



THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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Junior Lifeguards make a splash at OB Pier

Members of the San Diego Junior Lifeguard program's "B" Division, top, take the traditional jump off the Ocean Beach Pier during the summer program's training event on Wednesday, Aug. 5 (photo by Don Balch). At left, jumpers are captured from underneath the pier by photographer Ronan Gray as members of the "C" Division plunge into the turbulent water below. Right, a happy San Diego Junior Lifeguard signals the "all clear" after taking the drop (photo by Don Balch).

Volatile scenario

Petition drive seeks to halt gas-laden trucks through neighborhood streets

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

The transportation of excess methane gas from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant — a city-based plan that involves trucking the gas through Peninsula neighborhoods — has some residents along the proposed route up in arms.

The project, first presented to local planners in 2007, is expected to be operational by the fall of 2010.

The excess methane gas is being

sold by the city under contract and will be trucked to a biofuel facility in Encinitas.

"We're directly impacted financially and personally in our safety and our sleep at night," said John Pedersen, a member of a newly formed citizen group called Homeowners for a Green and Safe Point Loma. "By us going door to door, we have found that residents on our affected streets didn't know and were outraged that they

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Residents making noise over heading change at Lindbergh

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

The Federal Aviation Administration-approved use of a 250-degree flight departure heading from Lindbergh Field — the result of a new construction project driven by fresh federal economic stimulus money — will put a new area of the Peninsula under the flight path.

Concerned residents in the affected areas of south Point Loma are not dealing with the news quietly.

"That's an intrusion and an expanded influence that we were not clearly informed about during this whole planning process.

They did not discuss changing the vectors at all," said Suhail Khalil, who chairs the Peninsula Community Planning Board's Airport Committee. "In fact, they adamantly said they would not change the vectors."

Construction to improve the airport's Taxiway C began Aug. 10. The nine-month project includes the replacement and installation of taxiway edge lights, installation of runway guard lights, replacement and installation of taxiway edge lights and reconstruction of taxiway pavement, according to officials

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PLNU standout signs with Padres, others ink deals too

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | THE BEACON

Andrew Bovich, Point Loma Nazarene University's (PLNU) pitching ace this past season, was signed by the hometown San Diego Padres in June to play in the rookie Arizona League at Peoria.

"He was signed about a week after the baseball draft," said PLNU head baseball coach Joe Schaefer. The Padre scout worked him out and he was signed on the spot."

The 23-year-old southpaw helped lead the Sea Lions to the

best season in the program's 60-year history with his personal 13-1 record. He also was undefeated in the regular season and posted a dominant (1.70) earned run average (ERA).

After the College World Series, Bovich attributed his outstanding year to his time in the Carolina League this past fall, where he gained much-needed experience against professional players.

Bovich had modest numbers the previous year (2008) with a 6-4 record, while the rest of the young

Sea Lion pitching staff struggled during the first part of the season. Despite the struggles, Bovich showed signs of promise during the course of the year with a 43-to-15 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 75 innings of work and two complete games.

"He's very excited about getting the opportunity to play with an affiliated club," Schaefer said. "Before he was signed, he called me for advice and was thinking



Former Point Loma Nazarene University pitcher Andrew Bovich has inked a deal to play for the San Diego Padres' rookie Arizona League. COURTESY PHOTO

SEE STANDOUTS, Page 7

Surf Report

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Hi: 7:29 a.m.	Hi: 8:01 a.m.
5:17 p.m.	6:23 p.m.
Low: 12:16 a.m.	Low: 1:10 a.m.
10:14 p.m.	11:53 p.m.
Size: 1-2 ft.	Size: 2-3 ft.
Wind: 8-12 mph	Wind: 8-12 mph

Stamp of approval

U.S. Postal Service officials say the Cañon Street facility in Point Loma will not be considered for closure. **3**

Just one wild and crazy time

Get ready for the biggest, most ridiculous, most inappropriate kickball tournament in the world on Saturday at Liberty Station. **13**

San Diego H₂O feats

The glory and darker side of legendary surfer Mike Hynson's life are chronicled in a new book. **8**



Cañon St. post office won't have to take a licking from closure — for now

By ANTHONY GENTILE | THE BEACON

Ten San Diego County post offices recently emerged on a national list of 677 facilities marked for possible closure or consolidation — including branches in Point Loma, downtown and University City. And while early indicators are that the Point Loma facility will be spared, the downtown and University City locations are not out of the woods yet, according to postal officials.

The list was presented by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to the House

of Representatives on July 30 and included the facility at 2931 Cañon St. in Point Loma.

Of those 677 facilities identified nationally, however, none will be subject to closure in the immediate future, according to postal officials.

