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Airlines protest Trump budget proposal to raise passenger fees



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Survivors of Florida school shooting launch gun control push draws criticism

PARKLAND, Fla. (Reuters) - Dozens of students and parents from the Florida high school where 17 teens and staff members died in a shooting rampage boarded buses on Tuesday for a trip to the state capital Tallahassee to push for a ban on assault rifles.

Last week's massacre, the second-deadliest shooting at a public school in U.S. history, has inflamed a national debate about gun rights and prompted teens from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and across the United States to demand legislative action. The incident has galvanized advocates for stricter gun controls, including many survivors of the shooting.

"I am not going back to school until lawmakers, and the president, change this law," said Tyra Hemans, an 18-year-old senior, referring to Florida's law permitting the sale of assault rifles. "Three people I looked to for advice and courage are gone but never forgotten, and for them, I am going to our state capital to tell lawmakers we are tired and exhausted of stupid gun laws."

Fourteen students and three educators were killed in the Feb. 14 attack at the school in Parkland, near Fort Lauderdale. Authorities have charged Nikolas Cruz, 19, with 17 counts of premeditated murder for allegedly returning to the school from which he had been expelled and opening fire with a semiautomatic AR-15 assault rifle.

The youth-led protest movement that erupted within hours of the shooting attracted a prominent celebrity supporter on Tuesday when actor

dent Donald Trump, also a Republican, has not done enough on that front.

Trump said on Tuesday he had signed a memorandum directing the attorney general to draw up regulations banning devices that turn firearms into machine guns, like the bump stock used in October's mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Students in states including Florida and Tennessee staged sympathy protests on Tuesday, according to local media reports. Miami's WTVJ-TV showed video of about 1,000 teens and adults marching from a high school in Boca Raton to the site of the Parkland shooting, about 12 miles (19 km) to the west.

State Senator Bill Galvano, the chamber's next president, called for a bill to limit sales of assault rifles to people at least 21 years old, with some exceptions, up from the current minimum age of 18. The legislature's current session ends on March 9, leaving little time for a vote.

Current U.S. high school students were born after the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado in which a pair of teen gunmen killed 13 people. There have been numerous mass shootings, not just in schools, since then in the United States, and students in this age group have grown up in an environment where they regularly train for the possibility of being targeted by a shooter on the loose in school.

Gun ownership is protected by the Second



Mourners leave burial service for student Peter Wang in North Lauderdale

Funerals continued for the young victims of Wednesday's attack. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point on Tuesday said it made a rare posthumous letter of acceptance to Peter Wang, a student of the school killed in the shooting. A Junior Reserve Officer

Training Corps cadet, Wang had aspired to attend the elite academy. Funerals continued for the young victims of Wednesday's attack. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point on Tuesday said it made a rare posthumous

letter of acceptance to Peter Wang, a student of the school killed in the shooting. A Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet, Wang had aspired to attend the elite academy.



Religious leader stands as the flag-draped casket of Peter Wang is carried to his burial service

George Clooney and his wife Amal, a human rights lawyer, said they would donate \$500,000 to help fund a planned March 24 gun control march in Washington.

A Washington Post/ABC News opinion poll released on Tuesday showed 77 percent of Americans believe the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress is not doing enough to prevent mass shootings, with 62 percent saying Presi-

Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and remains one of the nation's more divisive issues. The Washington Post/ABC News poll found that fewer than seven in 10 Republicans support the idea of a ban on assault weapons, the reverse of Democrats, 71 percent of whom support it. A federal ban on assault weapons, in force for 10 years, expired in 2004.



Students shout slogans during a protest to show support for Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, following a mass shooting in Parkland

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America, the trade group for the country airlines.

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A Snapshot Of The World



Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School meet with Florida state legislators in Tallahassee



Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School meet with Florida state legislators in Tallahassee



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II sits next to Vogue Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour as they view Richard Quinn's runway show before presenting him with the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design as she visits London Fashion Week, in London, Britain February 20, 2018.



Alex van der Zwaan leaves after a plea agreement hearing in Washington



Participants hand over a candle during a commemoration ceremony at the monument to the people killed during the 2014 Ukrainian pro-European Union protests in Kiev



Lufthansa tests humanoid robot 'Josie Pepper' at airport in Munich



Curling - Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics - Men's Round Robin - Gangneung Curling Center - Gangneung, South Korea - February 20, 2018 - spectators are reflected in the glass barrier as they watch the curling games.



neung Ice Arena - Gangneung, South Korea - February 20, 2018 - Elise Christie of Britain, Lara van Ruijven of the Netherlands, Magdalena Warakomska of Poland and Andrea Keszler of Hungary in action. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj



Nordic Combined Events - Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics - Men's Individual 10 km Final - Alpensia Cross-Country Skiing Centre - Pyeongchang, South Korea - February 20, 2018 - Gold medalist Johannes Rydzek of Germany, silver medalist Fabian Riessle of Germany and bronze medalist Eric Frenzel of Germany celebrate during the victory ceremony

The Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, as it's been called since the 20th century, remains the most important social and economic holiday in China, and today is celebrated by Chinese people and people of other cultures and ethnic origins all around the world.

