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Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. investors wanting out of gun stocks find it's not so easy

NEWYORK (Reuters) - In the three weeks since America's deadliest high school took the lives of 17 students and teachers, companies such as Delta Air Lines Inc and Dick's Sporting Goods Inc have cut ties with gun-rights groups or restricted sales of weapons. National outrage over the Feb. 14 massacre in Parkland, Florida, and protests by social media-savvy student activists and survivors of the mass shooting, sparked hope that a tipping point had been reached in America's long-running debate over gun safety. But investors trying to send an anti-gun message are discovering challenges, as a number of U.S. mutual fund companies and public pension plans show little desire to move away from their passive investments in popular index funds that carry firearms-related stocks, analysts and plan administrators told Reuters.

"At the end of the day investors are going to have a limited influence because there's only so much companies will do to change their business model," said Todd Rosenbluth, director of mutual fund research at New York based CFRA.

More than \$11.7 trillion in assets is invested in funds that track passive indexes, according to S&P Capital, leaving gunmaker stocks a staple in many American's retirement funds.

Among funds that focus on small companies, meanwhile, \$2 out of every \$3 invested has exposure to gun stocks, according to

welcomed. BlackRock said on Friday that it was exploring new index-based portfolios that would exclude gunmakers and retailers.

Yet Rosenbluth said investors have been slow to walk away from funds that include gunmakers.

"People are going into indexes because they want broad, well-diversified products that are representative of the marketplace," he said.

Many so-called socially responsible investors who already routinely exclude gunmakers from their portfolios, are now making a different kind of statement, said Jennifer Sireklove, director of responsible investing at Seattle-based investment management firm Parametric, which oversees \$200 billion in assets.

They are buying shares of retailers that have announced restrictions on gun purchases, such as Wal-Mart Inc, and plan to vote on future shareholder resolutions that shape what type of weapons a company stocks.

The ability to help shape a company's strategy "all depends on whether you are an owner. If you omit that, then you forgo your ability to influence," she said.

PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS

Soon after the Parkland bloodletting, activists and legislators pressed public employee funds to shed gun stocks.



The barrels of AR-15 rifles are displayed for sale at the Guntoberfest gun show in Oaks, Pennsylvania, U.S., October 6, 2017. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts

gun problem that's happening with these assault rifles."

In New Jersey, lawmakers introduced legislation to block public pension fund investments in any gunmaker. And the State of Michigan Retirement Systems (SMRS) dropped \$2 million of chemical and ammunition maker Olin Corp shares from its \$70 billion portfolio, Ron Leix, spokesman with the Michigan Department of Treasury, said in an email.

"The amount was very insignificant and we wanted to focus on meaningful investments that benefit the members of the SMRS," Leix said.

Most U.S. funds with holdings in gun companies have shown little immediate indication they would change their investment models to exclude firearms companies, however.

Officials with Florida's State Board of Administration, which manages the state's \$160 billion retirement fund for teachers and other public employees, said its equity holdings were invested in broad indexes, making it expensive to single out gun stocks for divestment.

In Washington, the Republican-controlled Congress has effectively blocked meaningful gun legislation, although 66 percent of U.S. voters support stricter gun laws, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Feb.

20. The powerful National Rifle Association (NRA) group has long lobbied for no restrictions to the constitutional right to bear arms. Gun rights advocates doubt the renewed push for gun control after the Parkland shooting will have substantial impact on the firearms industry. Background checks for firearm purchases, an indicator of sales, rose in February to approximately 2.3 million, a 14.9 percent jump from the month before, according to the FBI.

"People have been riding the demise of the firearms industry for many years, and the firearms industry is doing quite well," said Lawrence Keane, senior vice president for government and public affairs for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade group representing gun and ammunition companies. "We've seen this before."



Montgomery County students demonstrate in front of the White House in Washington

fund-tracker Morningstar. BlackRock, the world's largest fund manager with more than \$6 trillion in assets, said it planned to grill gunmakers and retailers on how well they monitor firearm sales and use, oversight that gun safety advocates

"It's our money and I think we should be part of the conversation about where the money goes," Broward Teachers Union President Anna Fusco told Reuters. "We definitely don't want to breed and grow the

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28 million Americans live in flood zones and don't know it, study finds



Inside C2

28 million Americans live in flood zones and don't know it, study finds

By Mark Collette

Houston has learned the hard way time and again that the maps FEMA uses to set flood insurance rates are way out of whack with the reality on the ground.

