The $1.825 million dollar project involves reconstruction of the center-south parking lot and construction of canopies above the parking meter stations. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), which is passing along $860,000 in federal funds for the work through the federal Airport Improvement Program, said the project will increase airport revenue and improve parking for users. Portage and Marathon counties will be responsible for the remaining $965,000 cost.

Construction on the CWA project will begin this fall and wrap up in the spring of 2015.

Work on expanding the baggage claim area is nearing completion and the next part of the project involves renovation of the terminal’s center section. The airport will rebid that project after rejecting a previous bid as too expensive.

**CONSTRUCTION WILL CLOSE COUNTY HIGHWAY X**

The Portage County Highway Department was scheduled to begin roadwork for County Highway X Monday, Sept. 15. The roadway on County Highway X from North Second Street to the Marathon County line in the town of Dewey will be reconstructed for approximately 1.1 miles.

The work will consist of pulverizing the existing pavement, replacing culvert pipes and endwalls, grading and asphalt paving. Work is anticipated to be complete by early November.

The project will be closed to through-traffic for the duration of construction. Access will be provided for local residents, business and visitors to the Portage County Executive Airport.

**CWA and Stevens Point Airport Projects Approved**

Projects at both the Stevens Point Municipal Airport and the Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) have received state approval.

The Stevens Point project involves finalizing plans and design work for installing a perimeter/security fence as well as runway pavement maintenance. Total cost for the project is $409,000 and work is to be completed by next summer.

The city and state each will contribute $14,400, with the federal government paying for the bulk of the project — $380,000. It will involve crack sealing and laying down a new surface to extend the life of the runway.

At the CWA, funding for another portion of the $30 million renovation/expansion will help pay for parking lot work.

**Local News**

Rachel Ley, 17, founder of the Literacy for Babies project, is a Barron Prize Honoree.

She assembled book packages containing a new child’s book and information on early literacy and distributed them to new parents in hospitals.

In the last five years, she and a team of 700 youth have assembled and distributed 8,400 book packages to seven hospitals in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nicaragua.

Each book package, wrapped in cellophane and tied with a ribbon, includes a piece of writing or artwork explaining the benefits of reading to newborns on a daily basis and tips for doing so effectively.

Ley’s project is born of her own love of reading for which she credits her mother, Robert Finn, who has received the Barron Prize for Young Public-Spirited Individuals.

**Superintendent**

(Continued from page 1)

**Kim Hoppenrath**

plant manager, Gov. Scott Walker a tour of Steel King Industries Inc. in Stevens Point Wednesday, Sept. 17. Walker took the tour as a part of his “Rebuilding Wisconsin’s Comeback” plan and to visit with the companies and employees that stand as the backbone of the Wisconsin economy, (Portage County Gazette photo)

**Like to hear from Greg Nyen, director of student services, on whether he thinks the administration would be able to run the district with an office of superintendent?**

Superintendent Attila Weninger said it was not fair to ask administration to speak publicly on a matter that would affect their salaries.

“It’s not fair to ambush them like this tonight,” Weninger said. “Had they known I was going to ask questions, I would have assigned them to do more preparation.”

**Elsie Kochanowski**

student at Stevens Point High School, who put her on a “ten-books-a-day diet” from birth until kindergarten.

With an initial grant of $500, Ley purchased books and supplies, contacted local hospitals, gathered a few friends and distributed 550 book packages that first year.

She has since convinced Kohl’s, Target and two publishing companies to donate books to her cause.

Superintendent Attila Weninger said it was not fair to ask the board to consider the individuals who fill or would fill the positions of superintendent.

Superintendent Antilin said it was not fair to ask administration to speak publicly on a matter that would affect their salaries.

The decision made is not dependent on who is currently here and going forward will not change.

**For more information on the Barron Prize, visit www.barronprize.org.**

**Redefining beauty one masterpiece at a time**

**Wisconsin teen wins national Heroic Service Activity award**

A Stevens Point teen has been named a national winner of the 2014 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Public-Spirited Individuals.

Ley’s project is born of her own love of reading for which she credits her mother, Robert Finn, who has received the Barron Prize for Young Public-Spirited Individuals.

For more information on the Barron Prize, visit www.barronprize.org.