



**Need help having to deal with loss?**

Programs look to help you work through things  
 SEE PAGE 3A

**Potosi sweeps to open league play**

Benton could not counter the Cooley sisters  
 SEE SPORTS

**Jobs, jobs, jobs!**

Our Classifieds section will show you where your next job will be  
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## Chamber, Herald holding childcare survey

The Lancaster Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Grant County Herald Independent are looking for your input to tell us how much childcare, or the lack thereof, is impacting you.

Are you having a problem finding care for your children? Does it impact where you work, and when you can work? Is childcare impacting where you may work or live?

This week, two surveys have launched to find out from residents and businesses how much childcare is impacting them.

For individuals, if you go to the following URL (links will also be shared on the Herald Independent and Chamber Facebook pages):

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/13bV2j4/lackofchildcareparents>

The Chamber has sent out a similar survey to member businesses.

In the short survey, it will ask your perspective on childcare needs in the community, and if it is impacting you or your family personally. It will also ask where you rank the need for childcare in this community compared to other needs.

If you have more to share, you are not merely relegated to these questions - there is a space on the survey for you to give your input directly, as well as how childcare has impacted you, to tell your story.

These stories can be shared with your name, or anonymously.

The survey is open until Sept. 15.

The results of the survey will be tabulated, and information generated will be part of an article in the Sept. 22 edition of the Grant County Herald Independent.

Rural Wisconsin is considered a 'childcare desert' where there are few large-enough employers who can offer childcare services to their employees, few large independent childcare providers, and a declining number of smaller childcare providers to fill the need.

For the providers available, they are running into the issue of trying to find employees, as they are competing with businesses in every sector that are trying to find workers for open positions. Many other types of business can offer more competitive wages than the childcare providers, along with health insurance, something small-scale childcare providers are unable to afford.

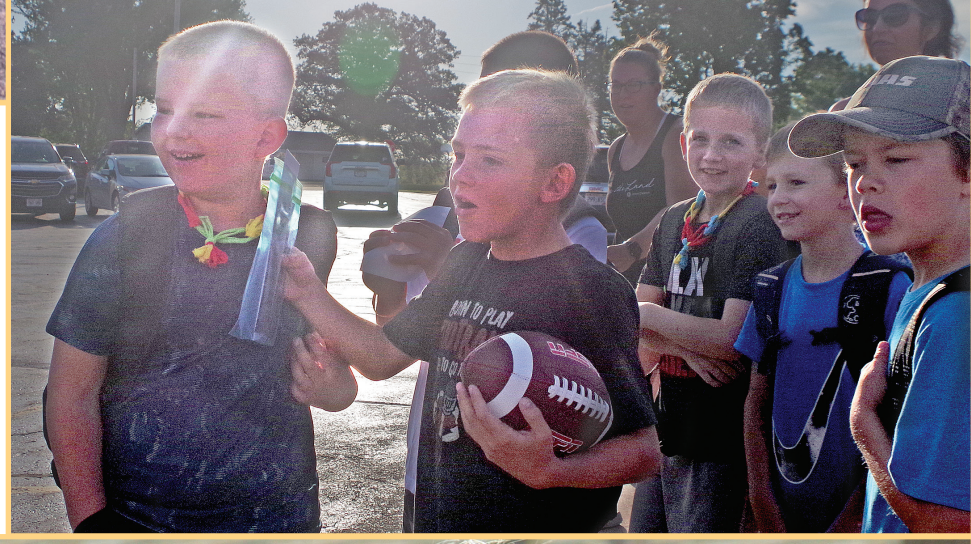
Both families and businesses are looking more and more at the childcare services available in a community before deciding to relocate, or in the case of businesses, expand.

In Lancaster, there are several small providers, including Little Prints Daycare, Wiggles and Giggles, and Maple Street Kids. The largest provider, Maple Street Kids, will need to relocate from its current location inside the former Lancaster Middle School when its lease ends in June 2023.

## ARE YOU READY?



Sept. 1 is the official start for public schools in Wisconsin, and there was a lot of excitement and joy shown by the students when they arrived for their first day of classes at Potosi Elementary (above). Meanwhile, at the end of the day at Winskill Elementary in Lancaster, students couldn't wait to tell their parents about their first day (below)  
 Photo at Winskill from Rob Callahan



## Dance part fundraiser, part celebration of volunteer department

"There is not a lot of wiggle room in the budget."

Lancaster Fire Chief Steve Braun notes that for the volunteer fire department, they had two major expenses they asked their member municipalities to step up for this past year, as they have looked to replace two of their trucks.

Braun said he was grateful the support the municipalities have shown in doing so, but that also made the department's budget all the more tighter, so that with the large number of new recruits to train and outfit, he is also glad of the generosity of the public, who donate during the annual firemans dance, which is being held this weekend.

A tradition for the department, it is also their biggest fundraiser of the year, and it helps the department stretch their budget for more equipment, as well as other things that continue to promote the family atmosphere the department has had for decades.

This year's dance is Saturday night at Zippy's Brass Rail, with Nate Gallagher and Pete Petersen performing.

Braun reflects back on how much the annual event is a biggest boost, both financially, and morale-wise for the department.

"This support has covered extrication tools in the past," Braun said.

The department had a very good year recruiting, with Braun saying they have nearly a full roster. But that roster had the side effect - more money needed to go to training, and they had to buy more turnout gear than they

Dance | SEE 7A

## City works to clean up sign

Lancaster Public Works Director said that there are some parts they are waiting for, like a new image of the dome, and the final repairs to the city's welcome sign will be complete.

For those wondering what was happening with the sign that sits on county property between Orchard Manor and the Community Services Building, city crews have been in the process of repairing the sign.

The sign, which Hauth estimated was installed in the 1990s, was made of wood, and had disintegrated in places.

For example, the painted images of the dome that sat on top of the sign, as well as the two other signs that sit at entrances of the city, had rotted away, like the other two signs.

Similar to the sign that sits on the western side of the city, which was rebuilt for an Eagle Scout project, a photo of the dome will be printed by Wolf's Grantland Graphics, and placed on top of rounded metal.

When that is completed, it will be installed on the sign that was repaired and restained.

Hauth noted that he originally wanted to get the entire project done this spring, but finding individuals to do the work forced the item to be delayed.

Sign | SEE 7A

## Local Care for you!

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