Now, a scientific study in the journal Environmental Research Letters pinpoints just how much: 41 million Americans live in a 100-year flood zone - three times as many as the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates.

That means a full 28 million are outside the boundaries of the 100-year flood zone on current FEMA maps, but would be in it if FEMA used what the study argues is better data.

"Producing maps the FEMA way essentially misses a lot of flood hazard," Oliver Wing, of the University of Bristol and lead author of the study, told City Lab. "And these maps are what inform risk management decisions in the U.S. at the moment."

About 41 million Americans, roughly a tenth

of the U.S. population, live in a 100-year floodplain, which is three times more than the government estimates, a new study finds. The authors explain why the government maps are inadequate and how billions of dollars in property are at risk.

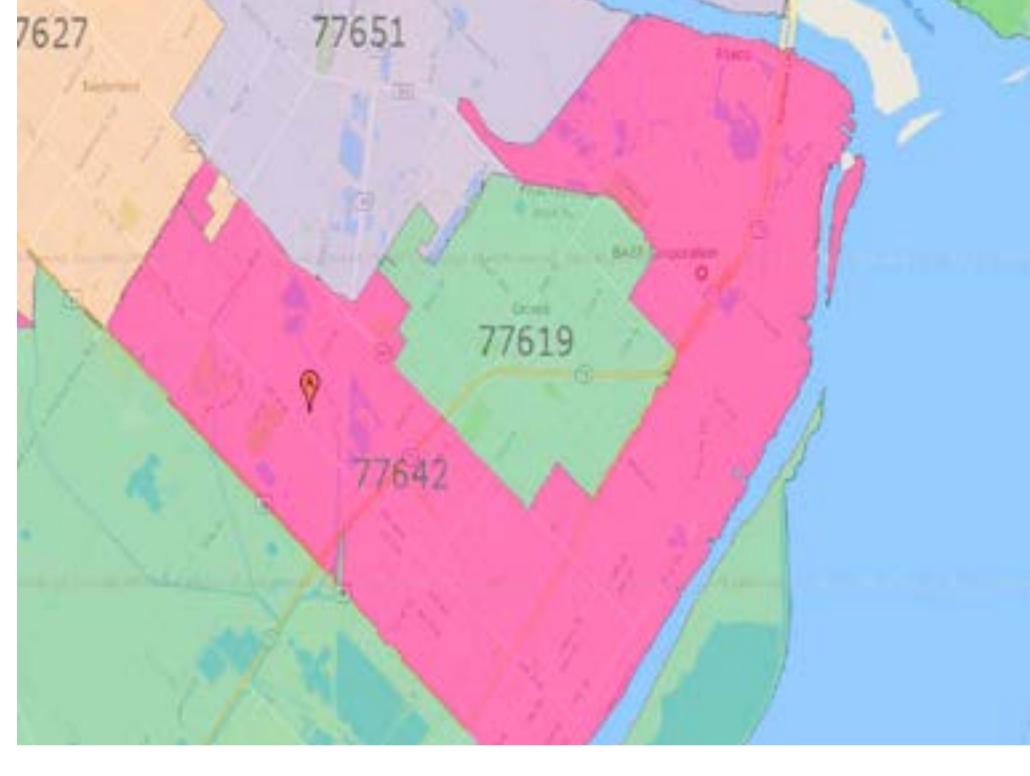
One big problem is that FEMA maps tend to ignore smaller streams running through populated areas, Wing said.

About 41 million Americans live in the 100-year flood zones, three times as many as the government estimates, a new study finds.

About 41 million Americans live in the 100-year flood zones, three times as many as the government estimates, a new study finds.

In Harris County, for example, FEMA maps don't account for about half of the county's 2,400 miles of channel, according to the Harris County Flood Control District.

The study suggests that \$5.5 trillion in assets are in the zones, with \$400 billion of that in Texas. That figure will triple or quadruple by 2100, the study says.



