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Nine more arrested in Morocco over murder Scandinavian tourists



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Monday, December 31, 2018 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## States help run U.S. National Parks in federal government shutdown

(Reuters) - U.S. National Parks will be left with just a skeleton staff during the federal government shutdown, and several states are using their own funds to make sure public restrooms get cleaned and visitor centers stay open.

The shutdown of all but essential federal services due to a Capitol Hill fight over U.S. President Donald Trump's funding demands for a Mexico border wall comes at the height of the Christmas travel season.

The National Park Service said this week that parks will remain "as accessible as possible." During a three-day government shutdown in January, the gates to about two-thirds of national parks and monuments remained open.

"Services that require staffing and maintenance such as campgrounds and full-service restrooms will not be operating," Jeremy Barnum, the National Parks Service chief spokesman, said in a statement. The Republican governors of Utah and Arizona have promised to step in, in part to help protect local businesses in and around some of the country's most spectacular natural landscapes that depend on tourist spending.

"Regardless of what happens in Washington, the Grand Canyon will not close on our watch," Arizona Governor Doug Ducey said in a statement on Friday. The Arizona Office of Tourism will help ensure restrooms are cleaned, trash is collected and shuttle buses operate, Ducey said.

All five of Utah's national parks will remain open, and the three most popular will have maintenance costs underwritten by the state during the shutdown, according to Vicki Varela, the Utah Office of Tourism's managing director.

Zion National Park drew 107,000 visitors between Dec. 22 and Dec. 27 a year ago, Varela said.

"This time of year is the most remarkable time of year to experience it because the snow against that red rock is just breathtaking," she said.



FILE PHOTO: The Colorado River runs through the west rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona

Utah Governor Gary Herbert authorized the temporary funding for custodial and visitor center services, which will cost an estimated \$18,000 to \$19,000 for Zion.

"It's really modest on the part of the state to protect the

quality of the experience for visitors," Varela said.

New York state has provided funding to keep the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island open during the shutdown, according to the park's website. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, slammed Trump over the federal shutdown on Twitter on Saturday.

## Few turn out for French 'yellow vest' protests, driver dies at

TOULOUSE/PARIS, France (Reuters) - France's anti-government "yellow vest" protest was losing steam on Saturday but caused traffic disruption through road blocks across the country, leading to the death of a 10th person since the start of the movement last month.

The turnout on the streets of Paris and other cities was smaller than in previous weekends, authorities said. No major damage or clashes had been reported between police and protesters as of mid-afternoon.

About 23,800 people were demonstrating at 1300 GMT, including fewer than 1,000 in Paris, the interior ministry said. This was down from a week ago at the same time when there were 33,500 protesters out on the streets, 2,200 of which were in Paris. Authorities had expected a march in Versailles, whose castle is a symbol of French state power and one of Europe's top tourist attractions.

A protester wearing a yellow vest attends a demonstration by the "yellow vests" movement as police use a water cannon on the Champs Elysees near

the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France, December 22, 2018. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann

But few "gilets jaunes" (yellow vest) protesters - so-called after the high-visibility jackets French motorists must carry in their cars - showed up in the formal royal city.

Dispersed groups of protesters were out on the streets of Paris near tourist landmarks such as the Sacre Coeur Basilica and the Galeries Lafayette department stores, singing La Marseillaise and calling for President Emmanuel Macron's resignation.

Attendance was on the rise, however, in Lyon and Bordeaux, according to Reuters witnesses. Protesters also managed to block some of the big highways, including one leading to Spain.

Late on Friday, a 36-year-old man died in Perpignan, southern France, when his car hit a truck at a road block erected by protesters, raising the death toll linked to the demonstrations to 10.

On Saturday, police fired tear gas against protesters who gathered near Macron's villa in the chic resort of Le Touquet in northern France.

In the French capital, the police arrested 109 protest-



ers, seven of whom were held in custody.

Three weeks ago the protests in Paris turned into some of the worst unrest seen in the capital since the student-led civil unrest of 1968. Cars were set on fire, bank and insurance offices' windows smashed and street furniture was vandalized.

