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Houston-area school district threatens to suspend students who protest after Florida



Inside C5

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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NRA chief slams anti-gun 'elites' after Florida school massacre

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The head of the National Rifle Association lashed out at gun control advocates on Thursday, saying Democratic elites are politicizing the latest mass school shooting in the United States to try to erode constitutionally guaranteed gun rights. NRA chief executive Wayne LaPierre echoed President Donald Trump's call to arm teachers to prevent school shootings, and weighed into a long-running political and cultural divide over access to weapons that has been inflamed by last week's massacre at a Florida high school that killed 17 students and staff.

"The elites don't care not one whit about America's school system and school children," LaPierre told a friendly audience of conservatives outside Washington. "Their goal is to eliminate the Second Amendment and our firearms freedoms so they can eradicate all individual freedoms."

The U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms.

At the White House, Trump told local and state school officials he had been in touch with the NRA, the politically influential gun lobby that backed him in the 2016 campaign, about his ideas to stem gun violence

in schools. He called the group "Great American Patriots."

"There's a tremendous feeling that we want to get something done," he said. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer condemned LaPierre's comments and said the NRA was "once again spewing pathetic, out of touch ideas, blaming everything but guns."

LaPierre, speaking at the annual gathering of the Conservative Political Action Conference, portrayed the NRA as the true protector of the country's schoolchildren and offered free training to those who want to bear arms to protect schools.

"We must immediately harden our schools," he said. "Every day, young children are being dropped off at schools that are virtually wide open, soft targets for anyone bent on mass murder." It should not be easier to shoot up a school than a bank or a jewelry store, he added.

LaPierre attacked Democrats by name including Senators Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren and Christopher Murphy and also took a swipe at the FBI for failing to follow up on a tip about the alleged shooter in the Parkland massacre. The FBI has said it



NRA Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) at National Harbor, Maryland, U.S., February 22, 2018.

failed to act on the tip. Trump reiterated his idea, first raised on Wednesday, of arming teachers. That has drawn a mixed reaction in a country fiercely divided over how to curb mass shootings and everyday gun violence. Opinion polls indicate Democrats generally favor more restrictions on guns while Republicans oppose them.

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Houston-area school district threatens to suspend students who protest after Florida

Needville ISD Superintendent Curtis Rhodes on Tuesday threatened to suspend any student who disrupts schools or walks out to protest current gun laws.

Student organizers in Florida are planning a March for our Lives on March 24 in Washington, D.C. to demand action on gun control.



Needville ISD Superintendent Curtis Rhodes, shown here in a Chronicle file photo, is warning students they will be suspended if they walk out of class in protest over the nation's gun laws.

Emirates brings behemoth A380 back to Houston

The formidable Airbus A380, capable of carrying 516 passengers and providing shower spas to affluent travelers, is making a comeback on Emirates' nonstop flight between Houston and Dubai.

return is a sign of the market stabilizing, and it could represent slow, steady growth in 2018.

"I think the dark clouds are behind us to some degree," she said, "and we're going to see Houston continue to recover."

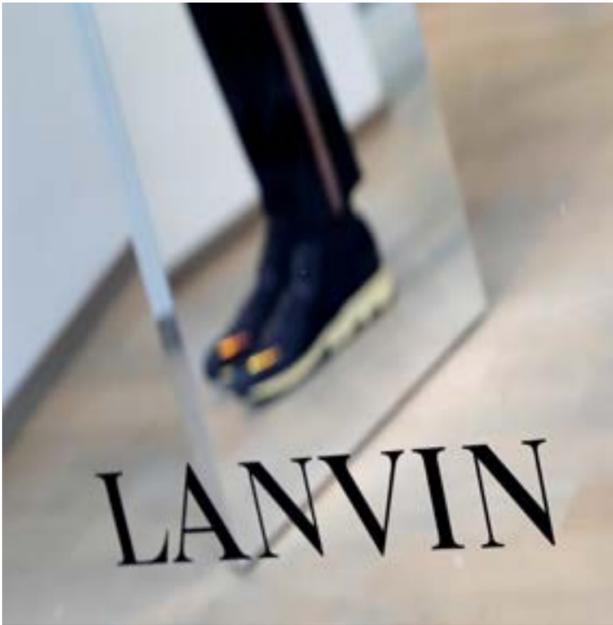
nearly a week and cost some 1 million travelers. Without Harvey, last year's passenger count would have been similar to 2015.

"The bottom of the economy for us was actually 18 months ago," he said. "The problem is that the recovery was so slow. We didn't bounce back."

Advertisement for Southern Television 15.3 channel, featuring various programs like '大朋鸟', 'MEMOIRS IN CHINA', '中国远征军', '男人爱说谎', '女人爱流泪', '海峡两岸', and '明星加油站'.

Table titled '美南電視本周節目單' (Southern Television Weekly Program Schedule) showing a grid of programs for the week of Feb 19-25, 2018, including news, entertainment, and educational content.

