just uncovered yesterday.

MDOC WILL PROVIDE ACADEMY TUITION ASSISTANCE

MDOC has announced it will pay 50 percent of the training academy tuition, up to \$2,000, to attract applicants.

A recruit will pay half of tuition up front, and if the Department decides to hire him or her, MDOC will pay the college the rest of the tuition.

The obvious take away here is that requiring recruits to fund their own training hasn't worked. CO shortages are worsening as officers retire but aren't replaced.

MCO has always been opposed to

the unpaid training, worrying many good applicants would be priced out of the academy. Paid training drew people to corrections careers.

MCO has asked the Department to reimburse officers who already shelled out cash or took out loans for classes earlier this year. MCO is also exploring other options for tuition assistance for prospective COs.

For more info on recruitment, visit michigan.gov/corrections and click the MDOC Careers tab.

IN MEMORIAM:



CECIL PEDRIN

Cecil Pedrin, 42, passed away Aug. 31. Pedrin was a corrections officer for 16 years and the former

Chippewa chapter president.

Services were Wednesday in Sault Ste. Marie.

MCO hopes Pedrin's friends and family find peace in this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Officer Pedrin.



LETTER OF AGREEMENT LETS COs AT SOME FACILITIES GET MORE OVERTIME

MCO and MDOC have signed a Letter of Agreement allowing officers at certain facilities to work up to 160 hours during a pay period.

The LOA amends Art. 17, Sec. F of

the contract, which states only 120 hours may be worked in a two-week pay period.

MCO tried to get the Department to let COs at any facility work up to 160 hours, but MDOC would only agree to

modifying hours at 17 prisons hardest hit by staffing shortages. Other facilities will be added as needed.

For a list of the facilities and a copy of the LOA, go to mco-seiu.org.

AROUND THE STATE: MORE LIGHT SHINED ON ARAMARK; CENTRAL MICHIGAN ARUS ASSAULTED

MDOC Director Dan Heyns feared losing control of a prison under Aramark service, according to emails he sent in March that were obtained by Progress Michigan and the Detroit Free Press.

The email exchange between Heyns and Dennis Muchmore, Gov. Snyder's chief of staff, was partially redacted. So much for the "utmost transparency" the governor's office said was in everyone's best interests!

Also revealed this week – the Department canceled the \$98,000 Aramark fine imposed earlier this year, and a controversial former director of Florida and Indiana corrections is the new Aramark contract monitor.

Read more details in news reports available at mco-seiu.org.

A Level I inmate attacked an ARUS this morning at STF.

Details were limited, but an officer said he knew they wrestled to the ground. The officer said the ARUS shot his pepper spray, and a CO – the only other employee in Housing Unit G with 160 inmates at the time – intervened to help subdue the prisoner.

The ARUS was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

The prisoner was scheduled for discharge in 10 days, the officer said.

"Video cameras do not replace staff. The prisoner knew there was videotaping in there and that didn't stop him one bit," the CO told MCO.

Brooks officers report finding several cell phones and shanks recently.

Here are some recent events from LRF:

9/6 – An inmate kicked and punched an officer who tried to shake him down. The officer approached him because he seemed to be

intoxicated. An officer who intervened was also assaulted. Both COs suffered minor injuries.

9/9 – Four pouches of marijuana were found in a pair of socks in an inmate's locker.

9/10 – Drugs and a lighter were found on two inmates on the yard. They were shaken down after an officer noticed them in a corner off to the side of the yard.

9/11 – Officers intervened in an inmate-on-inmate assault before serious injuries were sustained. It happened in the Level II Conklin Unit. The fight was possibly gang related.

9/11 – During routine rounds, an officer found an inmate sharpening a shank. Four shanks and a tattoo gun were found

in his cell.

Saginaw had three serious stabbings in 10 days.

The first occurred on Labor Day. A prisoner stabbed another inmate in the chest while they were walking back from the yard. The injured prisoner was taken to a hospital by ambulance and was rushed into emergency surgery. Two units were locked down after the assault.

On Monday this week, another inmate was stabbed. A 6-in. shank whittled from locker metal was found in the pool table in the Level II 700 Unit. The prisoner was stabbed in the upper back and slashed on the back of the neck. The convict was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

Then on Wednesday, another prisoner was attacked in the 700 Unit day-room. He was treated at the prison. The assaults are under investigation. There were at least two other inmate fights this week and three weapons found.

Also at Saginaw, Officer Chris Westphal removed an obstruction from a choking prisoner's throat during chow on Wednesday. Good job, Officer Westphal!

And last week, officers found some unusual contraband. Bags of fresh peppers, dried peppers and jars of pepper juice were found in six cells Sept. 4. All peppers were removed from the inmate garden due to concerns prisoners were trying to make pepper spray.

SMT SUPPORTS CRISIS FUND

Parnall Correctional Facility raised \$1,329.70 for the MCO Crisis Fund at a BBQ Aug. 29.

Thank you Parnall officers and staff! Your support will help many officers facing tragedy.



AROUND THE STATE: ARAMARK STILL DOMINATES STATE NEWS; ELLIOT PLEADS GUILTY TO ESCAPE

Aramark was back in the spotlight this week.

On Monday, an Aramark worker at SLF was caught with drugs. Five prisoners were found with heroin, cocaine, marijuana and tobacco. Nearly 40 bags of drugs and tobacco were confiscated.

On Wednesday, the Michigan Civil Service Commission heard testimony on Aramark. It was at least the third time unions and others have taken to the commission about the contract.

MCO Deputy of Government and Community Affairs Jeremy Tripp spoke before the commission and pointed out that Aramark problems are not improving.

“We also remain baffled why the \$98,000 fine for documented contract violations was suspended due to political pressures,” Tripp said. “What type of message does this send to Aramark? As far as we can tell, the message is ‘Do business as usual.’”

Commissioner Robert Swanson accused the Department of Corrections of misleading the commission on the suspended \$98,000 fine. MDOC Spokesperson Russ Marlan spoke about the fine at the March 19 MCSC meeting and didn’t say it had been canceled.

