

Prime of Life

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SEE SPECIAL SECTION



Giggles & Wiggles to close Aug. 31

Lancaster's second largest daycare struggling with finding staff to oversee 32 children

BY DAVID TIMMERMAN
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Monday afternoon, the staff and leadership of Giggles and Wiggles Daycare, Lancaster's second largest daycare facility, met to discuss the ongoing issue of having enough people to run the facility. The daycare was closed Thursday afternoon and Friday last week because, due to illness and a person having decided to leave work, they simply did not have enough people to oversee the 32 children who come to the facility.

Monday was the same way, with the daycare closed yet another day, and the crisis of trying to find people to fill the positions had reached a critical point.

Parents began to be concerned, and rumors began circulating if the daycare was going to close.

After attempt after attempt to find new staff, without any success, it was decided to close the daycare at the end of next month, leaving the families of the 34 children who attend the facility in some way scrambling for what to do in the fall.

"It had been a labor of love," said owner Kristin Holman-Steffel, who at moments fought tears in explaining closing the daycare after she had started it 26 years ago as an extension of her staying home to take care of her own children, which eventually turned into turning her entire home into a daycare facility.

Now, the facility will go until the end of next month, fulfilling their current contracts.

"I wasn't planning on this at all," Holman-Steffel stated of no plans to close until things came to a head Monday afternoon.

"It wasn't easy and not what I wanted," added Holly Denman, manager of the facility.

Holman-Steffel noted that for a facility like Giggles and Wiggles, their limited staff mean that if someone was gone, or if positions were empty, it stretched the remaining staff thin.

"Well, when staff gets sick, we have nobody to fill in. You know, so we had a little sickness go through, there was nobody to fill in the kids," Holman-Steffel continued. "We just don't have enough. We're running with a skeleton staff. We don't have enough if two or three people get sick, then we need to, we'd have to close."

"It is heartbreaking," Denman said of the closure, who noted the impact on the families that relied on Giggles and Wiggles for their childcare needs, going into a climate that is already short on slots for children. "Now they are put in a tough position because there was already a shortage," Denman said.

For example, Wiggles and Giggles had a waitlist of 25 families looking for a spot. For most daycares in Grant County, their waitlist is near the same number as their capacity.

Denman stated that it rips at her to see the facility close at the end of next month, because the children they care for, the families that are enrolled, become their own family as well. "You watch these kids as little babies, it was hard to say goodbye when they age out and go off to school."

Outside factors weighed on daycares

Going over the history of Giggles and Wiggles, Holman-Steffel noted that for smaller operations like hers, different moments have made it more difficult for operations like hers, reducing the margins of being able to even break even, while also having trends that have tempted would-be employees to work in other fields, as well as the school districts moving in on ages that had been handled by daycares in the past.



WE WON IT



Despite Mother Nature getting in the way of the Saturday evening events, the Blake's Prairie Fair was a big success this past weekend. Photos by A.J. Gates



Fire departments awarded \$575,459 in grants

The following Grant County Fire Departments have received a total of \$575,459 in federal grant funding in early rounds of awards through this year's FEMA Assistance to Firefighters program.

- The Platteville Fire Department will receive \$388,763 to purchase 39 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and a new air compressor and breathing air fill system for use at the fire station.

- The Livingston Fire Department will receive \$163,314 to purchase 18 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

- The Mount Hope Fire Department will receive \$23,382 for the purchase of a mobile breathing

air system and SCBA bottle filling station.

Agencies receiving grants are responsible for a local match of only 5% towards the cost of the overall project.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the US Department of Homeland Security. The primary goal of the AFG program is to provide financial assistance directly to fire departments and EMS organizations to enhance local capabilities for firefighting and emergency response.

Each year, Grant County

Emergency Management provides assistance to any interested area fire departments and EMS agencies with the development of grant applications for the program. Since the program's establishment in 2001, Grant County communities have received more overall AFG awards than any other Wisconsin county. The funding has been used to purchase protective gear, firefighting equipment, communications equipment and emergency vehicles.

