

Wisconsin
football
collapses
in 2nd half
against Irish

SPORTS, C1



Former Fairest
recounts trip
home from
New York
after 9/11

HOMETOWN, A3

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WE WILL 9/11/01 NEVER FORGET



RACHEL MERGEN, RIVER VALLEY MEDIA GROUP

A twisted steel beam from the World Trade Center stands in memory of the events on 9/11 in Arcadia. The monument is a unique part of Memorial Park.

STANDING TALL

Ground Zero beam highlights 9/11 monument

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Over 1,000 miles away from Ground Zero, a twisted piece of steel stands as a reminder of the attacks on the Twin Towers almost 25 years later.

The beam is a part of the 9/11 memorial in Arcadia's Memorial Park.

Ron Wanek, founder and chairman of Ashley Furniture Industries, was inspired to start Memorial Park in honor of friends who had died in Vietnam.

Since the 54-acre park was established in 1989, Ashley for the Arts



Wanek

Other groups have donated trees and the world's largest indoor barbecue pit.

"We're very blessed with their generosity," said Angela Berg, the city's clerk-treasurer.

When she was in high school, Berg took a trip to New York and

has donated \$10 million and spent over \$30,000 to help build monuments throughout the park, according to a video on the memorial's website.

remembers standing on the viewing platform of the Twin Towers looking out over the skyline. 25 years later, she said it's still hard to believe they aren't there anymore.

"It's pretty amazing to walk down that path where all the memorials are," Berg said. "You see this twisted piece of steel."

Now, that steel stands as part of one of the most unique memorials in Wisconsin.

To reach the 9/11 memorial, visitors follow Soldiers Walk, a 500-meter path that serves as a

Please see **BEAM**, Page A4



DICK RINIKER, LA CROSSE TRIBUNE ARCHIVES

Scott Humrickhouse of Altoona walks Soldiers Walk in Arcadia's Memorial Park on Sept. 13, 2001. A piece of twisted steel from the destroyed World Trade Center would later be added to the park, along with monuments recognizing 9/11.

ELECTION 2026

Officials: Ballots directive infeasible

Trump executive order challenged

JESSIE OPOIEN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Top elections officials warned this week that implementing President Donald Trump's order exerting federal control over mail-in ballots would be infeasible in Wisconsin for a number of reasons – chief among them the mailing envelopes themselves.

"It would be virtually impossible for Wisconsin to comply with the Rule, for several reasons," Wisconsin Elections Commission chairman Don Millis wrote in a declaration filed Aug. 31 in Massachusetts federal court as part of a multi-state challenge to the president's new rules.

Under state law, clerks may begin sending absentee ballots as soon as the partisan primary results are certified – and, because of U.S. Postal Service delays, many have chosen to start mailing them as early as possible, Millis, a Republican appointee to the commission, noted.

The results of the Aug. 11 primary were certified on Aug. 25, and some clerks had planned to start mailing their ballots as soon as Sept. 1. For voters with absentee requests on file, clerks must send their ballots by Sept. 17.

Trump's effort to place new restrictions on voting ahead of the 2026 midterm elections has been caught in a legal back-and-forth since he signed an executive order in March that would put mail-in voting under the Postal Service's oversight. His administration on Sept. 3 asked the U.S. Supreme Court to allow the rules to move forward as they are currently blocked under a federal judge's temporary restraining order.

Trump has suggested for months that the federal government could nationalize the voting process, though the U.S. Constitution grants states authority over "the times, places, and manner" of federal elections.

The president's order would put the Postal Service in charge of establishing "uniform standards" for mail-in ballots and prevent it from transmitting ballots of people who are not approved under a list developed by the U.S.

Please see **MAIL-IN BALLOTS**, Page A4



USA TODAY NETWORK

Wisconsin Elections Commission Chair Ann S. Jacobs is shown during a meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission in October 2025 at the Capitol in Madison.

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Advice/TV	D4	Opinion	A5
Comics/Puzzles	D3, D5	Region	A4
Hometown	A3	Sports	C1

