



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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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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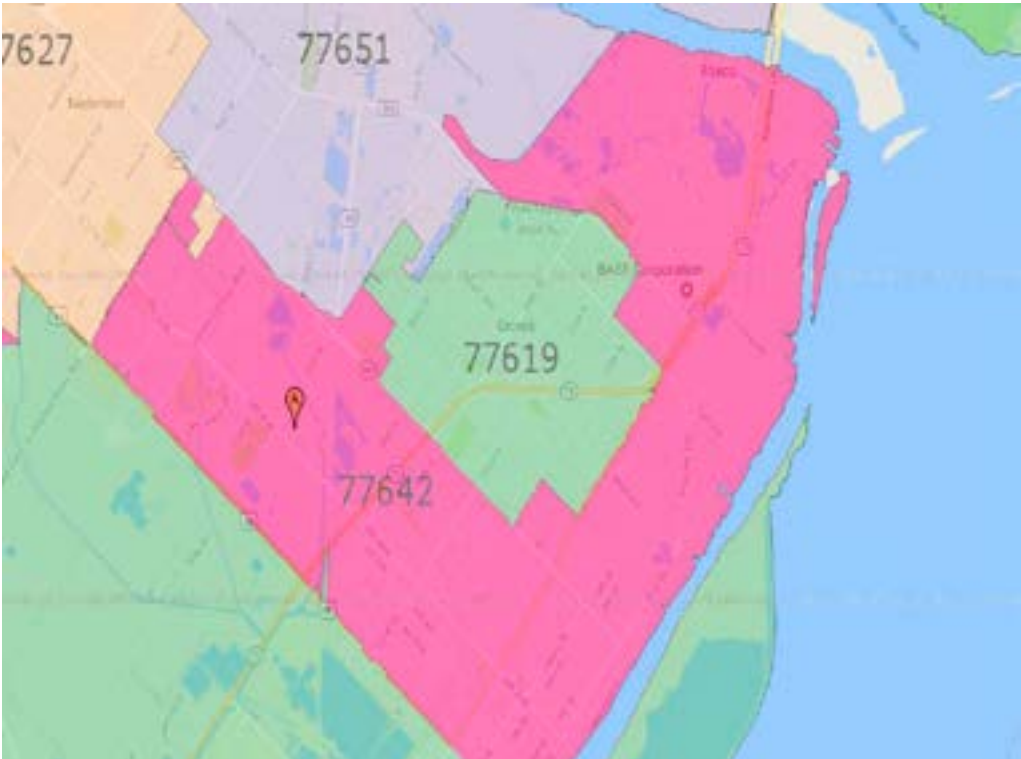


# 28 million Americans live in flood zones and don’t know it, study finds

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



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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



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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



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.

**GHCF Oversees Hurricane Harvey Relief Funds From The Offices Of Mayor Sylvester Turner And Harris County Judge Ed Emmett**

**Career And Recovery Resources, Inc. Receives \$250,000 Grant From The Greater Houston Community Foundation**

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



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!” --Dr. Vernus C. Swisher, Chief Exec-

utive 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.

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3. Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. also provides behavioral support groups and individual counseling for drug abuse users through our outpatient treatment program, if needed. Emergency Temporary Financial Assistance will be provided for other types of disaster-caused expenses such as: 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.  
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About Career & Recovery Resources, Inc.



**Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.**

Established in 1945, Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. (CRR), is dedicated to helping people identify and overcome barriers to employment. The agency offers computer training, literacy education, career counseling and testing, job placement assistance, housing support for veterans, youth outreach, and substance abuse treatment and prevention education services. In 2017, the agency served nearly 14,000 individuals.



To learn more about the Disaster Relief Program at CRR please visit the website at [www.careerandrecovery.org](http://www.careerandrecovery.org) or call 713-754-7054. If their Intake Specialists are with clients, please leave a voice message with your name and contact information and someone will return your call within 24 hours.



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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.”



“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.

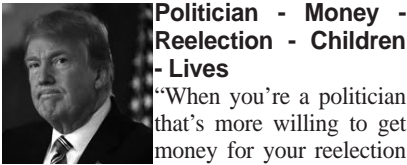


Student protesting has already begun nationwide.

**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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