The program will continue to make awards throughout the coming months.

Holder sentenced to 13 years in prison

After two years awaiting sentence, Holder was given total of 20 years

BY DAVID TIMMERMAN
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For the past two years, he was known only as the victim in the case of Attempted Murder charges against Todd Holder, Livingston. He was the victim, Holder's unnamed daughter's fiancée, who was listening in during status conferences.

On Tuesday, Ari Williams, 36, had his voice heard for the first time during the sentencing hearing against Holder, letting the court truly know what the impact of went down on Father's Day weekend 2021.

"There are so many lives ruined because of his actions," Williams said. "I was inches away from dying."

With Williams' victim impact statement given to the court, Judge Craig Day was not going to budge one bit from the recommendation from District Attorney Lisa Riniker that Holder would be under the control of the state Department of Corrections for the next two decades - 13 in prison, with another seven as part of extended supervision.

Day did make one change from the recommendations - Riniker asked for 15 years in prison, and five years under extended supervision, while Day made it 13 years in prison, seven years extended supervision.

While several individuals spoke up or submitted letters to try and vouch for Holder's character, as he and attorney Chris VanWagner argued for a lighter sentence - between five and seven years - it was Williams's words that cast the brutal attack he suffered from Holder.

Williams had first met Holder in August 2020, after Williams had been dating Holder's daughter, Amanda, for a year. The couple became engaged and were expecting a child, and Williams felt that all the previous encounters with Holder had been positive.

The family got together on that Father's Day weekend, with Williams coming straight from work to the Holder family home, showered and they went off to visit others. When they returned, Williams and Holder, who were both intoxicated at this point, decided to go over to the Hell Inn Bar, two blocks away, to see if they had food.

Getting there, the mood had been humorous - Williams noted Holder joked about his height and whether he would be able to jump a fence.

Then the mood quickly soured. Williams noted how he was struck off guard by Holder referring to his skin tone, and referred to him as 'boy' in front of the bartender.

Williams was offended, and some argument turned into a shove between the two, with Holder leaving the bar. He went home, and grabbed a weapon, returned to the bar, placing the gun on the side, and motioned for Williams to come out.

When he did, Holder shot him multiple times in the abdomen.

On the ground, bleeding, Williams described as Holder then pointed the gun at his head, and fired.

"I still have a bullet in my jaw that is too deep to remove," Williams explained, noting he has also had oral surgeries to remove the shards of teeth embedded in his jaw when the bullet shattered them.

The wounds inflicted that night, both physical and mental, have yet to heal, and likely never will, according to Williams.

Because of his massive blood loss, emergency crews had to clamp his aortic artery, which caused extended loss of blood flow to his legs, which remain weak. He has difficult time eating because of the shot to the face.

Having worked the previous decade in construction, Williams

One of the bigger hits to the viability of daycares was the expansion of 4K kindergarten programs in the 1990s. Changes in legislation allowed districts to count four-year-olds within their hours of students, which led to an expansion by most of the districts in the state.

Holman-Steffel remembers the impact when area districts added four-year-old kindergarten programs. She was on the board of the Lancaster Preschool at the time, and she recalled its impact on that institution as well.

For daycares like Giggles and Wiggles, losing four-year-olds meant the children that were the least labor-intensive were gone. For young children, two years old or younger, the ratio of staff is four children for everyone one staffer. For four-year-olds, the split is larger.

Holman-Steffel remembers for the daycare, they had to cut a staff member because of the loss of children with the change.

The daycare industry got hit again when there was a movement to increase the minimum wage, both in the state and nationally dozen years ago. Holman-Steffel knew this would be an issue as minimum wage began bumping into the salaries that had been offered by daycares.

After COVID, with the growing labor shortage as the Baby Boom generation decided to retire at a rapid pace, wages across the board began pushing up as employers across the nation attempted to scramble to fill open job positions.