Houston police focus on choking in prevention of domestic violence homicides

Houston police commanders who are targeting domestic violence in an effort to prevent homicides implemented a new policy Wednesday, and will now send a supervisor to crime scenes where there were allegations of domestic violence but no arrests were made.

The change is an effort to increase awareness among law enforcement and prosecutors that victims of domestic violence, specifically those who are strangled and survive, are eight times more likely to be killed by the abuser within a year, according to studies.

HPD Chief Art Acevedo and Har-

requires supervisors to go to domestic violence calls where there is not an arrest to double check whether charges should be filed. HPD officers are also being trained to look for signs of strangulation that may not be readily apparent, such as victims who say they saw stars or exhibited raspiness in their voice.

"We know that too often, domestic violence leads to homicides," Acevedo said. "We want to put perpetrators on notice that the Houston Police Department will be putting you in jail if you commit acts of domestic violence."

Recent studies show more than 12

million women and men are victims of some sort of domestic violence every year.

Acevedo said Houston recorded 43 domestic violence homicides last year.

By collecting evidence of strangulation early in the process, law enforcement officials hope to file more serious charges and prosecute them more aggressively.

The policy joins an initiative by the DA's office, called the strangulation task force, to increase communication between police at the scene and prosecutors who sign off on charges being filed.

"The solutions are not that difficult," Ogg said. "Train our lawyers, train our officers and make more appeals that are evidence-based to our judges when setting bail."



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A Snapshot Of The World



A worker clears snow from a walkway in Central Park during a snow storm in New York



Stored rolls of steel are moved outside the ArcelorMittal Dofasco plant in Hamilton



FILE PHOTO: An aircraft comes in to land at Heathrow airport in west London



People take part in a burial ceremony of the armed forces members who were killed during Friday's attack by Islamist militants in the capital Ouagadougou



Exhibitors pose at the Mexico booth at the International Tourism Trade Fair ITB in Berlin, Germany



Presidential candidate Sobchak gestures during a meeting with voters in Irkutsk



Cast member Theron poses at the premiere for the movie "Gringo" in Los Angeles



Activists from Avaaz stage a protest timed to coincide with the visit by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman outside the Houses of Parliament in London



A woman touches the jersey of Fiorentina soccer player Davide Astori as she pays her respects outside the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. (CRR), a local nonprofit organization, is pleased to announce that on November 20, 2017 the agency received a \$250,000.00 grant from the Greater Houston Community Foundation to serve a minimum of 100 families who reside in Harris and Ft. Bend County. These fund will support the Hurricane Harvey Relief Assistance program. As of this week, the agency has served over 100 families and are ready to assist more families in the recovery stages after Hurricane Harvey.



Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. (CRR) Main Campus, in Midtown Houston, 2525 San Jacinto St. @ McGowen Houston, Texas, 77002

The program goals are to provide immediate/short-term relief assistance to aid victims effected by Hurricane Harvey. CRR assist through disaster case management, finding and maintaining jobs, rent/mortgage/hotel and utility assistance, gift cards to Walmart and for gasoline and access to resources for their unmet needs. Potential clients are encouraged to call 713-754-7054 in order to set an appointment to receive assistance. The agency is located at 2525 San Jacinto St. at McGowen St. in Midtown Houston. In order to better serve you they ask that you call in to schedule an appointment.



"Since receiving the funds, we have served more than 100 disaster relief Clients with post Hurricane Harvey Employment and Case Management Services, without the support of the Disaster Relief Funds, this would not have been possible! We are most appreciative of this vital support!" --Dr. Vernus C. Swisher, Chief Executive Officer at Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.

CRR is a nonprofit, multi-service, United Way of Greater Houston agency established in 1945 by B'nai B'rith as the Jewish Vocational Guidance Services. The mission of this 73-year-old non-profit is to help people identify and overcome barriers to employment.

CRR provides workforce development, career and drug/alcohol counseling, case management, and job readiness services to the multi-faceted populations that they serve. In addition to the above activities, the agency offers a variety of employment related support services such as enrichment classes including GED exam preparation and American Sign Language for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired.