"It's customary. This process we've had in place for many, many years," said USPS spokesperson Don Smeraldi. "Like any business, we're always looking for ways if we have extra space."

The possibly targeted facilities downtown and in University City

are located on 2692 C St. and 3298 Governor Drive, respectively.

"With the financial situation we're in, it's becoming more important than ever," Smeraldi said. "From a national level, they said out of all the 3,000 post offices that are in urban centers and cities, are there any that we could possibly consolidate."

Smeraldi confirmed that the Point Loma branch was on the original review list. Smeraldi said, however, that the Cañon Street branch is safe for the moment.

"They're not under review anymore," Smeraldi said. "If we don't get some legislative relief and the mail volume continues to climb the way it has been, we'll revisit things as time goes on."

Smeraldi said the list is part of the Postal Service's regular review process. He said all affected parties, including employees, employee unions, customers and city officials, would all be notified well in advance of any possible consolidations or closures.

"It's so preliminary and all the

stakeholders would all be kept informed," Smeraldi said. "It's not something that can happen overnight."

According to Smeraldi, the process of reviewing whether to close branches will not even start until the fiscal year begins Oct. 1. He said the beginning of the new fiscal year is not a deadline for any decisions to be made and that a timetable on closures is unknown.

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with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.

"In redoing the taxiway," said Airport Authority senior public relations specialist Sharie Shipley, "we are making the runway more efficient and safer for all the planes that do arrive here and depart from here."

In order to alleviate potential traffic on the taxiways during the construction, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved the use of the 250-degree departure heading. The FAA currently allows headings of 275 and 290 degrees.

"During construction, a third departure path will allow us to depart more aircraft during very busy times," said FAA Western-Pacific Region communications manager Ian Gregor, "thus easing congestion on the ground."

Gregor insists that the 250-

degree heading will be used only when it is completely necessary. He said the FAA expects an average of fewer than 10 flights a day to use the heading during the construction as a temporary option.

"This is just another one of those times when they feel it's necessary in case they need them. There's no guarantee that they're going to get 10 airplanes a day on the 250 (-degree departure heading)," said Dan Frazee, the Airport Authority's director of noise mitigation.

"They're just saying that the possibility exists if we have backup that they'll use that as a viable option," he said.

This new departure heading, however, has left some residents in areas of Point Loma feeling a little uneasy.

Khalil said the new heading presents a huge noise impact and sends flights over Dana middle, Silvergate elementary and Warren Walker schools.

"Anything south of the 275

heading is what we're opposed to," Khalil said. "We don't want to see fanning of the departure profiles to be a norm as they continue to expand the capacity of the single-runway airport. That's the only way of doing it."

Khalil said departures from the 250-degree heading put a new group of residents under the flight path — including himself. The Point Loma resident said he does not want planes flying over his home.

"I bought my home knowing that I was well removed from the departure profile. A lot of Point Loma community residents feel the same way," Khalil said.

"Overflights are a huge concern — not just noise, but air quality and general quality of life as well," he said.

Lance Murphy, a founding member of SANNoise, a citizen-formed committee concerned about airport expansion and how it will affect local communities, echoes Khalil's concerns.

Murphy said he thinks that as the airport expands, using the 250-degree heading will be necessary on a more permanent basis for it to run at full capacity.

"My key issue is I think in the long run they're going to try and have three departure tracks," Murphy said, "so they are training the populous to accept this. That's not right."

PCPB Airport Committee members want the Airport Authority to consider a different method of construction to lessen the need for and impact of the 250-degree departure heading.

In a guest commentary in last week's Beacon, Khalil suggested that the Airport Authority utilize the concrete ramp near the general aviation facility as an alternative path, as well as constructing the eastern half of the taxiway during curfew hours of 11:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m., segment project construction, sequence departures from the north taxiway into the south taxiway, allow the 250-

degree heading only between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and not allow MD80 aircraft to depart from the heading at anytime.

The PCPB's Airport Committee also plans to present a draft letter to both Sen. Christine Kehoe and Congresswoman Susan Davis at their next scheduled meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20 addressing community concerns about airport expansion and ramifications on quality of life issues.

For more information about the monthly PCPB meeting, visit www.pcpb.net.

"We're in position right now to get Congresswoman Davis' attention and say, 'If this is the case and it will become the new norm, we're going to fight it tooth and nail because that's not what we want in our community,'" Khalil said.

For more information about the citizen group SANNoise, visit sannoise.org. For more information about the Airport Authority, visit www.san.org.

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Ocean Beach | \$675,000



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Mission Village | \$695K-\$750K



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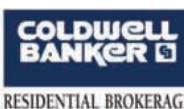
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