



Brewers share what baseball means to them

SPORTS, 1B



THE POST-CRESCENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023 | POSTCRESCENT.COM

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Critical skills



Teacher Katie Dudley and student August Howell ring a bell to signal the start of a lesson at the Community Early Learning Center in Appleton. PHOTOS BY USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Fox Valley's young children are learning mindfulness

Madison Lammert

Appleton Post-Crescent | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

APPLETON - It's a situation educators who work with preschoolers have encountered many times: a 3- or 4-year-old child waddles up to a peer and swipes a toy from them. This can result in the kind of guttural screams only young children can produce, with maybe even some hitting mixed in.

But these situations often look different in Katie Dudley's 4K classroom at Bridges Child Enrichment Center inside Appleton's Community Early Learning Center. Instead of a

breakdown, children use phrases like "I was using that; can I have it back?" or they ask to play together from the start.

Dudley credits the difference to the Kindness Curriculum. The curriculum is a science-based series of lessons and activities for young children that seeks to build skills like empathy, compassion, kindness and forgiveness through mindfulness practices. Activities on mindfulness teach participants to be in the present moment in a non-judgmental way. The program was integrated into select CELC classrooms during the 2018-19 school year.

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5 ways you can try mindfulness at home

Madison Lammert

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

APPLETON - During the pandemic, terms like "self-care," "mental health" and "mindfulness" — the ability to be in the present moment in a nonjudgmental way — became buzzwords.

But for many early childhood educators in the Fox Valley, such concepts have been integrated into the classroom for years.

About five years ago, the Kindness Curriculum was introduced at the Community Early Learning Center in Appleton. The curriculum comprises a series

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Katie Dudley leads students in "animal movements" at the Community Early Learning Center in Appleton.

SPRING ELECTION
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
EXECUTIVE

Here's how much money candidates have raised

Sophia Voight

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

APPLETON - Outagamie County's first contested county executive race in eight years is bringing in the big bucks as former board member Kevin Sturn and 12-year incumbent Tom Nelson vie for the county's highest office.

With a week before the election, Nelson has eclipsed his challenger in fundraising, bringing in five times the amount of money as Sturn has received, according to campaign finance reports.

Sturn previously served on the county board from 2012 to 2020 and is challenging Nelson to bring new leadership to the executive seat and remove politics he says the incumbent brings to the county office. Nelson, who last year unsuccessfully ran for U.S. Senate, has held the office since 2011 and ran unopposed in his previous two elections for a four-year term.

The two candidates will face off in the April 4 election. For information about registering to vote and polling locations, visit the MyVote Wisconsin website at myvote.wi.gov.

The Post-Crescent analyzed the contributions, expenditures and cash on hand for both candidates. These are the latest numbers ahead of the spring election and how they compare.

How much have the candidates raised and spent so far?

As of March 27, Nelson has received more than \$212,000 in donations compared to Sturn, who received over \$18,800 and put in \$18,500 of his own money.

Bolstered by \$217,000 in on-hand cash at the start of his fourth consecutive run at office, Nelson spent over \$357,000 on his campaign in the last four months. The incumbent's spending for his campaign more than triples how much the county executive's 2023 salary of \$112,299 would be.

In comparison, Sturn spent almost \$32,000 — a drop in the bucket compared to Nelson's expenditures.

Where is that money coming from?

Usually, local candidates get the majority of their donations from their constituency, however, Nelson's previous position in the state Assembly and runs for U.S. House and U.S. Senate — which he held and ran as a Democrat — resulted in him receiving a large number of donations from outside the

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POLITIFACT

Gun violence now leading cause of death for people 1 to 19

Amy Sherman
PolitiFact

A woman who survived a mass shooting in Highland Park, Illinois, in 2022 made a passionate plea for gun safety legislation in front of TV cameras after a mass school shooting in Nashville, Tennessee.

After a police official finished a briefing on the deadly school shooting that left three 9 year olds and three adults dead, Ashbey Beasley stepped in front of the microphones.

“How is this still happening? How are our children still dying and why are we failing them? Gun violence is the number one killer of children and teens — it has overtaken cars,” Beasley said March 27.

Beasley told PolitiFact that she was in Washington, D.C., on March 24 to attend the Generation Lockdown rally, where activists and lawmakers gathered to support an assault weapons ban, and then traveled to Nashville to see family and a friend. Beasley became a gun safety activist after she and her son, then 6 years old, survived the Highland Park mass shooting during a July 4 parade.