Additionally, CRR provides adult outpatient substance abuse treatment and aftercare, and HIV/STD/HepC testing, risk reduction counseling, and medical referrals.

With this grant assistance, CRR will be able to assist in the following manners:

1. Employment Placement Assistance.

2. Emergency Disaster Relief Financial Assistance to persons impacted by the disaster event and assistance to vulnerable populations (such as elderly, individuals with disabilities, non-FEMA qualified individuals, LGBTQ, and undocumented individuals).

CRR will provide help with very minor auto repairs, getting a Transportation Worker Identification Credential, also known as

HIV/STD/HepC testing, risk reduction counseling, and medical referrals.

Additional services include:

• Financial Assistance: Temporary rental/mortgage assistance to secure temporary housing while repairs are being made to the pre-disaster residence or while transitioning to permanent housing. Rental assistance may be used to rent a house, apartment, manufactured home, recreational vehicle, or other readily fabricated dwelling. Lodging Expense temporary assistance for hotels, motels, or other short-term lodging while an applicant is displaced from their primary residence.

• Other Transportation-related costs, a one-time payment, covering up to four cumulative weeks of child care expenses, for a household's financial burden to care for children aged 13 and under; and/or children 14 to 18 with a disability as defined by federal law. CRR can provide gift cards for big box stores such as Walmart, Lowe's and automobile gasoline. Costs for deposits and utility expenses will be made available as well.

3) Financial Housing Assistance: Temporary rental/mortgage assistance to secure temporary housing while repairs are being made to the pre-disaster residence or while transitioning to permanent housing. Rental assistance may be used to rent a house, apartment, manufactured home, recreational vehicle, or other readily fabricated dwelling. Lodging Expense temporary assistance for hotels, motels, or other short-term lodging while an applicant is displaced from their primary residence.

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4) Other Disaster-related expenses: Other disaster-related expenses such as emergency food, clothing, shelter, medical expenses, and other essential items.

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BUSINESS

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.



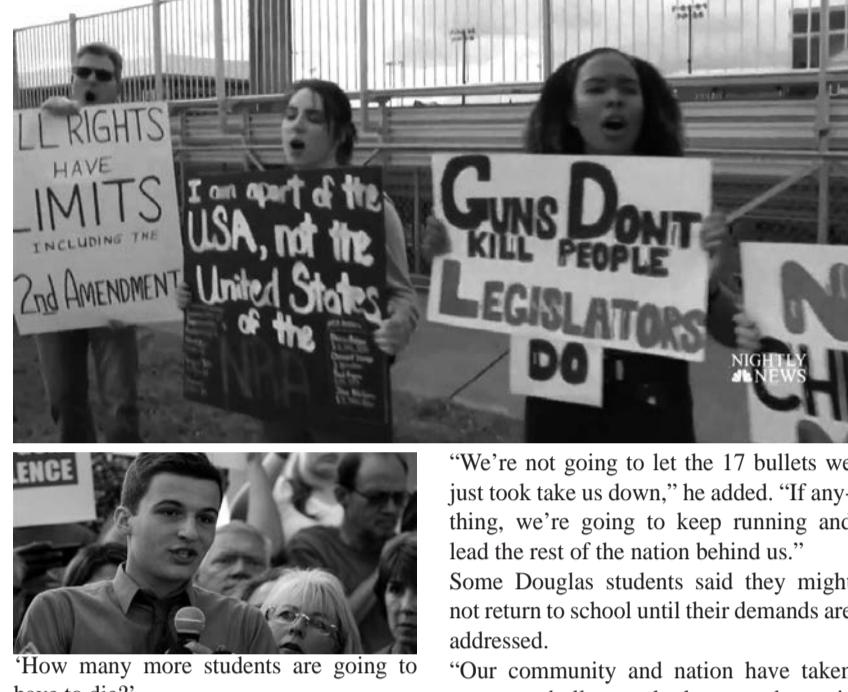
'How many more students are going to have to die?', students are asking.

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.



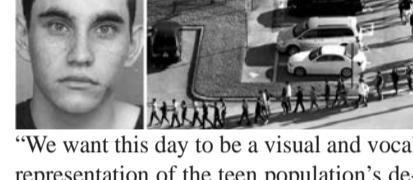
Murdock said she was "unhappy" with the nation's reaction to the Parkland shootings, so she started an online petition for a national student movement.