This most happy, joyful and ancient of all holiday for Chinese all started out of fear, according to centuries-old legend. While the origins of the New Year celebration varies from teller to teller, all legends include the story of a terrible mythical monster who preyed all the villagers of the land. The lion-like monster's name was Nian (年) which is also the Chinese word for "year." The stories also all include a wise old man who counsels the villagers to scare off the evil Nian by making loud noises with drums and firecrackers and hanging red paper cutouts and scrolls on their doors because, for some reason, the Nian was very fearful of the color red. As legend has it, the villagers took the old man's advice and the Nian was conquered. So on the anniversary of the date, the Chinese recognize the "passing of the Nian" known in Chinese as guo nian (過年), which is shared with the new year celebrations.



Today, Chinese New Year is celebrated in China and in countries and territories with significant Chinese populations, including Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Mauritius, The Philippines and China Towns all over the world.

Based On The Lunar Calendar

The date of Chinese New Year changes each year because it is based on the lunar calendar. While the western Gregorian calendar is based on the earth's orbit around the sun, China and most Asian countries use the lunar calendar that is based on the moon's orbit around the earth. Chinese New Year always falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice. Other Asian countries such as Korea, Japan and Vietnam also celebrate new year using the lunar calendar.

Originally tied to the lunar-solar Chinese calendar, the holiday was a time to honor household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. It was also a time to bring family together for feasting. With the popular adoption in China of the Western calendar in 1912, the Chinese joined in celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day.

Ancient History Of Asian Culture Will Come Alive At The 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

新年快樂 Happy Chinese New Year

China, however, continues to celebrate the traditional Chinese New Year, although in a shorter version with a new name—the Spring Festival. Significantly, younger generations of Chinese now observe the holiday in a very different manner from their ancestors. For some young people, the holiday has evolved from an opportunity to renew family ties to a chance for relaxation from work.



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (center) joined Southern News Chairman Wea H. Lee and participants in the 21st Annual Texas International Lunar Festival in 2017.

Chinese History Comes Alive
Today, the spirit of the traditional Chinese New Year lives on in the 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival (www.texaslunarfest.net), the largest celebration of Asian culture in the south central part of the United States, being



Lunar Festival Dragon Dance in the 1920's in the U.S.

held this year on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in front of the Southern News Group Building in Southwest Houston, located at 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, Texas 77072.

This year's Festival will have an international theme highlighting the many countries and cultures of the world and will include cultural displays, international food and vendor booths, international entertainment, acrobats, lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, music and dancing by international performers, carnival rides, games and door prizes for every age group. The festival's activities are carefully selected to complement this great and exciting celebration with lively international entertainment that reflects the many diverse groups living here in the Houston community.



You will even find zesty traditional German dancing at the 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival!

We not only celebrate an important part of Asia but also include International performances. In the Chinese lunar calendar a different animal or mythological beast represents every year in a twelve year cycle. The year of 2018 is the year of the Dog.

At the annual Texas Lunar Festival, we celebrate the impressive qualities of every culture while celebrating the Asian Lunar New Year. For the past 21 years, community leaders and volunteers have worked hard to promote the remarkable diversity and impressive leadership of the greater Asian community while fostering friendship among nearly every culture.

Thanks to the remarkable success of previous festivals, we have expanded this year's festival! Our commitment to cultural diversity and the promise of a stronger tomorrow starts at our festival. The success of previous festivals has proven our dedication and enthusiasm to expand above and beyond our former festivals.



Thousands of citizens across the great State of Texas visit our festival every year. From the exciting entertainment to the remarkable cuisine, the Texas Lunar Festival not only celebrates Houston...but every culture across our beautiful planet.

Since 1979, Southern News Group has not only built the largest Asian media complex in the southwestern United States, but has also reached out to the broader community of southwest Houston with programs that respond to the growing ethnic diversity of this unique section of one of America's fastest growing cities.

We have initiated and been the driving force behind many community projects, programs and events that include the Texas Lunar New Year Festival, the McDonald's Education Workshops, the Texas African Summit, the ITC Education Institute and have aired many more educational, cultural and business-related television programs on our digital television station, STV 15.3, as well as having hosted over 200 international business related meetings and events at our International Trade Center.



The 22nd Annual Texas International Lunar Festival is being hosted by Southern News Group, Chinese New Year Festival Inc., International Trade Center, International Management District, and STV 15.3.

For more information please contact Jennifer Lopez at 281-983-8152 or jenniferitc@gmail.com



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Students are taking hold of the gun debate in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, by organizing a series of school walkouts across the country and a march in Washington to protest gun violence.

The Women’s March youth branch, students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School — the site of the Valentine’s Day attack in Parkland that killed 17 people — and a Connecticut student who lives a short drive from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, where 26 people were killed in 2012, are all working to take hold of the national conversation with a series of events.

It will begin with the Women’s March EMPOWER branch, which is dedicated to youth-led advocacy. The group has called for “students, teachers, school administrators, parents and allies” to take part in a national school walkout on March 14.