“I’m concerned because I don’t feel like we’ve been dealt with forthrightly by the Department,” Swanson said.

Suspending the fine “was a personal decision by the director,” Marlan said.

Marlan also threw out deceptive figures about the number of state employees accused of bringing in contraband, where he compared state employee numbers going back almost three years to Aramark’s nine months on the job. Marlan also didn’t mention that there are roughly 13,000 correctional employees and about 350 Aramark workers. And, Marlan did not mention that approximately 100 Aramark employees

have been fired for a wide range of other issues.

Michael Elliot, the convicted murderer who sneaked away from ICF in February, pleaded guilty this week to escape.

Elliot, 41, also pleaded no contest to carjacking and kidnapping charges in Ionia County.

His sentencing has not been scheduled.

Shanks were found on the ground after a fight yesterday at SLF.

Five inmates from Housing Unit 2, a Level IV, were involved in the fight.

The prison was locked down after the brawl.

ECF inmates were mad Monday evening when the chow hall ran out of several substitute meals.

The scheduled meal was scalloped potatoes and ham, but inmates ended up receiving everything from potatoes with soy meat to a chicken patty with bread, an officer told MCO.

“It was a complete mess,” he said.

Chow lines ran from 4:25 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Chow usually ends at 6 p.m.

Officers found marijuana inside one inmate’s salad dressing container and another inmate’s sock at ARF Sept.13.

Several inmates tested positive for marijuana use that day and the next day.

A 5-in. shank was also found Sunday at Gus Harrison.

Recent meal shortages at ARF:

9/10 - Green beans shortage. Beets substituted.

9/9 - Unit six ran out of sloppy joes. 15 servings short.

9/6 - Unit six ran out of chicken salad. 30 servings short.



PAYMENTS COMING SOON

Attendance and sick leave incentives, dry cleaning allowances and lump sum payments will be dispersed in October and November.

Uniform allowance	\$575	Oct. 23
Lump sum	.5% of annual salary	Nov. 6
Longevity	varies by years of service	Nov. 6
Attendance/physical	varies by amount of sick time used	Nov. 6

The payments will be added to regular pay checks.

The 2% raise will take effect Oct. 1.

For more details, see Art. 27 and Art. 37 of the contract.

GET READY FOR NOV. 4 ELECTION



The midterm elections are right around the corner, and MCO wants you to cast an informed vote.

In the weeks leading up to the election, you’ll find web posts about candidates and events where you can meet them.

The fall MCO Report will have lots of information about the election. The fall issue will arrive at member’s homes and be posted on the MCO website in October.

The Facebook group is also a great place to keep up with news on the governor’s race. Search for Michigan Corrections Organization on Facebook. The group is for members only.



AROUND THE STATE: ARAMARK WORKERS AT THREE FACILITIES STOP ORDERED; ARF AND SRF EVENTS

The most shocking and serious Aramark allegation yet came to light this week.

An Aramark worker at Kinross has been stop ordered on accusations he attempted to hire an inmate to kill another inmate at a different prison, according to media reports. Michigan State Police confirmed they investigated the former Aramark worker and submitted a warrant request. Further details weren't revealed.

An Aramark worker at ICF was escorted off prison property Wednesday after love letters between her and an inmate were discovered in the prisoner's property.

The letters described contraband the Aramark employee allegedly brought inside and her plans to bring in more. Several other inmates were found in possession of love letters that custody staff believes were written to Aramark workers.

At MTU, an Aramark worker was stop ordered this week for allegedly attempting to pay an inmate to assault another prisoner.

Recent events at ARF:

9/23 – Four prisoners found with marijuana.

9/22 – Prisoner in possession of lock on belt.

9/21 – Fight in South Front yard with two prisoners. Another prisoner found with \$100 bill. Another inmate was found with marijuana.

9/19 – Total of four fights this day involving 10 prisoners.

9/17 – Six-inmate fight on the North Back yard.

9/14 – 5.25-in. piece of sharpened aluminum found.

9/13 – Two prisoners found with marijuana.

An ARF member tells MCO the fights were drug related. Segregation has been full, and several inmates have been released back to their units on "top lock pending hearing" status. Two inmates involved in a fight Sept. 17 were assigned this status and involved in fights only two days later.

No staff were hurt in these altercations.

Recent events at SRF:

9/22 – Inmate sent to segregation for possession of a weapon.

9/21 – Food thermometer reported missing.

9/20 – Inmate found in possession of marijuana.

9/19 – ECD deployed in two-man fight in the school. Later, there was a two-man fight while returning from dinner chow.

9/18 – Unknown assailant cut a prisoner with a razor attached to a toothbrush handle.



IN MEMORIAM: BERNAL, ZAROFF AND DOBBINS

Two MCO members and one retiree recently passed away.

Alejandro Bernal, 36, died Wednesday. Bernal worked at Muskegon and had been an officer since 2005.

Visitation for Officer Bernal is today from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at King Funeral Home, 2370 N. 72nd Ave., Hart, MI 49420. A funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at St. Gregory Church, 316 S. Peach Ave., Hart, MI 49420.

Ted Zaroff, 58, passed away Sept. 18. Zaroff had been an officer since 1997 and worked at Woodland at the time of his death. His funeral was held earlier this week.

Jenell Dobbins, 60, died Wednesday. She retired from Women's Huron Valley in 2009.

A viewing will be Tuesday, Sept. 30 after 2 p.m. at Cantrell Funeral Home, 10400 Mack Ave., Detroit, MI 48214. Dobbins' funeral will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Bethel Baptist Church East, 5715 Holcomb St., Detroit, MI 48213.

Please join MCO in hoping for solace for their families and friends.



AROUND THE STATE: RCG INMATES PROTEST FOOD; ARAMARK STOP ORDER AT ARF

An Egeler inmate flooded his cell and others in the special management housing unit blocked their food slots last week in protest of Aramark food portions.

On Sept. 30, one prisoner yelled "is this all we get?" when he saw his tray, according to a misconduct report. He threw his tray, striking an officer in the leg.