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.nbcnews.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.

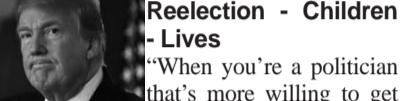


Student protesting has already begun nationwide.

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).



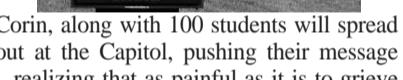
Politician - Money - Reelection - Children - Lives

"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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一支獨秀

为防止H-1B工签被滥用 美国移民局提高监管要求

当地时间22日，美国公民与移民局(USCIS)发布新的政策备忘录，这项新规旨在防止H-1B工作签证项目被滥用，并立即生效。该规定提高了H-1B工作签证的监管要求，规定雇主提供更细致的证据，证明他们与在第三方工作场所工作的雇员之间是符合工作签证要求的合法雇佣关系。

移民局指出，H-1B工作签证通常

允许外国雇员为特定的、支持其身份的美国雇主工作。在许多就业情况下，工作地点会发生变化。移民局从现在开始可能要求雇主提供更详细的文件资料，以确保其雇员在第三方工作场所工作时与雇主保持合法的雇佣关系。

移民局在这份政策备忘录中澄清了涉及为在一个或多个第三方工作场

所工作的雇员提交H-1B工作签证申请的监管要求，明确指出雇主必须为这些员工提供合同和相关行程。

这个更严格的监管要求从2018年2月22日起施行。为了批准涉及第三方工作场所的H-1B工作签证申请，申请人(雇主)必须以优势证据表明，受益人(雇员)将从事专业职业；申请人必须在所申请的工作签证有效时期内保

证与受益人的雇佣关系。

如果H-1B工作签证的受益人被安排在第三方工作场所，申请人必须证明他们在该请求所要求的整个时间内对该受益人的专业职业有特定和非投机资格的安排。

尽管H-1B工作签证申请可以被批准3年有效期，但移民局将酌情把审批期限限制在一段时间内，证明受益人将被安

排从事非投机性工作，并且申请人与受益人将保持必要的雇主和雇员关系。

移民局强调，这份政策指导方针和特朗普“买美国货、雇美国人”的行政令以及保护美国劳工的指令相一致。以就业为基础却规避了移民法中劳工保护规定的工作签证申请，不仅在工资水平、就业机会方面伤害美国劳工，也会伤害申请涉及的外国劳工。

4.7万人申请 美移民局完成下半年 H-2B签证筛选

从2月21日(文中均为当地时间)开始，美国移民局(USCIS)开始接受2018财年下半年的H-2B限額申请。

在前五个工作日内，美国移民局收到大约2700份H-2B申请，大约有4.7万名工作人员希望获得签证。这比H-2B签证的发放数量限额多。移民局根据适用的规定在2月28日进行了一次抽签，随机选择了中签的申请者。

移民局将拒绝未被抽中的申请，并将申请书和相关申请费退还给未被选中的申请人，此外2月27日之后收到的申请也将被拒绝。

1月份，劳工部宣布更改其颁发劳工证的过程。因此，2月7日移民局表示可能需要在18财年下半年进行H-2B签证抽签。正如在2月7日的声明中指出的那样，移民局将

通过确保H-2B签证公平分配并且不会超过上限的原则来保持对此问题的灵活处理。

移民局继续接受豁免或不计入国会授权上限的H-2B申请。这包括对以下工作人员的申请：美国目前持有H-2B签证的工人希望延长他们的逗留期限，并在适用情况下改变他们的就业条件或更换雇主；鱼卵加工者，鱼卵工业技术员和监督者；2019年12月31日前在北马里亚纳群岛及关岛执行劳务的工人。

美国企业使用H-2B签证雇用外国人从事临时非农业工作。国会已将H-2B的上限名额设定为每个财年6.6万。在本财年上半年(10月1日至3月31日)开始就业的工人为3.3万，在本财年下半年开始就业的工人为3.3万(4月1日至9月30日)。

