



# The San Diego Union-Tribune

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SUNDAY

## UNWRAP IDEAS FOR GREAT GIFTS

**INSIDE:** The Union-Tribune presents its annual Holiday Gift Guide, 28 pages of ideas for unique gift-giving, seasonal activities and more.



## SECRETARY OF NAVY: TRUMP'S TWEET NOT AN ORDER

Spencer, SEAL leader said to be challenging intervention in reviews

U-T NEWS SERVICES

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said Saturday that he would comply with any order by President Donald Trump regarding the case of a Navy SEAL whose continuance in the elite unit is being reviewed by the service after a controversial murder charge.

However, at the Halifax International Security Forum in Nova Scotia, Canada, where he is a key-note speaker, Spencer said he doesn't consider a tweet by Trump an order and would need a formal order to stop a review of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, who faces the loss of his status as a Navy SEAL.

"I need a formal order to act," Spencer said, and referred to the tweet posted Thursday by Trump. "I don't interpret (tweets) as a formal order."

The statement came as Spencer denied a New York Times report Saturday that he and Rear Adm. Collin Green had threatened to resign or be fired if Trump inter-

SEE NAVY • A7

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS SLOW TO TAKE HOLD

Some prosecutors, judges oppose two major bills in particular

BY GREG MORAN

For more than half a decade the state Legislature has churned out scores of bills and new initiatives aimed at disassembling a vast criminal justice system built over nearly 40 years on tough-on-crime laws that increased punishments and swelled state prison populations.

The blizzard of new laws has put the state at the leading edge of the national criminal justice reform movement that aims at reversing mass incarceration policies by reducing prison sentences, opting for rehabilitation over punishment, and mandating new approaches to policing and prosecution.

Yet since the start of the reforms in 2011, when the Legislature passed a law known as public safety realignment that reconfigured the state penal system and kept

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JOHN GIBBINS U-T PHOTOS

The weighing of marlin is a momentous occasion each day of the Bisbee's Black and Blue marlin tournament in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, because the difference of a few pounds can turn a potential \$1 million catch into one worth several thousand dollars.

IN DEPTH

## Fishing for a big payday

Hundreds converge in Cabo to chase marlin and the potential of million-dollar catches

BY BRYCE MILLER

**CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico** As the crew of the Stella June dug into plates of Asian fusion at the Chubby Noodle on sleepy Paseo del la Marina, captain Evan Salvay ran fingers through hair shaped by a day's worth of salt water, wind, broiling sun and spiking anxiety.

The 27-year-old had ridden both sides of the exhilarating and sometimes cruel waves at the Bisbee's Black and Blue marlin tournament, the richest sportfishing chase on the planet. A year ago, a fish the part-time Point Loma and Huntington Beach resident landed translated to just over \$3 million. Two years ago, a potential \$1 million catch was edged by 14



Stella June Captain Evan Salvay (left) and Seth Dubois react as their 466-pound black marlin is weighed.

pounds as the paycheck plummeted ... to \$7,020.

In this year's tournament, the Stella June caught a 466-pound black marlin that held up as the day's best for hours on end. Two and a half blocks away, the only remaining fish to weigh was nearing

the dock. The estimated payout for the day's biggest catch ebbed around \$1.23 million.

The glazed ribs? The salt and pepper shrimp? The thought of food nauseated Salvay.

"I can't eat, dude," he said. The Bisbee's began as a mar-

keting ploy and sun-soaked tax deduction hatched by the late Bob Bisbee, who owned a fuel dock and tackle store in Newport Beach. The unique undertaking grew into a bait-chasing behemoth, luring anglers such as television's Dr. Phil, the late actor Jan-Michael Vincent, mixed martial artist Tito Ortiz and four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Rick Mears to join international teams sprinkled from Israel to South Africa.

For three days each October, it transforms into Las Vegas on water — boasting a record \$4,591,950 in prize money this year, dangled at the end of fishing lines extending from 126 boats.