Of the ten deaths linked to the protests, most have been the result of road accidents.

UK police arrest two over Gatwick Airport drones  
The "yellow vest" protesters began in mid-November to rally against fuel tax increases and subsequently against the wider liberal economic reform policy of Macron, who made tax and salary concessions earlier this month.

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# Nine more arrested in Morocco over murder Scandinavian tourists

OSLO/RABAT (Reuters) - Moroccan police have arrested nine more people in an investigation into the murder of two Scandinavian female tourists by suspected Islamic State militants, authorities said on Friday.

Four suspects were already under arrest over the killing of Louisa Vesterager Jespersen, 24, from Denmark, and Maren Ueland, 28, from Norway, whose bodies were found on Monday in the Atlas Mountains with knife wounds to the neck.

The North African country's Central Bureau for Judicial Investigations said nine further arrests were made in various Moroccan cities over suspected links to the killers. It said electronic devices, an unauthorized hunting rifles, knives and materials that could be used for bomb-making were found in the course of the raids.

Moroccan authorities have said the four suspects first arrested over the murder had pledged allegiance to Islamic State in a video posted on social media before the killings. In Norway, police said a separate video, purportedly showing the killings of the two tourists, was probably authentic. Further technical analysis of the video was needed, Norway's National Crime Investigation Service said earlier on Friday.



A girl holds a sign in front of Denmark's embassy in Rabat to honour Maren Ueland from Norway and Louisa Vesterager Jespersen from Denmark

"We still believe, however, that we have grounds to say that so far, there is nothing concrete to show that this video is not real," it said in a statement. Danish counterparts said they were still analyzing the video, while Moroccan authorities said on Thursday they were working on authenticating it.

Jespersen and Ueland were killed on the way to Toubkal, North Africa's highest peak and a popular hiking destination. A source from Imlil, the village near where the two friends were killed, said one of them was found dead inside their tent while the body of the other was found outside.

UK police arrest two over Gatwick Airport drones Compared to other countries in North Africa, Morocco has seen relatively few Islamist attacks. The

last major one was in April 2011, when 17 people were killed in the bombing of a restaurant in Marrakech. Later on Friday, Norwegians planned to march with torches through Bryne, the coastal hometown of Maren Ueland, to express solidarity with her family. On Saturday, a gathering will be held outside the Norwegian Embassy in the Moroccan capital Rabat in support of the families of the victims and to condemn terrorism. Thousands of people have said on Facebook that they would attend.

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# Editor's Choice



NCAA Football: Armed Forces Bowl-Army vs Houston



A worker waves as he cleans the windows of a building, dressed as Santa Claus, in Concon



Veronica Chavez, executive director of 100% Noticias Channel listens to question of a journalist during a news conference in Managua



A sign declares the National Archive is closed due to a partial federal government shutdown in Washington



Children wearing Santa Claus caps react as they perform Christmas carols at the premises of the St. Patrick's Cathedral in Karachi,



Frenchwoman Laura Delsaux plays Christmas music in the street in La Paz



FILE PHOTO: Ashdown, former leader of the Liberal Democrats, speaks to delegates at an evening rally at the party's autumn conference in Glasgow, Scotland



Riot police stand guard in front of 100% Noticias Channel building after its director Miguel Mora was arrested by national police in Managua

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon star Chow Yun-fat has pledged to give his \$1 billion (HK\$5.6 billion) fortune to a charity when he dies.

The 63-year-old actor joined Forbes' list of highest paid actors in the world for the first time in 2015 but is known for his modest lifestyle.

"This money isn't something you possess forever. When you're gone one day, you have to leave it to others to use it," he told South Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation last week.



**Chow Yun-fat is known for his modest lifestyle. (Photo/AAP/Yonhap)**

"You can't bring the money in your bank account with you after you die."

The married billionaire, who has no children, is often spotted taking public transport and lining up for tickets to watch his own movie in Hong Kong.