An Aramark worker at Gus Harrison was put on stop order Friday. Michigan State Police escorted the employee off the property, officers say. Another Aramark worker left the prison around the same time and hasn't returned to work.

Also at ARF:

10/5 – Prisoner was slashed in the face and stabbed in the side. He was transported by ambulance to a hospital. The inmate is still under

hospital care. The attack happened in Housing Unit 1, a Level II. The unit was locked down. MSP is investigating.

9/24 – inmate found in possession of marijuana. His area of control was shaken down after he refused a drug test.

A woman working for Aramark at Parnall was stop-ordered Sept. 26. She is accused of having inappropriate physical contact with an inmate in the kitchen.

Ten shanks and one cell phone were found in a single day at Cotton. Stolen food was also found. The prison was shaken down Oct. 1.

Recent DRF events:

10/4 – inmate suffers broken finger and head injury in assault. Prisoner was taken to hospital.

10/3 – prisoner-on-prisoner as-

sault. Also, another inmate was sent to seg for weapon possession.

10/2 – at least two inmate-on-inmate assaults.

9/28 – inmate-on-inmate fight in B-unit.

9/26 – inmate was slashed across right side of face in a gang-related assault.

9/25 – inmate sent to seg for sexual misconduct.

9/24 – inmate to seg for possession of weapon. Another inmate was taken to emergency room for cut near his eye.

9/23 – prisoner assaulted in G-unit bathroom. He was taken to a hospital by ambulance.



IN MEMORIAM: JOHN FREEMAN

John Freeman, 62, passed away Sept. 26. Freeman had been hit by a car a day earlier.

He had 21 years in when he retired in 2008 from Standish. Freeman was involved with MCO when he was a CO.

Rest in peace, Officer Freeman.

COMMUTE TOO LONG? APPLY FOR A CLOSER-TO-HOME TRANSFER

Officers may apply for closer-to-home transfers during the month of October. To apply, mail or fax a letter to MCO, attention: Cherelyn Dunlap. Include your name, employee ID, address, phone number, current work location, desired work location, and how far you currently travel for work.

Please note:

• Not everyone makes this list. You may apply to be considered.

• Those who voluntarily transferred in the last year will not be considered.

• Those with an active disciplinary record will not be considered.

• If you are a probationary employee, but will have status by Jan. 1, 2015, you may apply.

• For more information on closer-to-home transfers, see Article 15, Part D, Section A-5 of your contract.

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KYI

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

OCT. 10, 2014

CRISIS FUND NEWS: GUN RAFFLE OCT. 21; KCF BRINGS IN NEARLY \$100

See your chapter leaders now to get Crisis Fund gun raffle tickets before they're gone!

Here are the great prizes up for grabs this year:

- 1st: Deer Hunt at Hopkins Trophy Whitetails (\$2,300 value)
- 2nd: Darton Terminator Cross-bow w/Hunter Package (\$750)
- 3rd: Thompson Center Venture 7mm Mag w/3x12x50 mm Weaver scope (\$545)
- 4th: Ruger American 30-60 (\$340)
- 5th: Ruger American 270 (\$340)
- 6th: CVA Optima Muzzleloader

50 cal pkg. including scope and case (\$350)

7th: Remington 870 Express 12 gauge rifled barrel (\$360)

8th: Remington 870 Express (\$320)

9th: Savage Sun City 12 gauge (\$200)

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The raffle is Oct. 21 at the MCO Central Conference. Need not be present to win.

All proceeds will benefit the MCO Crisis Fund, which helps members facing catastrophe. The gun raffle is

one of the Crisis Fund's biggest fundraisers.

Thank you, Kinross staff, for raising \$96 for the MCO Crisis Fund! Staff at KCF donated money to the fund to have a casual dress day. Thank you staff, and thank you, Warden Duncan MacLaren, for allowing the fundraiser to take place.

Is there an upcoming crisis fund event at your facility? Let us know at mail@mco-seiu.org.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY ATTACK LEADS TO UPROAR AT ECF

Oaks Correctional Facility had several stabbings and assaults last week between two rival factions in housing unit two, a Level IV, an officer said.

On Oct. 1, a prisoner set out to beat up an inmate, but he punched the wrong guy. The assailant went to seg.

On Oct. 3, a friend of the attacker was cut. The slashed inmate patched himself up without telling staff. During yard time, he swung a lock-in-a-sock at members of the rival group. Four people went to seg. The fighting

escalated with a 12-man fight at lunch. Two people were stabbed in the melee. The unit was temporarily locked down.

Then on Oct. 5, there was an 8-man fight while returning from breakfast chow. One prisoner was stabbed.

Unit 2 has been on lock down since Monday, the officer said. Ten people were transferred to other facilities today.

Watch your back and your partner's back. Stay safe.

NOTICE OF MCO MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

Effective Nov. 6 payroll, MCO member dues will increase 44 cents per pay period, equating to an \$11.44 increase per year.

This will be the first dues increase in several years. Recognizing MCO members have taken several "hits" over the last few years and received low wage increases, the MCO Central Committee froze dues three years ago. The bylaws

call for an automatic increase equivalent to the percentage wage increase received. Bargaining unit members received a 2 percent wage increase Oct. 1 (i.e. top E-9 employees will receive an annual increase of \$1,023.88 plus a lump sum payment of \$261).

There will be no dues increase attached to the lump sum payment members will receive.



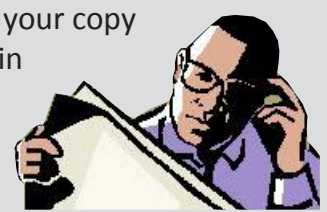
FALL MCO REPORT ONLINE

The Fall MCO

Report is available at mco-seiu.org/publications/mco-report.

This edition has important information about the Nov. 4 elections. Read about what's at stake and who MCO has endorsed. You'll also find stories about new research on the stress of corrections careers; the union's partnership with a Michigan youth home; and updates on all the ongoing challenges and lawsuits MCO is fighting for members.

Look for your copy in the mail in late October.





AROUND THE STATE: HUGE FIGHT AT ALGER; TASERS USED IN ICF ALTERCATION

An 11-man brawl broke out at LMF Monday. Officers say the fight stemmed from a power struggle between two rival factions of the same gang.