The goal is for students and staff across the country to walk out of their classrooms for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. “to protest Congress’ inaction to do more than tweet thoughts and prayers in response to the gun violence plaguing our schools and neighborhoods,” the organization said in a statement. “We need action,” it said.

Students from Parkland, meanwhile, are organizing their own event on March 24 in Washington called the “March for Our Lives.”

“NRA is not okay. NRA is not okay.”

It’s a chant being heard a lot since the deadly shooting that killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.



‘How many more students are going to have to die?’, students are asking.

Students are taking hold of the gun debate in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, by organizing a series of school walkouts across the country and a march in Washington to protest gun violence.

Students In Charge Of National Debate On School Safety

Students Seize Control Of Gun Debate, Plan Walkouts And March

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



‘How many more students are going to have to die?’

The protest will “demand that a comprehensive and effective bill be immediately brought before Congress to address these gun issues,” according to its mission statement. “No special interest group, no political agenda is more critical than timely passage of legislation to effectively address the gun violence issues that are rampant in our country.”

Students from Douglas High School emphasized the need for action in an interview with NBC’s “Meet the Press” on Sunday.

“The tragedy at Stoneman Douglas was not because of Stoneman Douglas,” junior Cameron Kasky said. “It was because people like Nikolas Cruz were able to buy these weapons.”



“We’re not going to let the 17 bullets we just took take us down,” he added. “If anything, we’re going to keep running and lead the rest of the nation behind us.”

Some Douglas students said they might not return to school until their demands are addressed.

“Our community and nation have taken too many bullets to the heart, and now is the time for us to stand up,” said David Hogg, a senior. “I will not feel safe going back to school myself until reasonable mental health care legislation and gun control legislation is passed.”

In addition to the D.C. protest, several Parkland students are also planning to march in Florida’s capital, Tallahassee, this week.

“One hundred of my classmates and I will be traveling to Tallahassee this Tuesday and Wednesday to speak with our State Senators and House of Representative members. We are so grateful to have this opportunity to advocate for gun control, mental health, school safety, & more,” Jaclyn Corin, Douglas’ junior class president, said on Twitter.

Another nationwide walkout, planned by Connecticut high school student Lane Murdock, is set for April 20 — the 19th anniversary of the Columbine, Colorado, shootings, which killed 12 high school students and a teacher.



Murdock said she was “unhappy” with the nation’s reaction to the Parkland shootings, so she started an online petition for a national student movement.

Her petition, which had garnered more than 45,000 signatures by Sunday night, asks students to “walk out of school, wear orange and protest online and in your communities,” adding: “Nothing has changed since Columbine, let us start a movement that lets the government know the time for change is now.”

Murdock lives just 20 minutes from Sandy Hook Elementary School.

“Gun violence surrounds us. I remember my first lockdown drill as a normal thing,” she said. “I saw how Newtown affected so many around me, and it hurt. It hurts that a shooter can go into a school [and] kill little kids, and adults just let it fade into the background like white noise.”

Murdock wants to give teens, who she says aren’t represented because they can’t vote, a voice and a platform.



“We want this day to be a visual and vocal representation of the teen population’s desire to speak,” she said. “At the end of the day, we’re the ones who are being hurt in our schools.” (Courtesy <https://www.nbc-news.com/news>)

Related

‘NRA Is Not Okay’: Students Taking ‘Never Again’ Movement To Washington Students - South - Florida - Never - Again

Students from around South Florida are joining the “Never Again Movement” started by Stoneman Douglas students.

There have been various groups — one was from South Broward High. Another group was outside American Heritage.



Student protesting has already begun nationwide.

Peace - End - Violence - Kids - Student

“I just want peace and I just want an end to violence. I don’t want anymore innocent kids dying,” said student Nia Jean.

That’s the same thing the Never Again movement is fighting for. They burst onto the scene Saturday at a huge rally in Fort Lauderdale. Now, they’re all over social media and growing by the minute. They want stricter gun laws and politicians to stop taking money from the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Politician - Money - Reelection - Children - Lives

“When you’re a politician that’s more willing to get money for your reelection than save children’s lives, you have to question what is the state of American politics and why are we letting these disgusting monsters in, why are we re-electing them,” said David Hogg who is with the Never Again movement.

“They say that tougher gun laws do not decrease gun violence. We call BS,” said Emma Gonzalez, also with the Never Again movement.

Now, their rallies and message are hitting the road. They’ve planned the ‘March For Our Lives’ Rally in Washington next month and they’re heading to Tallahassee to meet with state lawmakers.

“Sending students up within one week of this tragedy is a great symbolism demonstrating that this movement is happening, it’s happening quickly,” said Jaclyn Corin with the Never Again movement.



Corin, along with 100 students will spread out at the Capitol, pushing their message — realizing that as painful as it is to grieve their loss while fighting for change, they have a captive worldwide audience.

“My generation has grown up with this. They’re tired of it. They want to see the end before we have our own kids. We don’t want to send our kids to school worrying about the same things we’ve worried about all our lives,” said Corin. (Courtesy <https://longroom.com/discussion>)

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