



Appleton native sends Bosnia and Herzegovina to World Cup

SPORTS, 5B

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The roller hockey rink at Patriot Park in Grand Chute is "one of a kind in our area," according to an online petition.

Woman starts petition to save roller hockey rink

Grand Chute plans to demolish rink, replace with baseball amenities

Duke Behnke

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

More than 260 people have signed an online petition asking Grand Chute officials to save and refurbish the outdoor roller hockey rink at Patriot Park.

The town's 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan calls for the removal of the rink to make way for baseball batting cages and a ball field storage building. The Park Commission unanimously supported the changes in August.

The petition to save the rink was started on Change.org by Casey Kammer of Appleton. It gained traction on social media at the end of March.

"The roller hockey rink at Patriot Park is one of a kind in our area, and removing it would leave many without a similar facility to support their passion and fitness," the petition says.

Kammer said her 14-year-old son is an avid hockey player and spends countless hours each week skating and playing at the roller hockey rink. It is the only one she's found since arriving in the Fox Cities six years ago. Colorado, where she grew up, has roller hockey rinks everywhere, she said.

"All the hockey rinks are extremely nice, so it's kind of rough when you come here," Kammer told The Post-Crescent. "My kid's only outlet is hock-



The boards of the roller hockey rink at Patriot Park in Grand Chute are in need of repair or replacement. PHOTOS BY WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

ey. In the hot months, what is he to do? If you go play on the tennis courts, the tennis players are going to get mad. This is the only rink here, which is bizarre."

Kammer said the Patriot Park rink is in rough shape. The boards have deteriorated, and the concrete is cracked. She approached the town about improving

the rink, which is when she learned of the plan to remove it.

Instead of demolishing the rink, the petition asks Grand Chute to refurbish or enhance the rink for current and future generations of skaters.

See RINK, Page 2A

Are GOP departures 'canary in the coal mine' for WI elections?

Molly Beck and Jessie Opoien

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - In the Donald Trump era, Wisconsin Republicans have turned to the state Legislature to advance conservative policy priorities when Democrats took control of key positions across state government.

But the party's control of the state Legislature is increasingly at risk now that a series of key Republican lawmakers have announced they won't seek reelection, leaving a leadership vacuum and key competitive seats without an incumbent candidate at a time when the leader of their party faces his lowest approval rating on record in Wisconsin.

Their departures come as Republican candidates mount campaigns while President Donald Trump faces disapproval from more than half of voters, according to a recent Marquette University Law School poll. At the same time, new electoral maps in the state Legislature are giving Democrats a better chance at being competitive.

"Retirements of legislators are sort of a canary in the coal mine, giving a signal as to how elections are going to go in the fall," said Barry Burden, executive director of University of Wisconsin-Madison's Elections Research Center.

"That's always been true in Congress when looking at whether it's more likely that Democrats or Republicans are retiring in a given election cycle. It's a pretty good sign for how their party is likely to do in the general election," Burden said.

"In Wisconsin, it's more Republicans stepping aside than Democrats. I think that's an indicator that Republicans see their majorities, at least the sizes of them, in some jeopardy. The fact that it's leaders and members from swing areas is a real indicator that things are not going well for the party."

Republicans in the state Senate, already facing tough races to keep control of the chamber under new electoral maps, were given the news in recent weeks that key members of their caucus would not be returning. Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu of Oostburg said he would not be returning, as well as state senators in competitive districts: Van Wanggaard of Racine and Rob Hutton of Brookfield.

See ELECTIONS, Page 4A



Hutton

March product recalls may affect Fox Valley consumers

Jelissa Burns

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Over the month of March, two food recalls affecting Wisconsin consumers were posted. These recalls can be tracked on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service website.

Consumers in the Fox Valley should check to see if they've purchased any of these products and should dispose of them properly.

Ready-to-eat chicken products with glass contamination

A nationwide recall expansion of chicken products from Ajinomoto Foods

North America was posted on March 3 by the Oregon-based food manufacturer after receiving customer complaints.

Over 33 million additional pounds of ready-to-eat and not-ready-to-eat chicken and pork fried rice, ramen and shu mai dumpling products were recalled under brand names Ajinomoto, Kroger, Ling Ling, Tai Pei and Trader Joe's.

According to the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the manufacturer determined that a vegetable source ingredient, specifically carrots, was the likely source of the glass contamination, which also impacted the additional products in the expanded recall.

The affected products were produced

See RECALLS, Page 3A

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