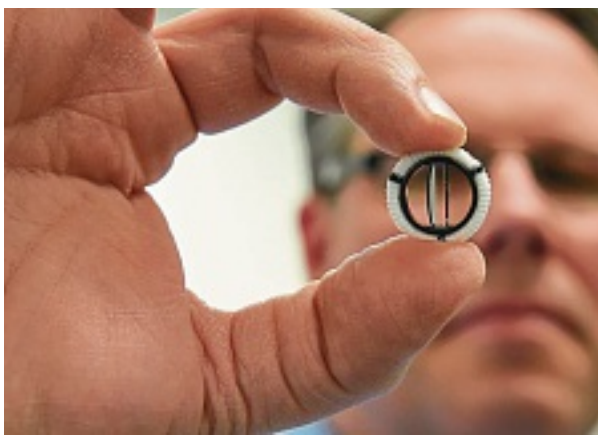


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Rally decries gun violence



PHOTOS BY CALLIE SCHMIDT / PIONEER PRESS

An estimated 18,000 people marched from St. Paul's Harriet Island to the state Capitol on Saturday as part of the national "March for Our Lives" demonstration against gun violence. More photos from the St. Paul and national rallies are at TwinCities.com.

Thousands march to state Capitol on day of nationwide, student-led protests

By Callie Schmidt and Sarah Nelson
Pioneer Press

Thousands of students and supporters marched Saturday in St. Paul as part of the worldwide "March for Our Lives" demonstration to protest gun violence.

St. Paul police estimated 18,000 people marched to the state Capitol, but that figure did not include the people at the Capitol who did not march. Later in the day, the Minnesota State Patrol estimated a crowd of some 20,000. By comparison, the Janu-

Page 4A: Parkland students lead Washington rally

ary 2017 "Women's March" drew up to 100,000 protesters to the Capitol, authorities estimated at the time.

Saturday's march in St. Paul was the largest of 13 planned protests across the state, with about 800 marches taking place worldwide. In Minnesota, protests were also planned in

ST. PAUL MARCH, 4A



"My sister is about to start kindergarten," said 18-year-old Kimani Hogan, center, noting that was her inspiration for marching Saturday as she headed to the Capitol with thousands of others. The Minnesota chapter of Students Demand Action organized the event.

Raider joy



JOHN AUTEY / PIONEER PRESS
Cretin-Derham Hall's Daniel Oturu hugs teammate Charlie Dennis after the Raiders beat Apple Valley 79-78 for the Class 4A state title Saturday. Story, 1C

Will China tariffs light trade war?

Fears heighten after Trump's latest move

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan once likened trade wars to the pie fights in old Hollywood comedies. One pie in the face leads to another. And then another.

Pretty soon, Reagan said in a 1986 radio address, "everything and everybody just gets messier and messier. The difference here is that it's not funny. It's tragic. Protectionism becomes destructionism. It costs jobs."

Suddenly, the world's financial markets are gripped by fear that an escalating trade rift between the United States and China — the two mightiest economies — could smear the world with a lot

TRADE WAR, 8A

A decade in prison, away from her son, awaited her. Now she has hope.

St. Paul woman was found guilty of murdering boyfriend, but appeals court ruling likely restores her freedom

By Sarah Horner
shorner@pioneerpress.com

Two years ago, Natalie Pollard was sentenced to spend the next decade of her life in prison.

It meant the St. Paul woman would miss the early years of the son she gave birth to in jail fol-

lowing her conviction on charges that she unintentionally murdered her boyfriend in July 2015.

But now Pollard gets to watch her son grow up.

This past fall, the Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed her murder conviction, opening the door for Pollard to recently plead

guilty in Ramsey County District Court to second-degree manslaughter.

The plea deal with prosecutors means Pollard isn't expected to serve any additional prison time when she's sentenced for her new conviction in May, according to the Ramsey County attor-

ney's office.

In other words, she's free.

It's all still sinking in, Pollard said recently in a St. Paul coffee shop.

"Being able to enjoy my kids and watch them grow up and know that their mother is there, that's all I want," said Pollard, 36,

who has five other children. "I was far away, but now I'm here. ... Now I just want to get a solid future planned for them and set an example for my children as a woman."