The ruckus broke out in the Maple Unit entryway Monday while the inmates, all Level IV, were returning from breakfast. The prisoners suddenly started punching one another, an officer said. Eight of them were Tased. One inmate was injured. No officers were hurt.

All of the inmates are now in segregation at Alger.

Officers had to use Tasers to break up a three-man fight Monday at ICF.

The scuffle broke out in the quartermaster. Officers weren't sure what caused the fight. One of the prisoners sustained a minor injury, but no officers were hurt. The inmates, all Level V, were sent to segregation.

Stay safe, folks!

GET TICKETS NOW FOR RED WINGS LAW ENFORCEMENT NIGHT



Law Enforcement Night with the Detroit Red Wings is Thursday, Dec. 4. The Wings face off against the Dallas

Stars at 7:30 p.m.

\$10 from each ticket sold will go to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. All tickets include a commemorative pint glass, and the first 10,000 fans to arrive at the game will get a Pavel Datsyuk holiday ornament.

Law enforcement personnel including corrections officers will be honored at the game.

Tickets are \$35 for upper level rows 15-21 and \$50 for upper level rows 4-12.

To buy tickets, go to DetroitRedWings.com/law and enter promo code LAW.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE MCO FACEBOOK GROUP?

MCO's Facebook group now has nearly 500 members! Thanks for joining!

Have you joined the group yet? Group membership is an easy way to stay on top of MCO and MDOC news, plus get election and endorsement info. Search for Michigan Corrections Organiza-

tion on Facebook and ask to join. The group is for members only at this time.

We have several pending requests from people whose membership cannot be confirmed. If you are a member who asked to join but hasn't been accepted, please email mail@mco-seiu.org.



IN MEMORIAM: WAYNE THOMPSON

Wayne Thompson, 48, of Carson City, passed away

Tuesday.

Thompson had been an officer since 1989. He was very active with MCO and served as a DRF chapter official for many years.

Many members say he was a great officer, father and friend.

Funeral details are not available at this time. MCO may post funeral information at mco-seiu.org next week.

Rest in peace, Officer Thompson.

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BULLETIN

OCT. 20, 2014

SAGINAW OFFICER FORTUNATE TO BE ALIVE AFTER ATTACK *SRF CHAPTER PLANS INFORMATIONAL PICKET ON STAFFING*

A Saginaw inmate beat and stabbed an officer Friday with two locks in a sock and a homemade shank.

Kevin Ott was stabbed in a lung three times. Ott suffered a fractured skull and a blood clot on his brain after being hit in the head with the locks in a sock about seven times. He also has a collapsed lung, but he is expected to make a full recovery. He remains in a hospital and could be released from the intensive care unit today or tomorrow. Please keep Ott in your thoughts and prayers.

The assault happened in 700 unit, a Level II, at about 3 p.m. Friday. Ott was packing up an inmate for transfer to a Level IV housing unit when the prisoner viciously attacked him. Ott couldn't reach his Taser. Officer Paul Stine heard Ott's clipboard drop and responded to the scene.

Officers Stine and Ott were the only officers in 700 unit packed with 240 inmates. The unit is becoming increasingly violent. Last night, a prisoner had to be taken to a hospital after he was stabbed in the throat.

This surge in violence is coupled with reduced staffing. In 2012, former Warden Lloyd Rapelje cut staffing levels. MCO chapter officials wrote letters to the warden and members voiced their concern at several labor management meetings. MCO wrote formal letters in July and August of 2012. Nothing was done. Earlier this year, Rapelje was promoted to assistant deputy director for the northern regional office based in Kinross.

Now the Saginaw chapter is taking their message to the public with an informational picket near the prison Thursday.

WHAT: Informational picket on reduced staffing and officer assaults at Saginaw Correctional Facility.

WHERE: Corner of Pierce Road and Highway 47 (Midland Road) near the prison in Freeland, MI.

WHEN: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23.

WHO: All corrections officers and community members.

Please join us in spreading community awareness and pressuring the Saginaw prison administration to increase staffing levels. Remember, we're stronger together.

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OFFICERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN TO PROTEST UNSAFE STAFFING

Assault on CO Kevin Ott emphasizes problems with budget-driven corrections

More than 100 people protested unsafe staffing at Saginaw Correctional Facility Thursday.

The informational picket was planned in response to the brutal attack on SRF Officer Kevin Ott Oct. 17. As MCO reported Monday, Ott was stabbed in one lung three times and hit in the head with two locks in a sock. Ott suffered a blood clot on his brain and a collapsed lung. After several days, he was released from the hospital. He is recovering at home. Kevin Ott is still in a lot of pain, his brother Paul Ott said.

“We always said somebody is going to get hurt ... I never thought it would be my brother,” said Paul Ott, who is a CO and first vice president of the MCO chapter at Saginaw.

Officers from Muskegon, Jackson, Bay City and other areas turned out. Dozens of SRF officers came by

before or after their shift. A few of them shed tears.

SRF Officer Todd Wendt was working when the assault happened.

“It was a horrible, horrible day,” Wendt said. “We all know it can happen, but it’s not supposed to happen.”



Visit us on Flickr for more photos of the SRF picket. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mco-shots/>.

Ott’s sister Rebecca Daniels and her husband Jim Daniels came to the protest. Rebecca Daniels said she’s still shocked and sad.

“My brother loved his job. For this to happen to him, it’s just very sad ... He kept trying to convince everyone, go into corrections,” she said.

She credits the other officer in the unit, Paul Stine, for saving her brother’s life.

Not surprisingly, Warden Thomas Winn said staffing levels are appropriate. MCO has opposed the prison staffing cuts since they were imposed in 2012.

Thank you to all who attended. Please continue to keep Kevin Ott and his family in your prayers. MCO won’t give up the fight for safe staffing levels. Concerned community members and officers are encouraged to contact MDOC and demand safe staffing.

AROUND THE STATE: ARAMARK PROBLEMS RESURFACE; ARF UPDATES

Aramark’s notoriously poor service continues.

