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AMY BETH BENNETT/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL VIA AP, POOL

Students, teachers, parents and communities are left dealing with the long-term impacts of school shootings and violence long after the media and political spotlights have dimmed.

Danielle Woodard, the half-sister of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooter Nikolas Cruz, becomes emotional as she testifies in the penalty phase of Cruz's trial at the Broward County Courthouse.

Working together for school safety

Peshtigo takes part in ALICE program

PESHTIGO—Recently, all Peshtigo School District staff participated in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) safety training with local law enforcement. Peshtigo and Marinette police officers worked with staff during in-service training.

Peshtigo school board member and Marinette police officer, Capt. Joe Nault said, "Our children are our future, and our greatest responsibility as a community is to keep them safe."

"School safety is our first priority," Peshtigo superintendent Patrick Rau states. "Students and staff must feel safe physically, socially, and

See PESHTIGO, A2

COMMUNITIES ENDURE, DEMAND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS ONCE MEDIA ATTENTION, POLITICAL THEATER FADES FROM SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

AFTER THE BLOODSHED

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS • APG National Enterprise Editor

Familiar and not always productive patterns have emerged over the past two decades for schools and communities shattered by mass shootings. Some of those — including knee-jerk and politically motivated reactions — can actually work against solving root problems associated with school violence, according to security experts and others on the front lines of the issue. In the immediate aftermath of a shooting, the news media, gun control and gun rights activists and mental health advocates all now routinely swoop in with dramatic images of grieving parents and memorial services, with emotional calls to action.

Federal and state lawmakers have also thrown money at the problem — often via one-time or short-term grants — to up security with more cameras, reinforced doors and more campus police and mental health professionals.

"You see the knee-jerk reactions of legislators. And it is frequently one-time, shot in the arm grants," said Kenneth Trump, president of National School Safety and Security Services, based in Ohio.

For many police departments and school districts — especially smaller ones — jumping through the hoops of applying for federal and other grants is too daunting of a challenge to take on. And if they do plunge into that process and are successful at securing a grant, the pot isn't infinite. They'll have to figure out long-term funding after the original money runs out.

"The grant process is not simple. You can put a lot of work into it and end up with nothing," said Martin Sayre, community engagement commander for the St. Cloud Police Department, in Minnesota. "I'm not a professional grant writer."



The St. Cloud police force has 116 sworn officers — including school resource officers at local schools.

Sayre said new and enhanced security efforts frequently require financial and operational coordination between law enforcement and school districts.

STRIKING A BALANCE

Mac Sosa, chief of police in Stevensville, Montana (south of Missoula), said his law enforcement agency agreed to a 50/50 cost split with local schools for an on-campus officer. That is a common formula among school districts with school resource officers (SROs) on campus.

Sosa said he also tries to leverage regional and national training programs and resources related to active shooters, threat assessments and behavior interventions.

But Trump said the problem is getting longer-term sustainable investment in school security and moving beyond vendors offering infrastructure and "gadgets."

"We are running into a number of people who want to do school safety on the cheap," said Trump. "Many would rather do a one-time shot in the arm and install a few cameras. You have to strike a balance."

Sayre said police and school districts need to realize that all schools and campuses are not created equal when addressing safety and the deterrence of violence.

Newer and older school buildings are unique animals — as are urban schools compared to suburban and rural counterparts.

"They are all different," Sayre said, adding that St. Cloud police are looking at how best to secure and access classrooms and other doors after the widely-publicized school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, in May that left 19 students and two teachers dead.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

A recent spate of tragic shootings — including the massacre of 19 elementary school students and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, and the delayed police response — shook the nation's conscience at the end of the 2021-22 school year. The debacle has sent school districts, law enforcement agencies and policymakers back to the drawing board over the summer to reexamine and revise security and active-shooter plans.

Recent mass shootings also have sparked fresh debates and pushes for gun control, increased security infrastructure, mental health services for students and anti-bullying campaigns as well as calls for more police and security guards on campuses.

This series will look at how communities across the country have been getting ready for the new school year and what students, teachers, staff and parents will see in their returns to classrooms. Adams Publishing Group (APG) has journalists across the nation working on this series.

Upcoming stories in the series include:

- On the front lines: How students, parents, teachers and others feel about the new school year and what would make them feel safer in classrooms.
- Enrollment impacts and other campuses: Are school security concerns adding to the home and charter school trends and how are other educational venues (including private schools) responding to recent shootings and worries about security?

Evers directs \$90M to state schools

His opponent says governor is pretending to care about kids

By **SCOTT BAUER**
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis.—Gov. Tony Evers is giving Wisconsin K-12 public schools \$90 million more in federal COVID-19 relief money, a move he announced Tuesday just before schools were to open for the fall.

