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West Chester's Skatetown USA forced to close permanently due to COVID-19

by Alexa Helwig, WKRC | Wednesday, April 15th 2020



The impacts of COVID-19 is forcing popular a skating rink to permanently close its doors. (WKRC)

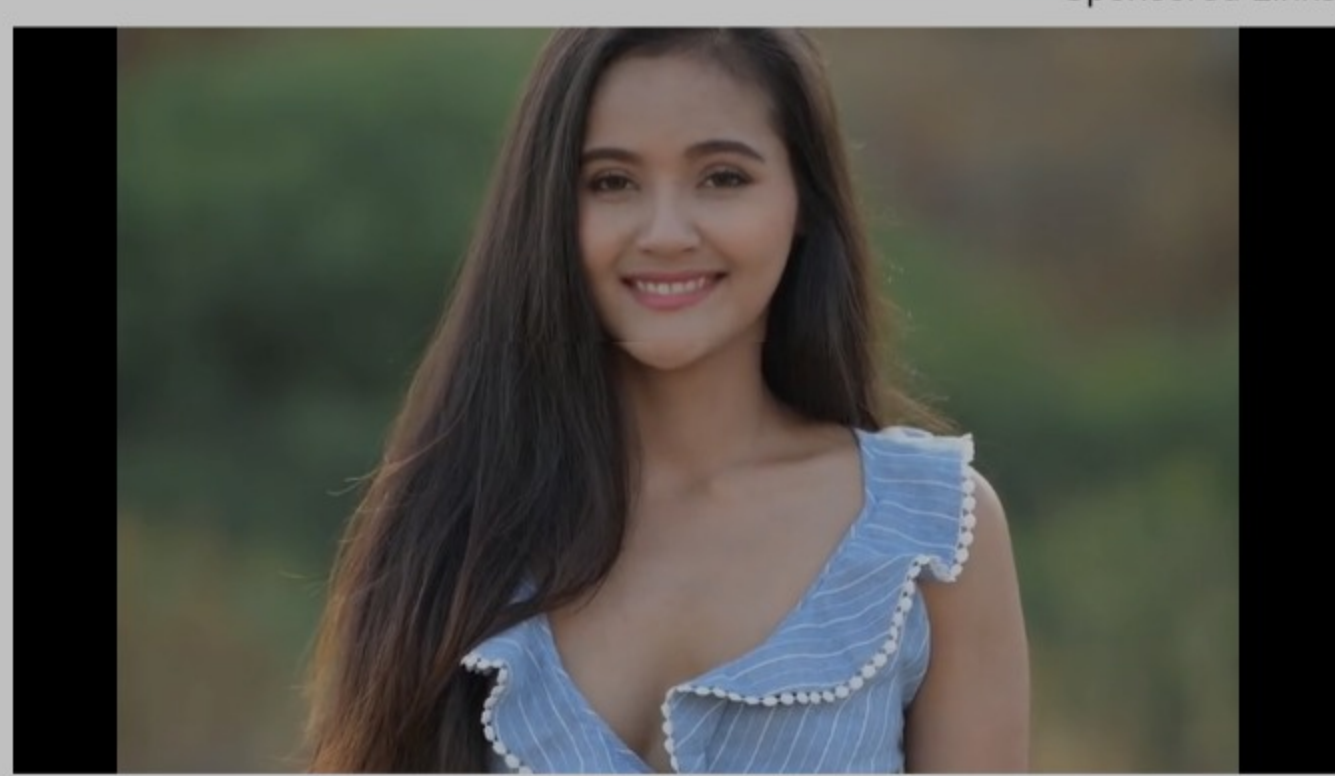
WEST CHESTER, Ohio (WKRC) - The impacts of COVID-19 is forcing popular a skating rink to permanently close its doors.

Skatetown USA has been in business for 17 years. It will not open its doors following the pandemic.

The lights, the music and, of course, the skates. It all makes up the experience at Skatetown USA. It is a place that Amy Hesselbrock calls home.

"Just being on that rink feels freeing and like a place that's not like anywhere else in this world to me," said Hesselbrock.

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That feeling will soon come to an end for Hesselbrock. She is the artistic roller skating coach at the rink.

"We do everything that figure skaters do. So, the jumps and spins. We travel to competitions around the nation," she said.

The effects of COVID-19 are forcing her team to find a new home. Owner Ken Roesel said it is too hard to come back from.

"Usually our peak season gets us through the summer. We make enough money in the winter months that we can keep operating through the summer, but, right now, we didn't make that money. So, it's going to be hard to continue and open back up," said Roesel.

It is one of the toughest things he has had to do. Shutting down the rink was only supposed to be temporary. This week, that changed.

In nearly two decades, Roesel said there have been many memories.

"We did a couple big events. We had Lil' Bow Wow here. We had Mindless Behavior come here. We had some concerts and different celebrities come through here," he said.

His passion for skating made a mark on many lives. The rink shaped Hesselbrock into the person she is today.

"Skatetown USA has an opportunity where you can teach classes and work with kids. That's where I found my love and what I want to do the rest of my life. I'm currently studying education at UC," she said.

Roesel wants to thank the West Chester community and surrounding communities for the support over the past 17 years.

The rink is selling all of its equipment and supplies to the public. It is available by appointment. Contact Ken Roesel at kenskatetownusa@aol.com

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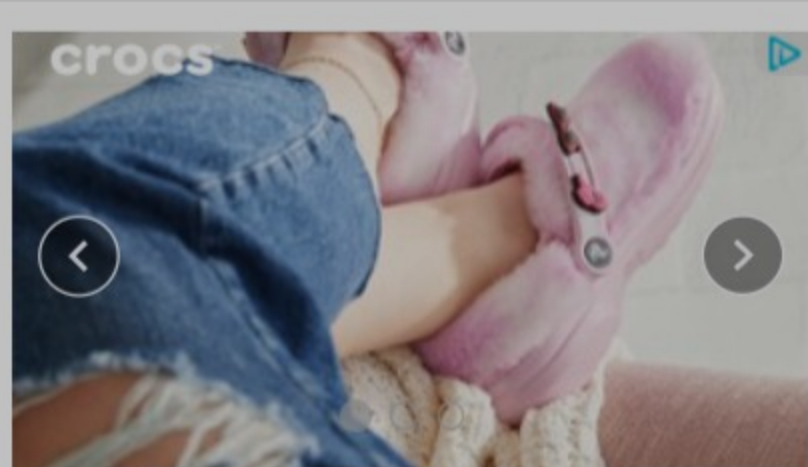
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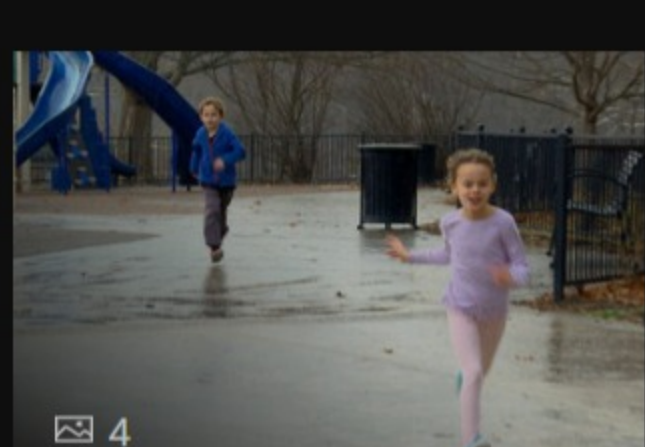
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