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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



Calendar

Monday, August 27, 2018

10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Aberdeen Central @ Lee Park Golf Course Pool Hours: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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The Book is Richer as it Nears the End By Richard P. Holm, MD

I've lived a life formulated for longevity: eating right, exercising daily, and savoring friendships and family. Despite this, I still came down with cancer two years ago. I've been treated with chemo, radiation, major surgery, and now, with spread to the liver, I'm back on chemo. I'm still here and truly feel blessed and thankful for every day, but you can understand why lately I've been thinking about death.

Loving my enemies has made this easier. As our kids were growing up, I would find myself saying to them I will always love you unconditionally, but sometimes I don't like what you are doing." We should say that to our enemies, too. Here is the lesson: hate is poisonous, especially to the one who harbors it. Remember what Jesus said (as did Mohammed and Buddha), "Love your enemy." I believe hating others, even when justified, only destroys us. When angry, we should point the anger at what he or she is doing, not at the person. Use it as propulsion to fight to the tooth for the cause . . . but let go of hate. How is this related to death, you ask?

When people ask me how I contend with the prospect of my dying sooner than expected, I go right to the opposite of hate which is love. I know it sounds clichéd and unoriginal, but the word love embraces the spiritual, inner-warmth I feel when I value the other person (even if he or she is my enemy). Truly valuing others gives more meaning to my time limited life and helps take away the fear of my own death . . . but there is something more.

Some say, "One day, you'll be just a memory for some people. Do your best to be a good one." That's not bad advice, but I think the measure of our worth, after we die, has less to do with being remembered and more to do with the reflection of our actions in others. It's that Pay it Forward or that Jimmy Stewart Wonderful Life sort of thing. I believe meaning and purpose comes with the good that we do and how that moves others forward (whether they're aware of it or not).

Our lives are all like a book that becomes more precious as it nears the end, especially by savoring friendships and family, by letting go of hate and by paying good deeds forward. Why waste any time fearing death?

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Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are now through three of four preseason games after defeating the Seattle Seahawks 21-20 at U.S. Bank Stadium this past Friday. With a little over two minutes left in the game, the Vikings got the ball back and needed a touchdown to win. Vikings' third-string quarterback Kyle Sloter proceeded to move the Vikings down the field, finding Chad Beebe from 25-yards out on fourth-and-15 for a touchdown. The Vikings could have kicked an extra point and tied up the game, but because it's preseason Head Coach Mike Zimmer decided to go for a two-point conversion to win the game. Sloter found wide receiver Jake Wieneke (undrafted wide receiver from South Dakota State) who was able to haul in the pass and give the Vikings a one-point lead with 47 seconds left on the clock. Seattle had a valiant comeback and were able to complete a last-second desperation pass, but the Vikings were able to tackle the receiver at the two-yard line as time expired to secure the win.

Since it was the third preseason game, the Vikings' starters played the entire first half. Kirk Cousins completed 17 of 28 passes for 182 yards. Although he was far from perfect, Cousins looked much better than he did against the Jacksonville Jaguars. Dalvin Cook played in his first game since tearing his ACL last season, but he only got two carries before being pulled. The team just wanted to get him out there and get a couple hits under his belt, and they feel comfortable he will be ready to roll once the regular season begins.

Offensive player of the game

Kyle Sloter is my offensive player of the game. Although it was against Seattle's third-stringers, Sloter looked like the Vikings' best quarterback on Friday. He completed 11 of 15 passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns, one of which was the impressive pass to Chad Beebe with 47-seconds left in the game. Sloter has looked great this offseason and is making a case to leapfrog Trevor Siemian and become the Vikings' backup quarterback.

I also want to show a little love to Laquon Treadwell, who caught all three of the passes thrown his way for 44-yards. Treadwell has played well in training camp and likely locked up the Vikings' third wide receiver position.

Defensive player of the game

Anthony Harris had the best game of any Vikings' defender. He filled up the stat sheet with three tackles, one sack, one tackle for a loss, one pass breakup, one quarterback hit and one interception. Harris had a great game and is making his case for more playing time this season.