One year, a vessel caught fire and sank just a mile into the three-day tournament. Another year, participants refused to abandon the beachside awards dinner when a storm tide rushed in, continuing to drink at tables with legs submerged. There was a downtown bar crawl on local firetrucks as organizers flung beads Mardi Gras-style. Last year, a Louisiana

SEE IN DEPTH • A16

## BIKE LANE CREATION ON A PEDESTRIAN PACE

Ambitious program for the region is \$79 million over budget and a year behind schedule

BY JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH

A year behind schedule and millions of dollars over budget, an ambitious plan by regional officials to build a sophisticated network of bicycle lanes and pedestrian crossings has proven more complicated than first anticipated.

Obstacles include everything from neighborhood outrage at the loss of parking spaces to the technical challenges of overhauling streets designed primarily for cars.

The San Diego Association of Governments — the agency undertaking the now-\$279 million project — has found itself in the crosshairs of frustrated groups on all sides of the issue, from business associations to homeowners to supporters of cycling.

The issue has become so contentious that a number of prominent bicycle advocates refused to go on record for this story, citing the fear of reprisal by neighborhood groups. Several elected officials also declined requests for

SEE BIKING • A15



DENIS POROY

A construction crew builds the Rose Canyon Bikeway along Santa Fe Street, adjacent to Interstate 5. That portion of the \$279 million infrastructure project has proceeded smoothly.

**EBENEZER SCROOGES** **BIG** San Diego CHRISTMAS SHOW

By Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen  
Based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens  
Directed by Gordon Greenberg

**Now Playing Through December 29**

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Robert Joy. Actor photo by Jim Cox.

### TRAVEL

#### OAKLAND BY RAIL

An Amtrak trip, with a stop in Santa Barbara, lived up to tourists' great expectations. **E9**



### U-T INDEX

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## HOLIDAY EVENTS

## Christmas tree and menorah lightings

Christmas is about a month away. We're busily making shopping lists and checking them twice, planning holiday dinners for friends and family or spending a day at a nearby tree lot or farm picking out that perfect Christmas tree. But there's one thing we can all share together: annual community tree lighting ceremonies. Some are also hosting menorah lightings to mark the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. Here is a list of some of the major neighborhood gatherings — organized by region and then by date. They are free and open to the public.

## Central San Diego

**SeaWorld San Diego:** Guests of the marine park can gather at Rudolph's Christmastown at 5 p.m. through Jan. 5 for the lighting of the park's Happiest Christmas Tree. Rudolph (and his shiny nose) and friends lead a sing-along ceremony, illuminating the 40-foot, animated tree, which dances and twinkles to classic songs from the nostalgic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" TV special. In addition to the tree lighting, SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration also features Santa's Christmas Village, "Clyde & Seamore's Christmas Special" sea lion and otter show and more. The Christmas Celebration festivities, including the tree lighting, are included with park admission. 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego. (619) 222-4732. seaworldsandiego.com

**Bankers Hill:** The 22nd annual Holiday Lighting Display at The Forward House (Bankers Hill mansion built in 1905 for San Diego Mayor John Forward Sr.) begins at 5 p.m. Thanksgiving Day. Santa will be making a pre-Christmas stop in his sleigh on Dec. 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and all visitors will receive a candy cane. Walk or drive by from 5 to 10 p.m. nightly through New Year's Eve. 108 Ivy St., five blocks west of Balboa Park and three blocks south of Laurel Street. (619) 533-7900. AmericanSecurityMortgage.net

**La Jolla:** La Valencia Hotel's annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Party will be held Dec. 5 in the La Sala Lounge with warm holiday beverages, homemade cookies, classic carols and children's crafts. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with tree lighting countdown at 6:30 p.m. 1132 Prospect St. (858) 424-0771.

