

PRISON

Continued from P5

away the Tamms threat will embolden instigators of violence and gang leaders.

State Corrections officials reject any connection between the Tamms decision and behavior in other lockups and insist that the current prison population can be managed safely and securely. But the incidents also worry prison reform advocates, including some who support the closing of Tamms for other reasons.

"People are stressed. Inmates are stressed. Staff is stressed," said John Maki, executive director of the John Howard Association, a prison watchdog group. "If the governor is going to close facilities, it needs to be coupled with significant reform to reduce the prison population."

The state could not immediately produce statistics to show whether the half-dozen incidents represent an increase. Union officials say they are trying to compile their own numbers.

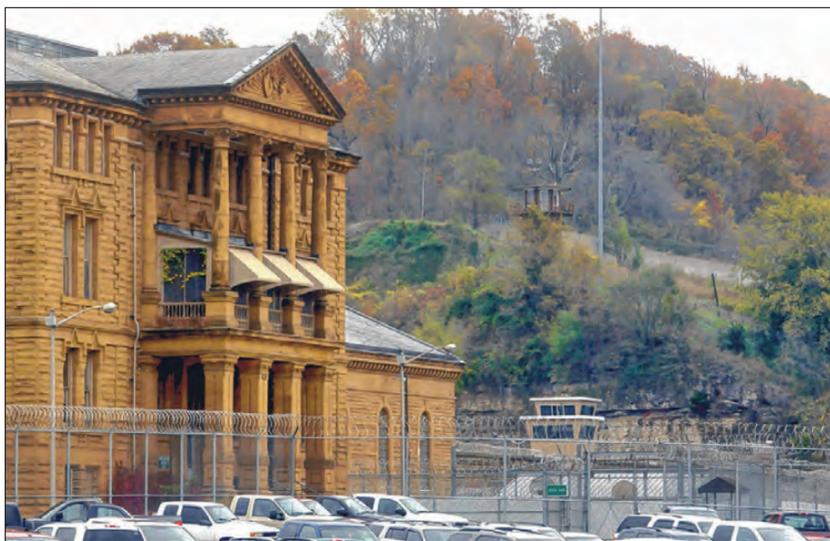
Incidents documented

Following up on tips, the AP turned up a number of violent or drug-related incidents in the past six weeks, including:

■ May 26: An inmate at Pontiac used a "self-made plastic weapon" to assault a correctional officer, according to Corrections spokeswoman Stacey Solano. The officer was treated at a hospital, released the same day and is back at work.

Anders Lindall, a spokesman for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents most Corrections workers, said the officer suffered a puncture wound and an elbow injury.

■ June 3: Two inmates at the maximum-security Menard prison in far southern Illinois attacked a guard, an incident first reported by the (Carbondale) Southern Illinoian. The AP reported later that week that a shakedown following the assault turned up 21 hidden weapons in inmates' cells, according to Kevin Hirsch, president of the Menard workers' union local. Solano said 13 weapons



Illinois officials are dealing with a recent spate of violence in state prisons that injured several guards and an inmate, and a case where two prisoners overdosed on heroin. At the Menard Correctional Center in Chester, two inmates attacked a guard. A shake-down following the assault turned up 21 hidden weapons in inmates' cells, according to Kevin Hirsch, president of the Menard workers' union local. FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

were discovered.

■ June 10: Stateville staff members found two inmates unresponsive in the cell they shared, according to Solano. They were treated at a local hospital and returned to prison the next day, she said, adding that she could not comment further because an investigation continues. Lindall said Corrections officials told AFSCME that the prisoners had taken overdoses of heroin. Officials did not immediately have other details, including how the inmates were able to get drugs into the prison.

■ Late June: A correctional sergeant at the Viena prison was punched by an inmate when he intervened in a verbal dispute between the prisoner and another officer, according to the local union president, Lt. Mike Turner. The sergeant suffered a shoulder injury and has been off work since, Turner said.

■ June 29: During a fight at Stateville, one inmate stabbed another nine times in a cell, injuries that required hospital treatment, but neither Lindall nor the Stateville union president, Ralph Portwood, had other details.

