

Students gather at Noyes Field at Central High School on Wednesday morning in St. Joseph to protest gun violence in schools and to honor the victims of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Kristen Carver | News-Press Now

Local high school students walk out in protest

By ZACH MCNULTY
News-Press Now

St. Joseph was no exception to the nationwide wave of demonstrations Wednesday protesting gun violence in schools and

honoring the 17 victims of the recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, hundreds of students at Central High School walked out. They marched

en masse to Noyes Field and, like their peers across the nation, took part in a student-led protest for change and to honor the victims of the Florida shooting.

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ST. LOUIS tax cuts and administrative Wednesday. Speaking at two fighter jets, he noted the impact of last year and on a second. He said the benefits for companies. "We're not," he said. "It's going to be a Brady's work."

Flood suit ruling hopefully 1st step in new direction

By JIM SALTER | Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should act immediately to make flood control the top priority on the Missouri River, an attorney for hundreds of farmers, landowners and business operators said Wednesday after a federal judge ruled the agency was responsible for recurring flooding.

Judge Nancy B. Firestone's ruling Tuesday in Washington cited river management changes initiated by the Corps of Engineers starting in 2004, including efforts to aid endangered fish and birds, that led

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File photo | News-Press Now
The 2011 flood surrounded former Terrible's Casino, now St. Jo Frontier Casino. A judge has ruled the Army Corps of Engineers were responsible for flooding and damage in four states.

Students surprised, reunited with deployed mom

By ALONZO WESTON | News-Press Now

Mark Twain Elementary School held an all-school assembly Wednesday morning in the school gym as the student body learned about respect and responsibility.

What Mark Twain students Ashley and Maleah Slade didn't know was that their mother, Lesley Slade, who had been deployed in Iraq the last nine months, also would be a special guest at the assembly.

Slade wanted to surprise her daughters by showing up at the assembly. She and her husband, Keith, along with Mark Twain Principal Dr. Suzanne Tiemann, helped make the surprise a success.

"It was really hard to keep a secret from my girls because I always like to tell them everything," Slade said.

The Slades also have a son named Keigan who is deployed overseas.

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Alonzo Weston | News-Press Now
Army sergeant, Lesley Slade, center, surprises her two daughters Maleah and Ashley in a special assembly at Mark Twain Elementary School after returning from her fifth tour of duty in Iraq. Her husband, Keith Slade, helped set up the visit.

February retail sales slip

U.S. consumers spent less at auto dealers, gas stations and department stores last month.

Details in **BUSINESS**



Players react to coach's e

Benton girls remember historic seventeen-year under Brett Goodwin.

Details in **SPORTS**

Flood

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to damage estimated to exceed \$300 million in four states: Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. The Corps manages the Missouri River's system of dams and locks and decides when and how much water is released from reservoirs into the river.

In her 259-page ruling, Firestone wrote that flooding "was caused by and was the foreseeable result" of the Corps' management of the river. Another trial will start in October to determine how much money the lawsuit's 372 plaintiffs will receive.

"We are evaluating the court's ruling, and considering next steps, in coordination with the Department of Justice," Corps spokesman Gene Pawlik said in an email.

The lawsuit, filed in 2014, contended the Corps unconstitutionally deprived people of their land, essentially taking it without compensation. Firestone found in favor of the plaintiffs in five of the six years in which flooding was blamed on Corps management, disallowing flood claims in 2011.

R. Dan Boulware, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said he will ask the judge to reconsider her decision disallowing the 2011 flood claims. Still, Boulware said the ruling makes it clear that the Missouri River is changed and is more prone to flooding.

"Now Congress needs to do something. They need to address issues like that."

The trip to Missouri came a day after Trump announced he had fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, with questions swirling about who is next to go. It also came as a closely watched special election in Pennsylvania — a district Trump won in a landslide in 2016 — remained too close to call, providing another wakeup call to Republicans about Democratic enthusiasm heading into November's midterm elections.

The trip served as a victory lap of sorts for a president who has struggled to rack up legislative wins. Trump launched his campaign for an overhaul of the nation's tax code at a Springfield, Missouri, manufacturing plant last August, and re-

turned to the state to tout the benefits of the law, which slashed taxes for corporations while providing more modest breaks for middle-class families.

"Six months ago I promised that we would cut taxes to bring Main Street roaring all the way back and we did," Trump said. "We helped Wall Street, we helped Main Street, we helped everybody."

Boeing, which employs about 14,000 people in the St. Louis area, announced it would make \$300 million in new investments as a result of the overhaul. Increased military spending under Trump has also benefited the company, particularly its St. Louis operation, which produces the Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet and Air Force F-15s.

step in and say, 'We've got a problem here,'" Boulware said in a phone interview Wednesday.

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, a Missouri Republican, agreed.

"I hope this decision is the first step in a new direction for the Corps," Blunt said in a statement. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the river is managed in a way that prioritizes flood control, while balancing other interests."

The lawsuit contended the Corps made a management shift in 2004 that downplayed flood control while emphasizing restoring ecosystem and habitat creation for threatened and endangered species. The court ruled that practices such as notching of dikes and reopening of chutes worsened the flood risk.

Surprise

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Maleah broke into tears when she saw her mother.

"Whenever she goes into deployment I always get super sad because she's going to be gone for awhile but when she comes back I always get super happy," Maleah said.

Slade is a first-class Army sergeant who has been deployed five times to Iraq. She and her husband got married in Baghdad.

Slade said she hopes to be home for good this time. The family has plans to go to Disneyland after the school year ends.

Slade said she has raised her girls to be strong and independent, but she also wanted to send a positive message to all the students at the assembly as well.

"It's a way of coming home and showing your kids, all of the kids, that you can do what you want if you put your mind to it. I'm here to show them that ... even if you have slumps in the road, you can pick yourself back up," she said.

Alonzo Weston can be reached at alonzo.weston@newspressnow.com. Follow him on Twitter: @SJNPWeston.

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Trump

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It's unclear what Trump was talking about. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for more details, but Brady, the chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, told FOX Business Network he was indeed working on something with the president and "we think even more can be done."

"We want to make sure that we're encouraging innovation in America. We want to help families save for the long term," Brady said. "Also, while the tax cuts for families were long-term, they're not yet permanent. So we're going to