This current round of wage jumps made it more and more difficult for individuals who had been in the childcare service industry to ignore other jobs with higher wages, as well as benefits. "Its hard work for little money," Denman added, noting that with the recent push on wages across the country, now jobs at fast food restaurants or big box stores were going higher than daycare jobs, which are very labor-intensive.

Many jobs out there now even have benefits, which you rarely find in small daycares.

"We are never fully staffed," Denman said, noting that in recent years the large turnover they have seen in the industry.

Holman-Steffel talked about Denman worked trying to recruit new workers. They spent hundreds of dollars on online job sites like Indeed to get new employees. Those efforts came up largely fruitless - individuals would not respond when contacted, People were offered jobs, only to never show up.

She hired three people one time, and only one of them showed up. "We are spending money we don't have to spare," Denman said.

One of the final straws to break was the assistance grants that came from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, part of COVID-era funding that helped childcare centers.

Denman said the grant Giggles and Wiggles received helped with employee salaries, helping with training, and let them get equipment for the daycare.

They already felt the 50 percent cuts in the program implemented earlier this year, and the program will not be funded in the future.

In reflecting on the conditions in the region currently, Holman-Steffel noted that the size of care centers like Giggles and Wiggles is unsustainable.

"I don't think, you know,

being licensed for 32 kids is a business model that generates enough income to sustain wages and benefits for staff," Holman-Steffel reflected.

When asked what makes sense, she stated that either staying small and in-house (two people covering up to

Kristin added that if Giggles and Wiggles had been part of a network of other providers working together on issue, it may have made it more viable as well.

Holman-Steffel had pulled away from the day-to-day operations of the daycare in 2014, taking more hours at the Schreiner Memorial Library. She had been working with the staff for years in an attempt to fully handoff the business, even offering the contents of the business, excluding the home its in, for \$1 to the staff, provided that a new license was done without her on it.

Because of the tight staffing and other things, the changeover never took place.

Still, updates to the home have taken place in recent years to the home.

For Denman, she had always been drawn to work with children, participating in a coop when in high school. After contemplating a elementary education degree, instead she found herself working in childcare.

"It's heartbreaking," Denman said of the closure, noting that she is not certain what she will do after August. Some of the staff are looking at other local childcare facilities, which also have had open positions that have not allowed them to be at their licensed capacity.

Others are looking to be paraprofessionals for a school, or working completely out of the field.

Parents react to announcement

For those parents who had children going to Giggles and Wiggles, the news leaves them contemplating wholesale changes in their households.

Lance Wamsley said he and his wife are still trying to figure out what they will do to handle their youngest child, which had been going to Giggles and Wiggles three days a week.

The Wamsleys had already shifted to having their child go part-time, with Wamsley's wife working from home two days a week, and the child going the other three to childcare.

"Currently, we don't have a plan on what we'll do or where we'll go to find care for the other three days," Lance said. He said that they need to continue with having two incomes in the family,

and they hope they can find a solution that doesn't require them to drive out of the community for childcare, since they work here.

"The Lancaster daycare situation is already stressed, and the closure of Giggles and Wiggles exacerbates the lack of childcare options in the city," Wamsley said.

For Melissa McCauley, her child was utilizing the program for the summer, and was planning on using it for after-school care when the school year starts.

"School-aged kids need some kind of care especially in the summer. You can't make them sit in the house all summer and be bored," McCauley stated. She noted that there are very limited options for children her age, which is why she has been working on different ideas on how to expand after-school care in Lancaster, with very little results thus far, getting a negative response from the Lancaster Community School District on her initial approach, and was waiting to hear back from the city.

For their family, they will make due, as she has an employer who is understanding, and her husband is coming back to the city by mid-afternoon.

"My family and others in the community are desperately seeking out daycare," said Wesley Wingert, who along with his wife, are teachers and now have less-than-a-month to find a new provider before school starts.