Trying to publicize the incidents no doubt might help the campaign to keep Tamms open, raising questions about how to punish disorderly inmates with no threat of Tamms isolation. But the AP was notified of a number of previously unreported incidents by sources other than AFSCME officials, who were initially unaware themselves of some of the cases.

Safety compromised?

AFSCME's Lindall said the union is trying to catalogue all recent assaults because of "the administration's troubling failure to acknowledge the seriousness of these threats" while Quinn moves forward with plans to close Tamms, a women's prison at Dwight and three halfway houses.

"These incidents underscore our repeated concerns that while the administration spends its time and effort trying to justify unjustifiable facility closures, its inattention to operations is compromising safety, putting employees, inmates and the public at risk," Lindall said.

The state has taken some steps to reduce prison population. Quinn recently signed a law creating a new program for releasing well-behaved inmates early. He halted a similar program in 2009 after reports that it was being used to shuffle prisoners out within weeks.

The loss of that early-release option had worsened crowding — there are 48,369 inmates in a system designed for about 33,000 — and some experts warned that Illinois could get entangled in a California-style lawsuit forcing an inmate population reduction.

Kayce Ataiyero, a Corrections spokeswoman, pointed out the prison population is down from just over 49,000 last fall, "and we believe that the current population can be man-

aged safely and securely." She declined to comment on whether Corrections' projections that the population will hit 49,000 again by January 2013 are still accurate. Those projections were made in April. "The Department's primary focus has been and will continue to be the safe and secure operation of the prisons," Ataiyero said. "There is absolutely no connection between the announcement of the closure of Tamms and inmate behavior or the occurrence of incidents in the other prisons."

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INDIANA

Medicaid official rules against abortion law

BY CHARLES WILSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's decision to deny Planned Parenthood Medicaid funds because it performs abortions denies women the freedom to choose their health-care providers, a federal hearing officer said.

The state had asked the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Chicago to reconsider its June 2011 ruling that found changes in Indiana's Medicaid plan unacceptable. But a hearing officer recommended in documents released Friday that a CMS administrator uphold the agency's initial decision.

The changes to Indiana's plan resulted from a

2011 law that would have made the state the first to deny the organization Medicaid funds for general health services, including cancer screenings. The law has been on hold while the dispute works its way through the courts.

The Indiana attorney general's office said it may also contest the panel's recommendation. The state had argued that the dispute should be decided administratively by the CMS, not in court.

While Planned Parenthood officials had feared they might have to close some of the organization's 28 clinics in Indiana or suspend some services because of a loss of Medicaid funds, that has not happened so far.

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SYRIA



Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi said Thursday's attack was a military operation targeting armed fighters who had taken control of the village. AP

Red Cross declares conflict a civil war

BY ALBERT AJI AND FRANK JORDANS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria's 16-month bloodbath crossed an important symbolic threshold Sunday as the international Red Cross formally declared the conflict a civil war, a status with implications for potential war crimes prosecutions.

The Red Cross statement came as United Nations observers gathered new details on what happened in a village where dozens were reported killed in a regime assault. After a second visit to Tremseh on Sunday, the team said Syrian troops went door to door in the small farming community, checking residents' IDs and then killing some and taking others away.

According to the U.N., the attack appeared to target army defectors and activists.

"Pools of blood and brain matter were observed in a number of homes," a U.N. statement said.

Syria denied U.N. claims that government forces had used heavy weapons such as tanks, artillery and helicopters during the attack Thursday.

Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi said the violence was not a massacre — as activists and many foreign leaders have alleged — but a military operation targeting armed fighters who had taken control of the village.

"What happened wasn't an attack on civilians," Makdissi told reporters Sunday in Damascus. He said 37 gunmen and two civilians were killed — a far lower death toll than the one put forward by anti-regime activists, some of whom estimated the dead at more than 100.

"What has been said about the use of heavy weapons is baseless," Makdissi added.

The U.N. has implicated President Bashar Assad's forces in the assault. The head of the U.N. observer mission said Friday that monitors stationed near Tremseh saw the army using heavy weaponry and attack helicopters.