**Point Loma:** Gather around the 88-foot

Norfolk Pine tree for the lighting of the tree at 6:15 p.m. Nov. 29 at Liberty Station, North Promenade, 2848 Dewey Road, San Diego. From 4 to 9 p.m., there will be live entertainment, festive firetruck rides, free pictures with Santa, food vendors, a screening of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and ice skating at Rady Children's Ice Rink in Central Promenade will be open all evening. libertystation.com

**Christmas on the Prado:** The sixth annual family-oriented and charity toy drive (not affiliated with Balboa Park's December Nights) will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. Nov. 30, with a Christmas tree lighting at Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2125 Pan American Road E., San Diego, and from noon to 4 p.m. at the International Cottages' Music Stage, 2191 Pan American Road W., San Diego. Bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Toy Drive. christmasonthep Prado.com

**Pacific Beach:** Christmas on Crystal Pier takes place from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 7 with Santa and Mrs. Claus, followed by the lighting of the pier tree at sunset. Pictures are \$10, or \$5 with a donation of school supplies. pacificbeach.org/event/pacific-beach-christmas

**Ocean Beach:** The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts its 39th annual Ocean Beach Holiday Parade on Dec. 7. It kicks off at 5:05 p.m. down Newport Avenue and includes the lighting of the Christmas tree. obtowncouncil.org

**South Park:** The Holiday Walkabout & Tree Lighting will take place all in the same day starting at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at Grape Street Square, San Diego. Live entertainment, complimentary treats and special offers. southparksd.com



SeaWorld San Diego's tree lighting.

Square, 13490 Pacific Highlands Ranch Parkway. Highlights include live music, free photos with Santa, train rides and holiday treats. phrvillage.com

**Vista:** Vista Village welcomes visitors to WinterFest from 2 to 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at Vista Village Complex, 25 Main St. Activities include live entertainment and music, roaming mariachis, holiday movies, ugly sweater contest, homemade tamales competition, a holiday marketplace, visits with Santa and a tree lighting ceremony. bit.ly/3225eBh

**Poway:** A community tree lighting kicks off Christmas in the Park at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 14 at Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road. Carolers, live music, horse-drawn hay and pony rides, visits with Santa and other activities will be held from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. (858) 668-4576. poway.org

## North Coastal

**Carlsbad:** The 17th annual "The Lighting of the Forum" will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30 at The Forum Carlsbad, 1923 Calle Barcelona. A holiday tree lighting ushers in the season just after Santa's arrival at 7:20 p.m., followed by a light show and magical snowfall. Free refreshments, prize drawings and musical performances are part of the event. (760) 479-0166. eventsforumcarlsbad.com

**Carlsbad:** Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, 2100 Costa Del Mar Road, welcomes the holiday season with Carols of Carlsbad and Tree Lighting Dec. 7. Festivities run from 3 to 8 p.m. and include a holiday market, live performance, cookie decorating, hot chocolate and cider, and a visit from skydiving Santa (weather permitting). (760) 438-9111.

**Encinitas:** San Diego Botanic Garden will illuminate 37 acres of flora, including pine trees, pony tail palms and aloes, dragon trees and bamboo, with more than 125,000 sparkling lights during its Botanic Wonderland Holiday Nights in the Garden. There's nightly entertainment, visits with Santa, holiday crafts, twinkling light tunnel, dazzling 10-foot poinsettia tower, a musical light show and a Kids Fun Zone with nightly "snowfall." There's a food truck court, a beer, wine and mulled wine garden, hot chocolate, coffee and more. Visitors can stop by from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 3-8, 10-15, 17-23 and 26-30 at 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. sdbgarden.org

**Encinitas:** Santa will light the Christmas tree at 5 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Lumberyard courtyard (near Starbucks), 937 S. Coast Highway 101, followed by a holiday parade at 5:30 p.m. along the 101. (760) 633-2760. bit.ly/2pUMepa

**Carlsbad:** The Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park, 6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane, will host Holiday at the Rancho, an evening of festivities, from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7. Activities include crafts, snowball fight, entertainment, a holiday movie, and a tree lighting at 5:45 p.m. on the sand near the pool. Food, beverages and souvenir photos are available for an additional cost. Tickets are available for presale or onsite. For more information, call (760) 602-7519.