His wife, Jasmine Tan, has previously described how her husband often eats at street stalls and used a Nokia flip-phone until it died



**Chow Yun-fat with his wife Jasmine Tan. (Getty)**

**Modest Hong Kong Actor Pledges To Donate Wealth To Charity After His Death**  
**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Star Chow Yun-Fat Vows To Give Away \$1BN Fortune**

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



**Chow Yun-fat.**

Chow, affectionately nicknamed 'Brother Fat' in Hong Kong, also starred in Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End and A Better Tomorrow.

The megastar played the character Li Mu Bai in the 2000 film Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, which was directed by Ang Lee.

Also known to western audiences for the Oscar-winning Pirates of the Caribbean and the gangster film A Better Tomorrow, Chow has endeared himself to fans in recent years with his modest lifestyle.

The multimillionaire Chow joined the Forbes list of the highest-paid actors in the world for the first time in 2015, sharing 24th place with Russell Crowe.

Yet in wealthy Hong Kong, he can be spotted taking public transport and lining up for tickets to watch his own movie.



**Chow Yun-fat as Li Mu Bai (left) in a scene from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. (Photo/ Reuters)**

Now, he has pledged to give away his fortune of a reported HK\$5.6bn (£570m). This money isn't something you possess for ever. When you're gone one day, you have to leave it to others to use it," he told South Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation.

The actor – who is best known to western audiences for the likes of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End – was included in Forbes's list of highest paid actors in the world for the first time in 2015, when he

shared 24th place with Russell Crowe. In Hong Kong, however, the star, 63, is famous for his modest lifestyle, having been spotted taking public transport and queuing for tickets to watch his own film, according to The Guardian.



**Chow Yun-fat as Li Mu Bai in a scene from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. (Photo/ Reuters)**

His wife, Jasmine Tan, has said her husband often eats at street stalls and used a Nokia flip-phone for years, only trading it in when it had finally stopped working.

"You can't bring the money in your bank account with you after you die," he said, adding that his wife "strongly supports" his decision.

His fortune is currently valued at 5.6 bn Hong Kong dollars (\$700m or £542m).

The actor, affectionally called "Brother Fat" in Hong Kong, was praised for acting in opposition to the city's obsession with displays of extreme wealth amongst its mega-rich. Hong Kong's wealth gap was at its widest for nearly half a century last year.

Hong Kong's wealth gap was at its widest last year for nearly half a century, fuelling discontent as the former British colony marked two decades under Chinese rule.

Sky-high prices and the cost of living outstrip many ordinary residents' salaries, with apartments becoming increasingly cramped and generations of families forced to share.

Meanwhile, the city's mega-rich continue their displays of extreme wealth and pursuit of status symbols.

Chow, affectionately nicknamed "Brother Fat" in Hong Kong, has won praise for taking an opposite tack.

His wife, Jasmine Tan, has previously described how her husband often eats at street stalls and only gave up his beloved Nokia flip phone when it died after years of use.

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**-Beth Yip, M.D.,** co-managing physician, Pearland Clinic

Dr. Yip is a board-certified pediatrician who completed her medical degree, internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and member of the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Harris County Medical Society and Texas Pediatric Society.

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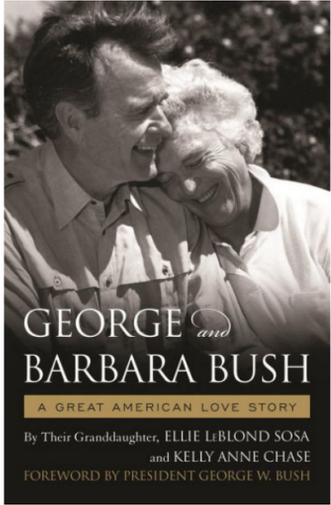
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Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



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**ICE Continues To Release Asylum-Seekers At Public Park In El Paso, Texas.**



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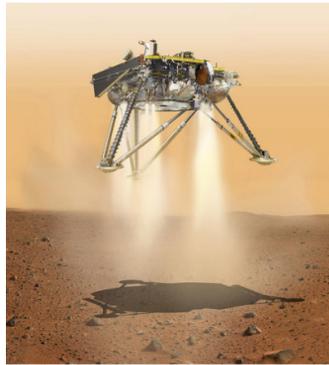
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