The fighting was some of the latest in the uprising against Assad, which activists say has killed more than 17,000 people. Violence continued Sunday, with more clashes reported around the capital, Damascus.

The bloodshed appeared to be escalating. On Sunday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it now considers the Syrian conflict a civil war, meaning international humanitarian law applies throughout the country.

Also known as the rules of war, humanitarian law grants all parties in a conflict the right to use appropriate force to achieve their aims. The Geneva-based

group's assessment is an important reference for determining how much and what type of force can be used, and it can form the basis for war crimes prosecutions, especially if civilians are attacked or detained enemies are abused or killed.

"We are now talking about a non-international armed conflict in the country," ICRC spokesman Hicham Hassan said.

War crimes prosecutions would have been possible even without the Red Cross statement. But Sunday's pronouncement adds weight to any prosecution argument that Syria is in a state of war — a prerequisite for a war crimes case.

Previously, the Red Cross committee had restricted its assessment of the scope of the conflict to the hot spots of Idlib, Homs and Hama. But Hassan said the organization concluded that the violence was widening.

"Hostilities have spread to other areas of the country," Hassan said. "International humanitarian law applies to all areas where hostilities are taking place."

Although the armed uprising in Syria began more than a year ago, the committee had hesitated to call it a civil war — though others, including United Nations officials, have done so.

That is because the rules of war override and to some extent suspend the laws that apply in peacetime, including the universal right to life, right to free speech and right to peaceful assembly.

When the Red Cross says something "it's always very persuasive," said Louise Doswald-Beck, a professor of international law at the Geneva Graduate Institute. In legal terms, that means a court would be unlikely to decide differently.

As an internal conflict officially becomes a civil war, the security environment shifts from regular law enforcement to a situation in which international law permits the government to attack rebel fighters, Doswald-Beck said.

"That's why this whole business of Tremseh is interesting," she said.

Stephen M. Saideman, professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Ontario, Canada, doubted whether the Red Cross declaration would change anything significant on either side.

Assad and his supporters won't stop fighting or change their tactics because they have too much to lose, Saideman said. The opposition "can have their spirits lifted by this, but they have been fighting a civil war for quite a while. So it is not clear how this announcement improves much their ability to recruit or to reduce divisions among the many rebel groups."

EGYPT

Clinton's calls fall flat

Secretary of state urges military leaders to work with elected Islamists

BY HAMZA HENDAWI AND BRADLEY KLAPPER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — The head of Egypt's military took a tough line Sunday on the Muslim Brotherhood, warning that he won't let the fundamentalist group dominate the country, only hours after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged him to work with Egypt's elected Islamist leaders.

Clinton's visit to Egypt underscored the difficulty Washington faces in trying to wield its influence amid the country's stormy post-Hosni Mubarak power struggles.

Islamist Mohammed Morsi, a longtime Brotherhood figure, was sworn two weeks ago as Egypt's first democratically elected president. Led by Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, the military handed over power to him June 30 after ruling Egypt for 16 months. The military, however, dissolved the Brotherhood-led parliament and stripped Morsi of significant authorities in the days before his inauguration, while retaining overwhelming powers for itself,



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton walks with Egyptian Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi to a meeting Sunday in Cairo. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AP

including legislative power and control of the writing of a new constitution.

The United States is in a difficult spot when it comes to dealing with post-Mubarak Egypt — eager to be seen as a champion of democracy and human rights after three decades of close ties with the ousted leader despite his abysmal record in advancing either.

This has involved some uncomfortable changes, including occasional criticism of America's longtime faithful partners in Egypt's military as it grabs more power and words of support for Islamist parties far more skeptical of U.S. intentions in Egypt and the rest of the Middle East.

That has fueled accusations among some Egyptians who back the military or oppose Islamists that

Washington is promoting the rise of the Brotherhood to power. Protesters chanting against the U.S. — sometimes reaching several hundred — have sprung up at several sites where Clinton visited this weekend. On Sunday, protesters threw tomatoes, water bottles and shoes at her motorcade as she left a ceremony marking the opening of a new U.S. consulate in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

At the ceremony, Clinton denied the U.S. supports any particular party. She also called for religious tolerance and respect of minorities in the new Egypt — a major concern among the Christian minority, women and secular liberals who fear restrictions if the fundamentalist Brotherhood wields power.

