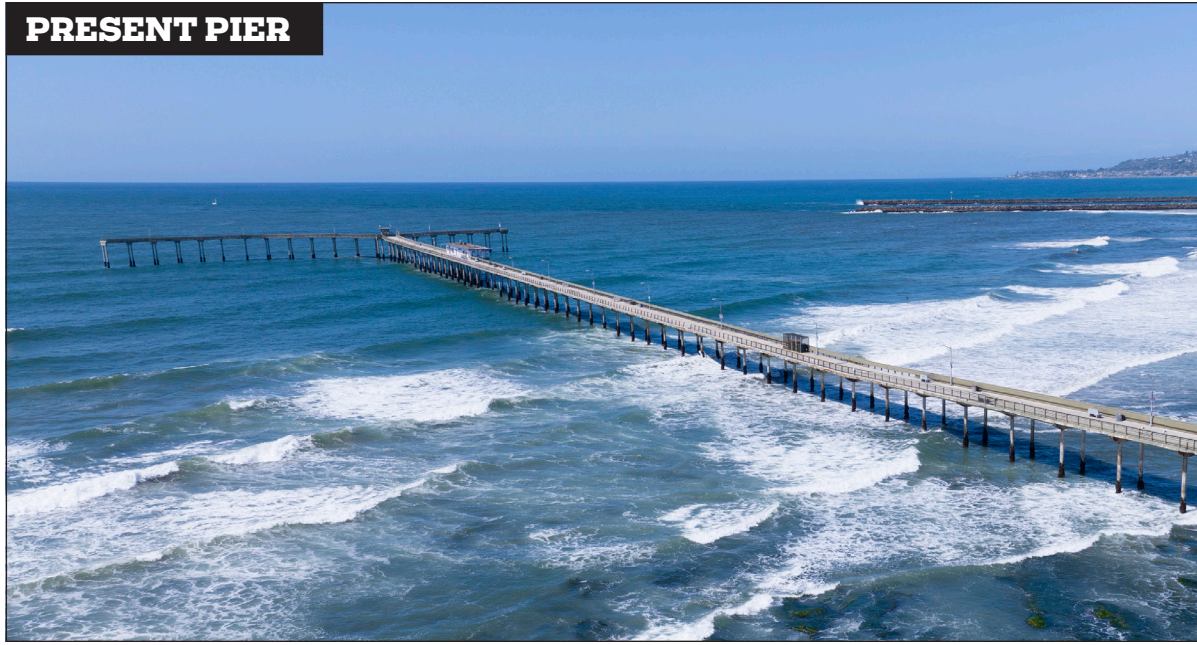




The San Diego Union-Tribune

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PRESENT PIER



NEW DESIGN



City unveils design for O.B. icon's replacement

By Emily Alvarenga

A new cafe, bait shop and restaurant. Inter-connected pathways that curve into the water and split into different levels to let people experience the ocean in different ways. And a design that builds on the original and extends farther into the sea.

These are some of the

Preferred plan would extend pier farther into the sea and make room for a cafe, bait shop and restaurant

key design concepts that the city unveiled Saturday as part of its efforts to reimagine the iconic but crumbling Ocean Beach Pier and determine its future.

The final, preferred design concept was presented to the public at Liberty Station at the fourth workshop in a series of community events to get input on a long-term solu-

tion, after a 2018 study determined the aging structure was at the end of its service life. The pier has been shuttered since October because of storm damage.

Although the plan is not yet certain, both the community and city prefer to replace the pier because of the ongoing cost of

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ABOVE: The nearly 58-year-old Ocean Beach Pier has been closed since October because of storm damage. A rendering shows the final, preferred design concept for a reimagined pier. **NELVIN C. CEPEDA / U-T & CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

Women lead in Mexico presidential race

But analysts see sexism permeating as polls, others ask: Are Mexicans ready?

By Sara España

MEXICO CITY — Are Mexicans ready for a female president?

