



contact us: 507.452.1262 fax: 507.454.6409 email: winpost@winonapost.com P.O. Box 27, 64 E. 2nd St., Winona, MN, 55987

winona's twice-weekly newspaper since 1971

winona post

wednesday, january 8, 2020

volume 49, no. 3

winonapost.com

inserts: full circulation: ■ Hy-Vee ■ Volkman Appliance zoned circulation: ■ Blain's Farm & Fleet

the winonapost ... proud to be your community newspaper for over 49 years

County to vote on welcoming refugees

by CHRIS ROGERS

The Winona County Board will hold a public hearing late this month before deciding whether to opt in to accept refugees under a federal refugee resettlement program. A recent executive order from Pres-

ident Donald Trump requires both states and counties to opt in in order to officially host incoming refugees and receive federal funding for resettlement programs.

Refugees are people fleeing violence or persecution in their home countries. Under federal law, to claim asylum and be accept-

ed into the U.S., refugees must demonstrate "a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." Minnesota has long welcomed refugees from the civil war in Somalia and Hmong people who faced retri-

sals for fighting on the side of Americans during the Vietnam War, for example.

In response to the executive order, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz affirmed that the state government wants to receive refugees.

see REFUGEES page 5a



by CHRIS ROGERS

She dominates the search results for "Winona." The brewery named a beer after her, and she captured the imagination of generations from "Beetlejuice" to "Stranger Things." Now, city officials say Winona Ryder will appear in a national commercial being filmed in Winona this week. A member of the production team said that if everything goes according to plan, it will be a Super Bowl ad.

Film crews are taping a national commercial

for a technology startup company, and Winona Ryder will be in it, Winona Mayor Mark Peterson said. Winona City Manager Steve Sarvi also reported that Ryder would be in the commercial.

"I can't deny. I can't affirm," Anne Healy of Anne Healy Locations said when asked about Ryder. Healy is working on the commercial for a production company. Representatives for the production company itself were not immediately available for comment.

On Tuesday, a group of onlookers craned their

see WINONA page 5a

Photo by Chris Rogers

■ A film crew shot a major commercial in downtown Winona on Tuesday. City officials said Winona Ryder would be in the commercial.

St. Matthew's celebrates a century

by ALEXANDRA RETTER

With influences from people who immigrated to the U.S., a number of pastors and a school, Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church has many aspects that compose its 100-year-long history. To mark the 100th anniversary of the organization of the church, St. Matthew's will hold several special services throughout this year.

Worship services on January 4 and 5 celebrated the anniversary, and it will also be marked with worship services on June 6 and 7 and December 5 and 6. A heritage hymn sing will take place on September 19 and 20 as well. The annual candlelight service, which recognizes the dedication of the church, will be held on December 6.

St. Matthew's is a daughter congregation of Saint Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is on the East End of Winona.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, people immigrated to Winona from Germany. Those who were Lutheran formed churches for themselves, and St. Martin's was the first such church in Winona, St. Matthew's member and unofficial church historian John Berg said.

St. Martin's had grown a great deal by the World War I era, Berg shared, and in 1919, it voted to allow around 160 of its members to begin a new congregation

see ST. MATTHEW'S page 5a

Capture the beauty of the refuge

by ALEXANDRA RETTER

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which is one of the biggest sections of floodplain habitat in the contiguous U.S. and features soaring bluffs and a wide river valley, is highly active during winter. While visiting, one may see deer tracks and marks left on the ice by sliding otters, as well as hundreds of bald eagles eager to spy their next tasty meal in the river. The abundant life of the refuge may be remembered after visiting through pictures taken as part of a photo contest for amateur photographers now being held on the refuge with support from the Friends of the Refuge Headwaters.

Until March 13, photos in the categories "Scenic Views of the Refuge," "Wildlife and Plants of the Refuge" and "Connecting People with Nature on the Refuge" will be accepted. Photos taken by those 16 and under will also be accepted in the "Young Nature Photographers" category.

Only amateur photos taken of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge or Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge in winter will be accepted. Photos that

see CAPTURE page 9a

'The wow factor:' Arcadia's Wanek Center



Photo by Chris Rogers

■ Ashley Furniture founder and Chairman of the Board Ron Wanek spoke at the opening of the Arcadia School District's Wanek Center last Saturday.

by CHRIS ROGERS

A couple hundred people and a jazz band crowded the foyer last Saturday as local leaders cut the ribbon on the new Wanek Center, a \$20-million school-and-community gymnasium, recreation center, and library in Arcadia.

Years in the making, the expansive facility provides a space for Arcadia children, adults, and families to play, exercise, gather, and learn. The middle and

high school will share the new gym and workout facilities with the public — who can buy memberships to the gym — and by the end of the month, the city of Arcadia Public Library will move into its new home at the center. School District of Arcadia Superintendent Lance Bagstad called its opening a "defining moment in our community's history."

"Today is a great day for Arcadia," School Board President Paul Servais stated. "It's a great day for our schools. It's

a great day for our community. I'm going to be honest with you, when I walked up the steps and I looked upstairs, I was like, 'Am I still in Arcadia?'"

With soaring ceilings, glass and chrome everywhere, and amenities ranging from a batting cage to a golf simulator, the center is impressive. "I didn't think there would be so much attention to detail,"

see WANEK page 9a

BROSNAHAN LAW FIRM P.A.

PAUL BROSNAHAN

507-457-3000 | 24-Hour Emergency: 507-450-2422

Located in Winona | Helping families throughout Minnesota & Wisconsin

Helping Parents

with their children's injury claims.

www.brosnahanlawfirm.com