News outlets reported a former food service employee at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility has filed a whistle-blower complaint, claiming she was fired in retaliation for pointing out unsanitary food and kitchen conditions. According to news reports, Amy McVay complained to her supervisors and was told “This is a prison; not a five-star restaurant.”

The media also reported an employee at ARF was placed on stop order earlier this month on allegations of drug smuggling. MCO reported the

stop order in the Oct. 6 KYI.

Segregation inmates at the Oaks Correctional Facility were mad when their breakfast trays showed up without bran cereal Wednesday.

The trays had peanut butter, bread, jelly and milk.

An Aramark worker decided peanut butter would be an acceptable substitute for bran, even though peanut butter was already on the trays. Inmates were angry and yelled about the food, an officer said.

Bran was finally delivered to seg.

A Gus Harrison inmate threw urine on officer Wednesday. The prisoner was a Level IV.

Also on Wednesday at ARF, a substance that tested positive for heroin was found in an inmate’s mail. The inmate was sent to segregation.

CRISIS FUND GUN RAFFLE UPDATE

The gun raffle was held Tuesday at the MCO Central Conference. A list of winners is on the MCO website.

The Crisis Fund helps members facing catastrophe. Thank you for buying tickets!



AROUND THE STATE: SAGINAW INMATE KILLED; ICF INMATES SHIELD THEMSELVES FROM TASERS; FIGHTS SHAKE UP MUSKEGON

A Saginaw inmate is suspected of killing his bunkmate, who was found dead in bed Wednesday morning.

It happened in 600 unit, a Level IV. Michigan State Police are investigating.

The prisoner accused in the killing is serving a life sentence for murder. He has been transferred to ICF. The victim was serving 25-50 years for criminal sexual conduct.

There were two stabbings in another Level IV unit at SRF Wednesday.

Tasers had no effect on two ICF inmates who were wearing several layers of clothes.

The two Level V inmates started fighting during yard time Wednesday. They didn't respond to orders to stop. One officer drew his ECD, but when he pulled the trigger, the Taser didn't fire. Other officers deployed their ECDs, but the inmates had on several layers of clothing and weren't fazed.

When one inmate slammed the other man's head into the concrete, the tower officer fired a warning shot. The prisoners continued to punch each other in the head and neck. Staff eventually quelled the fight.

No staff were injured.

The ECD that failed to fire underscores the importance of adequate staffing. Sometimes Tasers are viewed as a cure-all, but no tool can replace staff.

Also, fewer staff were on the ground because the tower is no longer a dedicated position.

Also at ICF:

10/29 – prisoner-on-prisoner stabbing with homemade weapon on unit 3 yard. The assailant stabbed the victim several times in the head and neck. No serious injuries.

Another inmate kicked at staff as he was being escorted to a dayroom. No injuries were reported.

10/28 – prisoner-on-prisoner assault with razor blade in shower.

Inmate food service workers at Muskegon refused to prepare breakfast Tuesday morning.

The prisoners were upset after they were mistakenly notified that their pay would be cut by about 50 percent. The captain promised the issue would be resolved later in the day, and the inmates decided to work. Breakfast was delayed about 40 minutes.

There had been a miscommunication about whose pay would be reduced. The

pay cut only affects new prisoner food service workers.

Also at MCF:

- Three Aramark employees at MCF were found to have criminal records and have not been at work. One of them had worked at the facility since the food service contract began nearly a year ago. One of them resolved their issue somehow and has returned to work.

- Fights have kept Muskegon staff busy and segregation at capacity.

Three inmates went to seg Tuesday after a fight in unit 3, a Level II.

Chemical agents were deployed, which required evacuation from the unit.

On Oct. 25, there were at least four prisoner fights. Officers report lunch breaks were delayed as much as seven hours due to the activity.

Segregation has been full. One inmate went to seg on Oct. 24 for protection. He was moved out three days later to make space.

About 10 shanks and several tattoo guns were found in a shakedown at SLF last week. Nine inmates were transferred after the shakedown. A few threatening behavior tickets were also written.



BUSY ON ELECTION DAY? VOTE ABSENTEE

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4 and for those who can't make it to the

polls, absentee ballots are still an option.

If you claim you are expecting to be out of town or have another state-approved reason to not be able to make it

to the polls, you can request an absentee ballot at your local clerk's office. Requests to have an absentee ballot mailed must be received by your local clerk no later than 2 p.m. Saturday (tomorrow).

MCO recommends you personally go to your clerk's office, fill out your ballot on the spot, and return it to the clerk to ensure your vote is cast.

More details and a full list of ap-

proved reasons for absentee voting can be found at www.michigan.gov/sos.

On the left column click "Elections in Michigan," subheading "Information for Voters," subheading "Obtaining an absent voter ballot."

For MCO's endorsements, see web posts and the Fall 2014 MCO Report available at mco-seiu.org.



AROUND THE STATE: NCF CO ASSAULTED; DRF INMATE MAKES UNSUCCESSFUL ESCAPE ATTEMPT; WEAPONS UNCOVERED AT ICF

A Newberry officer was punched in the face Thursday.

It was store day, and after an inmate picked up his order, he apparently gave it to another prisoner who doesn't lock in that cube. Officers say the inmate who took the bag can't have money in his account because he's paying restitution, so he had been using the other prisoner's account to order items.

An officer recognized the out-of-place inmate. She confiscated the store bag and was in the process of securing it in the unit office when the inmate followed her and started demanding the bag back. When another CO told the prisoner to stop yelling and leave the area, the prisoner punched him in the face.

The officer went to a hospital but returned to work the same day.

Also at Newberry, a physician's assistant had to pull his PPD last week when an inmate made threatening gestures. The health care CO position had been closed that day.

Newberry is a secure Level I prison.

An Aramark employee at Alger has allegedly been let go for fudging inventory records to the tune of \$66,000.

Officers say he was attempting to cover up the fact that lots of food could not be served for some reason (i.e. burned, spoiled, etc.). Officers think Aramark was responsible for the cost, not the state.

Their employee's last day was Oct. 31.