Giggles and Wiggles was very convenient for them, near Lancaster High School where he teaches, and they started looking once they found out they were expecting.

Still, Wingert noted how tough it was finding a space, and they thanked friends pulling strings to find a spot.

Now they are looking at options in fennimore, where his wife teaches, since Lancaster has limited options.

"I think the lack of daycare providers in Lancaster has reached a tipping point," he continued.

Wingert noted that there at least six other Lancaster High School staff who have children at Giggles and Wiggles, and he noted that in the months they found themselves looking for childcare, discussion has been dominated by first the status of the largest provider, Maple Street Kids, which is currently in a school district building the district wishes to raze at some point, and the worries that Giggles and Wiggles would have to close at some point because of staffing problems.

Bedward swings with GRHC beds

GRANT REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER

Barbara Bedward of Lancaster affectionally calls Grant Regional Health Center her "second home". That is the way she describes how comfortable and cared for she feels following several long stays in the hospital's Swing Bed program.

"I'm happy to say that my health is stable and I'm able to remain living in my home," explains Barbara. "And I owe a lot of that recovery to the excellent care and compassion of staff at Grant Regional."

Barbara was hospitalized three different times in the past year, and she was fearful that she may need to go to a nursing home or assisted living facility for care. Because she lives alone, she knew it was important for her to focus on her health and regain her strength if she wanted to remain independent.

In January, Barbara was experiencing cardiac and respiratory issues that led to an ER visit followed by a 21-day hospital stay. "The staff at Grant Regional literally saved my life," she describes. "I can honestly say that if it weren't for Dr. James, the nursing team and especially Jamie and Destani in Respiratory - I wouldn't be here today. Dr. James was so thorough and caring, Jamie and Destani were even thinking of me and my condition when they weren't at work, trying to figure out what could help me. I later learned that because of their determination, they solved the mystery and helped Dr. James diagnose bronchiectasis. No one gave up on me...not for a minute."

As she continued to improve, she transitioned to Swing Bed, a Medicare program that allows patients more time to recoup and recover. The Swing Bed program is designed to provide individualized, in-hospital care that involves a multidisciplinary team of physicians, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, speech therapy, nursing, dietitian, pharmacy, and social worker - all working together to help patients regain strength and independence.

"Absolutely loved everyone who took care of me," Barbara said smiling. "By now, they all know me by my first name. I was so comfortable during my



stay. My room was spacious and beautiful in the new expansion of the hospital." For Barbara, she felt the Swing Bed program was such a blessing because it allowed her to focus on rest, recovery, and healing with a strong support system that helped her through it all.

"I didn't realize how much I needed the Swing-bed program, until I saw how much it helped me. With daily physical therapy, respiratory therapy, good nutrition, and other support, I felt so much stronger," Barbara explained.

When she first came, she required a bipap machine to help her breathe. Because of this, she was mostly confined to her bed and unable to walk. She required help with everything.

With exercise and activities through the Swing Bed program, Barbara went from barely walking 10 feet at a time to an increase of 35% mobility by the time of discharge. Her family couldn't believe when she went home how much farther she could walk - all thanks to her 6-day Swing Bed stay. They were so grateful for her care that they surprised hospital staff with a pizza party and delicious bundt cakes for dessert.

"Barbara is always a ray of sunshine," said Shelly Hampton, Lead In-Patient Physical Therapist. "She never loses her sense of humor no matter what is going on around her. She puts her full trust in the healthcare team and is always willing to work hard.

Barbara always surpasses my expectations because of this hard work."

Grant Regional's Swing Bed Program is an important local service for our community. Patients do need to qualify under Medicare or WI mandate guidelines. Those who have had at least a three-day acute hospital stay can take advantage of the Swing-bed program. Patients who benefit from this program are typically those who need rehabilitation to regain strength and mobility following a stroke, injury or surgery such as joint replacement or need IV therapy or complex wound care. Even if patients have surgery at another hospital out of town and aren't quite ready to return home, our Swing-bed program allows patients to receive extended care here until they feel stronger.