News and Notes

The Cincinnati Bengals surprised everyone when they cut starting safety George Iloka last week. Iloka, 28, was drafted by the Bengals when Mike Zimmer was still their defensive coordinator. Zimmer reached out to Iloka last Tuesday night and the next day the veteran safety was flying into Minnesota to sign his contract. It will be difficult for him to overtake Andrew Sendejo for the starting safety spot, but he is already familiar with Zimmer's defense so it shouldn't take him long to get up to speed.

On Sunday, the Vikings traded a 2019 seventh-round draft pick to the New York Giants for center Brett Jones. After starting his career in the CFL, Jones was signed by the Giants in 2016. He started 13 games for the Giants last season and should be good insurance for the Vikings if center Pat Elflein is unable to start the regular season.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will travel to Tennessee to battle the Titans. It will be the fourth and final preseason game for the Vikings, and most starters will not play. This game is very important, however, as it will be the last chance for the backups to prove they belong on the team's final 53-man roster. The game will be on Thursday, August 30 and will start at 7pm central time. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)!

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Today in Weather History

August 27, 1983: High winds tore through Glenham and Wakpala, destroying several structures and damaging crops. The worst damage occurred in Glenham, in Walworth County, where two mobile homes were damaged, the roof of a school torn off, and trees limbs down. A tall TV antenna was blown over, and a boat was blown off a trailer. Highs winds also tore through the Bowdle area, downing power lines and tree limbs. Numerous roofs were also damaged.

August 27, 2013: Numerous severe thunderstorms brought large hail along with wind gusts from 60 to 90 mph to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Numerous trees were downed along with many structures damaged. Eighty mph winds near Polo in Hand County snapped off two large cottonwood trees. Ninety mph winds snapped numerous trees off at their base along with destroying a garage and tipping several campers over onto their side at Cottonwood Lake near Redfield.

1854: A tornado struck downtown Louisville around noon on Sunday, August 27th, 1854. It first touched down near 25th Street, southwest of downtown and lifted at the intersection of 5th and Main Streets. Although the tornado was only on the ground for a little over two miles, the twister claimed at least 25 lives. Many of those who perished were killed in the Third Presbyterian Church, where 55 people were gathered for Sunday church services. Straight-line winds that accompanied the tornado did significant damage to the Ohio River, where at least one boat sunk.

1881: A Category 2 Hurricane made landfall between St. Simons Island and Savannah, Georgia, on this day. Landfall coincided with high tide and proved very destructive. The hurricane killed 700 people, including 335 in Savannah, making it the sixth deadliest hurricane in the United States.

1883: Krakatoa Volcano exploded in the East Indies. The explosion was heard more than 2500 miles away, and every barograph around the world recorded the passage of the airwave, up to seven times. Giant waves, 125 feet high and traveling 300 mph, devastated everything in their path, hurling ashore coral blocks weighing up to 900 tons, and killing more than 36,000 persons. Volcanic ash was carried around the globe in thirteen days producing blue and green suns in the tropics, and vivid red sunsets in higher latitudes. The temperature of the earth was lowered one degree for the next two years, finally recovering to normal by 1888.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today

Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms

High: 72 °F

Tonight



Chance T-storms then Chance Showers

Low: 52 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday Night



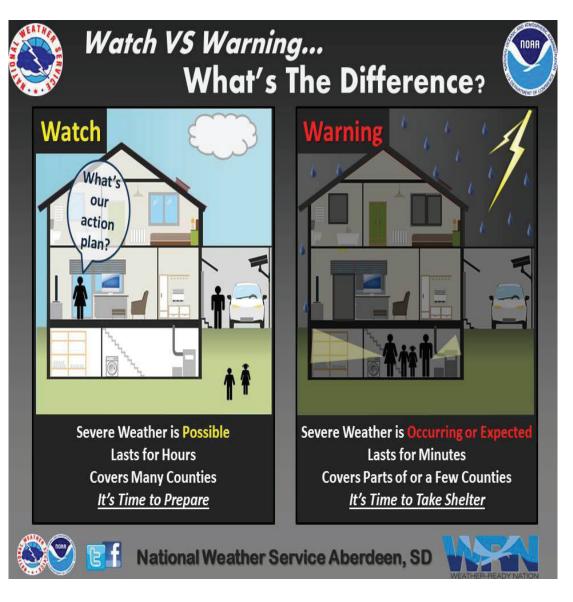
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 67 °F Low: 47 °F High: 76 °F



