

HOLIDAY GUIDE

CALENDAR

From page 29A

eter.

Also in P.G., the holiday **Parade of Lights** begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29. Dance troupes and horses will be just some of the highlights of this old-fashioned celebration. After the marching bands finish playing, carolers will take over and businesses will stay open late for your holiday shopping pleasure.

Friday, Nov. 30 is the **tree lighting** at **Monte-rey's Colton Hall** starting at 5 p.m. With carols, candlelight and cookies and cider, you can almost imagine yourself transported in time back to the 1800s.

Speaking of dinner, **Christmas on Fisherman's Wharf** gets underway on Friday, Nov. 30 with family-friendly fun including holiday princesses, visits from Santa and other special entertainment on Friday evenings starting at 5 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. through Dec. 16.

Also on Nov. 30, **Smuin Ballet** jetés into Sun-set Center with its **holiday performance** including ballet, tap and jazz. The show starts at 7:30 on the 30th with a matinee on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$63.00 and can be purchased at sun-setcenter.org.

Saturday, Dec. 1, **Caledonia Park in Pacific Grove** will be the site of **Stillwell's Fun in the Park** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa will arrive in style on a firetruck and will be joined by fellow winter celebs Frosty the Snowman and the Snow Queen. Hayrides and a petting zoo for the kids are part of the day's amusements.

On Sunday, Dec. 2 (weather permitting) the **annual lighted boat parade**, christened "Brighten the Harbor," launches near **Fisherman's Wharf**. Since it starts at 5:30 p.m., think about reserving a spot in a favorite waterfront restaurant to enjoy

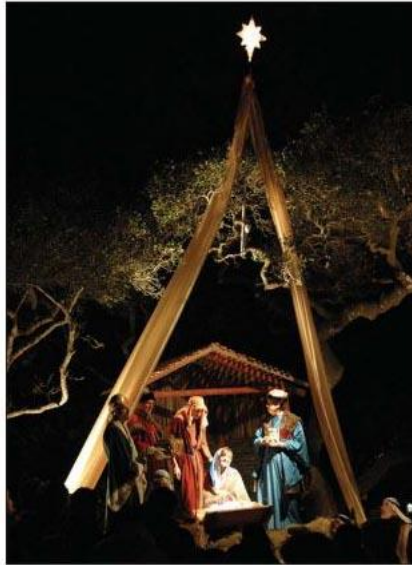
some Dungeness crab as the brightly decorated water-craft cruise out and back. The Monterey Yacht Club will have a boat available to view the parade from the water, with tickets going for \$25 for adults and \$20 for youth, including a cookie and a cup of a hot chocolate. Call (831) 372-7064 to learn more.

Monday, Dec. 3 marks the official start date for driv-

ing at a snail's pace while gawking at **Candy Cane Lane**, with entrances from Forest Avenue in P.G. Although it's nice during the day, the neighborhood's prodigious hard work is best appreciated after dark.

Here's another great reason to visit Cannery Row —

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Another local tradition is the Nativity Scene at Carmel Presbyterian Dec. 7 right after Carmel's tree is lit. In Salinas, the Streets of Bethlehem Dec. 5-8 will also include a recreation of the Nativity. And from now until Dec. 25, you pretty much won't be able to swing a cat on any street corner without hitting Santa and at least one of his reindeer, such as these two young ladies on Ocean Avenue.

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EVENTS

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the **Community Open House at the Aquarium** from Dec. 1-9. If you can show proof you live in Monterey County (your friends from San Benito and Santa Cruz are included, too), like a driver's license or even a cur-



Even at the water's edge, beautiful Christmas trees are everywhere, including on Cannery Row and at Fisherman's Wharf (above).



rent utility bill with a local address, you can get in for free. If that doesn't get you dreaming of a wet Christmas, there's something "otterly" wrong with you, as the Aquarium folks would say.

Not enough critters? **Streets of Bethlehem in Salinas** kicks off on Dec. 5 and runs through the 8th, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. nightly. Put on each year by First Baptist Church with the aid of hundreds of volunteers, the free event re-creates the first-century city and features live animals — you might even see a camel! Visitors arrive via shuttle from parking just off South Main Street, and are harassed by actors dressed as Roman guards, offered goods by street vendors and watch as Mary and Joseph seek shelter and an angel announces Jesus' birth. Although it is outdoors, pets are not welcome because of the live animals.

On Dec. 7, starting at 3 p.m., it's time for the **tree lighting** in Carmel's **Devendorf Park**. There will be live entertainment and refreshments for all, with the lights scheduled to be switched on at 5:45 p.m. Then, just cross the street to Carmel Plaza, which will host a Christmas open house. Santa will be there, of course, along with Dance Kids of Monterey County, who will perform "snippets" of the "Nutcracker" ballet. The event goes from 5 to 7 p.m. and promises lots of entertainment and special treats. Immediately following and diagonally across the intersection of Juniper and Ocean, **Carmel Presbyterian** will also have its annual **Nativity Scene**.

Marina will also light its **Christmas tree** in Vince

See **COMMUNITY** next page

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