

SUN PRAIRIE

A vision realized



JOHN HART PHOTOS, STATE JOURNAL

Jennifer Lee purchased a former church in 2023 in Sun Prairie and has transformed the historic space to hold Faded Roots Boutique, a women’s clothing store that opened in November 2024. Last month, she opened the Roots Cellar, a farm market in the basement.

Former church transformed into clothing boutique, market

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SUN PRAIRIE — Instead of a baptismal font, rows of pews and a pipe organ, there are blouses, sweaters and blue jeans.

In the basement, where decades ago the ladies of the First Methodist Episcopal Church served up funeral luncheons and hosted potluck dinners, stand shelves, coolers and freezers filled with jams, pasta, pickles, meats, pizza, produce and cheese primarily made in Wisconsin.

The bats have been excommunicated from the belfry and the honey bees from the walls of this Romanesque Revival church, constructed in 1867 on a rise overlooking this city’s downtown.

And just like the transformation of this former farming community into a thriving suburb with two high schools and more than 40,000 residents, Jennifer Lee’s vision for this historic church property has been realized.

Just over a year ago, after completing an \$860,000 renovation, Lee opened Faded



The boutique and fresh market are located in the former First Methodist Episcopal Church, which was built in 1867 and stands next to the city’s historic water tower, built in 1899.

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SOUTH AMERICA

US captures Venezuelan leader in military strike

Trump says US will run country for now, tap vast oil reserves

REGINA GARCIA CANO, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — The United States captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and flew him out of the country in a military operation early Saturday, plucking a sitting leader from

office after months of escalating pressure on the oil-rich South American nation.

A plane believed to be carrying the deposed leader landed late Saturday afternoon in New York, where he was expected to face criminal charges.

President Donald Trump said the U.S. government would run the country at least temporarily and tap Venezuela’s vast oil reserves to sell “large amounts” to other countries.

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MATIAS DELACROIX, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men watch smoke rising from a dock Saturday after explosions were heard at La Guaira port, Venezuela.