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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 89.7 F at 5:58 PM

Heat Index:

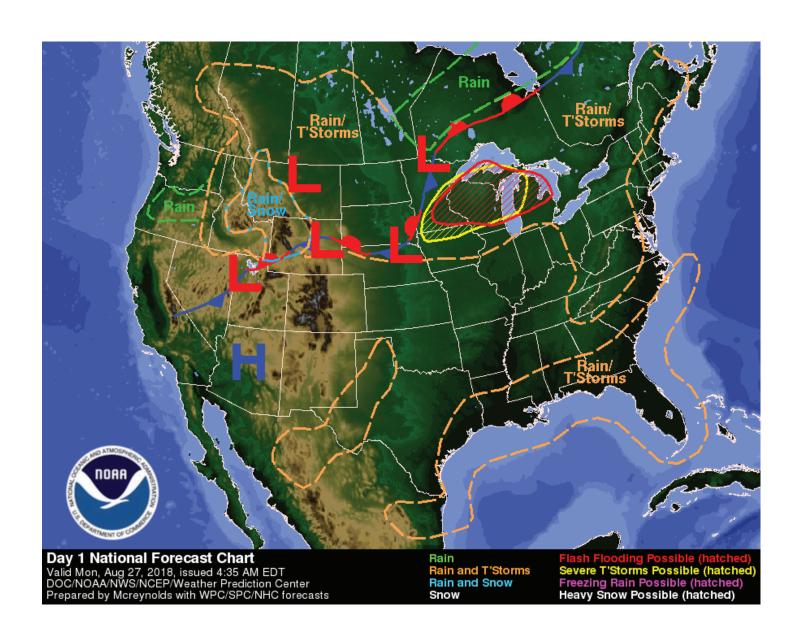
Low Outside Temp: 64.0 F at 4:41 AM High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 6:54 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 106° in 1973

Record Low: 38° in 1967 Average High: 80°F **Average Low:** 54°F

Average Precip in Aug: 2.04 Precip to date in Aug: 1.33 **Average Precip to date: 15.90 Precip Year to Date: 11.22 Sunset Tonight:** 8:20 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:50 a.m.



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BEING ALONE IS A CHOICE

We all enter this world alone, and we all depart this world alone. But we do not need to go through life alone.

A visitor walked through the Garden and then came into the office. After sitting quietly for a moment, he began to weep loudly, his body trembling. You know, he said, I am so alone and so misunderstood. I wish I belonged to somebody, anybody. I hate life with all of its bitterness and loneliness. I am afraid to die.

Continuing, he said, I have wealth and property, success and influence. But I would rather feel accepted by someone, anyone in exchange for all of my possessions.

Unfortunately, he was not aware of our Father. The Psalmist said, O, Lord, You have searched me and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know it completely, O Lord.

Many lead lonely lives because of a fear of being known - or as some might say, being found out. Being known comes from a fear of not being acceptable to others for who we are or what we might have done in the past. If you know me, so it seems, you probably wont like me.

Perhaps that may be true of people, but not God! He has searched us, knows everything about us, and in spite of it all loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die on our behalf so we can be saved. And if we accept His salvation, Hell never leave us nor forsake us.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, that You offer us a love we do not deserve and Your salvation that we cannot earn. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:2a-4b O, Lord, You have searched me and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know it completely, O Lord.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
 - 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
 - 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
 - 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
 - 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
 - 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
 - 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
 - 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
 - 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
 - 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
 - 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
 - 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
 - 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
 - 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
 - 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
 - Best Ball Golf Tourney
 - SDSU Golf Tourney
 - Sunflower Golf Tourney
 - Santa Claus Day
 - Fireman's Stag
 - Tour of Homes
 - Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
 - School Events

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News from the App Associated Press

Sioux City food distribution facility closing down

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — \tilde{A} longtime Sioux City food distribution facility will be closing next week, affecting the jobs of 30 people.

Braunger Foods is shutting down the facility Sept. 7. The company is a wholesale distributor of meat and other food products to restaurants and has operated in Sioux City for nearly 130 years. Rosemont, Illinois-based US Foods bought Braunger Foods last summer.

US Foods spokeswoman Sara Matheu says 14 employees will be leaving the company or applying for new roles at the company's Sioux Falls, South Dakota, facility, while 16 others will be added to the Sioux Falls staff.

