



Dec. 16

Not a chair to spare

Parks Library is a packed house during finals week, with little open space available on tables or in study carrels.

Dec. 16

Fall commencement is set for Dec. 18

A total of 1,689 students will receive degrees in a combined undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Hilton Coliseum.

Dec. 16

New possibility for an old problem: Chilly offices

The safer radiant panel heaters have reopened the discussion about portable heaters in our workspaces. When fire marshal-approved criteria are followed, some radiant heat panels could be an option on campus.

Dec. 16

Union Drive will close ... again

Construction crews will take advantage of the winter break slowdown by closing a portion of Union Drive for three weeks.

Dec. 16

Regents approve new veterinary center, 2011-12 faculty leaves

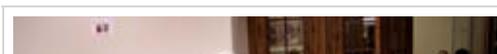
Meeting Dec. 9 in Des Moines, the state Board of Regents approved 22 ISU faculty development assignments for next year, but agreed to have another discussion on the practice. The board also approved a new swine medicine education center in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dec. 16

A royal dinner invitation

Make reservations now to enjoy dinner with the king and his court. The music department's 46th annual Madrigal Dinner is Jan. 14 and 15.

Dec. 16

Smart food

Radiant heat panels

Announcements

- Save the date: Student success summit is March 24-25, 2011
- Crafters invited to Sloss House over Friday lunch hour

Receptions & open houses

Receptions

- Fall graduates, family and friends, Dec. 18
- Peg Highland, Dec. 21
- Jessica Rohrig, Jan. 3

Retirement receptions

- Tom Hillson, Dec. 16
- Pam Myers, Dec. 16
- Barbara Tice, Dec. 20
- Richard Hoversten, Dec. 21

Retirements (no public event)

- Lilly Parlade, Dec. 17
- Karen Larsen, Dec. 22
- Linda Younger, Dec. 22
- Sandy Jensen, Dec. 31
- Marilyn Lane, Dec. 31
- Nancy Peterson, Dec. 31
- Merle Pochop, Dec. 31
- Cheryl Shreve, Dec. 31
- Susan Thompson, Dec. 31

Arts & events

Reiman Gardens

Holiday star-gazing

A tribute to gazing balls, those spherical wonders that have graced gardens for centuries, are the focus of Reiman Gardens' holiday exhibit.

Around campus

- ISU students honored in design

Student affairs staffers served up free pancakes to more than a thousand students late Friday night to fortify them for finals week.

Dec. 16

DNR, ISU eye results of wood-coal combo

In a few weeks, university officials hope to find out if it's feasible to begin adding wood pellets or chips to Iowa State's coal-fired boilers. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is reviewing data collected during a series of wood-burning tests at Iowa State.



Study break

Dec. 9

If you're off campus for winter break ...

For the second year in a row, university officials are encouraging (but not mandating) that departments and units shut down during winter break. Find out how to prepare offices and buildings for your extended absence.

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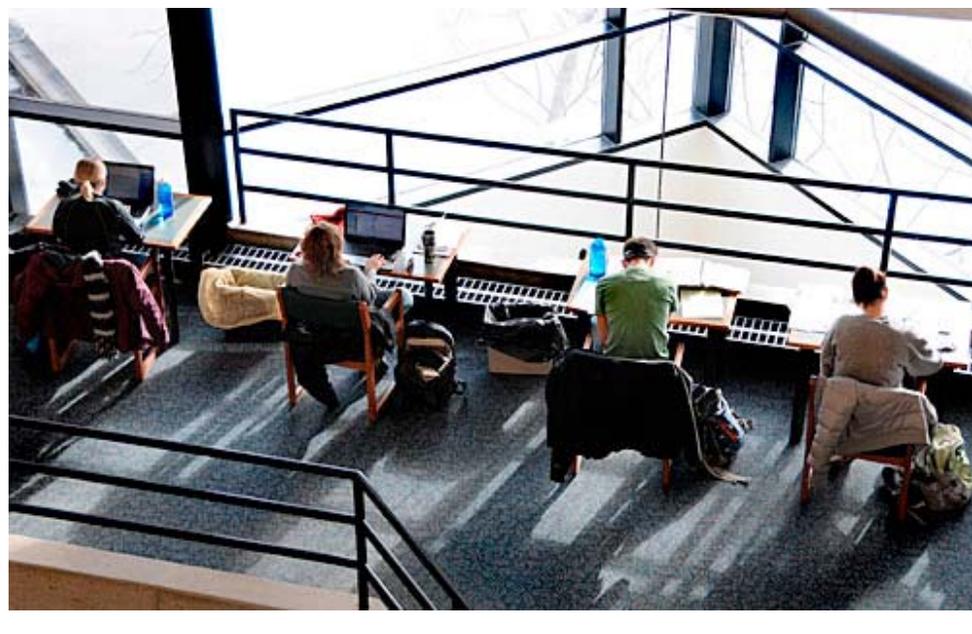
- 100 students honored in design magazine's competition
- Help navigating through winter
- Graduation gowns: Plastic or polyester?

