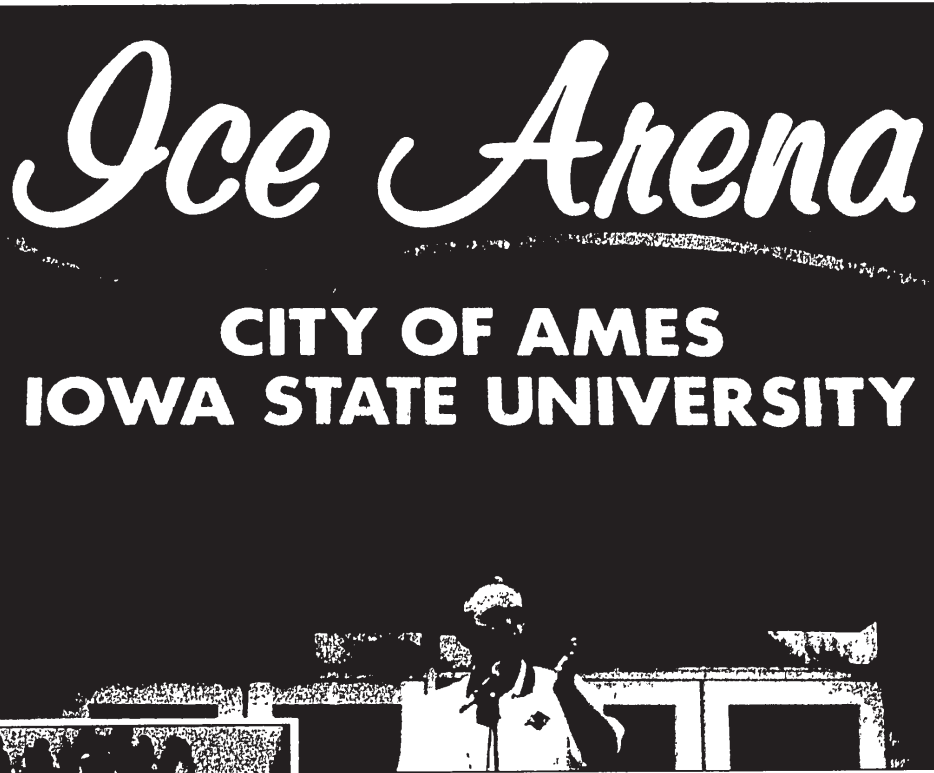


Arena: Will be financed by skate rentals, concessions

Continued from page A1

Right: Ames Mayor Ted Tedesco formally opens the new Ames/ISU Ice Arena in Ames Wednesday.

Below: Young hockey players from the Ames Minor Hockey Association watch as members of the Iowa State hockey team demonstrate their skating skills at the arena during the opening.



Ice Arena

CITY OF AMES IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

By MICHAEL PAUMIERI
THE TRIBUNE



New Ames/ISU Ice Arena is formally unveiled

By DAVID GREBE
Staff Writer

"Sweet"
That's how Iowa State University freshman hockey player Scott Hagen of Maple Grove, Minn., described the new Ames/ISU Ice Arena.

The new ice arena has been open for business since April, but its formal unveiling took place Wednesday night.

"This is beautiful compared to what we had," said Ames resident Allinda Babcock, as she watched three of her four grandchildren skate in an ice show during the

opening ceremonies.

Children, adults and college students were on hand to participate in the local unveiling, as well as officials from Iowa State and Ames.

"This is a perfect example of what a partnership can achieve," said Beth Cross, chair of the Ames Parks and Recreation Commission.

The old, smaller arena was plagued with maintenance problems that's something Cross said wreaked havoc with scheduling, since the arena was often in use from 5 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next day.

ARENA please see page A8

Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Carroll said the unveiling had been put on hold to coincide with the return of students and alumni for this week's football game. The new arena is located in Gateway Hills Park off Mortensen Road, right next door to the old arena.

The project cost a total \$3.8 million, with \$1.7 million coming from an Ames bond issue, \$1.7 million from ISU student fees, \$300,000 from the Iowa State Foundation and a \$100,000 grant from the state.

The arena is expected to cost about \$375,000 annually to operate, and Carroll said it will be self-financed through skate rental prices and concession sales. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3.25 for people younger than 18. Skate rentals are \$2.25. Some midday prices are lower.

The arena can seat more than 1,000 people, and features a National Hockey League regulation size ice rink—200 by 85 feet. It includes eight locker rooms, three of which are reserved for local and ISU teams, plus a multi-use room.

Officials had hoped the arena would be open in February, but Carroll said time had been lost because of the cold weather.

Residents wanting to know about hours and rates should call the arena at 292-6835 for more information.

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