



Challenge grant will double donations for new Arts Park

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In the third quarter of 2025, visit frequency declined across all restaurant segments compared to the previous three months, according to Revenue Management Solutions. MIKE DUBOSE/NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN FILE

McDonald's, Chili's win with consumer value

Savyata Mishra
REUTERS

As consumers tighten their wallets, budget-friendly restaurant chains such as McDonald's, Chili's and Domino's are emerging as winners, drawing more diners who are trading down to cheaper meals.

The shift is leaving pricier fast-casual chains, including Chipotle Mexican Grill and Mediterranean-inspired Cava and Sweetgreen, struggling to retain customer visits, particularly among 25- to 35-year-olds.

While quick-service chains such as

McDonald's offer low-cost meals with greater focus on fast takeaway and drive-thru options, fast-casual restaurants focus on fresher, high-quality ingredients, and a more relaxed dining atmosphere at slightly higher prices.

Chipotle CEO Scott Boatwright acknowledged on a post-earnings call last week that the sector was "out of favor" and often perceived as overpriced. He added he was working to reframe Chipotle's value proposition after internal studies showed customers don't consider the chain as affordable as other dining options.

Sticky inflation, elevated menu

prices and an uncertain economic backdrop are pushing U.S. households in the low- to mid-income tiers to rethink eating out. Younger diners are feeling the pinch from rising youth unemployment, resumed student loan payments and sluggish wage growth.

In the third quarter of 2025, visit frequency declined across all restaurant segments – cheap quick-service chains, more expensive fast-casual outlets and the pricey full-service restaurants – compared to the previous three months, according to data from consulting firm Revenue Management Solutions.

Wooster's Window Wonderland returns

Miranda McGrath
Wooster Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

Downtown Wooster transforms into a winter wonderland Friday, Nov. 21, as Window Wonderland kicks off the holiday season with festive windows, a tree lighting, and the arrival of Santa.

The free event runs 3 to 9 p.m., centered on Public Square.

Schedule of events

- **3 p.m.:** Holiday windows unveiled at downtown merchants.
 - **6:45 p.m.:** Summer Stage Wooster Christmas caroling.
 - **7 p.m.:** Tree Lighting Ceremony on Public Square.
- This year's tree, donated by the Keen Family, will be lit by the Doug & Michelle Ventling Family:
- Kinsey & Nate Workman and sons Beckham and Bodhi
 - Mike & Kiley Ventling and children Riley and Emmett
 - Autumn & Joe Healey and son Brooks
- New lights and decorations courtesy of the Reardon family.

Santa's grand entrance

Shortly after 7 p.m., Santa descends from the rooftop of the Briggs & Starr Building with help from the Wooster Fire Department.

College of Wooster cheerleaders serve as "special elves" to assist.

Santa will hear children's wishes at

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Patients in detox get a room for healing at Catalyst Life Services

Zach Tuggle
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Early on a weekday morning, the lobby was filled with people hiding a world of problems. Each had become an expert at tucking things away from the sight of bosses, family members, neighbors and, when things were particularly bad, even themselves.

People have visited the place after dying, brought back to life by caring

strangers, worried family, or, they might tell you, God's eternal grace. Others make a pit stop on their path toward destruction, mostly self-inflicted. It's a sanctuary for the sick, jailed, cast away, hungry, cold, destitute, broken.

One man wore a beard, blue jeans and a flannel shirt. A woman a couple seats down sported dreadlocks, sunglasses and athletic wear.

Despite their differences, the patients

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Alyse Schroeder, detox referral manager for Catalyst Life Services, stands on the patio of one of the organization's residential units. ZACH TUGGLE/NEWS JOURNAL



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