New process created for trail proposals in Black Hills By SETH TUPPER, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Recreational trail advocates who have been frustrated by a lack of new trails in the Black Hills National Forest now have a way to make proposals.

Forest officials unveiled a Non-Motorized Trail Strategy on Aug. 16. The 29-page document includes a five-step trail proposal process.

The Rapid City Journal reports that previously, there was no process designed specifically for the consideration of trail proposals, which led to conflicts between trail advocates and forest managers.

The conflicts intensified in recent years as unauthorized trails proliferated and attracted more use, due in part to smartphone apps that allow users to trace their routes and share the information with others.

À flash point arrived in 2016 when Ruth Esperance, the forest's Mystic District ranger, threatened to criminally prosecute builders of unauthorized trails. The threat provoked a backlash among recreational trail users, especially in the mountain biking community, who accused forest officials of longstanding inaction on trail proposals.

To resolve the dispute, forest managers sought help from their citizen advisory group, the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board. The board appointed a non-motorized trail working group, which conducted a public survey and did other work that led to Thursday's release of the new Non-Motorized Trail Strategy.

Friday, two members of the nonprofit Black Hills Trails organization said they plan to submit a proposal during the next few weeks to add the existing — but unauthorized — Storm Mountain trails near Rockerville to the forest's official trail system.

The Storm Mountain trails are perhaps 15 to 20 miles in length and were built years ago by rogue trail enthusiasts. Despite being unofficial trails, they receive frequent use by the public.

"We're hoping this will be the first proposal to move forward under the new process," said Samuel Greear, executive director of Black Hills Trails.

Once submitted, the proposal will be subjected to the new five-step review process, which includes the consideration of numerous factors, including the estimated cost of trail construction or re-routing; the potential effect of the project on the environment; and the plan for the trail's long-term maintenance. The five-step review will be conducted in private by Black Hills National Forest officials.

The forest supervisor will then decide whether to advance the proposal to a public review process, which would be conducted under the terms of the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA.

Depending on the complexity of the proposal, the NEPA process could include a formal environmental analysis, which could cost an estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000 and could be billed to the proposing entity — in this case, Black Hills Trails. At the end of the NEPA process, the forest supervisor will make a final decision on the proposal.

Neither the new trail strategy nor a set of newly created trail-proposal forms includes a deadline for a

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final decision. Black Hills Trails board member Kevin Forrester identified that as a potential weakness of the new strategy.

"It gives you a bunch of paperwork to fill out," Forrester said, "but it doesn't come with any timeline expectation."

Annie Apodaca, recreation and lands program manager for the Black Hills National Forest, said the entire process from initial proposal to final decision is likely to take several months, or longer. Sufficient time for a review is necessary, Apodaca said, to avoid building trails that cause environmental problems such as erosion, to avoid building trails that are unsafe for public use, and to avoid building trails that lack a viable plan for long-term maintenance.

Apodaca is hopeful the new strategy will help forest officials enforce those protections while still providing opportunities for trail enthusiasts to propose new trails and receive a decision. Forest officials know they might receive a flood of proposals from individuals, Apodaca said, but they are hoping for fewer and well-researched proposals from groups of trail advocates.

Besides the five-step review process, the new strategy includes a compilation of trail statistics. The Black Hills National Forest already has 341 miles of non-motorized trails, the strategy says, plus at least 120 miles of unauthorized trails that were built by the public without approval from forest managers. Other local, state and federal agencies in the Black Hills have an additional 314 miles of non-motorized trails.

There is public demand for more trails, and trail advocates including Greear and Forrester hope to make headway under the new strategy. They are eager to test the new proposal process but are also concerned that it might not be applied consistently across the forest's four districts, that proposal costs borne by nonprofits such as theirs might prove unfair or excessive, and that proposals could still get bogged down in bureaucratic limbo for years.

Apodaca said she views the release of the new strategy as a turning point in the sometimes contentious relationship between trail advocates and forest officials.

"I have high hopes that great things will happen," she said. "We have a great trail system, and I hope this makes it even better."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, http://www.rapidcityjournal.com

Mitchell native undergoes successful transplant By ELLEN BARDASH, Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — In mid-July, Kadie Neuharth went to Phoenix to increase her chances of getting a new heart.

