



BENEFITS NEWS: LOANS AGAINST 401(K)S CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

As of March 15, employees with a 401(k) may no longer take out loans against the employer's contribution to the retirement account. Employees may take out a loan against their contribution to the account only.

MCO and other state employee unions were not given advance notice of this change. Rules about loans against 401(k)s are not bargained.

MCO and the Coalition of State Employee Unions are seeking legal advice and investigating possible action we can take.

Also, ING U.S., the retirement plan record keeper, is changing its name to **Voya Financial**. You may see either or both names on statements. The plans themselves are not changing.

The Benefits for Life open enrollment period ends April 11.

Benefits for Life offers state employees discount insurance plans, a legal protection plan and more.

For details, go to Michigan.org/employeebenefits.

BUDGET UPDATE

State budget hearings are on hold while the legislature is on recess.



Last week, the House revealed a budget for fiscal year '15 that, if passed, would require the Department of Corrections to put out bids for a private facility for mentally and physically disabled inmates. The House appropriations subcommittee on corrections approved the budget.

While this is concerning, it's still early in the budget process. The Senate hasn't introduced its version of the budget.

We'll keep you updated.

AROUND THE STATE: MORE ARAMARK PROBLEMS; RASH OF FIGHTS AT DRF

Three URF inmates got into a fight this week over a female Aramark employee. One of the prisoners was stabbed with a six-inch screw. He was not seriously injured.

Officers say the woman spent a lot of time with one inmate in particular and was bringing in tobacco. She resigned.

Marquette inmates are taking turns at a hunger strike.

About 20 prisoners are on strike at all times. When a few start eating again, others join the strike.

The protest started March 27 and was still going on as of Thursday's evening meal.

Officers say the inmates are mad about subpar Aramark food.

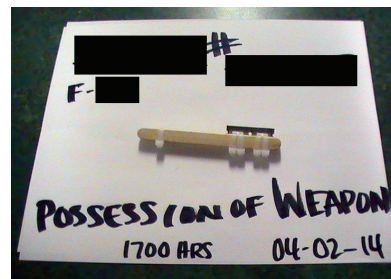
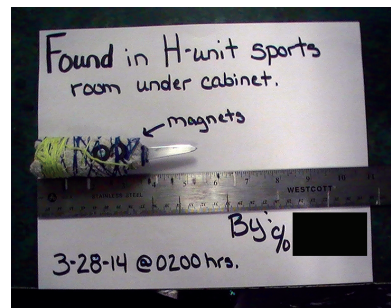
The Level IV units at DRF were

on lock down Saturday through Wednesday after a flurry of activity.

On Saturday, two convicts attacked another inmate while he was returning from chow. One of the assailants gave the victim a 3-inch slash across the face. The wound bled profusely, and the inmate was sent to a hospital for treatment. Now he's back at DRF and in seg for protection.

Both of the attackers had weapons made from desk parts, officers say. The desks are now being removed from Level IV units.

There was also a four-man fight Saturday at DRF. All of them were sent to seg, but some of them have been



bounced in and out of seg due to space constraints. Some of them were transferred to other facilities.

At least six weapons were found at DRF in the last week. Two are pictured at left.

Other recent events at DRF: 3/25 - inmate-on-inmate fight. One in-

mate was Tased. Both taken to seg. 3/26 - inmate-on-inmate fight. Both taken to seg. 3/31 - inmate-on-inmate fight with a lock in a sock.