



LONG BARGAINING SEASON WRAPS UP; CONTRACTS AVAILABLE SOON

Officers and other state employees are now working under new contracts approved by the Civil Service Commission Wednesday.

We don't have a clean copy of the contract yet, but when we do, it will be posted to the website. Hard copies will be mailed to members in the next few months.

The Commission voted to approve the impasse panel's recommendations, even though the Coalition of State Employee Unions argued there was new health care data obtained earlier

this month that should be considered.

Of course, health care was the big ticket item in this round of bargaining. All state workers will be put into the new health care plan, which has lower premiums but higher out-of-pocket costs for employees.

The new health care plan does not take effect until October 2014.

MCO is working on a chart to summarize the changes, and the new contract itself will provide all details of the plan. Typically, retiree health insurance mirrors what current employees have,

so it will not be a surprise if the state changes retiree insurance as well.

The Commission also approved raises that were less than the Coalition of State Employee Unions wanted, but more than OSE proposed. **State employees will get a 2 percent raise October 2014; a .5 percent lump sum in October 2014; and a 2 percent raise October 2015.** The unions fought hard throughout the process. State employees deserve better. We appreciate the hard work you do and your solidarity in these times.

AROUND THE STATE: IBC INMATES HIDE SPUD JUICE; ECF INMATE BURNED

Bellamy Creek inmates jerry-rigged a handle on a utility room door so it could be opened from the outside.

They fastened a string to the inside handle and used magnets to attach the string to the bottom of the door. Inmates could pull the string under the door to open it.

Inside the utility room was a secret stash of sugar and spud juice. Drywall surrounding a vent had been removed.

The utility room was in housing unit 6, which is Level II.

A CO found the string and contraband Monday.

Also at IBC, about 30 plastic bags of spud juice were found Tuesday in an inmate's duffel bag in his cell. Each bag had about 20 ounces of liquid, officers say.

An ECF officer was stabbed in the calf while breaking up an inmate fight Monday.

It started when one convict threw boiling water in another prisoner's face. Then the water-thrower stabbed the burned inmate. One officer was stabbed in the scuffle.

An unknown substance had been mixed in the hot water to make it stick

on the prisoner's skin. None of the stab wounds were serious.

This happened in a Level II housing unit. The convict that threw the water is now in seg.

An AMF inmate used a piece of broken glass from a TV to slice an officer's hand Sunday.

The assault happened at lunch time. An officer was picking up trays, and when he opened an inmate's door slot, the prisoner started swinging the shard of glass. Another convict threw a tray on the floor and spit on an officer while he passed out trays Sunday.

MCO WITHDRAWS FROM OFFICER OF THE YEAR PROCESS

This year, MCO will not take part in selecting the Officer of the Year and will not have an official presence at the banquet.

The consensus of MCO leaders across the state was that the union should discontinue official participation in the selection process and banquet because the Department, in

recent years, has not shown genuine concern for officers. An annual banquet in itself, while nice, doesn't show DOC sincerely cares. Although we appreciate and congratulate those who have been selected as officers of the year at the facilities, MCO is exploring ways to acknowledge all officers during Correctional Officers Week.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Scholarship applications for the 2014-2015 academic year are now on the MCO website.

SEIU, Union Plus and MCO offer scholarships for children of active members. **The deadline for the Union Plus Scholarship is Jan. 31.** SEIU's deadline is in March, and MCO's is in June. *Good luck!*