



The Palm Beach Post

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REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Final Edition | \$2.00

LOCAL, B1
**CHAINSAW
ATTACK LEAVES
WOMAN IN
HOSPITAL**

LOCAL, B1
**FOUR VYING
FOR LAKE
WORTH
MAYOR**



ACCENT, D1
**MUSICAL
MASTER**
Legend T Bone Burnett performs in Boca tonight

BUSINESS, B8
**OCWEN
PURCHASES
MORTGAGE
COMPETITOR**

POST COVERAGE BROWARD SCHOOL SHOOTING

MSDSTRONG, TOGETHER

Hugs, not handshakes: Kids encouraged to heal, support each other.

First day back, students observe 17 seconds of silence after first bell.

Return 'like sending him off to preschool for the first time,' says parent.



By Hal Habib Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

PARKLAND — It was the first step back toward normalcy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, even if so little about the day seemed normal.

Students returned Wednesday morning — two weeks after a shooting that claimed 17 lives — by walking through a human tunnel formed by officers from throughout Broward County, who handed out thousands of carnations.

The first bell, at 7:40 a.m., was followed by 17 seconds of silence.

Throughout the campus, 150 counselors awaited. And if they weren't what the students needed for comfort, perhaps 40 therapy dogs were.

Each period began with an announcement from Principal Ty Thompson, reminding students they must be there for each other. Whether those reminders were even necessary was debatable.

"Principal Thompson over the announcements today said that he's keeping everyone who works in the school and all the students — we're all going to be family," said Connor Dietrich, a junior.

"We're together. I've made friends through this tragic experience."

Returning to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Wednesday morning were 3,123 students — only 170 shy of the usual attendance. Students were greeted by police officers who hugged each child and handed them carnations. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

Return continued on A9

GUN CONTROL POLLS

Stricter gun laws wanted, polls find

By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Florida voters overwhelmingly favor stricter gun control laws, according to polls released Wednesday by Florida Atlantic University and Quinnipiac University in the wake of the Feb. 14 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre in Parkland.

Both polls also find most Floridians oppose the idea of arming teachers, an idea floated by



A gun control sign sits down the street from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as students and their parents arrive Wednesday. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

President Donald Trump and the Republican leadership of the Florida Legislature.

In the poll by FAU's Business and Economic Polling Initiative, 70 percent of Florida voters agree that "gun control laws should be made stricter," with 87 percent favoring expanded background checks for gun purchases, 78 per-

cent in favor of raising the age to purchase a gun from 18 to 21 and 69 percent supporting a ban on "assault-style rifles."

In the Quinnipiac poll, 65 percent of the state's voters support "stricter gun laws," 96 percent favor expanded background

Polls continued on A9

RETAIL

Dick's move unlikely to stem assault rifle sales

By Jeff Ostrowski Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Dick's Sporting Goods won a flurry of media attention when it announced Wednesday that it has stopped selling assault rifles.

But skeptics say the move by one of the nation's largest sporting goods retailers does little to dent the availability of military-style weapons like the one used in the Feb. 14 school shootings in Parkland.

That's because the new policy affects only a tiny fraction of the retailer's locations. The company stopped selling the weapons at its Dick's stores in 2012 and only

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sells them at its much less numerous Field & Stream stores.

What's more, AR-15s, AK-47s and other military-style rifles remain available at other gun retailers, at gun shows and in private sales.

Guns continued on A8

GUN LEGISLATION

Trump may use executive order to outlaw 'bump stocks'

By Mike DeBonis Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump launched into a freewheeling, televised strategy session with lawmakers over the issue of guns by declaring that he will unilaterally bar

so-called "bump stocks" and asking Congress to send him one "terrific" bill aimed at reducing gun violence.

"I'm going to write that out," Trump said of bump stocks — devices that allow semiautomatic weapons to fire like fully automatic weapons — while speaking to lawmakers gathered at the

White House for a much-touted summit on gun safety. Saying he can bar bump stocks with an executive order, Trump added: "You won't have to worry about bump stocks."

Trump also pressed lawmakers to send him "one terrific bill" combining several proposals aimed at reduc-

ing gun violence, although that could complicate the legislative outlook for such a contentious issue. Congress is already struggling to clear a relatively noncontroversial measure meant to simply improve the reporting of key

Trump continued on A9

TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

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SPORTS, C1
Gase insists he wants to keep Landry on team

Dolphins management and the receiver haven't been close on negotiations; team likely to pay him \$16 million for next season.

LOCAL, B1
Attorney admits false Handelsman charge

Joel Weissman, representing the ex-wife of the real estate mogul, said he mistakenly accused him of hiding \$1 million from her.

LOCAL, B1
West Palm Beach touts reduction in homeless

Mayor Jeri Muoio says the number of people living on the streets of the city decreased by 14 percent in 2017.

INDEX
Classifieds C8 Deaths B4
Crossword D5 Lottery B2

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