



Packers: LaFleur makes it clear Willis won't replace a healthy Love

SPORTS, 3B

Herald Times Reporter

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The outside of The Elbow Room on Buffalo Street in Manitowoc. ALISA M. SCHAFER/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Businesses we said goodbye to in 2025

Patti Zarling

Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MANITOWOC – As 2025 comes to an end, here's a list of retailers and restaurants in the lakeshore area — some not even a year old, some a few decades old, and one more than a century old — that closed this year.

Maretti's Deli

A sign on the door of Maretti's Deli, 823 Buffalo St., was posted in late September saying: "Maretti's is closed. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served you."

The business website is down, and the Maretti's Facebook page has not been updated in about a year. A Google search lists the business as "permanently closed."

Owners Andy and Vicky Huletz took over the downtown Italian deli in late December 2017.



Maretti's Deli, 823 Buffalo St., Manitowoc has closed, as seen in late September 2025.

PATTI ZARLING/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

The Elbow Room

The iconic Manitowoc restaurant technically closed in March 2024 after then-owners Jeremiah and Rebecca Novak said they sold the iconic restaurant to new owners.

The Novaks shared on social media at the time that the longtime lakeshore restaurant, 702 Buffalo St., would be open under their management for the last

time on March 23, 2024.

The couple said they were selling the business to new owners who might take the restaurant in another direction.

But the business (and building) went up for sale again in early 2025 without ever opening under the

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2025: A year filled with uncertainty and challenges for Wisconsin farmers

Colleen Kottke

Wisconsin State Farmer
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The year has been one of uncertainty and filled with challenges for Wisconsin farm families. From tariffs and trade policies to the longest government shutdown in history, farmers have been hit from all angles. Agricultural analysts predict that producers will see the tightest profit margin (if any) this year.

Let's unpack a year that has tested even the most optimistic farm family.

January

Job losses felt across Wisconsin's ag businesses - The impact of rising costs has rippled across the entire agricultural community. Farmers struggling with higher input costs and reduced income from lower crop yields and milk prices have had to cut corners, mainly by putting off big iron purchases and hanging on to older equipment.

First human death in U.S. from bird flu reported - A Louisiana patient who had been hospitalized with

See **FARMERS**, Page 2A

Race for governor may spur 'big ideas'

Candidates each share their one grand plan

Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel asked the major candidates for governor to tell readers one big idea they want to implement if elected in November. Eight of the nine major candidates responded. For the candidates who decided not to name their plan, the Journal Sentinel summarized their idea. For entries more than 300 words, the Journal Sentinel edited for brevity. (The campaign of Democrat Joel Brennan did not respond.)

Here are the plans in the candidates' words:

Mandela Barnes, Democrat

Idea: "Expand BadgerCare on Day One"

How it works: "Wisconsin is one of just nine states that still hasn't expanded Medicaid. Even Republican-led states have done it. But not us – not because BadgerCare expansion doesn't work but because Trump's allies in Wisconsin have refused to care about the needs of their constituents."


If we do our job next November, that changes. We will have a Democratic trifecta for the first time in over a decade. A once-in-a-generation opportunity to move Wisconsin forward and finally get big things done.

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Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Thursday, Jan. 1, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

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