After previous mass shootings, including at a school in Uvalde, Texas, we fact-checked U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who said that “the leading cause of death among children is a firearm.” We rated his statement Mostly True based on analyses of 2020 federal data. The same finding holds true for 2021 data on children and teenagers ages 1 to 19.

Data shows firearm deaths surpassed motor vehicle deaths

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes data on the leading causes of death among different

demographic groups. CDC data for 2021 shows that 23,198 people ages 1 to 19 died in 2021. Firearm deaths, 4,733, were the No. 1 cause. Motor vehicle traffic deaths ranked second at 4,048.

This data is similar to what researchers at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions found when they analyzed CDC data for 2020 deaths. The lead researcher for that report confirmed that the same point held true for 2021.

Beasley told us she is careful to say “children and teens” because she has heard people dispute the statement when someone refers only to “children.” She told us she got the 2021 statistic from Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy group.

Generally, researchers say they don’t include infants in their analyses because of certain conditions unique to babies.

It is technically correct to say that firearms are the leading cause of death for people aged 1 to 19 when they are combined into a single group, said Veronica Pear, an assistant professor in the Violence Prevention Research Program at University of California, Davis.

“This is an eye-catching and powerful statistic, so I get why people use it,” Pear said.

But Pear warned that someone could wrongly interpret the statement to mean that firearms are the leading cause of death for each individual age within the 1 to 19 range.

Firearm-related deaths are exceedingly rare among babies and young children, while teenagers, especially older teenagers, have very high rates of dying from firearm-related injuries, Pear said.

“When all these ages are pooled together, the very high rates among teens are swamping the very low rate among

Gun violence

Ashbey Beasley,
Gun safety activist

The statement

“Gun violence is the number one killer of children and teens — it has overtaken cars.”

The verdict

CDC data for 2021 shows that for people ages 1 to 19, firearm-related deaths ranked No. 1.

young kids, such that firearms are the leading cause of death for the group as a whole,” Pear said.

The Nashville shooting occurred at The Covenant School, a small private Christian school serving preschool through sixth grade. If we look at death data for ages 3 to 12, it shows firearms as the sixth leading cause.

However, researchers we interviewed said it is valid to look at firearm deaths for ages 1 to 19. David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, told us there is no official definition of “children.”

Hemenway co-wrote a perspective article for the New England Journal of Medicine about causes of death for people ages 1 to 24.

“For more than 60 years, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury-related death among young people. Beginning in 2017, however, firearm-related injuries took their place to become the most common cause of death from injury,” the article said. “This change occurred because of both the rising number of firearm-related deaths in this age group and the nearly continuous reduction in deaths from motor vehicle crash-

es.” The CDC cites the 15 leading causes of death for people ages 1 to 19, but it does not pluck out firearm deaths. This data shows the top causes of death are accidents, homicide and suicide — all categories that include some firearm-related deaths.

The CDC does not classify firearms as a cause of death, but rather as a mechanism by which death occurs. “So, while our data does not allow us to say that firearms are the leading cause of death for this age group, it does show that firearms are the leading mechanism of injury mortality,” Brian Tsai, a CDC National Center of Health Statistics spokesperson, told PolitiFact.

Patrick M. Carter, co-director of the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention at the University of Michigan, and Philip Cook, a professor emeritus at Duke University and gun researcher, both told us they agree it is accurate to say that in the 1 to 19 age category firearms are the leading cause of death.

Our ruling

Beasley said, “Gun violence is the number one killer of children and teens — it has overtaken cars.”

CDC data for 2021 shows that for people ages 1 to 19, firearm-related deaths ranked No. 1, followed by deaths from car accidents.

That’s for the age range as a whole; it is not the leading cause of death for each age in that group. Firearm-related deaths are far more common among older teenagers than among young children.

We rate this statement Mostly True. *PolitiFact researcher Caryn Baird and Senior Correspondent Louis Jacobson contributed to this report.*

Candidates

Continued from Page 1A

county. Sturn’s donations, on the other hand, came primarily from county residents.

Nelson drew a majority of his contributions from across the state and coun-

try, giving him the upper hand in donations during this race. Of his total contributions, 30% came from individuals and committees outside of Wisconsin. All of Sturn’s donations came from Wisconsin donors.

And while Nelson raised five times as much money as Sturn in total, Sturn raised more money locally, getting over \$18,000 in donations from county resi-

dents compared to Nelson’s \$11,000 from his constituency.