Earlier this month, she got that chance.

The Daily Republic reports that Neuharth, now 31, started showing signs of restrictive idiopathic cardiomyopathy, a rare disease affecting the muscles of the heart, when she was 27. At about 8 p.m. Aug. 14, Neuharth got word that a match had been found. She had her six-hour surgery Wednesday afternoon and spent the night in the intensive care unit.

"It was life-changing, and I'm sure for her the most exciting news she could've ever heard," said Neuharth's mother, Karmen McCain. "The waiting is so hard, the waiting and the unknown. They finally say, "We have a match, we have a heart' — the adrenaline kicks in and you're just pumped and happy and ready to go. That part's in the rearview mirror."

The decision to go to Phoenix was a strategic one. The United States is divided into 11 transplantation districts. When an organ becomes available, it goes to someone on the transplant list in that region, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In order for a heart to be a match with someone on the transplant list, blood type and antibodies must be the same in the donor and the recipient, and the heart must be proportional in size to the person receiving it. People on the list are matched with hearts that meet those criteria, with the sickest people being prioritized first.

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Neuharth, a Mitchell native who began receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was originally only on the transplant list for Region 7, which includes most of the upper Midwest.

Neuharth has become well known in Rochester and in Minnesota's Twin Cities, as she was selected to be the year's Go Red for Women campaign spokeswoman for the American Heart Association in the area. But she decided to go to Phoenix last month so she could also get on the transplant list in Region 5, which includes more populous states such as California, Arizona and Nevada.

"If I would've stayed up in our region, it would've probably been a year," Neuharth said. "I was listed in both places, knowing that I would probably not get a heart in Rochester."

Prior to her surgery, Neuharth would've been exhausted after walking up a few flights of stairs. Just 24 hours after her heart transplant, she was up and walking around her bed. On Friday, she walked around an entire floor of the hospital.

"It's been absolutely amazing. That's the only word for it," McCain said. "Physically, she will probably have no restrictions down the road. Once everything is good to go, you can literally train to run a marathon, if that's what you choose to do."

For now, Neuharth will be staying in a condo a few minutes from the hospital, but once she gets approval from her doctors, she plans to head back to the Rochester area, where she'll do most of her follow-up appointments. To keep her immune system from attacking her new heart, she'll have to take an anti-rejection drug for the rest of her life, but there aren't many activities that will be off-limits for Neuharth after she recovers from her surgery.

"The only thing I really can't do is eat sushi," she said.

Neuharth will have to spend a few more days in the hospital in Phoenix, but after that, her hospital visits will gradually become less frequent. At first, she'll have to get almost daily blood work done and have frequent testing on her heart to make sure it's not being rejected, but if everything is still going well a year from now, she may only have to see a doctor once every few months.

Information from: The Daily Republic, http://www.mitchellrepublic.com

South Dakota school moves forward with arts center proposal

BERESFORD, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota school board has scheduled a bond election in October for a \$15 million project that would include a performing arts center attached to a high school.

About 60 percent of voters will need to approve the Beresford School Board's proposal, The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

The proposal includes the performing arts center, a student commons lobby, an auxiliary gym and a community-access fitness center, said Brian Field, superintendent of the Beresford School District.

"We hope it becomes a reality," Field said. "We'll know in less than two months."

The project would be funded by the \$11 million bond, about \$2 million from the Community Capital Campaign and the rest through capital outlay certificates.

"We are going to host another community input night coming up here in September," Field said. "We are also going to be sending out flyers and information to our district residents, too, that have all the information about the project, why we need it and we're going to include information on the impact it will have on taxpayers, the \$11 million bond."

The campaign has collected more than \$800,000 so far, Field said. The campaign will next start a theater seat fundraiser with the goal of raising aan \$750,000. Supporters can spend \$1,000 to purchase an engraved plate on a theater seat.

The Watchdog Legacy Project spearheaded the effort to finance the project. The group was formed after initial work on the project indicated the need for an increased scope.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, http://www.yankton.net/

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South Dakota police force gets \$40,000 body camera grant

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota police department has received a \$40,000 state grant to equip its officers with body cameras in an effort to improve transparency.