Inside tools

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Not a chair to spare

Parks Library was a popular spot Monday morning, as students hunkered down to gear up for final exams. An estimated 1,689 students are on track to complete Iowa State degrees this week. A single fall commencement ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Hilton Coliseum. *Photo by Leah Hansen.*

Dec. 16, 2010



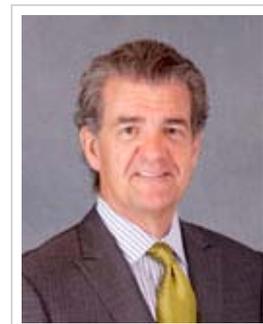
Fall commencement is set for Dec. 18

by Paula Van Brocklin

An anticipated 1,689 students will complete degrees at the end of fall semester, and many of them will participate in a single fall commencement ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in Hilton Coliseum. The undergraduate and graduate ceremonies are combined this year.

An estimated 1,319 undergrads, 256 master's students and 114 Ph.D. students will complete their degrees. ISU alumnus Richard Jurgens, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Hy-Vee Inc., will address the graduates.

Jurgens joined Hy-Vee after earning a bachelor's degree in industrial administration (1971) from ISU. While at Hy-Vee, he has served as a store manager, district manager, regional manager, senior vice president, executive vice president and chief administrative officer, and president before assuming his current position as chairman and chief executive officer.



Jurgens

Jurgens is a member of the Iowa Business Council, the College of Business Dean's Advisory Council and the ISU Foundation Order of the Knoll. He received the Iowa Governor's Volunteerism Award, the Citation of Achievement Award and the John D. DeVries Service award from the College of Business.

Receptions and celebrations

Following commencement, all graduates, their families and friends are invited to a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Alumni Center, 420 Beach Ave. Refreshments will be provided. Simon Estes, Iowa State's F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist in Residence and internationally acclaimed bass-baritone, also will be present.

The colleges also have events planned to honor their graduates. A complete list of [convocation activities](#) is online.

Dec. 16, 2010

 Tweet  0


Storekeeper Trevor Howe with the radiant heat panel routinely stocked by Central Stores. Other models may be ordered through the department's online catalog. *Photo by Bob Elbert.*

New possibility for an old problem: chilly offices

by Anne Krapfl

The door that had been slammed shut on space heaters in campus workspaces has been cracked, just a smidge. If systemic or building-specific problems are ruled out as cause for chilly work areas, and if a few criteria can be met consistently, the state fire marshal has approved some radiant heaters for use on campus. That's good news -- especially as outdoor temperatures plummet -- for ISU employees accustomed to sporting fleece jackets or running their icy hands under warm water every hour.

"Radiant heat panels won't solve every problem on campus," said Bill Diesslin, an assistant director in ISU's environmental health and safety department (EH&S). And he urges employees to first call facilities planning and management to make sure a mechanical problem isn't responsible for an uncomfortably cool workspace. Only after that should radiant space heaters become an option.

"If your extremities -- your feet, your legs -- are warm, typically you'll be warm. Radiant panels can do that, safely," Diesslin said.