The turn of events was not as



Natalie Pollard

POLLARD CASE, 7A

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In huge numbers, students demand action

Parkland students lead Washington rally; thousands more protest across country

By Peter Jamison, Joe Heim, Lori Aratani and Marissa J. Lang
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered in the nation's capital and cities across the country Saturday to demand action against gun violence, vividly displaying the strength of the political movement led by survivors of a school massacre in Parkland, Fla.

Organized by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where a gunman killed 17 last month, the March for Our Lives showcased impassioned teens calling on Congress to enact stricter gun-control laws to end the nation's two-decade stretch of campus shootings.

Hundreds of "sibling protests" took place, from New York City — where demonstrators spread across 20 blocks — to Jonesboro, Ark., a small city marking the 20th anniversary of a middle-school shooting that left four students and a teacher dead. Gun-rights advocates mounted counterprotests in Salt Lake City, Boise and Valparaiso, Ind., where one sign read "All Amendments Matter."

Although the District of Columbia march was funded by Oprah Winfrey, George and Amal Clooney, and other celebrities, Stoneman Douglas High students have been its faces. Their unequivocal message to legislators: Ignoring the toll of school shootings and everyday gun violence will no longer be tolerated.

"To the leaders, skeptics and cynics who told us to sit down, stay silent and wait your turn: Welcome to the revolution," Cameron Kasky, a Stoneman Douglas student, said to a standing-room-only crowd that packed at least 10 blocks of Pennsylvania Avenue. "Either represent the people or get out. Stand for us or beware. The voters are coming."

The main march in Washington was a heady mix of political activism, famous entertainers and the undisguised emotion of teenagers confronting the loss of friends and loved ones in a national spotlight.

Sam Fuentes, a senior shot in the leg at Stoneman Douglas, threw up on stage while delivering her speech to a national television audience. She recovered and led the crowd in a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for her slain classmate, Nicholas Dworet, who would have turned 18 on Saturday.

Emma González, 18, took the stage in a drab olive coat and torn jeans, speaking of the "long, tearful, chaotic hours in scorching afternoon sun" as students waited outside Stoneman Douglas High on the day of the shooting.

With a flinty stare, tears streaming down her face, González stood silent on the rally's main stage for nearly

four minutes — evoking the time it took Parkland shooter Nikolas Cruz to carry out his attack. The crowd began chanting, "Never again."

The moment was widely shared on social media. "Fight for your lives before it's someone else's job," González said before she left the stage.

The march emphasized not just the highly publicized mass shootings in suburban, white schools, but also the far more common shootings that leave one or two young people dead and often affect predominantly black and Hispanic students in poor neighborhoods.

Zion Kelly, a senior at Thurgood Marshall Academy in Washington, spoke about his twin brother, Zaire, who was shot and killed by a robber in September. Choking back tears before a rapt crowd, Kelly described the close bond they had shared.

"From the time we were born, we shared everything. I spent time with him every day because we went to the same schools, shared the same friends, and we even shared the same room," he said. "I'm here to represent the hundreds of thousands of students who live every day in constant paranoia and fear on their way to and from school."