Barbara says there's no place like home but is very thankful for the great nursing care and motivating rehab staff that helped her regain mobility and allow her to return home. She continued her progress with some assistance from home health and by returning to Grant Regional to do outpatient pulmonary therapy to help increase her strength and mobility.

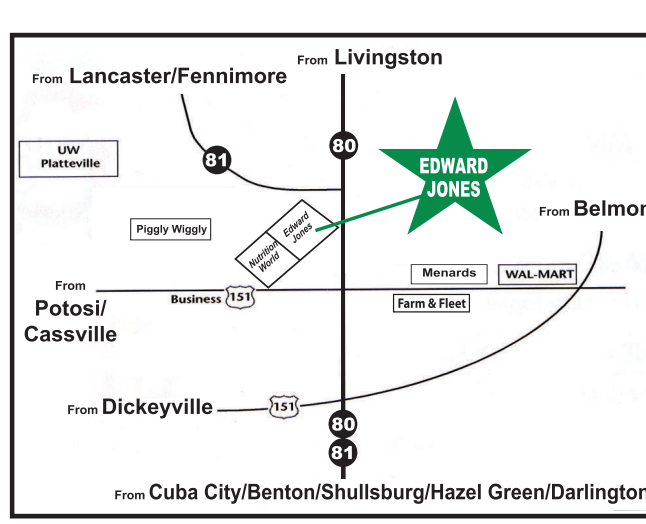
For more information about Grant Regional Health Center's Swing-bed Suites, go to www.grantregional.com or call (608) 723-2143 to learn more.



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The sky is starting to fall

Earlier this year, a thought began to start to haunt me about how possible it could be that Lancaster could see the three largest daycare facilities closed and gone within three years.

People retiring, and no one to take their places. Buildings lost due to being sold or torn down. Tuition fees simply not being able to keep up with rising costs and wages. Families pulling back because they cannot afford the higher rates, causing a cascade effect on spaces.

It's a scenario I thought was not only possible, but had a better chance of happening than me winning that billion-dollar Powerball.

Well, the first domino fell Monday afternoon when the second-largest daycare, Giggles and Wiggles, is closing its doors at the end of next month after 26 years of service.

Instead of adding spots in the community for parents in need of all-day or after-school care (we could probably double the 130 existing spots and they would be filled) we now have families of 32 children scrambling for care for the fall.

So what do we do now? What does this mean for the future of rural communities like Lancaster?

Something needs to change, and change quickly. I know that the sky is falling is meant to have people put into context what they may portray as serious, but in reality this issue with childcare is very serious, and we should not diminish the problem.

Right now, I estimate we are in Year Two or Year Three of a decade where something needs to be done to change the trajectory of the population trends in the region. We are in this critical mass where things either happen, or businesses and people will invest elsewhere.

If we don't make changes, we will be faced with a scenario where the population will get smaller and smaller, as businesses and people will look elsewhere to expand and grow.

Right now, everywhere you look, there is a demand for workers. I cannot go to any thing, from firefighter trainings, to a governmental meeting, to just going to a store without being told of some empty job positions.

This is worldwide issue, as COVID sped up the 'silver tsunami' of Baby Boomers and older GenXers deciding to retire from the workforce, and the incoming generations not being able to fill the gaps.

But it is particularly an issue in southwest Wisconsin, as well as other sections of rural Wisconsin. Unlike the suburban portions of the state, we don't have developers coming in to build housing, giving people a place to stay.

Again, I was interviewing someone for a story a few weeks back, and they were starting out in their career. They wanted to stay in their hometown, but there wasn't any apartments or homes for them to rent, which meant they would have to likely live in another community.

Now we have some apartments coming online, hopefully, in the next few years, but is it really going to be enough to meet any potential need if area businesses look to expand? If anything is going to happen here, those businesses are likely going to have to recruit people to move here, and no one is going to move here if they do not have a place to live.

