



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.

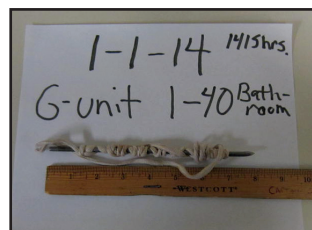
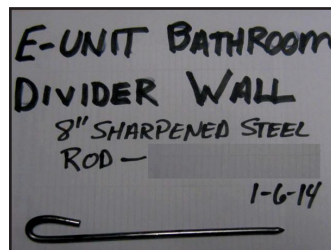
A fight broke out between members of rival gangs Jan. 2 at the Oaks.

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>.