**Cardiff-by-the-Sea:** Cardiff 101 Main Street will host Kringle Mingle from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 1 at the North Courtyard of Cardiff Town Center. The event features a children's craft pavilion, photos with Santa in his vintage Camera Camper Sleigh, live music, holiday treats, including acai bites, hot chocolate and hot coffee. Drink up for a cause at the Lost Abbey Confessional, a happy hour fundraiser to benefit the Cardiff community. The event concludes with the tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. cardiff101.com

**Del Mar:** Hosted by Del Mar Village, the Santa by the Sea holiday festivities start at 3 p.m. Dec. 8 on the northwest corner of Camino Del Mar and 15th Street, followed by a 5 p.m. tree lighting. Festivities include holiday treats and refreshments, crafts, including designing your own Rad Hatter holiday hats, live music, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus and letters to Santa workshop. bit.ly/2jiZJa

**Solana Beach:** The city's annual Holiday Tree Lighting starts at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at Fletcher Cove Park, 111 S. Sierra Ave. Live music, cookies, cider and a visit from Santa Claus at 5:20 p.m. (858) 720-2453. bit.ly/2CUC951

**Oceanside:** The annual Holiday Tree Lighting takes place at 6 p.m. Dec. 5 at Regal Cinema Plaza, 401 Mission Ave. Visitors will enjoy holiday music and carolers, family-friendly entertainment and games, horse-and-carriage rides, amusement rides, zip lines, bounce houses, free cookies and milk for the kids and free holiday arts and crafts projects from 5 to 8:30 p.m. bit.ly/32SpkNM

CAROLINA GUSMAN • U-T



HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T FILE

The Spreckels Organ Pavilion at Balboa Park during December Nights.

**Hillcrest:** Mama's Kitchen and Village Hillcrest host its annual Tree of Life Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at 3965 Fifth Ave., San Diego. The event includes a candlelight vigil and singing and sharing. (619) 233-6262. mamaskitchen.org

**Little Italy:** At 6:30 p.m. Dec. 7, gather around as the now permanent, more-than-25-foot-tall live tree lights up the Piazza della Famiglia on West Date and India streets. Nearby, in the Piazza Basilone, a brand new 25-foot tall Christmas tree designed by California artist Joshua Hubert will dazzle like a disco ball with all different colors all night long. A Christmas Village will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. littleitalysd.com

**Coronado:** Celebrate 131 years of a holiday legend as the Hotel del Coronado lights the menorah to celebrate the eight nights of Hanukkah from Dec. 22 to Dec. 29 in the lobby at 1500 Orange Ave. Celebrate Hanukkah on Dec. 26 at "Chanukah on Ice" at Skating by the Sea, with a special skating session, menorah lighting and Hanukkah treats, hosted by the Chabad of Coronado. hoteldel.com/events/chanukah

**Point Loma:** Liberty Station will host a Hanukkah Celebration and Menorah Lighting from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 22. Check the website for details. bit.ly/34egUKl

**Coronado:** The 44th annual Holiday Parade and Open House kicks off the season with the Christmas Parade along Orange Avenue at 6 p.m. Dec. 6, followed by the Christmas tree lighting and Santa's arrival at Rotary Plaza, 1100 Orange Ave. coronadochamber.com

**Balboa Park:** The tree at the Organ Pavilion will be lit around 6:15 p.m. Dec. 6 during December Nights' opening ceremony. sandiego.gov/december-nights

**Coronado:** Naval Base Coronado presents a Holiday Concert & Tree Lighting Dec. 8 at North Island Naval Air Station, Lowry Theater, 650 McCain Blvd. The concert starts at 7 p.m., followed by the Christmas tree lighting at 8:15 p.m. A Christkindlmarket will be open from 3 to 7 p.m. (619) 437-3190. sandiego.navylivesw.com

## East County

**La Mesa:** Grossmont Center will Light Up the Holidays with a giant Christ-

mas tree lighting in Center Court at 4 p.m. Nov. 29. Families can visit and take a photo with St. Nick at Santa's Hut from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 29-Dec. 23. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa. grossmontcenter.com