But living is more than simply having a home. We need to have services as well, and for many who have young families, they are going to ask about childcare - not only all-day care for younger children, but also after-school care for those elementary-age children who cannot take care of themselves alone at home.

Ask yourself, how are you going to move to a new town, where you may not have a support system, and not have a place for your child to go while you are at work?

You can't move to a community that does not offer day care unless one of the parents stays home.

As it is right now, we do not have enough childcare for the people who live here. We certainly do not have enough for any influx of people, and no company is going to invest in creating jobs in a location if there is not the infrastructure to support them.

If we do not do something about this now, the investment will happen elsewhere. The jobs will go elsewhere. And the people, not just those people who never lived here, but the growing up and graduating from here, will go elsewhere.

Then we won't have to worry about housing or childcare, because

we will watch as the population of southwest Wisconsin will shrink.

So what can be done? Well, first, we need several leaders to stop saying 'it's not my problem.'

Business owners already know its their problem, as they struggle to fill shifts with workers. Their problem is that businesses in rural Wisconsin are not big enough to offer childcare services on their own.

Municipalities know it's their problem, as they scramble to try and grow, since that is the only way their budgets can keep up with inflation. Unfortunately, because of state rules hindering them, they have limited ability to deal with the issue, and certainly cannot tackle it on their own either.

And a lot of you know it's a problem, in so many ways. For you parents and grandparents, you either have dealt with this issue firsthand trying to find a place for your own children, or if they are grown, hear about how this is one reason they do not come back here to live, because there is no one to care for that next generation.

I know it's my problem as well, which is why, going on two years I have sounded the alarm on this. I don't have kids, nor run a business, but I know if this trend continues, there will be less children in this area, which means fewer parents or grandparents buying the newspapers with their loved ones featured in it, and we will see a continued contraction of who lives around here to read the news.

Unfortunately, I still hear from a number of people, people who should be leading in this, who say it is not their problem.

Our state legislators better figure out this is their problem, and go to the leadership of their legislative bodies and convince them that this is their problem too. Unfortunately, our legislature is run by representatives from the suburbs who do not know that childcare is at a crisis point in rural Wisconsin. That is my only explanation on why they put such little money in the new state budget for it.

Through federal COVID funds, we had \$400 million going to programs like Childcare Counts, Dream Up and Partner Up. That money basically made sure daycare facilities had funding to help with wages of employees, and also helped businesses subsidize their workers, so they could hire more workers who had a place for their children to go.

I saw firsthand that at work in nearby Richland Center, where factories could hire people because of this.

Now, those businesses will see their workforce diminish, as parents have to choose between working or taking care of their kids, because they cannot afford daycare anymore.

Instead of expanding the program, the legislature cut funding by two-thirds. With Gov. Evers vetoing the \$3.5 billion tax cut, the legislature has been given a mulligan to deal with this, but will they? I seriously doubt it, despite the fact that childcare is an economic development issue, and not doing so starves businesses around here of workers they desperately need.

Locally, besides hoping and working on new large operations will move in, we need to get creative on ways to improve the climate. By all accounts, the only way to break even or make money in childcare is to either remain small and in-home, or have a facility of more than 100 children.

Speaking of the former, what we need is a system to assist the smaller, in-home childcare facilities, from everything to planning and setup, to dealing with assistance programs, to creating a confederation where there is one place for parents to go to find out who is available, and whether they can handle special needs like evenings or weekends.

Making it more than simply word of mouth to find a slot would be helpful to parents to find some place.

We have had many wake-up calls on this issue over the past few years. The canary is on life support, and if we do not deal with this, so will be the communities of southwest Wisconsin.

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Future of fusion energy has strong toehold in Wisconsin

MADISON — Wisconsin has all the makings to be an international hub for fusion.



No, I don't mean fusion cuisine, although that's on the calendar now that Bravo TV's headline "Top Chef" series has selected Wisconsin as a destination for its upcoming season. That's big news, too, as it puts the state's best culinary artists in front of a million viewers per episode in 175 countries.

