Briefly

Santa Cruz workers ratify contract p

Employees of the city of Santa Cruz, by a 94 percent vote, ratified a contract last week that gives them wage increases and retirement contributions equivalent to a 15.5 percent raise over three years.

The 400 affected workers are represented by Service Employees International Union Local 415, the largest public employee union in Santa Cruz County.

The contract provides another 5 percent for senior workers currently at top salary; improved medical, dental and life insurance; paid leave for parents for birth or adoption; increased shift premium pay; additional vacation; binding arbitration to decide worker grievances; layoff benefits; and other improvements.

The three-year contract is retroactive to Feb. 2.