



Press-Telegram

www.presstelegram.com

Long Beach, California WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 ★ 25¢ (plus tax)

A safer harbor for No. 24



City OKs firefighter raises

COUNCIL: Salaries could rise up to 27% through September 2013; pact with largest employee union approved.

By Paul Eakins
Staff Writer
LONG BEACH — The City Council approved new contracts with firefighters and the largest city employee union Tuesday, though one council member said she wasn't convinced the city can afford the agreements.
The council first voted 8-1 to approve a contract with the Long Beach Firefighters Association that will give firefighters regular raises designed to give them more competitive salaries. The contract runs retroactively from Jan. 1 of this year to Sept. 30, 2013, and has the potential to give firefighters up to a 27 percent pay raise.
The agreement "attempts to address compensation challenges over a multiple-year period with the goal of

COUNCIL/A5



Stephen Carr/Staff Photographer

Officials, top right, gather for the dedication of Long Beach Fire Station 24 on Terminal Island on Tuesday. The American flag, above, flies over the \$12 million firehouse, the city's first new station in 22 years. The Port of Long Beach contributed \$11 million to the project.

By Kristopher Hanson
Staff Writer
LONG BEACH — Impeccably clean and modern, it's a far cry from the cramped, aging firehouses that dot the city.
Firefighters Tuesday dedicated Long Beach's first all-new fire station in 22 years — a \$12-million home for firefighters trained to battle the most dangerous and potentially toxic industrial blazes known to man.
"It's been a long time coming, but it's been worth the wait," Long Beach Fire Captain Mike DuRee said of the site, located on Terminal Island in the port.

Newest Long Beach fire station will house the crews that are trained to protect the port and deal with hazardous materials spills

"It's state of the art and it's going to be invaluable for our men and women down here."
Surrounded by container terminals, a power plant, busy harbor shipping lanes and even busier truck routes, Long Beach Fire Station 24 replaces a former station nearby that consisted of a few rusting double-wide trailers, a rickety garage and tiny parking lot. The Terminal Island facility is the first all-new firehouse since Station 14 was constructed next to Colorado Lagoon in 1986.
The Harbor Department paid for the building's land, construction and equipment, allowing firefighters to move from their decrepit previous home on Pier T.
The new station provides the four firefighters on duty with private rooms, enclosed

STATION/A11

Manhole cover thefts hit city

L.B.: Authorities believe nearly 50 lids were stolen over the past eight months to be sold to scrap metal yards.

By Kelly Puente
Staff Writer
LONG BEACH — Nearly 50 cast-iron manhole covers, weighing about 100 to 200 pounds each, have been stolen throughout the city in the last eight months, the Long Beach Water Department announced Tuesday.
Water department spokesman Ryan Alsop said nine more were stolen either late Monday night or early Tuesday morning, making for a total of 26 lids stolen in the last 10 days.
The culprits are mainly targeting alleys in west and north Long Beach, he said.
Authorities believe that a group of robbers probably uses a pickax or crowbar to lift the covers so they can

MANHOLE/A11

Obama stretches his delegate lead

CAMPAIGN: Supporters celebrate North Carolina victory. Clinton set to win Indiana, carry on in race.

By Steven Thomma
McClatchy Newspapers
WASHINGTON — Barack Obama moved inexorably closer to the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, holding on to his lead as time runs out on challenger Hillary Clinton.
His decisive win in North Caro-

lina, even as he trailed narrowly in Indiana late into the night, denied her the two-state knockout punch that would have left him reeling.
Tuesday's votes were the last in states big enough to give one of the candidates a game-changing boost in delegates or popular vote. They now head to six final contests in such smaller venues as West Virginia, Kentucky, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Montana and South Dakota.
With only 217 delegates at stake in all six combined, Obama is all but certain to emerge after five months of voting with his lead among

pledged delegates intact. In fact, Obama aides Tuesday night predicted he would win a majority of the pledged delegates this month.
He also added to his nationwide lead Tuesday in the popular vote — a second strong argument to take in June to the party elites who'll cast the deciding convention votes for a nominee.
Obama has one continuing weakness, however, that was reinforced in both Indiana and North Carolina — his inability to win working-class

POLL/A5

HOT PICKS ONLINE
PRESSTELEGRAM.COM

online POLL
presstelegram.com

Today's question:
Do you play online games?
Yes / No / Obsessively

Yesterday's question:
Have you ever watched the grunion run?

47% No

53% Yes

TOP VIEWS

1. News: Infants found dead in mother's freezer
2. News: L.B. man convicted in 'stove' death
3. News: 'I was just a little nervous'

ONLINE EXTRAS

PHOTO GALLERY
The Long Beach Fire Dept. dedicates its first new station in 22 years.

BREAKING NEWS
Visit our Web site for the latest in local news.



Low clouds
Long Beach 66
Inland 72

Bridge	D6	Editorial	A12	Sports	C1	Cover	5
Business	A7	Lottery	A15	LIFE		Horoscope	5
Classified	D1	Nation/World	A8	Comics	4	Movies	2
Comics	D2	Passages	A14	Dear Abby	2	Puzzles	5
Crossword	D2,6					TV	6

NATION
Change in the works
The rising price of copper has led to moves to replace pennies and nickels with steel variants.

NATION
Myanmar donations
Aid trickles into the South East Asian region stricken by cyclone. Find out where you can help.

For home delivery or customer service, call 562-436-3676, and press 1. For news staff, call 562-499-1337. E-mail: ptnews@presstelegram.com.

TIRED OF BEING OVERWEIGHT? LET US HELP!

CHLB offers the premiere weight loss surgery program in the area!

Ask about our free information seminars
(800) 964-0525 • www.thenewprogramchlb.com

The New Program
Community Hospital of Long Beach

1720 Terminal Avenue
Long Beach • CA • 90804
(562) 498-1000 • www.chlb.org