赵美心抨击特朗普 改变不了移民国家的事实



据美国《侨报》报道，针对美国公民移民服务部(USCIS)要在任务报告中刻意拿掉“移民国家”字样的做法，国会议员赵美心23日在南加州帕沙迪那办公室发表声明，指出不管特朗普政府如何否认，都改变不了美国是个“移民国家”的事实。

赵美心指出，南加州的绝大多数人口都是少数族裔，正是少数族裔的巨大贡献才使得南加州不断兴旺发达。USCIS把“移民国家”(Nation of Immigrants)刻意从任务报告中拿掉改变不了美国就是移民国家的事实，更改变不了我们的历史，但它的的确给那些试图寻找歪理歧视少数族裔的人壮了胆。

“双簧”改变不了事实，就试图去改变“剧本”，但他们的枉费心机最终是徒劳一场。

赵强调，特朗普换了美国的商标，改变了酒瓶的包装，但改变不了酒的味道。就像包装商标一样，他要改变的不过是颜色，就像他在就任总统时向参议院演讲的那样，他要更多的像挪威那样的移民。他丑化亚裔和拉丁裔的亲属移民，却对“亲属移民”政策给他外国血统的女婿所带来的好处只字不提。

赵美心在声明中表示，事实摆在面前，我们是一个移民国家，正因为如此，美国才变得强大。

中国仍是新西兰第一移民来源国

新西兰统计局今日(28日)发布数据显示，截至2018年1月底，新西兰全年流入净移民人数为70,100人。与去年同期相比，净移民人数减少了1200人。

净流入移民人数的计算，是流入移民人数减去流出的移民人数。在最新数据中，流入移民人数为132,000人，流出的移民人数为61,900人。

去年7月的年度净移民人数达到72,400的创纪录水平，此后一直呈持续放缓。

截至2018年1月的一年里，有24,900名移民来自澳大利亚，而从新西兰移民至澳大利亚的人数，与这一数字差不多。

人口统计高级经理Peter Dolan表示，从澳大利亚回流至新西兰的人当中，逾一半是在澳生活超过一年的新西兰人。“过去一年里往返澳大利亚的移民数量几乎达到了平衡，差距只有40人。”

这意味着，截至2018年1月的一年内，净移民对新西兰人口增长的贡献主要来自其他国家。

最大来源国如下：中国(9300人)；印度(6700人)；英国(6100人)；南非(4900人)；菲律宾(4800人)；法国(3300人)；德国(3000人)。

在截至2018年1月的一年中，新西兰国际留学市场两大最大来源国——印度和中国的移民入境人数减少

了1,000人，至11,100人。

持学生签证至新西兰的中国留学生，减少了6%(350人)至3300人。

来自印度和中国的学生产生人数的下降，几乎抵消了来自其他国家的学生产生人数的增长。截至2018年1月，全年获得学生签证的移民总数为24,100人，与去年同期相比减少了150人。

国际移民统计数据依赖于游客在旅客卡上提供的信息，根据这一信息，新西兰预计其逗留的时间，或离开新西兰的时间，从而决定入境者是游客还是移民。一般来说，逗留时间一年以内的计为“游客”；逗留时间一年以上的则计入“移民”。

上财年逾22万人获澳大利亚永居 近10万来自中印英菲



上财年共有逾22.5万移民成为澳大利亚永久居民，其中有6.1万是家庭类移民，有12.6万是特定行业的技术移民。

据《澳洲人报》报道，在持457临时技术移民签证赴澳的人士里，有2.6万是专业人士，还有1万技工等劳工，还有近900名外国劳工则是参与高龄残障护理工作。

对澳洲统计局去年公布的数据进行分析后显示，在2016年底时，移民及临时居民的失业率为7.4%，澳人整体失业率则为5.44%。

不过在劳动力参与率，即工作及积极找工作方面，新移民的比例为70%，澳大利亚人整体比例则是66%

。而新移民和澳人在有毕业后资格培训方面的差别则仅有1%。而在有此类资格的人里面，有大学本科学历的澳人比例为三分之二，新移民比例则为四分之三。

澳洲国立大学(ANU)社会研究及方法中心(CSRM)的人口学家艾伦(Liz Allen)认为，移民承担的风险大于普通人，因为“他们拖家带口，到一个他们的语言不是官方语言、而且要用另一种语言工作或学习的国家”。

