



IN MEMORIAM: BROOKS OFFICER WILLIE JONES

Willie Jones, a Brooks officer with more than 20 years in the MDOC, passed away Monday, March 25.

Jones had worked at the two Muskegon prisons and West Shoreline, which closed last year. He was well-known among Muskegon corrections officers

“He was always thought of really positively,” LRF Chapter President Jameson

Clark said. “He loved football and working out. He was a really good guy. He was helpful and outgoing.”

Jones leaves behind a son, girlfriend, and other family and friends, officers said. Services were last week.

Please join us in praying for peace for Jones’ survivors and LRF staff. Rest in peace, Officer Jones.

AROUND THE STATE: MENINGITIS AT LRF; ARU-INVOLVED SHOOTING

A Brooks officer has died of meningitis. An inmate has also fallen sick.

The officer last worked March 18. He stayed home sick with flu-like symptoms, but was taken to the hospital after suffering a seizure, [according to media reports](#).

MCO Board members and staff met with LRF members Thursday. Many of them expressed concerns about how this serious illness was handled. MCO will take their feedback to MDOC and urge the Department to create a meningitis protocol that addresses staff concerns and keeps everyone safe.

As announced in the April 2 bulletin, MCO encouraged MDOC to hold an informational meeting last week. They shared information about how to protect yourself from contracting meningitis and answered questions about how the bacteria spreads.

We’ll keep members updated on meningitis and work to combat it.

Also at Brooks, a prisoner hit an officer nine times with a fan motor inside a laundry bag.

The CO was making rounds in Al- legan unit (Level II) March 21 when the inmate struck her. She was taken by ambulance to a hospital.

She suffered cuts and bruising on her

head. She has been released from the hospital but is not back to work.

Officers said she had recently fired the inmate from his job doing laundry.

Please wish this CO a quick recovery.

The MDOC Absconder Recovery Unit and several other law enforcement agencies were involved in a shooting Thursday while trying to apprehend a parole violator in Kalamazoo.

According to media reports, law enforcement tracked the absconder to a home. He claimed to have a weapon and made threats. Several law enforcement officers on scene fired weapons, and the suspect was later pronounced dead. MSP is investigating.

ICF officers responded to three fights in two days.

The first two happened March 23, one in the Unit 5 (Level V) and one on the Unit 4 (Level V) yard. In both incidents, two prisoners punched each other. The next day, another two-inmate fight broke out in Unit 5. Staff say the fights were gang related.

The six inmates involved in the fights were sent to segregation. No staff were injured.

MCO SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER AND TIPS

Remember, MCO scholarship applications are due June 1. Get a [paper application](#) or fill out the [online application](#) now.

Please be aware, you cannot save your place in the online application and return to it later. You must complete the application in one sitting. We recommend you scroll through the entire application and gather the required documentation before you start the application. Also, we have received many incomplete applications online. Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have a question about whether your application was incomplete, contact [Tara Nichol](#).

Through SEIU, MCO also offers [free online community college](#).

Later this week, we will have an important announcement about other ways MCO is working to make college affordable for members and their families. Stay tuned.

Congratulations to Hugh Wolfenbarger class recruits! Those training downstate graduated last week. Recruits training in the UP graduated March 22. Good luck as you begin your corrections career! More photos are in our [members-only Facebook group](#) and [Instagram](#).

