

## Walkout from 1A

the group's website states. "On March 24, the kids and families of March For Our Lives will take to the streets of Washington, D.C., to demand that their lives and safety become a priority. The collective voices of the March For Our Lives movement will be heard."

On the one-month anniversary of the shooting, people across the nation participated in 763 official and many additional unofficial "sibling marches" in the U.S. and worldwide. In Oregon, official marches were held in 21 school districts, including schools in Eugene, Coos Bay, Newport and Portland.

However, the walkout was not without complications.

Some school administrations across the country claimed that students would be reprimanded for leaving school buildings, in some cases leveraging a two-day suspension against students. Students marched anyway, especially when colleges took to social media to alert students that they would not penalize students during their admission processes.

"Dartmouth supports active

citizenship and applauds students' expression of their beliefs," tweeted Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H., on Feb. 23. "Participation in peaceful protest in no way jeopardizes your admission to Dartmouth, even if you are disciplined or suspended. Speak your truth."

Other colleges who spoke in support of high school students included Harvard, Yale, Wellesley College, UCLA and MIT. Many said that students' applications and scholarships would remain intact.

In school districts where marches were forbidden, some students chose to kneel in hallways or other common spaces, "taking a knee" in a form of protest recently popularized by players in the National Football League, who chose to kneel during the National Anthem to draw attention to the Black Lives Matter movement, gun violence and systemic racism against Africans Americans.

Other people advocated not for a student walkout, but for a "walk up." What started as a Tweet urged students to "Walk up to the kid who sits alone at lunch and invite him to sit with your group; walk up to the kid who sits quietly in the corner of the room and sit next to her."

With #WalkUpNotOut, people are encouraged to approach people and offer a kind word, offering a challenge to students to talk to 14 students and three adults at their schools "in honor of those who died in Florida."

Arbor Prep High School in Michigan participated in Walk Up by giving students 17 sticky notes to leave messages to "brighten someone's day."

Instagram user Danielle Rae said, "As I walked the halls I was overcome with pride for these kids. Not a single locker was untouched and they took special care to ensure that everyone from admin to the tech guy and custodian received some love."

While school districts embraced the message of Walk Up — both in terms of stopping students from leaving during class time and for losing the emphasis on gun control — opponents claimed that "walking up" put too much responsibility on students. In addition, some worried that it could be a form of victim blaming, as students take on the pressure of deflecting violence.

"It's like telling a domestic abuse sufferer that if she'd just been nicer to her abuser, she wouldn't have been hit. That the issue of school shootings

isn't really about shootings, but about being nicer," said Upworthy author Annie Reneau on March 14.

She quoted a Facebook post that said, "The message you are sending her is that she is responsible for the mass shooting, she didn't do enough to stop it, she can prevent another one from happening — if she just cares a little more."

In another social media post, author Glennon Doyle wrote, "'Walk Up Not Out' is the 'All Lives Matter' of gun reform. It is another way to deflect responsibilities from the adults and the legislators and the NRA and the GUNS in this country."

"It is NOT our children's responsibility to protect themselves from gun violence. It is ours. (sic)"

Not everyone saw the concepts as mutually exclusive.

One of the Never Again MSD students, David Hogg, tweeted, "The first step to changing the world is believing that you can."

He then used a new social media phrase, "#WalkOutandWalkUp," showing that, for the founders of the movement, anything that brought harmony to schools can prove beneficial.

The National School Walkout may be over, but more marches are planned, including the main March For Our Lives on Saturday, March 24, in Washington, D.C. Another protest will be on April 20, the anniversary of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Colorado.

Hogg said, "The policy makers in this country must work together. And I don't care if you're a Republican or a Democrat. These are children's lives."

The MSD students continue to lobby politicians as they use social media platforms and traditional news outlets.

In an article titled, "From Walkouts, We March On," organizers wrote, "Communities across this country walked out of classrooms to send one message — Enough. We have seen enough senseless gun violence; we have lived in fear too long. We have buried too many heroes. We demand better."

They said they demand that Congress enact a "a comprehensive and effective bill ... to address gun issues."

They added, "No political agenda is more critical than timely passage of legislation to effectively address the gun

violence issues that are rampant in our country."

In 2014, the Center for Community Change listed 100 years of youth-led movements for social change, including the most recent calls for gun reform and immigration.

"Kids have fought and won battles for child labor laws, civil rights, equal access to education and an end to segregation. Today, the torch has been passed down to youth activists who are fighting with everything they have," the group's website said.

While the debate for gun control continues, youth activists will continue to be part of the conversation.