The Yankton Police Department has spent nearly a year researching the equipment, The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported. Former Chief Brian Paulsen began testing camera models earlier this year. Models tested included body-worn camera and cameras mounted onto glasses.

The grant from the South Dakota attorney general's office will cover the purchase of 30 cameras that will equip the whole department, said John Harris, the interim police chief. The money was made available from the state's asset forfeiture funds, he said.

"It really is good for the officers, from our standpoint as a city, because it protects us from people making allegations that aren't true against us," Harris said. "It also protects the citizens because it makes sure that everything we do and those actions are on tape and there's no question of what happened."

The length of time videos will be kept will depend on the severity of the situation, Harris said.

"The more serious events are kept in evidence until they're no longer needed," he said. "In some cases, they'll be kept forever — for example, in a homicide case, anything like that would be kept literally forever. Traffic stops and those things, its 60 days we keep them and then they go away."

Harris said some cameras have already been deployed and the rest will be purchased in the coming days.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, http://www.yankton.net/

Shooting at esports event raises calls for more security By TAMARA LUSH and RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A champion gamer's decision to open fire Sunday afternoon during a video competition — killing two people and wounding nine others before killing himself — has prompted calls from gamers for more security at esports tournaments.

"It's very clear that we need to be more proactive for 2019 and beyond," tweeted Joey Cuellar, the tournament director for the Evolution Championship Series, an esports event that focuses on fighting games.

The tournament is held in Las Vegas and draws some 15,000 people. In March, organizers called the FBI when someone wrote online: "mass shooting @EVO18 see you there."

That event went off without a hitch, but Cuellar also wrote on Sunday: "The amount of undercover law enforcement at Evo was unprecedented, and we will be installing metal detectors for ALL days next year."

Esports are big business. A Goldman Sachs report in 2017 valued eSports at \$500 million in 2016 and anticipated market growth. Entire companies have sprung up to form e-sports teams, and the Milwaukee Bucks NBA team sponsors an esports team (One of their players was injured in Sunday's shooting). And it's no wonder that everyone wants in on the action — careers can be made and millionaires are minted. Epic Games announced in May it will provide \$100 million to fund prize pools for "Fortnite" tournaments during the first year of competition.

At Sunday's Madden competition, the tournament was streamed live on Twitch.tv, an online network that attracts tens of millions of visitors, most of whom watch footage of other people playing video games.

This weekend's "Madden 19 NFL Classic" was the first of four planned events.

According to the EA sports website - the game's developer — the top two finishers at the Jacksonville event would earn a spot in Madden Classic main event in Las Vegas, Nevada, that's scheduled for October.

There in Las Vegas, competitors will play for a share of the tournament's \$165K prize pool, with the winner taking home \$25,000.

It's unclear what kind of security was at the event, which was held at a game bar inside a waterfront mall. Derek Jones of Santa Fe, New Mexico, came to Jacksonville to compete in the Madden tournament and was sitting in a fenced-in patio outside the venue when he heard the gunshots Sunday. Jones, 26, said he jumped the fence and ran.

Jones said he didn't notice any security —either private security guards or off-duty police officers— at

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the venue. He said it's a complaint he's had with tournament organizers in the past.

"I've been telling them this for a while that you need to make the players feel safe," Jones said.

He recalled a past Madden opponent who once kept screaming during their match that he was going to beat Jones up after the game. But Jones said that's the only time before Sunday he ever felt physically threatened.

Electronic Arts, the Madden game developer, released a statement calling the shooting horrific and senseless. "Our focus right now is on those affected, and supporting law enforcement as they continue their investigation into this crime."

Some top players and industry watchers said Sunday that security hasn't caught up with the seriousness of the sport.

"Heartbreaking to hear about the shooting at the Madden event," wrote Cristian Tamas, the director of esports programs for Twitch, the platform that broadcasts gamers' live streams. "Unfortunately, this was a matter of when not if. Esport event security, in general, has been extremely poor over the years, we should've stepped it up long ago."

In December, the Call of Duty World League tournament held in Dallas was evacuated — twice — due to bomb threats.

Seth Abner, an XGames Gold Medalist and Call of Duty World Champion, wrote on Twitter in the wake of Sunday's shooting: "I've been saying events NEED better security. Such a damn shame that now event coordinators will respond after a tragedy happens."

