

# ANGEL MUSEUM AUCTION TO CLOSE

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BDN file photo A patron looks at angel figures at the Beloit Angel Museum on the last day the museum was open to the public in September. The last angels from the museum are being auctioned this week.

BELOIT - Potential buyers have placed bids on most of the Beloit Angel Museum's 785 lots, or groupings of angels, in the online auction which is underway, according to David Allen, vice president of Beloit Auction & Realty. ☐

The auction is set to start closing at 7:07 p.m. today.

Allen urged people to consider buying them as stocking stuffers or decor for the holidays or as mementos of the world-famous Berg Angel Collection which was a labor of love for many.

"We are advertising across the country to find homes for these angels," Allen said.

Joyce Berg, the owner of the Berg Angel collection housed at St. Paul on the RiverFront, 656 Pleasant Ave., announced in February she was going to sell the collection of 10,000 plus angels as it was time to retire. Although she had hoped a single buyer would step forward, no one had done so by the deadline of Oct. 11.

The online auction to sell the 785 lots, or groupings, started on Oct. 13 following the museum's final showing. The museum's last day of being open to the public was on Sept. 29.

Allen attributed the many bids to the publicity surrounding the auction. Beloit Auction & Realty issued a national press release followed by more than 15 newspapers and television stations across the country running stories on the collection. It's also advertised the auction in some of the largest metropolitan markets in the country as well as throughout the Midwest in addition to some international reach through Facebook.

"We are doing all we can to help our client," Allen said.

Most bidders in the auction so far have been from Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa although there have been bids from around the country.

Berg announced in February she was ending her contract to supply the Angel Museum. She had 10- and 5-year contracts to supply the Angel Museum, which opened in May of 1998.