And, Never Again MSD organizers said, they plan to head to the polls in the fall to vote on issues and for politicians that support school safety.

"Every kid in this country now goes to school wondering if this day might be their last. We live in fear. It doesn't have to be this way," March For Our Lives organizers said. "Change is coming. And it starts now, inspired by and led by the kids who are our hope for the future."

"Their young voices will be heard."

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## District from 1A

sharing with the board his school's mid-year grade analysis.

"Overall, I am pleased to see that a third of all grades at the middle school are As," Marohl said. "That's very encouraging to see. What that says to me is our kids are working hard to be here and our teachers are working hard to meet their goals. Things are moving in a very positive direction."

Another SSD-related meeting was held on Thursday evening at the district office.

This was a public meeting led by the district's Special Programs Coordinator, Lisa Utz. The purpose of the meeting was to talk with native students and families and work to create a Parent Committee to oversee the Indian Education program at the district.

According to Utz, the process for obtaining funding for the Indian Education program requires the district take a

number of steps to qualify for grant funding.

"Part of the grant process is a public hearing, which is this meeting tonight, in which I will present to the community what the grant is about," Utz said. "The second part of the meeting will be to nominate and seat a parent committee that will oversee the program."

Unfortunately, there were only three community members at Thursday's meeting.

None of these attendees were interested in serving on

the parent committee, which left the future of the Indian Education program up in the air.

Utz said that she will be working to attract students, faculty and community members with tribal affiliations to serve on the Parent Committee.

If Utz is unable to fill the positions on the committee, the district will not qualify to apply for program funding during this grant cycle.

# THIS WEEK ON THE COAST

## A WEEKLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE FLORENCE AREA

SUBMIT ALL EVENTS INFORMATION VIA EMAIL TO [PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](mailto:PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM)

### Mondays and Thursdays through April 14

**Tax Prep Assistance**  
AARP Foundation Tax-Aide  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Siuslaw Public Library  
[aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide)

### March 17

**Spring Mini Sign Workshop**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Reserve place at  
[squareup.com/store/the-wrens-nest-workshops](http://squareup.com/store/the-wrens-nest-workshops)  
The Wren's Nest  
1732 Laurel Way, Unit B

### Fun with Yoga for Vitality

10:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.  
A fundraiser for candidate Nora Kent  
Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
[www.norakent.org](http://www.norakent.org)

**Gray Whales of Oregon**  
Presentation by Marine Biologist Carrie Newell  
3 to 4 p.m.  
Open to public  
City Lights Cinemas

### Leprechaun Bingo and Pie Auction

6:30 p.m. — doors open  
7 p.m. — games begin  
Open to public  
Mapleton Lions Club

### Last Resort Players present "Funny Money"

The Improvised Game Show  
7 p.m.  
Tickets required  
Florence Events Center

### March 19

**Florence Elks Lodge Fundraiser for Mapleton Food Share**  
11:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.  
\$15 per person + donations of food

Florence Elks Lodge

### Siuslaw Public Library Board Meeting

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Open to public  
Siuslaw Public Library

### The Commanders — Jazz Ensemble

7 to 9 p.m.  
Free admission — tickets required  
Florence Events Center

### March 20

### Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Support Group

With Dr. Roger McKimmy  
Noon to 1 p.m.  
Open to public  
Ichiban Restaurant  
541-999-4239

### Siuslaw Diabetes/Pre-diabetes Support Group

2 p.m.

Open to public  
Siuslaw Public Library

### March 21

**Pub Talks — a new, monthly business workshop**  
How to make more money through revenue, profitability and investments  
3 to 5 p.m.  
Open to public  
LCC Florence Center  
3149 Oak St.

### March 23

**Newport Symphony Orchestra**  
Presented by SEAcOast Entertainment  
7 p.m. — preconcert talk  
7:30 p.m. — concert  
Tickets required  
Florence Events Center

### March 24

**Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup**  
Oregon Coast  
[solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org)

**March For Our Lives**  
12:30 p.m.

Open to public and those who wish to "march in solidarity with students across the country for commonsense reforms to end gun violence"  
Florence United Methodist Church

### March 24 and 25

Last Resort Players present "BOATS — Based on a True Story"  
7 p.m. Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Tickets required  
Florence Events Center  
[www.lastresortboats.com](http://www.lastresortboats.com)

### March 24 to 31

Whale Watching Week  
Oregon Coast  
[whalespoken.wordpress.com/](http://whalespoken.wordpress.com/)

Visit [rivercal.org](http://rivercal.org) for more calendar events.

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