Heat by the book

According to EH&S, employees interested in supplemental heat need

Got a question?

Contact **Bob Currie**, 4-1875, facilities services, to request a check on your building's heating system. Contact **Troy Carey**, 4-9495, EH&S, with questions about space heaters.

to use a heater that meets these criteria from the fire marshal:

- It is UL listed and labeled
- The heating element must not exceed 212 degrees Fahrenheit
- It must be plugged directly into the wall (no extension cords)
- It's not operated within three feet of combustible material (including wastebaskets)
- It's operated only in the manner for which it is listed

Passed the test

EH&S and ISU facilities services reviewed and approved an electric heat panel currently stocked by Central Stores. It's a 22-by-16-by-1-inch radiant panel that has a floor stand or can be attached to the inside of a desk's front panel with a Velcro strip. Central Stores purchases them in quantity and sells them for \$75 each -- and has sold more than 85 of them in the past year.

Facilities services director Bob Currie tested the model to see how hot its surface gets and how much energy it uses. Among his findings:

- Maximum power consumption for the radiant panel heater is rated at 170 watts. With most glowing element heaters, the lowest power setting is 500 watts
- The surface temperature did not exceed 140 degrees Fahrenheit
- In four- and six-hour tests, the cost to operate was about 1.2 cents per kilowatt-hour -- compared to 5.5 cents to operate the 500-watt glowing element heater at its rated capacity

"They aren't the cure for all spaces with heating challenges, but radiant panel heaters are safer, energy conservative and fire marshal-approved," Currie concluded.

What is radiant?

Radiant heat, considered more efficient than forced air heat or baseboard heat, works the same way as the sun: It produces rays that warm objects or people, not the air around them. But a key reason radiant heaters are an option in ISU buildings is safety: Their surfaces don't get hot enough to set paper on fire.

Does that suggest it's wimpy heat?

Jean Stewart, an assistant scientist with ISU's Nutrition and Wellness Research Center, was part of a Human Sciences college team that investigated and purchased three dozen radiant heat panels as a safe, legal, greener heat source. Eight of them were put to use in the center's leased space at the ISU Research Park. Stewart's workspace has exterior walls of glass; her office temperature was 58 degrees early this week, even though the thermostat was set 12 points higher.

"We've had mixed reviews," she said. "It keeps my legs and feet warm, and that's big. But they do have a hard time overcoming some of the conditions in these buildings."

College employees who work in buildings with less extreme heating issues have been satisfied with their performance, Stewart said.

Diesslin noted that the EH&S [policy on space heaters](#) technically still prohibits them.

"But, we know that there have been improvements in space heaters. If someone purchases a radiant heater and commits to the strict fire marshal criteria in using it, that 'no' could become a 'maybe,'" he

said.

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Dec. 16, 2010

 Tweet 1

Déjà vu: Union Drive will close again

by Erin Rosacker

In a repeat performance, the stretch of Union Drive between Sheldon Avenue and Bissell Road will close to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for three weeks. The shutdown begins Monday, Dec. 20, to take advantage of lighter traffic during winter break. Construction crews will continue work on the skywalk between Beyer Hall and the new recreation addition to State Gym.

Robert Ebel, construction manager in facilities planning and management, said Union Drive should reopen Jan. 10.

Fencing will close off the area, including the north and south sidewalks along Beyer. The south doors of the Thielen Student Health Center will be open, but pedestrian access will be available only from the north and west. The southeast entrance to Beyer also will be accessible.

Access to the parking area near Thielen (Lot 2) is available from Sheldon Avenue. The parking area at the Union Drive Community Center (Lot 59B) is open from the east on Union Drive.

CyRide rerouted

The road closure will impact CyRide service on the Red (No. 1), Green (No. 2) and Purple (No. 7) routes. The reroutes will close all bus stops on Union between Sheldon and Bissell; the Green and Purple along Bissell (south of Osborn Drive); and the westbound Red stops south of Osborn on Union and Welch Road.

