



GA hopefuls vie to be 'more MAGA'

NEWS, 8A

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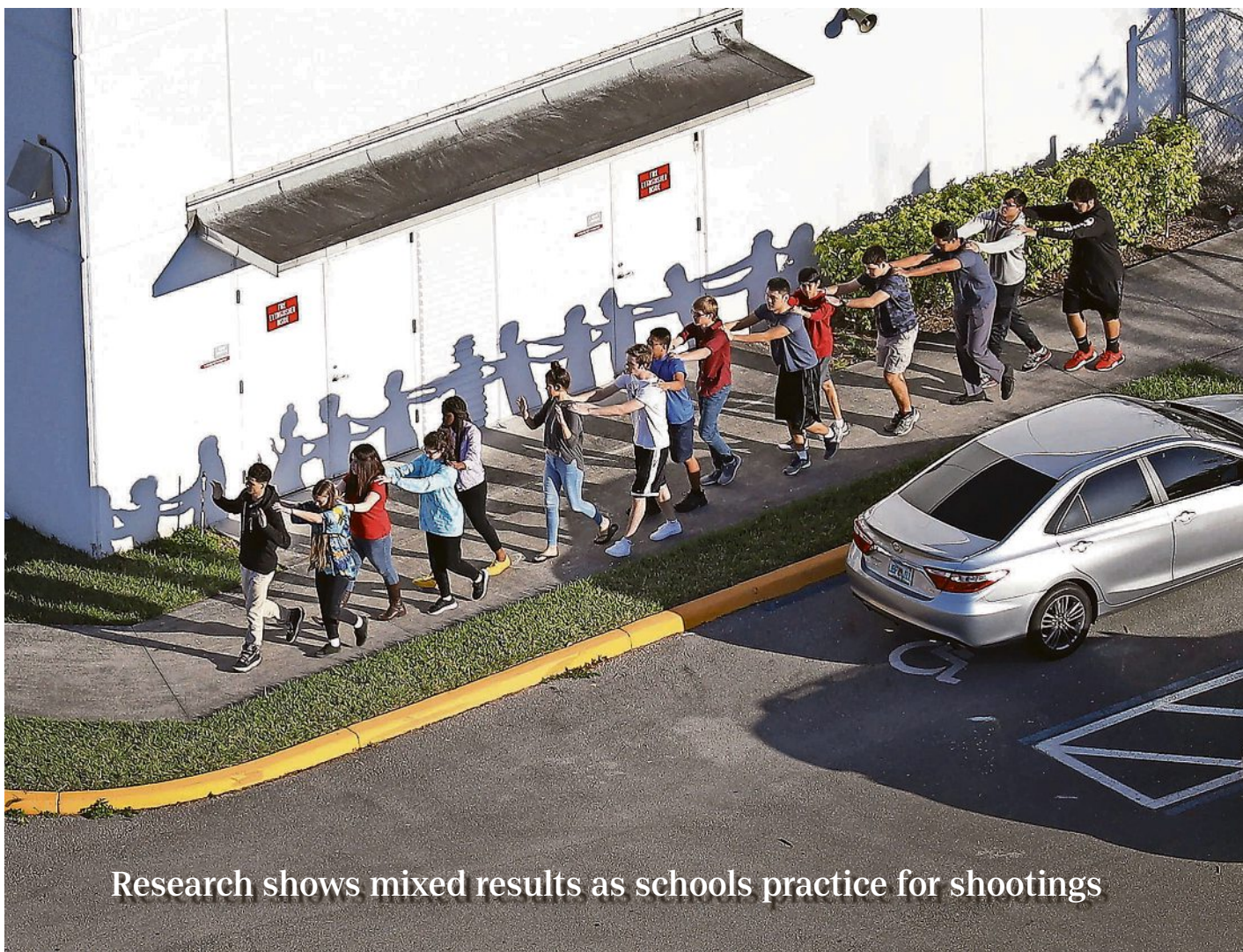
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Sturgis Journal

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THE LIMITS OF LOCKDOWNS



Research shows mixed results as schools practice for shootings

People are brought out of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School after a shooting on Feb. 14, 2018, in Parkland, Florida. More schools nationwide began practicing lockdown drills after the Parkland shooting. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

James Densley
Metropolitan State University | THE CONVERSATION

There have been 63 school shootings – meaning any time there is gunfire on a school campus – so far in 2026. • They happen so often that preparing for one has become normal. Students as young as 4 years old routinely practice for the possibility of a school shooting with lockdown drills – typically, hiding in the corner of a dark classroom, behind a locked door.

Pauls Valley High School in Pauls, Oklahoma, went into lockdown on April 7, after an armed gunman fired shots inside the building. Kirk Moore, the school's principal, tackled the gunman and got shot in the leg.

The lockdown and Moore's heroism clearly prevented any further violence in this rare school shooting situation with a positive ending. But by and large, do lockdowns typically work to keep students safe?

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Volunteer students wearing makeup to simulate injuries participate in a school shooting and mass evacuation drill at Lincoln Middle School in 2007 in Alameda, California. So far, the available research shows mixed evidence on whether shooting drills help students feel more prepared or scare them. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Shooting suspect killed near White House

Zac Anderson, Bart Jansen and Anthony Thompson
USA TODAY

A gunman opened fire outside the White House during the evening of May 23 before the Secret Service fatally shot the suspect, the agency said.

A bystander also was struck by gunfire, according to the Secret Service. No

officers were injured. President Donald Trump was in the White House during the May 23 incident but was unharmed.

The shooting took place shortly after 6 p.m. near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House complex on the west side. The gunman "pulled a weapon from his bag and began firing," according to the Secret Service statement. Officers returned fire,

hitting the gunman, who later was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Secret Service did not release the condition of the bystander.

In a May 24 social media post, Trump thanked "our great Secret Service and Law Enforcement for the swift and professional action."

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55K kids and counting in Michigan free pre-K

Beki San Martin
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan has hit new highs on pre-kindergarten enrollment, with more than 55,000 4-year-olds enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year, state officials announced at a press conference Thursday, May 21.

That's around 7,000 more kids enrolled in the state's Great Start for Readiness Program (GSRP) than last school year, representing the latest push toward Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's goal of reaching 75% of 4-year-olds enrolled in any state-funded pre-K program by 2027.

Why the fanfare? Because the state wants kids in seats (figuratively — GSRP curriculum is play-based, so it doesn't actually look like sitting at a desk all day). During her administration, Whitmer has made universal pre-K a tentpole policy, significantly expanding Michigan's program in 2024 to eliminate income eligibility caps.

"When children start strong, they stay on track," said Emily Laidlaw, deputy director at MiLEAP, the state's early childhood education agency, at the press conference in Grand Rapids. "That's what Pre-K for All is all about."

MiLEAP spokesperson Aundrea Jones-Poole said the agency has not yet calculated what percentage of the 75% goal Michigan has reached with these new numbers.

In addition to stressing the years of research and evidence supporting the benefits of early childhood education — including pre-K's long term impacts on healthy brain development and a child's success in school and the workplace — state officials reiterated a few

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