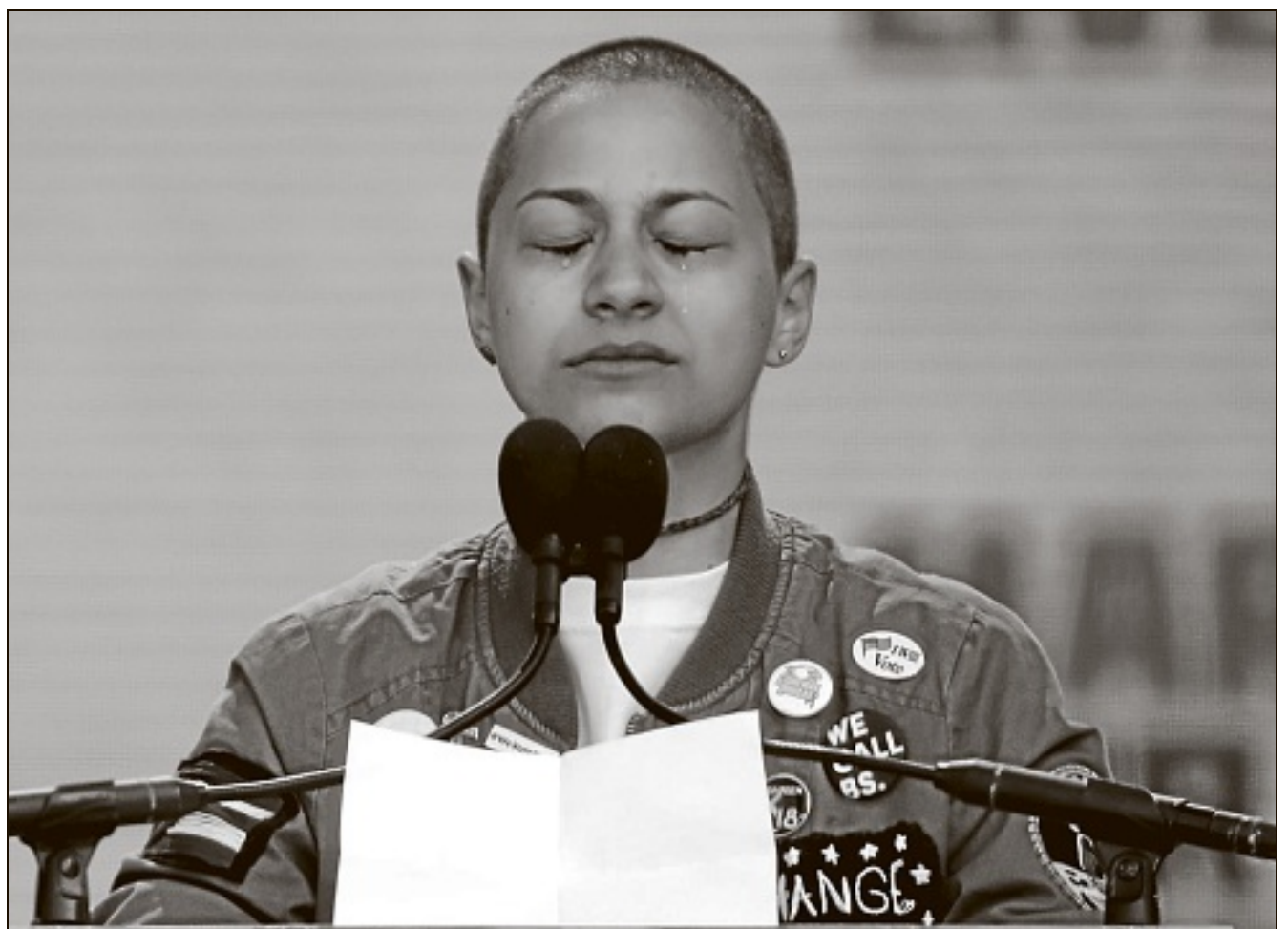
The march drew a huge crowd, though there were no police estimates of its size. One indication: Metro officials reported there had been about 334,000 trips on the system by 4 p.m. Saturday, compared to 368,000 trips by the same time on the day of President Donald Trump's inauguration. The Women's March last year generated 597,000 trips by the same time of day.

Because many of the demonstrators were children, authorities in the nation's capital said they took extra security precautions. By day's end, police had reported no violent altercations or other problems, despite a small contingent of counterprotesters decrying efforts to toughen gun laws.

"To be honest, I'm scared to march," Stoneman Douglas senior Carly Novell said in a Saturday morning tweet, citing the risk that a shooter might terrorize those gathered to protest in Washington. "This is a march against gun violence, and I am scared there will be gun violence on the march. This is just my mind-set living in this country now, but this is why we need to march."

The march offered a window on a generation that has come of age after the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado, which left 13 dead and is considered a milestone in the evolution of modern school shootings.

Nearly 200 people have died from gunfire at school since 1999, and more than 187,000 students attending at least 193 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus during



PHOTOS BY ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emma Gonzalez, a survivor of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., closes her eyes and cries as she stands silently at the podium for the amount of time it took the Parkland shooter to go on his killing spree during the March for Our Lives rally Saturday in Washington.



Looking west, people fill Pennsylvania Avenue during the rally in Washington.

TRUMP STEERS CLEAR OF PROTESTS NEAR MAR-A-LAGO

President Donald Trump took the scenic route after spending Saturday at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Fla., ensuring that he didn't pass any demonstrators calling for stronger gun laws as part of the nationwide "March for Our Lives."

Scores of people had lined the motorcade's usual path, which has been well-traveled by the president as he shuttles between his Mar-a-Lago estate and the Trump International Golf Club during weekend visits here.

But returning to Mar-a-Lago

from the club on Saturday afternoon, Trump's motorcade took a longer route, crossing a different bridge into Palm Beach and then driving down Ocean Boulevard. No protesters were spotted.