The 2014 elections are history. Get highlights and MCO's take on the results at mco-seiu.org.

An Aramark employee at SRF pulled meatballs out of the trash, rinsed them off and served them, officers say.

The worker had thrown away leftover meatballs after chow Oct. 31 and then realized there was one more housing unit wing left to serve. He was fired.

Another Aramark worker was ter-

minated that day for failing to report an inmate playfully grabbed her keys. He returned them. A camera recorded the incident.

A DRF inmate climbed a fence in an apparent escape attempt Oct. 30.

He was heading to lunch when he walked over to the med lines area. Then he bolted for the fence.

An officer made a radio call and went to the fence. The prisoner dropped to the ground.

The inmate is serving a life sentence and has been imprisoned more than 30 years. He is now at ICF, MDOC records show.

Level V housing units at Ionia Correctional Facility were shaken down this week after two 6-inch ice pick weapons were discovered in housing unit 3.

The shanks resemble weapons used in an assault in the same unit a week earlier.

Pieces of metal, spud juice and other contraband was found in the shakedown.

INJURED SRF OFFICER KEVIN OTT THANKFUL FOR OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT

It has been three weeks since an inmate brutally assaulted Officer Kevin Ott at Saginaw Correctional Facility. Ott emailed MCO President Tom Tylutki this update. Please continue to keep Ott in your prayers.



WHV brought in more than \$1,000 at a pizza party fundraiser last week for Kevin Ott. Thanks, WHV! SRF recently held a fundraiser, too. Details will be in next week's KYI.

support I received over the last couple of weeks.

I really appreciated it when you took time out of your busy schedule to see me at the hospital.

MCO members from all over the state have been very supportive to me with cards, text, and emails. I am very humbled by this. This has

definitely made my recovery much more tolerable.

I am slowly healing. I can finally lay on my right side because the stab wounds are healing. My head still feels like a hang over every day, but it is getting better.

I just wish the "higher ups" would understand what kind of environment that has been created by these budget cuts. Just thought I would let you know and once again thank you and thank you, MCO.

Be Safe.

- Kevin Ott.

Tom, I just wanted to thank you for the



AROUND THE STATE: ARAMARK ISSUES AT 4 JOINTS

Marquette B-block inmates have had enough of Aramark.

On Nov. 8, dozens of inmates threatened to take over the yard. They were mad about portion sizes and peanut butter missing from breakfast trays (jelly was substituted). They had also received crumbled coffee cake. To quell the anger, inmates got two chicken patties at lunch Sunday.

Then on Nov. 11, B-block prisoner food service workers refused to push food carts and pass trays. One of them tried to hang himself and another cut himself. Officers believe they were acting out to protest the food. The food service inmates received incite to riot tickets. B-block prisoners usually eat last, an MBP officer said.

Michigan Reformatory officers say inmates were served food that may have had glass shards in it.

Someone was stirring a vat of food, and the stick he was using hit a light bulb. The bulb shattered, possibly

sprinkling glass into the food. The top layer was scraped off, and allegedly the food was served. The situation is under investigation. Before that, beans had spilled on the floor, but they were washed off and served.

Two Aramark workers have been stop ordered.

More than 20 segregation inmates at Bellamy Creek refused to return food trays because they were unhappy about portion sizes. Spaghetti was served for dinner Nov. 6. Some trays had large portions of food and some had small servings, an officer said.

Officers wrote several tickets for disobeying a direct order. The next day, the inmates started receiving food loaf.

An Alger officer was making kitchen rounds Thursday when he found keys left in the commis-

THIS JUST IN: Hearing on RTW, 4% soon
MCO is hearing through court sources that the state Supreme Court will hear both the 4 percent and Right to Work lawsuits in mid-January 2015.
However, if that time frame is truly accurate, the sources indicate the official announcement will not occur until approximately Dec. 2, 2014.
MCO will update as soon as anything is confirmed. We may finally be getting close. Stay tuned.

sary door, an officer said. The keys belonged to the Aramark food service director, who was in the control center.

An inmate slashed another prisoner Nov. 8 in 1200 unit, a Level IV, at Saginaw. Movement was restricted in the unit until Monday.

SRF raised \$1,300 for Kevin Ott last week. Pulled pork sandwiches were sold for donations and staff on all three shifts chowed down. Thanks, Saginaw members!

ENROLL IN FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS NOW

A message from OSE:

The Employee Benefits Division (EBD) encourages you to log into your MI HR Self-Service (mi.gov/selfserve) account before Dec. 1 to enroll in a Health Care and/or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. Eligible employees who wish to participate in the 2015 plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2015 must enroll, even if you are currently enrolled in the 2014 plan year.

There are two types of FSAs: a health care FSA allows you to pay for eligible out-of-pocket medical, dental, prescription, vision expenses and more. A dependent care FSA allows you to pay for eligible expenses, such as day care, day camp,

nursery school, elder care and more. An FSA permits you to deduct up to \$2,550 per plan year (calendar year) for eligible health care expenses and \$5,000 for eligible dependent care expenses from your paycheck before taxes.

FSA Open Enrollment materials will be sent to you via email or mail (if you do not have an email address currently listed in your Self-Service account).

For more details, visit www.mi.gov/fsa or contact the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447.



GRIEVANCE NOTICE: LUMP SUM DISPUTE

MCO has filed a grievance concerning the lump sum payment officers received Nov. 6.

COs who work 12-hour shifts work 104 hours more per year, and those hours should be calculated in their lump sum payments, MCO argues.

The et al. grievance was filed Nov. 7.

We'll keep you updated.



AROUND THE STATE: OFFICERS INJURED AT PARNALL AND ALGER; KITES SHINE LIGHT ON THREATS AT JCS; ARAMARK FOOD CONTINUES TO DISAPPOINT

A Parnall inmate fought back when an officer intervened in his apparent suicide attempt.

A CO was trying to undo a knot the prisoner tied to hang himself and also hold up the prisoner to stop him from choking. The prisoner started to push the officer away. The officer hurt his back by picking up the inmate to prevent choking.

The CO went to a hospital and was released. Please keep the officer in your thoughts.