Evers, a Democrat up for reelection in November, said the money would help schools keep and retain teachers and ensure that the student-to-teacher ratio doesn't increase. Districts across the state, including the two largest in Milwaukee and Madison, have reported high numbers of unfilled teaching slots heading into the year.

See EVERS, A2


Good morning, **Lyle Bergman!**
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Meyers, John K.
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TODAY: Mostly sunny skies.
HIGH: 80 **LOW:** 54

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FROM A1



Special to the EagleHerald
Marinette Police Officer Amy Schoen, center right, shows barricade techniques to Peshtigo Elementary teachers during recent safety training.

PESHTIGO:

emotionally before we can have an effective learning experience.”

Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center assistant principal John Bell adds, “We want parents to know that school safety is something we take very seriously. It begins with creating a warm and welcoming environment. We’ve worked hard to develop common behavioral expectations which we implement throughout our buildings, in every setting of our schools.”

Peshtigo School Board members and administration have a number of tools in place to assure student safety. Rau explains that staff visibility and connecting with all stakeholders in the community are essential to keeping schools safe. “Staff visibility, for example, at pick-up and drop off locations helps us connect with parents and students.” Bell adds that internet filters and security cameras also help keep students

safe.

Peshtigo Middle/High School assistant principal Bill Wickman states, “We have several dozen security cameras around the school. We want our parents to know we’re doing everything in our power to ensure the safety of their sons and daughters.”

“We routinely conduct drills and simulations to train students and staff what to do, and we continuously assess our practices for areas of improvement,” Rau adds. “Later this month,” Wickman explains, “all students in the middle/high school will be practicing an evacuation drill, with the help of law enforcement. We’re trying to be proactive.”

“When people are not trained and do not have a blueprint on how to react, they are prone to encounter shock, denial, panic and many tend to even freeze in place.” Nault explains that “Establishing safety procedures and then physically practicing them builds physical repetitions and creates mental

programming to act when exposed to real danger.” Wickman was impressed at how Officer Nault and the other officers explained ALICE techniques. “I would like to thank both the Peshtigo and Marinette police departments for running our training.”

“The Peshtigo School District has clearly shown that student and faculty safety is at the top of their priority list by partnering with local law enforcement to provide the safest environment possible,” said Marinette police Lt. Jeff Cate. He explains that area police, emergency medical services, and fire departments are engaging in joint training to counter an armed situation if that ever occurs in our area. “When

these types of incidents happen in smaller communities all of the surrounding law enforcement agencies will end up responding in some capacity, so it only makes sense for all of us to work together so we can be as prepared as possible.”

“One of the biggest things all of us can do is to report behavior that we feel is potentially threatening. This includes comments we might read or hear and could easily dismiss,” Nault said. He explains that many of the national events we’ve read about involved individuals who made threats, but nobody ever spoke up. “This has to stop. It falls on all of us to communicate with each other and work together to help protect each other.”

EVERS:

“These investments will go toward making sure our kids have the resources and support to get caught up and be successful both in and out of the classroom,” Evers said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for Republican Tim Michels, who is challenging Evers, accused the former teacher, principal, school administrator and state education secretary of handing out the money “so he can pretend to care about education.”

“No amount of federal COVID aid can paper over Evers’ record of denying parents rights, refusing to reopen schools, vetoing curriculum transparency, and standing by as education standards plummet across the state,” said Michels spokeswoman Anna Kelly.

Evers has repeatedly clashed with the Republican-controlled Legislature on education issues, vetoing bills this year that would have broken up the Milwaukee school

district and made private voucher schools available to everyone. Republicans have also faulted Evers for not forcing schools to open earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Legislature has rejected multiple calls from Evers to increase education spending.

The \$90 million Evers announced Tuesday comes from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and will be distributed to public school districts and independent charter schools on a per-student basis. It will amount to nearly \$100 in funding per student, the governor’s office said.

The bulk of the money—about \$75 million—will be directed toward hiring more staff and addressing other issues caused by rising costs and national inflation, Evers’ office said. The remaining \$15 million is directed toward mental health services.

The money is on top of \$110 million in federal pandemic relief funds that Evers gave to schools in 2021.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, September 13, 2022
7:45 a.m.

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the Proposed 2022/2023 Budget at 7:45 a.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2022, in the Road Commission offices north of Stephenson. Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the Road Commission office at W5416 Belgiumtown Road 22.5, Stephenson, MI.

MENOMINEE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
John Olsen, Finance Director/Clerk

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