The White House did not respond to a question about the reason for the detour.

— Los Angeles Times

DELTA HELPS STUDENTS REACH PROTEST

Delta Air Lines donated three round-trip charter flights that allowed hundreds of Marjory Stoneman

Douglas High School students to participate in the "March for Our Lives" protest against gun violence in Washington.

Delta said the donation was "part of our commitment to supporting the communities we serve."

It's not Delta's first involvement with the issue. After last month's shooting, Delta said it will no longer offer discounted fares to members of the National Rifle Association to reflect its neutral stance on the gun-control debate.

— Associated Press

school hours, according to a Washington Post analysis. The analysis found that Hispanic students are nearly twice as likely as white students to experience gun violence at school, and black students three times as likely.

The most recent shooting took place Tuesday at Great Mills High School in southern

Maryland, where 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey was killed by her 17-year-old former boyfriend, who also died.

About 100 Great Mills students attended the march, which drew people from around the country.

Callie Stone, 18, traveled to Washington from Raleigh, N.C.

"We've grown up knowing this could happen to us," said Stone, 18, walking down Pennsylvania Avenue before the march.

With Stone was her mother, whom Stone had told the previous day that she wasn't sure she wanted to raise children in a world where students fear going to school.

CONTINUED FROM 1A

> St. Paul march

Willmar, Brainerd, Duluth and Winona.

The student-led movement emerged after a Feb. 14 mass shooting left 17 students and educators dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

The Minnesota chapter of Students Demand Action organized the St. Paul event, with the national network also organizing March for Our Lives demonstrations across the U.S.

Marchers gathered Saturday morning at St. Paul's Harriet Island Regional Park, along with volunteers from the Moms Demand Action Minnesota chapter and Protect Minnesota. Crowds broke out into chants, saying "This is what democracy looks like" and "The NRA has got to go."

Kate Zeman, an 18-year-old Woodbury High School student, said the Parkland shooting sparked her desire to

become involved.

"This is personal," Zeman said. "It could've been us."

Madi Nelson, 16, and Bex Williams, 15, both students at New Brighton's Irondale High School, said politicians have failed to protect their constituents.

"We're the only people who are going to have to change this at this point because nobody else is," Nelson said.

Williams added that they are the next generation of voters.

"We are the change that has been waiting," Williams said. "We are a force to be reckoned with."

The mile-and-a-half march culminated at the state Capitol, where a lineup of speakers, including politicians and students, delivered messages.

State Sen. Matt Little, DFL-Lakeville, said he has pushed for gun measures in the Republican-controlled Legislature, but to no avail.

"They've done nothing. They are doing nothing. And they plan to do nothing," Little said.

The crowd booed. "But that's about to

change," Little promised.

While Republican lawmakers have supported improved school safety in Minnesota, they have pushed back against proposals to restrict firearms access.

For example, Democratic-Farmer-Labor Gov. Mark Dayton has called for expanding background checks, raising the age to buy assault weapons to 21 and creating a legal avenue for police and family members to temporarily revoke guns from a person who may harm themselves or others. But a GOP-controlled House committee has already turned back two such bills backed by Democrats.

On Saturday, Sydney Lew, 15, of Eden Prairie protested with West Metro Walkout, representing eight west metro high schools. The group is calling for legislators to enact more gun safety laws and school safety measures.

"People in power are not making a difference, so it's time we step up," Lew said.

Maggie Miles of Minneapolis turned 13 on Saturday and spent her birthday at the march.

"It's my birthday and I want to have another one," Miles said. "I just want to feel safe in school."

Parents and students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in town for a national hockey tournament, were also at the Capitol.

"There are no words to show our appreciation," one Marjory Stoneman Douglas parent said. "I once again have hope the world will be in good hands because of all of you."

A Marjory Stoneman Douglas freshman also shared her appreciation for the local march, and gave a tearful speech about losing four friends in the shooting.

"My friend had to hold her friend's hand as she passed away. Now I have to sit there and look at her empty desk sitting next to me wishing she was still there," said Stephanie Horowitz, whose brother was playing in the hockey tournament. "I need something to change."

The crowd cheered "We love you," in response, and later started to chant "MSD" — for Marjory Stoneman Douglas.



CALLIE SCHMIDT / PIONEER PRESS

Nyla Hussain, 16, a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 students were fatally shot on Feb. 14, holds a sign at the St. Paul rally.