A Baraga inmate ran at an officer after the CO shot one Taser probe at him. The officer fired one Taser probe because the prisoner had been straddling and punching another inmate.

To stop the charging inmate, the of-

ficer deployed the other Taser probe and chemical agents were used.

Reasons for the prisoner fight were unclear. The brawl happened in Unit 7, a Level V housing unit.

got into a fight with two other prisoners. The two inmates he fought were stabbed – one in the back and one in the head. The weapon was a piece of a scissor. Multiple Tasers were deployed.

The inmate stabbed the CO in the hand when the officer intervened. The officer and the inmates were taken to hospitals. The officer had not returned to work as of Thursday.

Two warning shots were fired to break up a yard fight last week at Marquette.

Three inmates attacked one prisoner. They knocked him to the ground and kicked him in the head. A fifth inmate came to help the attacked prisoner. Warning shots were fired, but the fighting didn't stop until officers deployed Tasers. No officers were hurt.

At Cooper Street, prisoners are offering \$20 for assaults on prisoners and \$50 for attacks on officers. An inmate warned staff in a kite turned in Nov. 15.

Also last week, an officer was sorting institutional mail when she found a kite saying an inmate is mad at a woman CO and is going to hit her.

Please stay safe and watch your back!

ADD FALSE ADVERTISING TO ARAMARK'S MISDEEDS

An MCO staffer was surprised to see an Aramark

ad showing neatly-plated meals in a corrections magazine days after seeing photos of sloppy food actually served to inmates at Ionia Correctional Facility. The ad appeared in the American Correctional Association planning guide for the winter conference in February.

The taco meal, pictured at left, was served Nov. 16. It came with two taco shells. Officers tell us the amount of meat did fill the serving cup, which measures 3/8 cup. But there's quite a difference in the advertised food and the meals inmates actually get.



LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS HONOR FALLEN MUSKEGON CO CHAD CHARLES

Join law enforcement officers for two holiday events that will honor fallen officers, including Muskegon CO Chad Charles.

The Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary will host the annual Project Blue Light Ceremony at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 at St. Justin Church, 1600 E. Evelyn in

Hazel Park, MI. Fallen officers, including Charles, will be recognized. The event is public.

The MI-C.O.P.S. Annual Christmas Celebration is at noon Sunday, Dec. 7 at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West hotel. All of Chad Charles' coworkers and friends are invited. There will be a buffet

luncheon, entertainment, door prizes and more. RSVPs are required. Email RSVPs to denise_scarbrough@yahoo.com.

Flyers with details on these events are available at mco-seiu.org.

MCO thanks these organizations for keeping Charles' memory alive.



IMPORTANT UPDATES ON RTW, 4% AND PORTAL-TO-PORTAL LAWSUITS

The Michigan Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments in the Right to Work and 4% lawsuits for Tuesday, Jan. 13.

The RTW suit will be heard at 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by the 4% case.

MCO was notified yesterday of the firm date and times.

In both cases, state employee unions are arguing the Michigan Constitution gives the Civil Service Commission sole

authority over state workers' employment conditions. The legislature stepped out of bounds when it passed RTW for state employees and a law requiring those in the defined benefit plan contribute 4% of their wages to their pension plan.

Meanwhile, MCO attorneys were in Cincinnati yesterday for a hearing on the portal-to-portal lawsuit. Attorneys argued the case before three judges on the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Our attorneys tell us the three judges randomly selected for the panel – Eugene Siler, Jeffrey Sutton and David McKeague – have conservative records.

The court doesn't have a deadline for making a decision.

The portal-to-portal suit involves certain so-called "pre-shift" and "post shift" work which MDOC requires these officers to perform, but for which they are not compensated.

AROUND THE STATE: ICF INMATE STABBED IN THE HEAD; FOOD PROTESTS CONTINUE, THIS TIME AT AMF AND SRF

An ICF inmate needed surgery last week to remove a piece of a pen lodged inside his head.

He was injured in a yard fight with another prisoner who allegedly got tired of attempts to recruit him into a gang. The alleged "recruiter" was stabbed in the head with a pen, officers say. The stabbed inmate went to two hospitals, but has returned to the facility. Both inmates are Level II.

Four inebriated Level II inmates got into a fight Monday.

And yesterday, an ICF administrator issued a memo concerning the food trays. A sergeant now has to monitor the loading of food trays into the food cart, and a housing unit supervisor must monitor tray delivery.

More than two dozen seg inmates at Baraga refused to return food trays


after a meal last week. They were upset about portion size and poor quality, officers say. The same day, Level I inmates refused to leave the chow hall in protest of the food.

Two units were also shaken down that day. Officers found one shank buried in the snow on the yard. The previous day, an inmate was found with a weapon and a large piece of metal was discovered missing from a light fixture.

Seg inmates at Saginaw threw food, flooded cells and covered windows Tuesday. Portions were small and items were missing, an officer said.

On Sunday, one inmate jumped on a table because he was mad about portion sizes. He received an incite to riot misconduct. Then Wednesday, an Aramark worker was stop-ordered for overfamiliarity, an officer said.

IN MEMORIAM: CO FAHS

 A 26-year member of MCO passed away in October.

Charlotte Fahs worked at Macomb and was an MCO chapter official. She retired in January of this year. She is survived by a daughter, a brother, a sister, grandsons, nieces and friends.

To read Fahs' obituary, visit jowet-tfuneraldirectors.com.

Quick notices...

The 2014 holiday packet, which includes next year's pocket calendar, was mailed to members early this week. Please allow two weeks for shipping. If you do not receive your packet in about two weeks, please contact the MCO central office and we will get you one.

The Exchange Transfer List will be cleared in early January. Many people leave the Department or get a transfer without notifying MCO to remove their name from the list. Clearing the list once a year means the list is more useful and effective.

If your name is on the list now and you do not want it removed, please email anita@mco-seiu.org by Jan. 1.

NOTICE ON PERFORMING ROUTINE ROUNDS

Corrections officers are stretched thin, and the issue is only getting more serious. Please take this as a reminder to record in the log book if you cannot make your rounds because you are busy with other duties.

