

# IN BRIEF

## RIVERSIDE

### Hospital employees vote to allow strike

Riverside Community Hospital's 1,500 health-care workers authorized a one-day strike in a late vote Tuesday. The date of the strike has not been set.

The one-day strike will happen if good-faith contract negotiations do not progress, said Thea Lavin, a spokeswoman for Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers-West. Some key issues the union is pushing for involve staffing, wage scales and forced overtime.

Riverside Community Hospital spokeswoman Tracy Dallarda said the hospital is disappointed in the vote because administrators hope to solve any disputes through the collective-bargaining process. A few dates are set aside next week, she said.

If the workers do strike, their union is required to give the hospital 10 days' notice, Dallarda said.

She said patient care would not be affected because the hospital would hire the necessary workers.

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