

# PRESS-TELEGRAM

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## LONG BEACH

# Airport security plan angers union

### Guards might sue over reorganization proposal that would put them under Police Department

By Hayley Munguia  
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Security at the Long Beach Airport could be the source of a lawsuit against the city — if the City Council votes on Tuesday to move ahead with a planned reorganization of airport workers. Under the proposal, the Po-

lice Department would manage the airport's security workers, who currently operate as an independent force. The Police Department, once it takes control, would reduce the amount of training the workers get, which could prevent incoming guards from earning their "certified peace officer status." The workers would also not patrol

between 11 p.m. and 5:30 a.m., effectively leaving the airport without security guards while it's closed overnight.

This reorganization is one the city has sought for years, arguing the move would better define the roles of public safety officials and make security at the airport more effective.

But the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the union tasked with providing non-police security at the airport, has

resisted the change, arguing it would cause an unintended ripple effect that could harm public safety and cost the city's taxpayers. It would also, the union has contended, violate federal laws governing airport security.

The crux of the conflict now comes down to stalled negotiations between Long Beach and the union, which met at the bargaining table 10 times during a nine-month period in 2018, despite the labor agreement not

**"The only thing this benefits is the financial coffers of the Long Beach Police Department. It doesn't add any security to the airport. As a matter of fact, it takes it away."**

— Richard Suarez, union representative

SECURITY » PAGE 4

## EARTH DAY WEEKEND



# A wet, wild and often overlooked landscape

Less than 10% of historical wetlands remain in Orange and Los Angeles counties, but ambitious restoration and expansion plans are underway

By Martin Wisckol  
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Between Southern California's popular beaches and much-traversed mountain trails lies an unsung natural landscape teeming with its own special wildlife.

As you head outdoors to celebrate Earth Day weekend — or to simply connect with nature and leave behind the anxieties of urban life — one option is our area's often overlooked coastal wetlands.

In Orange and Los Angeles counties, more than 90% of the estuaries, lagoons and other coastal waters that existed in the 19th century have been lost to roads, buildings and other development. But what remains provides a crucial habitat for resident animals and migrating birds, including several endangered species.

While conservancies and other environmental guardians focus first on protecting and restoring the natural habitat, most of the larger wetlands also

WETLANDS » PAGE 13



PHOTOS BY MINDY SCHAUER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TOP: Kayakers cruise around the Back Bay in Newport Beach on Monday. ABOVE: OC Parks and the Newport Bay Conservancy will be hosting Earth Day at the Bay, a free event today at the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.

## TORTURE CASE

# 25 years to life in prison for Turpins

### Judge terms Perris parents' abuse of 12 of their children 'selfish, cruel and inhumane'

By Brian Rokos and Ryan Hagen  
Staff writers

David Allen Turpin and Louise Ann Turpin tearfully apologized Friday for mistreating 12 of their children — criminal actions that the judge found "selfish, cruel and inhumane" — before the Perris couple were sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison.

David Turpin, 57, and Louise Turpin, 50, could be eligible for a parole hearing in about 21 years because of credits for time already served and a state law requiring convicts to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

The sentencing, in Superior Court in Riverside, ended a case that shocked the nation and

TURPIN » PAGE 5

## COACHELLA AT 20

# Longtime fans pile up peak experiences and look to have even more

By Vanessa Franko  
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They were there when Rage Against the Machine played at the first festival in 1999, and they were there when the Los Angeles group reunited at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in 2007. They saw Amy Winehouse, Arcade Fire and Childish Gambino long before they were household names.

Now that Coachella has turned 20 — and is very different from the event that started at the Empire Polo Club in the fall of 1999 — we talked to some of the festival's die-hard fans who keep

COACHELLA » PAGE 15

## INDEX

Bridge.....C7,10 | Classifieds.....C7 | Faith.....A15 | Puzzles.....C3,5,10  
Business.....A12 | Comics.....C4,5,7 | Obituaries.....A11 | Ship arrivals.....A5

TODAY H: 66 L: 55  
SUN. H: 68 L: 54  
MON. H: 74 L: 57  
Full weather report B10

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