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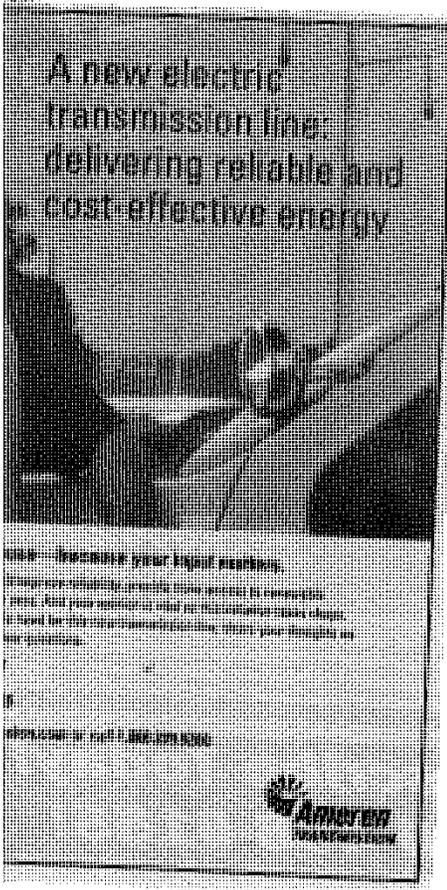
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
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The undersigned Joseph Michelich, publisher of THE CHATHAM CLARION, a secular newspaper of general circulation in said county, printed and published in the aforesaid Village of Chatham, county of Sangamon and state of Illinois, does hereby certify that a notice of which the annexed is a true copy has been regularly published in said newspaper one time each week for four successive weeks.

The first publication of said notice was on the 28th day of June, A.D., 20 12 and the last said publication was on the 19th day of July, A.D., 20 12. And the undersigned does further certify that the said Chatham Clarion has been and was regularly published in said city, county and state for at least six months prior to the first publication of said notice.

In Witness whereof the undersigned publisher as aforesaid has hereunto set his hand and seal on this 1st day of August, A.D., 20 12.

Joseph Michelich
 Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of August, A.D., 20 12.

OFFICIAL SEAL
 PATRICE HUBER
 NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF ILLINOIS
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 10/14/13

Patrice Huber
 Notary Public



On June 4-8, the Springfield Youth Performance Group presented a camp for children ages 5 thru 10 at the Chatham Baptist Church. The Springfield Youth Performance Group and the Village of Chatham Recreation have been presenting a Musical Theater camp together for over six years. The photo is from The SYPG Musical Theater Camp performance of "Beauty and the Beast."



Changing Faces in Chatham recently ran a raffle where participants could try to win an Emergency Tote. All money raised was donated to the American Red Cross. The raffle resulted in a \$150 donation to the Red Cross. The winner of the raffle was Cherie Jaworski.



The Chatham Venom 11U baseball team took second place at the USSSA "AA" State Championships held June 22-24 at Lenz Field in Jacksonville. The Venom went 5-2 in the 30 team field and lost 9-6 in the championship Game to the Maryville Redbirds. Team members are (front, l-r): Camden Buenemeyer, Cade Trautvetter, Jalen Ping, Connor Smith, Dalton Clarke. Back: Coach Len Ping, Jake Jurgens, Kyle DeSart, Matt Clevenger, Caleb Mueller, Gavin Wahlbrink, Adam Holm, Coach Todd Trautvetter, Coach Scott Wahlbrink



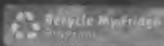
The Chatham Fire U9 soccer team won the River City Soccer Invitational in Peoria, hosted by the Peoria Soccer Club, on June 17. The Fire went undefeated in the tournament, defeating the Morton Blaze, Legends, and JGSA of Peoria. Team members include (front, l-r): Ethan Alexander, Danny Conlon, Garrett Kroeschel, Evan Capps, Caleb Steber, Thomas Herbst, Carson Law, Connor Kuchar, Reece Warren. Back: Coaches Jim Conlon and Gary Kroeschel.

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