Some gamers say the pressure of competition, the desire to please fans and the intense gaming can lead to anxiety and mental health issues, or worse.

"In the world of competitive video games, mental health issues loom so large and come up so often that the problem somehow becomes invisible," wrote Tyler Erzberger, who covers esports for ESPN. "In a world where one day you can go from playing in your bedroom to the next being criticized by millions under spotlights, mental health can't be overlooked."

His article on mental health and gamers ran online Friday. On Sunday, he tweeted that "99% of the Esports events i've been to have had decent to very good security."

A life of courage, politics came down to 1 vote for McCain By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For John McCain, a lifetime of courage, contradictions and contrarianism came down to one vote, in the middle of the night, in the twilight of his career.

The fate of President Donald Trump's long effort to repeal Barack Obama's health care law hung in the balance as a Senate roll call dragged on past 1 a.m. on a July night in 2017.

Then came McCain — 80 years old, recently diagnosed with brain cancer, his face still scarred from surgery, striding with purpose toward the well of the Senate.

The Arizona Republican raised his right arm, paused for dramatic effect and flashed a determined thumbs-down, drawing gasps from both sides of the aisle.

Trump's health care bill was dead. McCain's lifelong reputation as free thinker, never to be intimidated, was very much alive.

It was the capstone of a political career that had taken McCain from the House to the Senate to the Republican presidential nomination, but never to his ultimate goal, the White House.

McCain, who faced down his captors in a Vietnamese prison of war camp and later turned his trademark defiance into a political asset, died Saturday. He was 81.

With his irascible grin and fighter-pilot moxie, McCain won election to the House from Arizona twice and the Senate six times. But twice he was thwarted in his quest for the presidency. His upstart bid for president in 2000 took flight in New Hampshire only to be quickly flattened in South Carolina.

Eight years later, he fought back from the brink of defeat to win the GOP nomination, only to be overpowered by Democrat Obama in the general election. McCain had chosen a little-known Alaska governor

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as his running mate for that race, and in the process helped turn Sarah Palin into a political celebrity.

After losing to Obama in an electoral landslide, McCain returned to the Senate determined not to be defined by a failed presidential campaign in which his reputation as a maverick had faded. In the politics of the moment and in national political debate over the decades, McCain energetically advanced his ideas and punched back hard at critics — Trump not least among them.

Scion of a decorated military family, McCain embraced his role as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, pushing for aggressive U.S. military intervention overseas and eager to contribute to "defeating the forces of radical Islam that want to destroy America."

Asked how he wanted to be remembered, McCain said simply: "That I made a major contribution to the defense of the nation."

Taking a long look back in his valedictory memoir, "The Restless Wave," McCain wrote of the world he inhabited: "I hate to leave it. But I don't have a complaint. Not one. It's been quite a ride. I've known great passions, seen amazing wonders, fought in a war, and helped make a peace. ... I made a small place for myself in the story of America and the history of my times."

Throughout his decades in Congress, McCain played his role with trademark verve, at one hearing dismissing a protester by calling out, "Get out of here, you low-life scum."

McCain stuck by the party's 2016 presidential nominee, Trump, at times seemingly through gritted teeth — until the release a month before the election of a lewd audio in which Trump said he could kiss and grab women. Declaring that the breaking point, McCain withdrew his support and said he would write in "some good conservative Republican who's qualified to be president."

He had largely held his tongue earlier in the campaign when Trump questioned McCain's status as a war hero by saying: "He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

McCain, with unusual restraint, said that was offensive to veterans, but "the best thing to do is put it behind us and move forward."

But by the time McCain cast his vote against the GOP health bill, six months into Trump's presidency, the two men were openly at odds. Trump railed against McCain publicly over the vote, and McCain remarked that he no longer listened to what Trump had to say because "there's no point in it."

Unafraid of contradictions, McCain himself had campaigned against Obama's health care law, but voted against its repeal because Republicans had flouted what he called the "old way of legislating," with full-fledged debate, amendments and committee hearings on the final bill.

In his final months, McCain did not go quietly, frequently jabbing at Trump and his policies from the remove of his Hidden Valley family retreat in Arizona. He opposed the president's nominee for CIA director because of her past role in overseeing torture, scolded Trump for alienating U.S. allies at an international summit, labeled the administration's zero-tolerance immigration policy "an affront to the decency of the American people" and denounced the Trump-Vladimir Putin summit in Helsinki as a "tragic mistake" in which Trump put on "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory."