The kind of fusion I'm referencing is a lot more technical, much harder to commercialize but well within the bounds of expertise and infrastructure on hand in Wisconsin: Fusion energy.

The prospects for fusion energy breakthroughs in Wisconsin and how it may transform the national and global energy outlook was the topic of a July 18 luncheon in Madison, where leaders of three emerging companies talked about what's on the horizon -- and not multiple decades away.

First, some definitions: Fusion energy is the same atomic reaction that powers the sun. It's an emissions-free form of energy generation that could transform the world if properly harnessed. Unlike fission, which is the splitting of atoms for energy in a controlled manner, fusion is a melding of lightweight atoms (deuterium and tritium) to produce sub-atomic particle neutrons, helium and energy -- mostly in the form of heat.

The fuel source is infinite, the energy "density" is at least 10 million times that of fossil fuels, there are no carbon emissions and the neutrons produced by the reaction are far more useful and valuable than the

energy it takes to launch a reaction.

There has been renewed excitement about fusion energy since late 2022 when the National Ignition Laboratory within the Lawrence Livermore federal lab announced it had created a fusion reaction that produced more energy than it took to produce. Not quite the "Holy Grail" of fusion yet, but a breakthrough that encouraged physical scientists everywhere.

What followed was at least as important as the Livermore "ignition" itself. Major venture capitalists started putting money into fusion companies, because fusion was no longer the perpetual "20 years away" but on a schedule that could make a difference -- and money -- much sooner.

In fact, about \$117 million was invested by the federal government in fusion energy in 2022, but private investors contributed \$4.7 billion. That private number has increased in 2023.

That's not exclusively because investors see fusion as limited to energy production, but because they see potential in industrial processes, hydrogen production, desalination of sea water, health care imaging and security inspections.

Wisconsin's edge in the fusion race stems from the fact that three of

the nation's 25 fusion companies are in south-central Wisconsin. There are only 44 such companies in the world. Why Wisconsin?

The UW-Madison has produced at least 485 doctoral degree graduates with research related to plasma physics (a fundamental study) and fusion energy since 1965. The nuclear engineering department within the College of Engineering is one of the nation's best.

Here is another reason that may surprise people accustomed to believing Wisconsin state regulators are conditioned to say "no" to every innovation they don't necessarily understand: The state has a head start on regulating fusion technology, thanks in large part to SHINE Technologies in Janesville and Madison.

Representatives of SHINE, Realta Fusion and Type One Energy Group were unanimous in the July 18 discussion in their belief that Wisconsin has a head start most states don't enjoy when it comes to fusion. Each company has raised significant private dollars. They also discussed the possibility of a fusion production "triangle" that could extend into Illinois and elsewhere in Wisconsin.

The potential for clean energy, and even the destruction of elements such as carbon dioxide and nuclear fission waste, makes fusion energy a potential growth area for Wisconsin over time. The fusion cuisine scene is a bit closer, so we can all tune into Bravo to learn more about that in the meantime.

Still is president of the Wisconsin Technology Council. He can be reached at tstill@wisconsinstechnologycouncil.com.



A LOOK BACK

60 YEARS AGO
 JULY 25, 1963
GRANT COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Wisconsin Power and Light Company will be host this weekend to thousands of visitors at the newly enlarged Nelson Dewey generating station, located at Cassville, on the Mississippi River. Completion of the addition to Nelson Dewey station late in 1962 double the size and electric producing capability of the plant. The first section, completed late in 1959, added 110,000 kilowatts of generation to Wisconsin Power and Light Company's system. The new addition was completed and put into service late in 1962, increasing the power producing capability of Nelson Dewey station to its present 220,000 kilowatts. On the main floor of the station stand the sleek generators with a combined generating capability to supply a city of 200,000 population. The surge of tremendous power is evident because there are approximately 40 tons of metal spinning at 3,600 revolutions per minute.