近期对移民的态度引发争议的前总理艾伯特(Tony Abbott)日前在社交网站Facebook上针对与他意见相左的财长再次发表反对移民的言论，

显示出他不信任财政部在这方面的专业。

艾伦则认为，像艾伯特这样的政治人物，以个人的感受及理念，而非证据来建言政策改革，这是非常令人忧虑的事情。

艾伦指出，证据已经明确显示，澳大利亚需要移民来抵消老龄化造成的劳动力流失。

另一方面，除了移民之外，去年还有44.8万留学生开始在澳学习，新生人数自艾伯特任总理时的2014年以来增加了逾10万人。

而在上财年赴澳的移民里面，有近10万人都是来自于中国、印度、英国和菲律宾。

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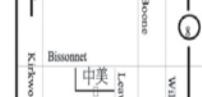
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错高村：隐藏在西藏圣湖尽头的神秘古村

在红教圣湖巴松措的尽头，隐藏着一座几乎与世隔绝的古老村庄，虽然并不被很多人知晓，却有着最让人向往的藏地风情。

每个人都有属于自己的西藏，我的西藏，不在经殿的香雾里，不在转动的经筒中，不在磕长头匍匐前进的山路间，它深藏于巍巍群山中，在云雾里、在清风中，在苍穹下随风飘动的五彩经幡间。

它有着人间的烟火气息，袅袅炊烟下，是穿着艳丽服饰的藏族妇女们，煮着酥油茶，备着青稞酒，腼腆的笑容下是守一方天地的知足。

于我而言，它叫错高村，是一座位子西藏自治区工布江达县圣湖巴松措深处的千年古村。

在当地藏语中，“措”即湖，“高”为头，错（通“措”）高村就是藏在湖之尽头的村庄。

说“藏”，是因为路实在不好走。

前往错高村，首先得经过一条沿着巴松措湖畔逶迤前行的乡村土路。或许是道路艰险难行，即便巴松措早已声名大噪，但游客也多半止于此地，让生活在其源头的错高村免了不少外人打扰，村民们也大多过着几乎与世隔绝的宁静生活。

所幸的是，长达四十多分钟的车程并不乏味，沿途有高大挺拔的松林，松香淡淡，鸟鸣幽幽；又有漫山遍野的高山杜鹃点缀其间，在朗朗清风中摇曳生姿；更有圣湖巴松措，如翡翠般通透的色泽中，倒映的是连绵的巍巍雪山。

于是，清风为伴，高山流水相知，一路且歌且行，错高村就这么毫无防备地闯入视线中。

初识错高村

初识错高村，只见房舍错落，一湖如带，一片时时徜徉着黑颈鹤和赤麻鸭的湿地从村头缓缓铺向湖畔，而背后，是海拔6300余米的杰青那拉嘎布雪山，飘渺的云雾从四

周的山头蔓延下来……错高村就这样安然镶嵌在雪山绿水之间，好一处依山傍水的世外桃源！

村口的转经筒。借着水流，转经筒可以一直保持转动的状态，这里也是俯拍错高村的最佳观看点。**在水中嬉戏的孩童**

错高村据说有千年历史传承，共有105户人家，486位藏民和他们先祖世代生活在片古老的土地上，是林芝工布地区唯一完整地保持了工布藏族传统村落布局、民居建筑风格、习俗、文化和信仰的村落。

错高村的布局充满着随意性，遇到墙就停下，还有空间就能继续延伸开来，那曲折的小巷在院墙之间蜿蜒逶迤，通向散落全村的玛尼拉康、玛尼石堆和经幡柱，串起村民们祈福、转经、祭拜的脚印。

错高村内的民居大都有着百年以上历史，这里的建筑沿用工布藏族的传统建造方式，因地制宜利用木、石构建，石砌的院墙上堆放着薪柴，既可以当围墙，又可以用来烧火取暖。

这里的村民靠山吃山，藏香猪、虫草和松茸是这里主要经济来源。

这里也是藏香猪的天堂，据说每户都养了四五十头，漫步村中，随处可见它们翘着小尾巴欢快地跑来跑去，或是觅食，或是嬉闹，很是惬意。

做客藏民家

正午时分，在村里逛得微微有点疲乏后，向导便带我们去她相熟的次仁央金家里稍作休息。那是一栋建于明末时期，有着四百多年历史的老房子。村里年代同样久远的房子一共有四栋，多以蛮石堆砌围合，内部为木质结构，门窗狭小，防御性很强。

