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The Sheboygan Press

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Workers inspect the line at Old Wisconsin Sausage in Sheboygan. GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Local businesses held on amid tariffs

Alex Garner

Sheboygan Press USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

SHEBOYGAN – Uncertainty, supply chain disruptions and inventory gaps were among the challenges Sheboygan-area businesses faced amid evolving tariff policy in 2025.

President Donald Trump began his second term with a slew of tariffs imposed on countries, including major trade partners like China, Mexico, Canada and Europe. He said the tariffs would boost investment in the United States, reduce the trade deficit, and serve as a source of revenue for the country's

economy, possibly resulting in lower taxes or paying down the national debt.

The Congressional Budget Office recently estimated the tariff increases implemented between January and mid-November could

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New laws on wedding barns and resort taxes began Jan. 1

Hope Karnopp

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Jan. 1 brings many new things: A new calendar year, New Year's resolutions and, in some cases, new state laws.

Unlike some other states, Wisconsin doesn't treat Jan. 1 or July 1 as the default start dates for new laws. In Wisconsin, most laws go into effect almost immediately after the governor signs a bill.

But lawmakers do sometimes choose Jan. 1, or other dates, to implement a law. Delaying the effective date by a few months can give affected agencies or industries time to prepare and adapt.

The Legislative Reference Bureau, a nonpartisan agency that provides research and bill drafting services to lawmakers, found only two laws that have taken effect Jan. 1.

Two other sweeping pieces of legislation – a 2023 law that overhauled alcohol industry regulations and the 2025-27 state budget – have pieces that have taken effect Jan. 1.

Here are four of the more interesting ones that will affect local taxpayers, foster families, the events industry and more.

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Jerry Apps, Wisconsin's great rural storyteller, dies at 91

Madeline Heim

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Jerry Apps, a prolific storyteller who chronicled rural Wisconsin life, died Dec. 23 after a short illness.

His family announced his passing on Facebook Dec. 26. He was 91.

Apps was the author of more than 50 books on quintessentially Wisconsin topics like beer, cheese, fishing and

farm life. His titles included both fiction and nonfiction, stories for children and adults, memoirs, writing guides, and even a cookbook.

One of his most recent works, published in July, is titled, "Lessons from 90 Years of Living."

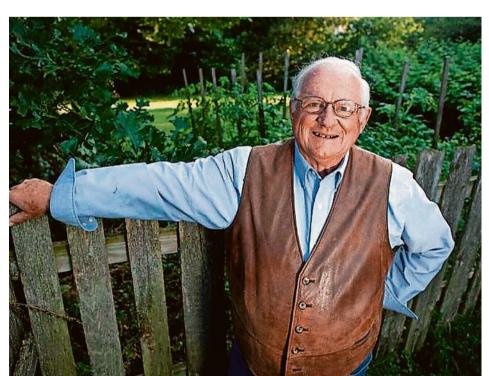
Apps was born July 25, 1934, on a

dairy farm in Wild Rose in Waushara County. He worked as a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a county extension agent for the University of Wisconsin-Extension and served as a writing instructor and editor of several journals.

According to his website, Apps wrote more than 1,000 columns for Wisconsin newspapers and magazines, beginning in 1957 and setting the practice aside in 2022 to focus on book writing. He also produced documentaries for Wisconsin Public Television and appeared frequently on television and the radio.

Apps' work racked up numerous accolades, including a Regional Emmy Award in 2014 for the documentary "A

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Wisconsin author and historian Jerry Apps. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JERRY APPS



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