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Visitors stop to take in the colorful lights near the polar bear exhibit at the Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo.

Blade photos by Katie Rausch

Zoo is aglow with holiday spirit

By ROD LOCKWOOD BLADE STAFF WRITER

The event has grown since 1986 when 50,000 bulbs were strung up at the zoo. This year the night with brilliant displays for the Lights Before Christmas to highlight the season and drive away seasonal blahs with color, nostalgia, and a sense of wonder.

Hours for the exhibit are 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday

sparkly trees, wild animals, and millions of 3 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with the zoo lights greet visitors to the zoo on the Anthony closing at 10 on those days.

November and runs until Dec. 31, and if the chase tickets online. weather holds up it's sure to challenge last year's attendance numbers.

about 100 people during each 15 to 20-minute skating session. The cost is \$3 and folks can

This year is no different. Electric penguins, through Thursday, with the zoo closing at 9, and

Wayne Trail.

Last year a record number of people — more than 179,000 visitors — attended the Lights Before Christmas. The 2013 version started in late younger than 2. Save \$1 per ticket when you pur-

For information on the wide array of music, ttendance numbers.

New this year is an ice rink that can hold

food, and children's activities that will be available at the event, go to www.toledozoo.org.



A green-wrapped tree glows near the primate area at the Toledo Zoo.



Randy Jakab of Ann Arbor and his daughter Olivia, 4, watch the model train exhibit.



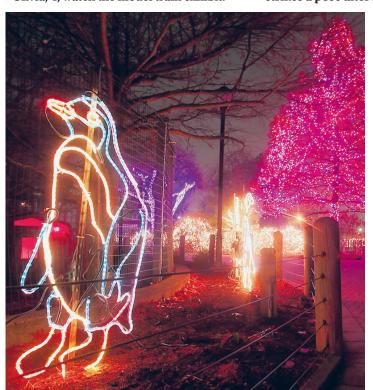
Danny Rome, Jr., 11, of West Toledo strikes a pose after landing.



Haley Rome, 8, balances on one skate Mike Mayhugh of South Toledo holds while skating at the zoo with her family.



up his daughter Mackenzie, 7.





A penguin figure is one of many animal light displays at the zoo. Gloria Klempert of Northwood holds her granddaughter Simone Grimes, 2.