这样特性的建筑，或许有着一定的历史渊源，但现在的错高村，对人却几乎毫无防备。村里的每家每户几乎都不上锁，最多只挂一个铁钩，表示屋里没有人。若有人在家，

藏传佛学院之一。这里的僧舍很壮观，连绵数公里的山谷布满了密密麻麻的小木棚屋。谷底和山梁上分布着几座寺庙和佛堂，建筑规模虽都不很大，但装饰考究而辉煌；身披绛红色僧袍的喇嘛和尼姑往来往往，空气中充满生机和祥和气氛。

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而色达，藏语意为“金马”的意思，传说因在这片富饶而美丽的草原上曾发

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走进色达，走进这片神秘而纯净的土地，我的整个心灵似乎也得到了净化

与洗礼！虽这里外部环境很艰苦，但有几万名喇嘛和觉母在此修行，佛学院分长期和短期进修两种，长期学制为6年，特殊学位却需要13年，学员通过各学科的单科考试，立宗论和口头辩论考试及格的，学院可以授予堪布(法师)的学位。

五明佛学院就是他们每天学习的地方，就像我们在校读书一样，这样的日子或许对于我来说很苦很枯燥乏味，但是他们从每个地方聚集来到佛学院却是一种心灵的满足，每天学习，诵经，辩经成为了他们生活的全部。除去这些好像也没有什么格外的乐趣了，或许是我

们根本理解不了的一种苦行僧的生活。

在佛学院最高的山峰上，有一个金碧辉煌的建筑，叫做“坛城”(音译)。

上半部分是转经的地方，据说如果你有什么疾病，在这里转上一百圈就能够好；下面一层是转经筒，金色的圆筒在人们干枯的手转过之后留下一串悠长的嘎吱嘎吱的响声，那一年转山转水转佛塔只为遇见你。

几乎每个到色达的人都会去看天葬，在一般人眼中，这种古老的仪式

颇有几分神秘的色彩，可能一些人还会感到有点恐怖与残忍。对于我来说

属于后面这种。

众所周知，天葬习俗起源于一个美好的愿望——家属希望已故的亲人能够进入无忧无苦的天堂，同时，佛教一直以来的教义都在宣扬馈赠，于是，以死后的肉身饲喂秃鹫，让不食鸟兽只食尸体的“神鸟”带他们升入天国，成为了最理想的道路。另外，整个仪式中，还有上师默诵经文，超度亡灵，以涤净生前罪孽，在此过程未完之前，会有人驱赶俯冲而下的秃鹫，直到过程完结。

色达天葬台在佛学院至色达县城之

间，(海拔：4010米)车程半小时左右，紫外线较强，女生最好用纱巾把脸部给

遮起来，带上墨镜；天葬时间13:00-16:

00，到了天葬台，闻见一阵阵的无法表达的恶臭，一向胆子小的我根本不敢往那面看，内心不够强大，只看见有那么一群人盯着天葬台，法师把各具尸体大卸八块后，一排排的秃鹰在这儿等着天葬师的召唤，最后吞噬，每当想起那天的情形，虽然一直没忍心看，但是心里却有着一种对生命而言的苦痛，人来到世上，有的最后化作一堆白骨，有的却尸骨无存，有的、有的、我不敢继续的想象，我只能让自己每天过得有意义，珍惜现在，珍惜我爱的人，和爱我的人。

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美南報系董事長李蔚華夫婦在宅邸舉辦迎春晚會



「台北經文處」處長陳家彥（左二）與「新聞組」組長施建志（左一）、王曉明教授（右一）等來賓在晚會上。



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本報記者
秦鴻鈞攝

热烈祝贺陈暂晴会长
主持上海联谊会
2018年会圆满成功！

美南报业电视传媒集团

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