The westbound Red route will be redirected south along Sheldon (via Bissell to Pammel Drive) to West Street, while the eastbound Red bus will go south on Sheldon to Lincoln Way before turning north on Welch. The Purple and Green routes will be diverted from Bissell to Sheldon and Pammel.

Union Dr. Road Closure



Union Drive will close on Monday, December 20 for approximately two to three weeks. CyRide will be rerouting the Red route, Green route and Purple route during this time.

Dec. 16, 2010



Regents approve faculty development proposals, agree to revisit the concept

by Anne Krapfl

Professional development assignments (PDA) for 22 ISU faculty for FY12 received state Board of Regents approval Dec. 9, though not without some discussion and an agreement by the board to discuss the practice in depth at a later date. The vote to approve was 6-1, with regent Michael Gartner abstaining. Regents Ruth Harkin and Bonnie Campbell were absent.

The 22 PDAs at Iowa State represent just 1.4 percent of faculty eligible to apply for one. ISU faculty employed half-time or more are eligible, with no length of service minimum. Priority may be given to tenured faculty and to faculty who haven't had a PDA in the previous five years. Among faculty approved for PDAs next year, the average length of service to the university is 15.2 years. Sixteen of next year's PDAs are for a semester; the others range in length from six months to the full 2011-12 academic year. Summaries of the faculty members' PDA plans are online in the [meeting agenda \(PDF\)](#) (see pp. 21-25).

In requesting approval of the PDA list, president Gregory Geoffroy recalled his own faculty development experience in Europe, where he learned new laboratory techniques, developed long-term relationships for research and grant writing, and opened a pipeline for graduate students and post docs to his university.

"It's a very worthwhile investment, and the benefits will be tremendous," he said.

Regent Robert Downer said he supports professional development opportunities for faculty but said the public may not, and "in the next few months, we have to do a better job of explaining this to the public."

Gartner proposed that board members discuss "the entire issue of PDAs at a summer meeting so we're not left with this up-or-down vote every December."

Board president David Miles agreed to schedule such a discussion. He also spoke in support of PDAs, saying they're critical to the regent universities' education mission.

"To create new knowledge, faculty need time to sharpen the saw and engage in new activities," he said.

Regent Rose Vasquez said she believes PDAs -- and the possibility for them -- improve recruitment and retention.

"If this is off the plate, we might find ourselves not getting the sought-after candidates," she said.

Summer flood update

In his regular flood recovery report to the board, vice president for business and finance Warren Madden said the university is making "great progress." He said ISU has paid about \$20 million for repairs so far and is receiving insurance reimbursements at the expected rates.

He said the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) representatives expect to prepare about 60 project worksheets for building repair and flood mitigation projects on campus by the end of January; about a dozen have been completed so far.

Madden reported that FEMA officials have said they believe all major university structures in the flood plain can be flood-proofed, for example, with devices that can be inserted in doorways with an hour or two's notice of likely flooding; or by replacing glass wall panels with steel or concrete alternatives. The Lied recreation facility will require special attention from engineers, he said, because it's the only building in which the floodwater seeped up from the ground, through the floor and the indoor track surface.

Madden said mitigation strategies likely would use the 500-year flood measurement as a starting point, add two feet and protect to that level.

In other business related to Iowa State, the regents approved requests:

- To appoint Lisa Nolan as the Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, effective Jan. 15, 2011. She succeeds John Thomson, who is retiring as dean but remaining as a faculty member. Citing the physical expansion of the Vet Med campus, the college's cooperative agreement with the University of Nebraska and its general service to the state of Iowa, Geoffroy said the transformation in the college under Thomson's leadership has been "just phenomenal."
- For a **Swine Medicine Education Center** in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, it will offer a comprehensive series of courses in swine production medicine and hands-on experiences in all segments of the pork production chain. Locke Karriker, associate professor of production animal medicine, will serve as the center's director. Thomson compared the center to its beef cattle counterpart, the Great Plains Veterinary Education Center at Clay Center, Neb., operated by the University of Nebraska. Thomson told the regents that most of the country's 28 veterinary colleges don't have swine medicine programs, and the need is great to train veterinarians to work in that area. The center also will have the capacity to train practicing veterinarians, vet technicians and employees working in related industries. Iowa State is a recognized expert in this area and is a logical provider of this educational service, he said. Thomson said the swine center will not require the college to decrease support for any components of its production animal programs (such as dairy, poultry or beef science).
- For a new degree program, the **master of industrial design** in the College of Design. Students in the two-year, studio-based graduate program will pick from three different tracks: a research track (with a thesis), a business track (with a final project) and a condensed track for mid-career professionals (with a final project that builds on their professional experience).