50 YEARS AGO
 JULY 25, 1973
GRANT COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Lancaster lost to Platteville in the finals of the WIAA Sectional baseball tournament at Lancaster Friday night, 4-2, in a well played ball game. Platteville, beaten twice by the Arrows during conference play, faced Hartland Arrowhead at 6:30. Tuesday is the first round game of the WIAA state summer baseball tournament at West Bend. In Wednesday night's opening round of the WIAA Sectional tournament played at Lancaster, Platteville squeezed by Hazel Green, 4-3, and Lancaster ousted West Grant, 6-1.

40 YEARS AGO
 JULY 27, 1983
GRANT COUNTY HERALD INDEPENDENT

There were only 10 dissenting votes Monday night when Lancaster Community School District electors approved a general tax levy totalling \$2,274,553 to support a \$3,952,000 budget for the 1983-84 school year. About 80 attended the annual meeting and 69 voted in favor

of the levy on a motion by Linda Martin. The levy for the coming school year is about \$120,000 more than last year, while the total budget is about \$400,000 higher than 1982-83 expenditures. There was applause when District Administrator Dan Dahlgren announced the turnaround from a large deficit when he came to Lancaster to a comfortable balance. He said, "We are very, very pleased to report this year, the balance had not been audited, but it is very close...we have almost had a reversal from a \$350,000 deficit to an over \$300,000 balance."

30 YEARS AGO
 JULY 29, 1993
GRANT COUNTY HERALD INDEPENDENT

There has never really been a place in Grant County, other than the jail, for children under the age of 18 to go when they have gotten into trouble with the law. That is until now. In mid-June, the state awarded the county a \$25,000 grant to provide a secure detention alternative for youth ages 0 to 18. Those youth, previously held in a separate area of the county jail, will now be placed in a supervised setting in a house in Lancaster. The secured detention will be one room at the county's current shelter home. The child will receive one-on-one attention from a trained volunteer. Depending on a court order, children can be housed in the room for up to 24 hours or if sanctioned by the court can spend from three to 10 days in the room.

20 YEARS AGO
 JULY 24, 2003
GRANT COUNTY HERALD INDEPENDENT

The Grant County Board heard two presentations on the controversial lawsuit over the civil war flag formerly stored in the county courthouse and currently on display at the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Hall in Boscobel. Sheila Sobek, the Executive Secretary of the Boscobel Chamber of Commerce, told the board that they should rescind the suit against the GAR group. Sobek emphasized that the lawsuit by the county board has set a precedent that puts at risk museum collections and the sanctity of donations to them throughout the country.

GRANT COUNTY Herald Independent Volume 180 - Issue 30
 WISCONSIN'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
 USPS 226-380

PRODUCTION: EARL MCLEAN, SHAWN SISLEY, LOLE WEHLE, JAMES LOWLING, MIKE MCCARTNEY, KRISTIN WINKLER, MARSHA SISLEY, JENNIFER ROESCH, DENNIS LYGHT, JEFF FAUST, GREG FISCHER, STEVE FISHNICK, TINA JACOBS & ERIC WEPKING

PHILIPSON WEEKLY BY MORRIS NEWSPAPER CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN, 208 W. CHERRY STREET, LANCASTER, WI 53813. TELEPHONE (608) 723-2151. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LANCASTER, WI. CONTENTS © MMVIII BY MORRIS NEWSPAPER CORPORATION OF WISCONSIN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

MORRIS NEWSPAPERS OF WISCONSIN

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER, 40% POST-CONSUMER WASTE

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: IN GRANT COUNTY \$47 (2 YRS. \$86.50), IN WISCONSIN \$50 (2 YRS. \$91.50), OUT-OF-STATE \$63.50 (2 YRS. \$119)

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: CIRCULATION DEPT., GRANT COUNTY HERALD INDEPENDENT, P.O. BOX 310, LANCASTER, WI 53813-0310.

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