

## AROUND THE STATE: MRF COs PREVENT ESCAPE

**Macomb staff thwarted an escape attempt after a vigilant tower officer spotted two inmates headed for a perimeter fence.**

The Level IV prisoners had been walking to dinner Jan. 5 when the pair broke off from other inmates. They walked around the side of Housing Unit 5 and toward the perimeter fence. The officer made a radio call to staff in the unit and the inmates were stopped. In the prisoners' beds, staff found dummies made from bundles of clothes.

This story is another reminder of the importance of staffing watch towers. Thankfully, the towers were staffed at the time of the escape attempt. They're often unstaffed due to budget cuts.

Also last weekend, two visitors brought in suspected drugs at Macomb.

Congratulations to the alert officers who prevented this escape and detected this contraband.

**A Baraga inmate tried to stab an officer with a sharpened outlet cover Dec. 26.**

The CO was picking up food trays in Unit 2 (Level V) when an inmate pulled his arm through the food slot. The officer wasn't injured.

This prisoner has a history of attempting to harm staff, an officer said. He has been transferred.

**A Marquette inmate with a history of assaulting staff spit on an officer on Christmas Day.** The officer was seen at a hospital and released.

This prisoner has spit on staff numerous times in the last two months, a CO estimated.

Marquette officers also responded to several fights during the last week of December. At least 14 prisoners, many of them Level V, received tickets related

to the fights. Many of these inmates weren't taken to segregation because it was full, officers said. Instead, they were placed on top lock, meaning they stayed in a general population housing unit but were only removed from their cells for showers.

Great work to the MBP staff who had to deal with these incidents over the holidays.

**MTU officers have found cell phones, Suboxone, and other contraband over the last few weeks.**

In late December, a CO found 18 strips of Suboxone on a Level II inmate during a shakedown. A cell phone was found on another inmate in a separate shakedown. Around the same day, a CO in the perimeter security vehicle spotted a package lying on the ground outside the perimeter fence. Inside were eight cell phones.

Earlier this month, officers uncovered a weapon made from a metal can lid hidden in a Level II prisoner's shoe. They also found a syringe in another Level II inmate's mattress. Officers found Suboxone again on an inmate after seeing a suspicious transaction on the yard.

Great work to the dedicated staff at MTU who catch contraband and keep their facility safe.

**A Carson City officer found 20 shanks in 1200 building (Level IV) Jan. 2.** The weapons were made of metal and plastic and appeared to be in different stages of completion. They were found in inmates' cells.

**A Level IV inmate dressed out an officer with urine at Cotton last week.** This prisoner was Security Threat Group 1, meaning he is a known gang member.

## MDOC WELLNESS SURVEY ENDS FRIDAY

This is your last chance to take the important MDOC Wellness Assessment before it closes Friday, Jan. 11. MDOC emailed a reminder with the survey link to all staff Monday.

This survey is our chance to tell MDOC administration what we need. MCO members have raised this important topic for years and have worked hard to get to this point – we conducted an assessment that backed up our claims about PTSD, worked with the legislature to explain the problem, and pushed the MDOC to do more for their employees. Let's keep up the momentum. Please fill out the survey so MDOC can understand what you are dealing with and what resources you need.

More info about the survey was emailed to you, or you can read about it on the [MCO website](#).

Thanks, members, for raising your voice.



## IN MEMORIAM

**WCC Member Claude Priebe passed away Dec. 29.**

CMO Priebe had been an MDOC employee for 37 years, according to MCO records. He leaves behind his wife, son, mother, and other family and friends.

Services were last week.

**[Carl Horn](#), who retired from WHV, passed away Jan. 3.**

Horn started his MDOC career in 1985 and retired in 2011.

Visitation is 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 10 at Kemp Funeral Home, 24585 Evergreen Rd., Southfield, MI 48075. A funeral will be at 11 a.m. Jan. 11 at the same location.

**Rest in peace, Officer Priebe and Officer Horn.**