As two women lead in Mexico's presidential race, the question has appeared in polls, debates, media and conversations

across Mexico. But it is also a sample of the sexism and "machismo" culture that continues to permeate Mexico, according to political analysts.

The question of whether Mexicans are ready — or not — for a female president carries an implicit



Xóchitl Galvez Claudia Sheinbaum

country, said Julia Zulver, a researcher from the Latin American Centre at Oxford University and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"Questioning someone for their level of studies, for their experience, for their public policies, that is valid," Zulver said. "But questioning two women who have studied, who

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SPORTS

And then there were two: UConn, Purdue

What started as March Madness is set for a final game Monday. The No. 1 seed in the East, UConn, will meet the Midwest No. 1 seed, Purdue, for the NCAA Tournament championship in men's basketball. **D1**



Centers Zach Edey, left, and Donovan Clingan will lead their teams in Monday's championship game in Glendale, Ariz.



ALEJANDRO TAMAYO / U-T

BUSINESS

SeaWorld celebrates 60 years

As SeaWorld San Diego embarks on a yearlong celebration of its six decades in business, much has changed. The marine park on Mission Bay has seen triumphs and tumult through expansion, thrill rides, bad publicity and a pandemic, yet it sees a bright future in a brand that is now worldwide. **C1**

Gaza war turns spotlight on pipeline of U.S. arms to Israel

Military agreement dating to 2016 guarantees support over 10 years

By Michael Crowley & Edward Wong

In the fall of 2016, the Obama administration sealed a major military agreement with Israel that committed the United States to giving the country \$38 billion in arms over 10 years.

"The continued supply of the world's most advanced weapons technology will ensure that Israel has the ability to defend itself from all manner of threats," President Barack Obama said.

At the time, the agreement was uncontroversial. It was a period of relative calm for Israel, and few officials in Washington expressed concern about how the U.S. arms might one day be used.

Now, that military aid package, which guarantees Israel \$3.3 billion per year to buy weapons, along with an additional \$500 million annually for missile defense, has become a flashpoint for the Biden administration. A vocal minority of lawmakers

in Congress backed by liberal activists are demanding that President Joe Biden restrict or even halt arms shipments to Israel because of its military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Biden has been sharply critical of what he on one occasion called "indiscriminate bombing" in Israel's war campaign, but he has resisted placing limits on U.S. military aid.

The United States and Israel have had tight military relations for decades, stretching across multiple Democratic and Republican administrations. Israel has purchased much of its critical equipment from the United States, including fighter jets, helicopters, air defense missiles, and both unguided and guided bombs, which have been dropped in Gaza. Legislation mandates that the U.S. government help Israel maintain force superiority — or its "qualitative military edge" —

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One union spent big on election of influential panel

Laborers group invested \$400,000 on picking county Dems' central committee

By Jeff McDonald

Historically, campaigns for seats on a political party's central committee were low-key, low-dollar affairs.

The candidates were mostly rank-and-file voters whose charge was recruiting newcomers to public office and shaping the party platform in ways that best reflected their worldview, be they Democrats, Republicans or members of lesser-known parties.

All of that changed significantly in the run-up to the March primary election, when unprecedented amounts of money were spent to promote favored candidates, including dozens of politicians who already hold public office and their aides.

The primary campaign saw public officials like state

Sen. Brian Jones, county Supervisor Joel Anderson and San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria all elected to their party's central committee.

San Diego council President Sean Elo-Rivera and Councilmembers Stephen Whitburn, Vivian Moreno and Raul Campillo also campaigned for the county Democratic Party central committee.

All but Elo-Rivera won.

Many candidates won with help from the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 89, the brotherhood of construction workers that invested more than \$400,000 in slate mailers, door hangers and other political messages over the first two months of 2024.

The union's strategy is not unheard of, but critics worry the trend could divert

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SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY AT NOON

FAT HAM

BY JAMES IJAMES
ORIGINAL DIRECTION BY SAHEEM ALI
DIRECTED BY SIDIQ HEARD

MAY 25 - JUNE 23

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