



Columnist: The Big Ten has stolen the SEC mojo

SPORTS, 1B

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The Rochester District Court, seen March 23, was originally built as a post office. DEB CRAM/FOSTER'S DAILY DEMOCRAT

Azarloza seeks to dismiss lawsuit over comments

Karen Dandurant
Foster's Daily Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

ROCHESTER — Former city schools superintendent Annia Azarloza, through attorney Kathleen C. Sullivan, filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed against her by the city.

The lawsuit claims Azarloza's public statements on social media and her legal actions against the Rochester school district have caused damage to the city's reputation.

Azarloza has been battling the school district since leaving Rochester schools in June 2025, as she has requested a copy of the full investigative report about her. The investigation was conducted by a consultant hired by the Rochester school district after Azarloza was placed on paid leave earlier in 2025.



Azarloza

"I trust the legal process and am confident this matter will be resolved fairly based on the facts and the law," Azarloza said March 27.

What happened when Azarloza left Rochester

The investigation was followed by Azarloza and the district reaching a separation agreement, which included paying her in full for the remaining year on her two-year contract. In February, the city filed a breach of contract

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'A lot of ideas for that building'

Housing, culture, coffee? What should Rochester do with old courthouse?

Karen Dandurant
Foster's Daily Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

ROCHESTER — Rochester Main Street, the nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the city's downtown, is calling on city leaders to go slow and seek public input on the future use of the 1913 district court building at 76 North Main St.

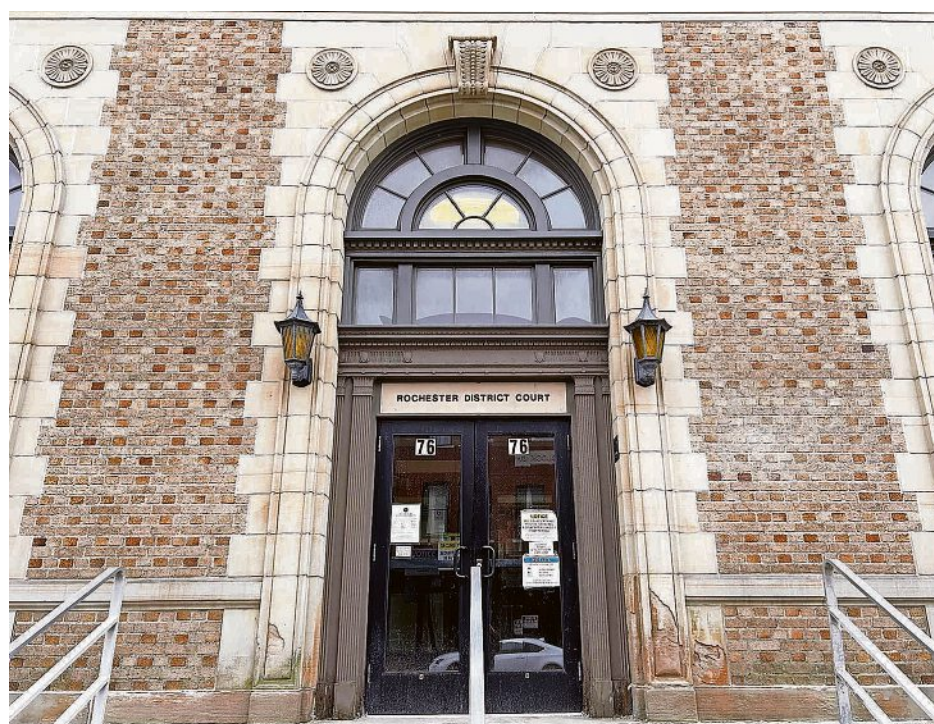
Mayor Chuck Grassie is among those offering thoughts on what Rochester should do when it acquires the building from the state of New Hampshire. That's expected to happen later this year when a new courthouse opens at 296 Rochester Hill Road, near Skyhaven Airport.

"I have a lot of ideas for that building," Grassie said. "I would like it to be a destination for our city, a place that will bring people downtown and help some of our city groups. This would be a three- to five-year project. The city does not have the money to fund all the ideas, so we would need to seek things such as grants ... and/or donations."

The existing courthouse on North Main Street, which is not ADA-compliant, was originally built as a post office.

Rochester economic developer eyes tax revenue, housing and more

Michael Scala, the city's economic development director, said he expects the new courthouse to open this summer. He said the state will turn over the old courthouse to the city once the new



The Rochester District Court at 76 North Main St. is due to be replaced as a courthouse and city officials will work on a future use.

courthouse is ready to open. The city donated the land for the new courthouse as part of the deal.

Scala said no concrete plans are in place, but suggested the old courthouse could become a home for nonprofit groups and commercial and/or residential uses could be considered.

"When we started this process five years ago, we wanted to protect the integrity of the old courthouse while recognizing it no longer met the needs as a court," Scala said. "Some services, like family court, were already being sent to Dover. My ideas involve putting the building back on the tax rolls. All ideas are welcome, and to that end we will

likely put out a survey, to see what our residents are thinking."

"(The) City Council will be determining the future of the property in the coming months," said City Manager Katie Ambrose. "These processes typically involve public input to inform their direction and may involve a (request for proposals) process."

Rochester Main Street calls for 'community engagement'

Rochester Main Street recently published a position statement, cautioning

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Portsmouth police investigate anti-Asian slurs yelled

Ian Lenahan
Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTSMOUTH — Police are investigating five people who allegedly yelled anti-Asian slurs at passersby on Islington Street March 29.

The perpetrators are presumed to be teenage boys, according to Portsmouth police Sgt. Kevin McCarthy. The Sunday night incident was captured on video by a bystander, which was submitted to police March 31.

Police had not made contact with the victims in the incident as of Wednesday morning, April 1.

"The video speaks for itself. It's completely unacceptable behavior. There's no justification for it," McCarthy said.

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