Dec. 16, 2010



A royal dinner invitation

By Erin Rosacker

Make a dinner reservation with royalty. The music department's annual medieval madrigal dinner, now in its 46th year, will take place Jan. 14 and 15 in the Memorial Union Great Hall. Tickets are available now.

A host of talent, including the [Iowa State Singers](#), [Musica Antiqua](#), [The Music Men](#) and [Orchesis II](#), will entertain guests and the royal court with music and dancing. New this year is a theatrical production of *Jester the Body Ventures Forth*, which will have the King of Jibber join the crowd in hopes to marry off two daughters.

"Each year, it's a joy to be transported back to 'Merrie Ole England' through the music of the singers and instrumentalists, the pageantry, the dances and the antics of the performers," said James Rodde, music professor and madrigal co-director. "A splendid meal, along with interacting with some of Iowa State's finest students, can make for a very special night."

It all starts with a 5:30 p.m. social hour, followed by a 6:30 p.m. fanfare entrance. The three-course meal features a boneless pork loin chop. Wine will be offered with dinner, and a cash bar will operate during the social hour.

Tickets are \$40, or \$36 for ISU students, seniors and groups of at least 10. To order, call 4-8349 or visit the MU ticket office (11 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays), or download and mail the [order form \(PDF\)](#).

Dinner menu

- Wassail punch
- Pease porridge
- Boneless pork loin chop with fruit compote
- Potatoes
- Salad with raspberry vinaigrette
- Guillotine pull-apart bread
- Plum pudding with lemon sauce and hard sauce
- Cheese and fruit plate
- Beverage (Tea, water, coffee)

Special dietary considerations can be made if requested in advance.

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"Smart" food

Members of the Student Affairs Cabinet served free pancakes in the Memorial Union Commons late Friday night to offer students a break from final exams studying. More than a thousand students attended. *Photos by An Pham.*



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Dec. 16, 2010



DNR, ISU eye results of wood-coal combo

by Diana Pounds

In a few weeks, university officials hope to find out if it's feasible to begin adding wood pellets or chips to Iowa State's coal-fired boilers.

Intermittently since July, facilities planning and management staff have been testing various wood-coal combinations in the boilers. The test included monitoring air emission levels and the makeup of ash produced during the burning.

Those numbers recently were turned over to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for review. The DNR regulates both air emissions and solid waste (ash) that's produced during burning.

"The next step in this process is getting input from the DNR on what requirements Iowa State would have to meet to get a permit to burn wood in its boilers" said Jeff Witt, FPM director for utilities.

"We'll meet with DNR officials sometime after the first of the year to discuss these issues."

Armed with the DNR's conclusions and the test results, Iowa State officials will further explore the feasibility of adding wood to its fuel sources.

Pellet pros and cons

The idea is appealing, Witt said, because wood is considered renewable and its emissions are cleaner. University officials also are looking for ways to reduce reliance on coal.

However, Witt added, wood fuel is considerably more expensive than coal. Driving up the price are transportation costs (central Iowa doesn't have a ready source of wood). In addition, wood contains less energy and density than coal. By volume, it takes four times more wood than coal to produce the same amount of energy.

Emissions results

Witt said Iowa State tested wood-coal blends that ranged from 5 percent to 15 percent wood. Emissions results on the final 15 percent wood test revealed mixed results. Some air emissions increased and some decreased, but overall the results were promising. Specifically:

- Air emissions of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter decreased.
- Air emissions of nitrogen oxides increased slightly.
- No significant changes were noted in carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions.