**El Cajon:** The annual Holiday Lights on Main Street will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. Nov. 30 at Prescott Promenade. A special tree lighting ceremony takes place at 6 p.m. at the corner of Main Street and Magnolia Avenue. There's a Santa Village with ice skating, carnival rides, vendors, holiday music, food and Santa Claus. downtownelcajian.com

**Julian:** The mountain community's annual Country Christmas Tree Lighting kicks off the season at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at Pioneer Park, 2811 Washington St. (760) 765-1857. visitjulian.com

**Lakeside:** The 21st annual Spirit of Christmas celebration includes a tree-lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. Dec. 7 on Maine Avenue. Activities take place from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. and include local area school performances, food, kids' activities, craft booths and photos with Santa. bit.ly/2PildEe

**Ramona:** The 27th annual Christmas Tree Lighting happens at 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in front of the Guy B. Woodward Museum, 645 Main St. Family-friendly events such as sleigh rides, a classic car display, carolers, visits with Santa and a "Find the Elf" contest will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. ramonachamber.com

**Alpine:** The Alpine Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual tree lighting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Historic Town Hall, 2156 Alpine Blvd, Alpine. The 24th annual Village Christmas Parade of Lights and Snow Festival kicks off Dec. 6 with a parade at 6:30 p.m. at Alpine Boulevard, from West Victoria Drive and Tavern Road, ending at the Alpine Creek Town Center, 1347 Tavern Road, where the celebration continues with snow sledding, kids' activities and vendors. visitalpine.org/special-events

**Lemon Grove:** Mayor Racquel Vasquez will light the Community Bonfire at 6 p.m. Dec. 6 at Civic Center Park, 3200 Main St. Event attractions will be at the park from 4 to 8 p.m., including live music, food trucks, vendors, a Kids Zone, spaghetti-eating contest and ugly sweater contest, hot chocolate and cookies. (619) 825-3815. lemongrove.ca.gov

**Alpine:** Children's Nature Retreat will

COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

host its annual lighting of the Christmas tree at 4 p.m. Dec. 15 at 5178 Japatal Spur. Enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies, and visit with the animals all dressed in their finest coats and ready to celebrate the holiday season. Included with admission price. Reservations: (619) 320-4942. childrensnatureretreat.org

## South Bay

**Bonita:** The Bonita Museum and Cultural Center presents its annual Tree Lighting festivities from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at 4355 Bonita Road. (619) 267-5141. Activities include crafts, cookie decorating, cider, music and Santa Claus. bonitahistoricalsociety.org

**National City:** The 12th annual A Kimball Holiday will be held from 3 to 9 p.m. Dec. 14 at Kimball Park, E. 12th St., National City. Winter activities include ice skating and sledding, train rides, food trucks, entertainment, a Ferris wheel and a tree lighting. (619) 336-4290. bit.ly/330dsJL

## North Inland

**Fallbrook:** Along with the annual Holiday Tree Lighting, there's music, face painting, games, food, balloon artists and more. 5 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane. (760) 728-1671. fallbrookcommunitycenterfriends.org

**San Marcos:** The annual Tree Lighting and Vendor Market takes place from 1 to 7 p.m. Dec. 7 at the San Marcos Civic Center, 3 Civic Center Drive. The event includes free festive crafts and activities, as well as vendors selling their wares and snacks. Entertainment will be featured in the courtyard. Santa will light the San Marcos tree at 5:35 p.m. bit.ly/2PipfPs

**Escondido:** The annual Winter Wonderland Festival at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido, will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 at 340 N. Escondido Blvd. There will be carolers, children's crafts, holiday-themed entertainers, live reindeer and Santa. At dusk, the Lyric Court will be illuminated with thousands of twinkling lights to usher in the holiday season. (800) 988-4253. artcenter.org

**Carmel Valley:** The Village at Pacific Highlands Ranch hosts a tree lighting ceremony and holiday festivities from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 in the Village

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