It's impossible to be in two places at once, and the Department cannot expect that of anyone. Officers are expected to do rounds, but if you cannot, clearly write down why in the log book so there is a record.



AROUND THE STATE: AMMO FOUND AT AMF AND ICF; JCS INMATE NEARLY ESCAPES

A Cooper Street inmate was just a few feet from freedom when he got caught in concertina wire on the outer fence.

The prisoner snuck out of his unit at about 1:30 a.m. Monday, dashed to the back of the softball field and scaled the inner fence. He got stuck in the concertina wire at the top of the outer fence, his legs dangling about six feet above free ground. He had tripped the fence alarm.

The inmate was transferred to Cotton and treated for minor cuts.

Mailroom staff at Baraga found gun powder in a letter this week.

The letter was addressed to a general population inmate. The prisoner has been moved to segregation.

ICF staff found live .22 hollow-point bullets in a breakfast tray Tuesday. Trays were being dispersed in Unit 3.

The facility was placed on lock down. The gun towers were manned. Unit 3 and food service were shaken down.

MDOC and Michigan State Police are investigating.

Also this week at ICF, a food service employee quit after hand-written letters between her and an inmate were discovered. The inspector searched the prisoner's cell after the CO assigned to the kitchen suspected she and the employee were overfamiliar.

And on Saturday, an ICF inmate was beaten and stabbed with a 9-inch long, icepick-style weapon on the yard. The

prisoner dropped the weapon when two officers responded with ECDs drawn. Nice work, staff!

State food service inspectors found a lighter on the floor in food service when they inspected Ojibway Tuesday.

An Alger inmate was stabbed in a three-man fight in front of Pine housing unit Dec. 6. The shank was about four inches long, and the victim suffered multiple stab wounds.

Pine unit was locked down. Not long after the lock down was lifted, another inmate-on-inmate assault occurred in the kitchen.

A Level IV Saginaw inmate head-butted an officer Wednesday.

The CO was taken to urgent care, but was released and returned to work before the end of shift.

Earlier this week, a visitor was caught smuggling in a drug-filled balloon. She tried to hide it in a chip bag. Michigan State Police arrested her.

A four-man fight broke out at Marquette Wednesday when an inmate refused to pay other prisoners to use pay phones.

Three inmates were controlling the phones and forcing inmates to pay to use them. One inmate refused. A gun tower officer had to fire a warning shot to quell the fight. No serious injuries were reported.

All four inmates are now in segregation.



MEMBERS CAN STILL SIGN ONTO PORTAL-TO-PORTAL SUIT

Members can still add their name to the portal-to-portal lawsuit. Go to mco-seiu.org to get a form or check if your name is already on the suit.

The portal-to-portal suit involves certain so-called "pre-shift" and "post shift" work which MDOC requires these officers to perform, but for which they are not compensated.

Last week, the case was heard in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court has not made a ruling.



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS NOW

Scholarship applications for the 2015-2016 academic year are now on the MCO website.

SEIU, Union Plus and MCO offer scholarships for children of active members. MCO's program will award 20 scholarships worth \$750 each.

The first deadline is Jan. 31 for the Union Plus Scholarship. SEIU's deadline is in March, and MCO's is in June. Good luck!

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2014 LAME DUCK WRAP UP: ROAD FUNDING UP TO VOTERS; GUN BILL DIES IN SENATE

The Michigan legislature was at work until the early morning hours today hashing out a road funding bill.

Thursday was the last day of the legislative session. The work day lasted all night and didn't end until about 6:30 a.m. Friday.

They agreed to a ballot question that will ask voters to raise sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent and remove sales tax from fuel purchases. The question could be on a ballot in May.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of MCO and members, the gun bill was not called up for a vote in the senate. HB 4133, which would have allowed COs to carry concealed pistols in gun-free zones, could be reintroduced in the next legislative session.

Legislators did pass a package of

bills that will improve the job prospects of former prisoners. MDOC will issue certificates of employability to certain inmates upon release. The bills also give employers some protections against litigation if an employer hires a felon with a certificate who later proves to be a danger.

Other bills that would have required Hepatitis C testing when inmates enter and leave MDOC custody did not pass.

Two of the sentencing reform bills passed and two failed. Bills that called for presumptive parole and changes to probation conditions failed, in part due to opposition from law enforcement and prosecutors. Bills requiring a new sentencing commission and updated reentry plans passed.

AROUND THE STATE: MORE FIGHTS AT LMF AND MBP

Warning shots are becoming commonplace at Marquette, an officer said.

A tower officer fired a warning shot Dec. 13 when a two-on-one fight broke out on the Level V yard. The attackers broke the victim's nose, but no weapons were used. Officers also deployed Tasers to stop the fighting.

All three are in segregation now.

Also at Marquette, an Aramark employee was stop ordered last week for overfamiliarization.

Pine unit at Alger was locked down three times in a little more than a week due to fighting.

Their latest lock down came after a four-inmate yard fight Sunday. One of the inmates received an incite-to-riot ticket.

The previous day, a Cedar-unit inmate was stabbed during a yard fight. His lung could have collapsed, but the weapon bent and missed the victim's lung.

Other recent events at LMF:

12/13 – Inmate-on-inmate assault. A lock on a belt was found during pack up of one of the prisoners.

12/16 – Mailroom staff find heroin.

A Pugsley officer was assaulted Tuesday by an inmate who swung a bag of contraband onions at him.

The officer was able to grab the bag of onions and lessen the impact. The officer tells us this inmate was bonded out only two hours after the assault.

The prisoner had just bonded out Monday, too. He was in Monday for having dangerous contraband.

PORTAL-TO-PORTAL FIGHT CONTINUES

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has sided against MCO in the portal-to-portal case.

MCO's attorney argued officers are entitled to back pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act and wages are protected by the 14th Amendment.

A very conservative, randomly selected panel made up of three 6th circuit court judges heard arguments earlier this month. The decision was released this week. MCO leaders are meeting with attorneys to determine our next move. An option being explored now is to continue our original state action claim in the state courts rather than federal courts. We'll keep you updated.



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