Anything that reduces air emissions is considered beneficial; however, increases can be problematic. Based on the test data, the DNR will determine what permit modifications will be required. These

permit changes will be part of the evaluation criteria used by university leaders to determine whether to proceed with wood as a fuel source.

Wood from beetle-decimated pines

The Rocky Mountain Pellet Co., Walden, Colo., and Nextgen Biofuels, Underwood, Iowa, supplied pellets and chips for the tests at no cost. The wood came from Colorado pine trees ravaged by pine beetles. The beetles have been chomping on Colorado forests for more than a decade.

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Dec. 9, 2010

Be prepared for winter break

by Paula Van Brocklin

Last year's partial university shutdown during winter break saved nearly \$118,000 in energy costs, so university officials again are **encouraging departments and units** to shut off the lights and lock the doors Dec. 23 through Jan. 2; the shut-down is not mandatory. Officials also acknowledge that employees often take leave during winter break since classes are not in session and campus activity slows down.

Open or closed?

Winter break
schedules

According to facilities planning and management, at least 30 buildings will be locked during break, though staff and faculty may be working inside. Building supervisors should contact **Bob Currie** at FPM by Dec. 22 to indicate whether a building will be closed or to request a temperature setback.

If your department chooses to temporarily close, here are some tips for keeping your offices and buildings safe and energy-efficient.

Turn off the lights and more

- Shut down all computers, printers and other accessories, such as speakers. Leave your office computer on if you need remote access from home, but power off the monitor, printer, speakers, etc. A computer's sleep mode uses less energy than full power, but information technology services recommends shutting down computers completely to protect data. A machine may be left on during break if it's providing access to a critical application. If possible, plug computers and printers into a power strip and then shut off the power strip before you leave.
- Turn off and unplug copiers.
- Shut off and unplug small appliances, like coffeepots.
- Unplug all chargers for cell phones, MP3 players and similar devices.
- Check faucets in bathrooms and break rooms to make sure they are completely turned off and not dripping. If you notice a dripping faucet, contact your building's maintenance team.
- Facilities planning and management staff will adjust building temperatures centrally upon request. If you can manually adjust the thermostat in your office, turn it down to 65 degrees.
- Close fume hood sashes completely or open them only minimally.
- Shut down unnecessary climate-controlled plant growth chambers.
- Shut down cooling water systems to eliminate potential flooding issues.
- Remember to turn off your office lights and as much public lighting (hallways, bathrooms, conference rooms) as possible before you leave.
- Check windows to make sure they're shut tight.

Keep in touch

If your department is closing over break, discuss how to handle incoming phone calls. One option is to direct all departmental calls to one voicemail box to be checked periodically by designated

employees during the break. Employees also should change their personal voicemail messages. Consider stating the dates you will be absent, and if you'll be checking your voicemail or e-mail messages. If necessary, include an off-campus number where you can be reached.

Wear your boots

Facilities planning and management crews will work reduced hours during winter break. Snow removal will be limited, which means parking lots and building entrances may not be plowed by 8 a.m. FPM staff also will not plow lots or sweep sidewalks for less than 2 inches of snow outside of weekday business hours (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

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Dec. 16, 2010

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A holiday display that's out of this world

Reiman Gardens wraps up its 2010 design theme, "A Celebration to Garden Ornamentation," with a tribute to gazing balls, those odd orbs first introduced in 13th century Italy that have been popping up in gardens worldwide ever since.

Inside the gardens' conservatory, donated bowling balls are transformed into gazing balls -- with a celestial spin. Volunteers spent the past few months gluing small pieces of glass onto the balls to recreate the planets in the solar system. The centerpiece of the display, a 16-foot tree with broad silver banners anchored from above by planet Earth, represents a rocket ship blasting through space.

Numerous trees throughout the gardens' buildings also are color-coordinated to match their gazing ball counterparts nestled nearby. Ornaments on these trees include dried hydrangea blooms, napkin rings and marbles.

Reiman Gardens is open daily (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Regular admission prices apply.** *Submitted photo.*