For Sturn, \$18,000 came from individual donors and \$6,250 came from political action committees, including \$200 from state Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara, R-Appleton, and \$250 from state Rep. Dave Murphy, R-Greenville.

Most of Nelson’s donations have come from individual donors as well, but he has also received a significant amount of money from PACs.

While the county executive office is nonpartisan, Nelson’s contributions reference his Democratic background. Notable donations include \$16,000 from the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and \$3,800 from Gov. Tony Evers’ PAC.

How are the candidates spending their donations?

Nelson’s Democratic background also comes through in his expenditures as he paid over \$18,000 to left-leaning

organizations including:

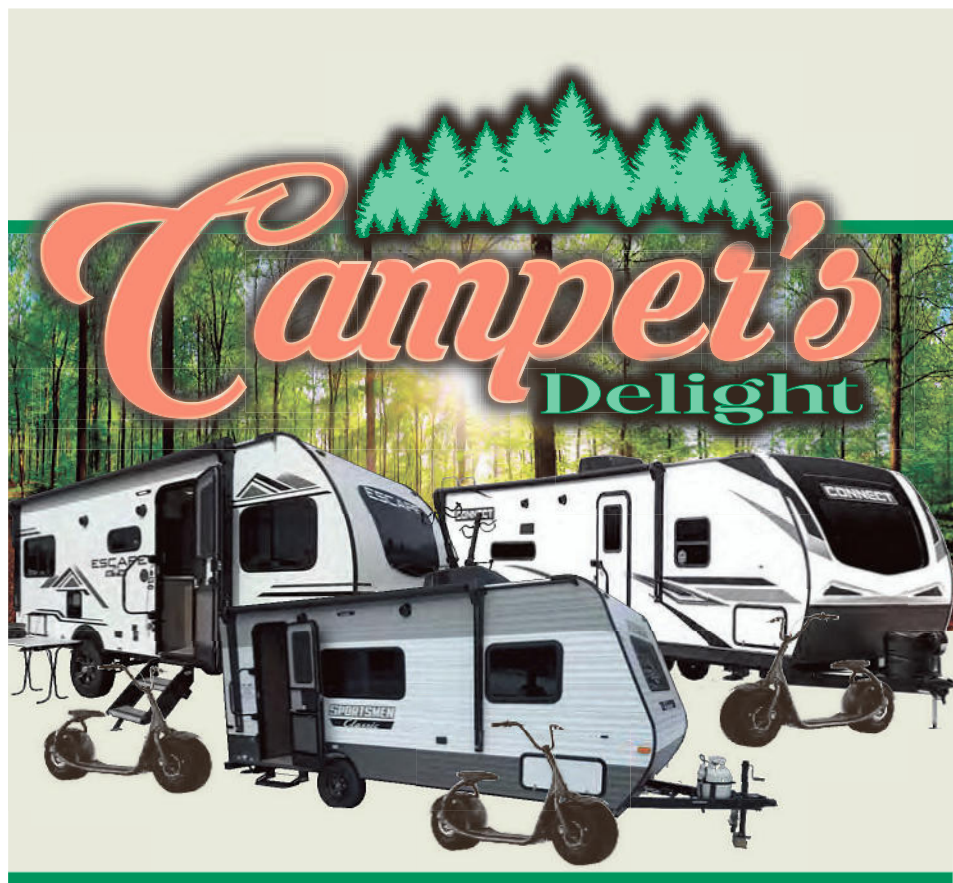
- \$3,500 in consulting fees with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin
- \$12,000 in “campaign fees” with Progressive Campaign Consulting
- \$2,600 to the Democratic fundraising nonprofit ActBlue

Sturn spent the majority of his contributions on yard signs and advertisements, which includes:

- \$2,800 on yard signs
- \$19,300 on postcard and door hanger ads
- \$4,900 on video, radio and newspaper ads

Nelson’s campaign finance reports don’t specify the types of advertisements he spent money on, but show he spent \$291,000 on “advertisements” and \$2,800 on “mail and literature.”

Sophia Voight is a local government and political reporter with The Post-Crescent. She can be reached at svoight@postcrescent.com. Follow her on Twitter @sophia_voight.



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The Post-Crescent, USPS# 439-840, is published 6 days per week excluding Saturday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving (observed), Christmas Day (observed) and New Year’s Day (observed) by Gannett Media Corp, 222 W. College Ave., 10th floor, P.O. Box 59, Appleton, WI 54911. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Please send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 1387, Fort Smith, AR 72902.