A Snapshot Of The World



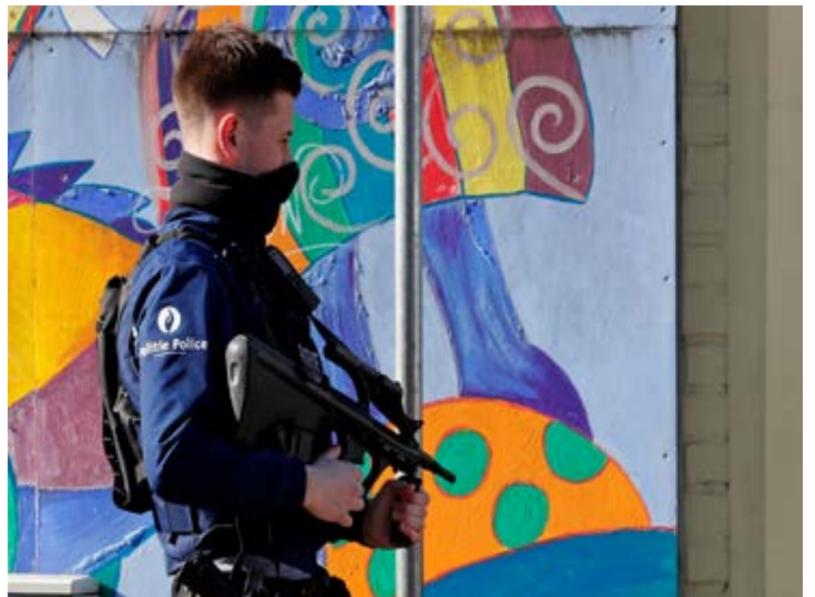
The logo of Lanvin, luxury clothing and accessories, is seen on a French fashion house Lanvin store window in Paris



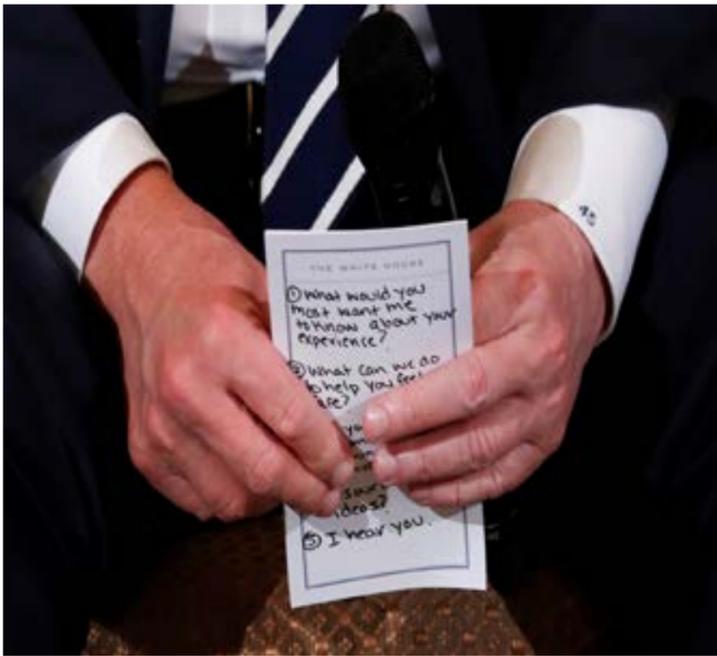
U.S. President Donald Trump hosts a listening session with Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting survivors at the White House in Washington



Friends enjoy a record setting warm winter day at the U.S. Capitol in Washington



A Belgian police special forces member secures a street after an area of the Forest commune was closed by Belgian police and special forces in Brussels



U.S. President Donald Trump hosts a listening session with high school students and teachers to discuss school safety at the White House in Washington



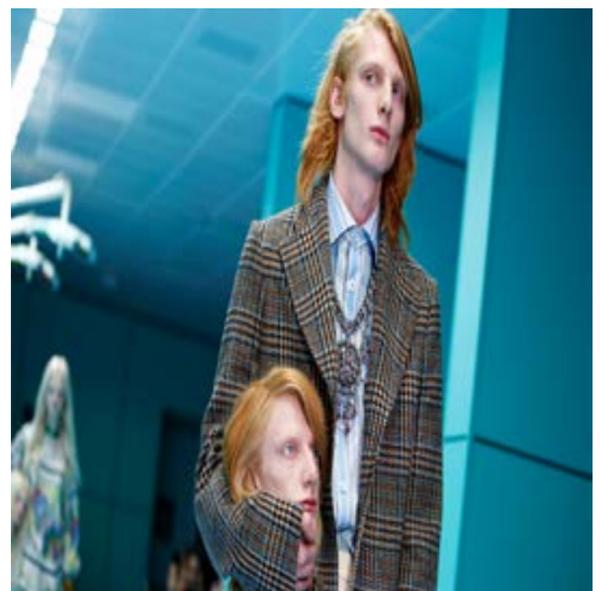
A dredging machine is seen near the island of Bhasan Char, in the Bay of Bengal



People hold their fishing rods on the beach in Tuxpan



Curling - Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics - Men's Tie-Breaker - Switzerland v Britain - Gangneung Curling Center - Gangneung, South Korea - February 22, 2018 - The Olympic Rings and a spectator are reflected on glass. REUTERS



Model presents a creation from the Gucci Autumn/Winter 2018 women collection during Milan Fashion Week in Milan

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.

China 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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