

AROUND THE STATE: CTOs AND CITIZEN THWART ESCAPE; 3 OFFICERS ASSAULTED AT LRF

A Bellamy Creek inmate tried to grab a transportation officer's handgun and escape at a rest stop Wednesday.

Two CTOs were taking him to court in Macomb County, and they stopped so one of the officers could use the restroom. While one CTO was inside, the prisoner said he needed to use the restroom. As the officer was handing the inmate a portable urinal (instead of going inside the restroom, as required by MDOC policy), the prisoner jumped at the CTO and reached for his gun.

A citizen stepped in to help the officer until the other CTO came out of the bathroom and the prisoner, who was alone in the van, could be restrained.

Great work to the CTOs and the citizen. This situation shows how officers protect communities, not just near prisons, but around the state.

Three Brooks officers were punched and kicked by six inmates Tuesday in what staff say was a retaliatory attack for a shakedown the previous day.

One of the COs has two nose fractures and a broken orbital bone. Another suffered a shoulder injury, and the third CO has serious bruising. The prisoners involved are gang members, an officer said.

Earlier in the week, an officer stopped a Level IV inmate for a routine shakedown as the prisoner was returning to his unit from the chow hall. (Staff are required to do a certain number of shakedowns every day, and yard staff often do them as prisoners go to or return from chow.) The prisoner spun around and put his arms down during the search, which led to the officer restraining him.

The next day, the CO performed another routine shakedown on a different Level IV inmate returning from

chow. This prisoner elbowed and punched the officer in the head. Five other inmates had been watching and jumped in. Two officers came to assist and were punched and kicked.

"It was a totally planned retaliation," an officer said.

The Level IV East Lake unit was locked down.

COs say Brooks is at least 25 officers short, which is hurting staff morale.

Please keep these three officers in your thoughts and join us in wishing them fast recoveries.

Stay safe.

Carson City staff caught a visitor trying to smuggle 65 strips of Suboxone to a Level I inmate Saturday. Michigan State Police arrested the visitor.

Great job to the Carson City staff who spotted this.

'This job changes someone.' Watch a special interview with MCO on corrections stress

MCO Executive Board Member Cary Johnson sat down with a Detroit TV station to talk about the stress corrections staff face and what's being done to help MDOC staff. [Watch the interview.](#)

It's part of a larger look this week by NBC News at our country's criminal justice system. A few years ago, a national news network would have overlooked the struggles of staff when reporting on criminal justice and prisons. But we are



changing the conversation. We have come a long way in the last few years, but we know so much more needs to be done.

Right now, we're working with the legislature to get [\\$1 million in funding](#) for corrections PTSD research and resources included in the final budget bill. We are also continuing to [advocate for a bill](#) that would create a suicide prevention task force

that would include one person who represents MCO. More plans are in the works. Stay tuned.

We don't want to lose one more life. If you are struggling, remember you can call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 any time.

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