On Aug. 13, Trump signed into law a \$716 billion defense policy bill named in honor of the senator. Trump signed the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act in a ceremony at a military base in New York — without one mention of McCain.

Over a 31-year career in the Senate, McCain became a standard-bearer for reforming campaign donations. He railed against pork-barrel spending for legislators' pet projects and cultivated a reputation as a deficit hawk and an independent voice. He even attacked senators' own perks of office, such as free, up-close parking spots at Washington airports.

But faced with a tough GOP challenge for his Senate seat in 2010, McCain disowned chapters in his past and turned to the right on a number of hot-button issues, including gays in the military, immigration and climate change.

When the Supreme Court in 2010 overturned the campaign finance restrictions that he had worked so hard to enact, McCain said he was disappointed, but he seemed resigned to their demise.

"I don't think there's much that can be done, to tell you the truth," he said. "It is what it is."

After surviving the 2010 election, McCain wasn't about to roll over on any number of other issues. Dur-

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ing a long and heated 2011 debate in Congress over the federal debt, McCain dismissed conservatives' arguments against raising the government's borrowing limit as "bizarro" and foolish. In a 2014 hearing, he lit into Secretary of State John Kerry for "talking strongly and carrying a very small stick — in fact, a twig" on foreign policy.

Obama's vice president, Joe Biden, offered his own summation for a senator whom he described as "quixotic."

"I think John's legacy is that he never quits," Biden said in a 2015 interview.

Over a lifetime in politics, McCain's anti-authoritarian streak was both his greatest asset and Achilles' heel. Often disinclined to follow the herd, McCain achieved his biggest legislative successes when making alliances with Democrats. He also piled up a full repertoire of over-the-top wisecracks, and had enough flare-ups with colleagues to cement a reputation as a hothead. Some questioned whether he had the right temperament to be president.

McCain's challenge always was to strike the right balance, offering himself both as a rabble-rouser and a reliable Republican standard-bearer.

John Sidney McCain III's history as a Vietnam POW for 5½ years after being shot out of the sky at age 31 was a powerful part of his back story as the son and grandson of four-star admirals.

When his Vietnamese captors offered him early release as a propaganda ploy, McCain refused to play along.

"Now it will be very bad for you, Mac Kane," they told him, and they were true to their word.

McCain returned home from his years as a POW on crutches and unable to lift his arms. Never again could he raise them above his head.

He once said he'd "never known a prisoner of war who felt he could fully explain the experience to anyone who had not shared it."

Indeed, he seemed more at ease joking about his incarceration than analyzing it.

More than once he quipped after a distasteful experience: "That's the most fun I've had since my last interrogation."

In his darkest hour in Vietnam, McCain's will was broken and he signed a confession that said, "I am a black criminal and I have performed deeds of an air pirate."

For all of that, though, McCain defied his guards. To his captors, just as to his superiors back at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, he was exasperating.

"He had to carry a different burden than most of us and he handled it beautifully," Orson Swindle, a former POW cellmate, once said. "He didn't need any coping mechanism; that's just built into him."

Even in prison, McCain played to the bleachers, shouting obscenities at his captors loudly enough to bolster the spirits of fellow captives. Appointed by the POWs to act as camp "entertainment officer," a "room chaplain" and a "communications officer," McCain imparted comic relief, literary tutorials, news of the day, even religious sustenance.

Bud Day, a former cellmate and Medal of Honor recipient, said McCain's POW experience "took some great iron and turned him into steel."

McCain once said that Vietnam "wasn't a turning point in me as to what type of person I am, but it was a bit of a turning point in me appreciating the value of serving a cause greater than your self-interest."

It taught him, he said, "that if you put your country first, that everything will be OK."

Still, a predilection for what McCain described as "quick tempers, adventurous spirits, and love for the country's uniform" was encoded in the family DNA.

His father and grandfather, the Navy's first father-and-son set of four-star admirals, had set such a low standard for behavior at the Naval Academy that John Sidney McCain III's self-described "four-year course of insubordination and rebellion" got little more than a yawn from his family.

Speaking of his father, McCain once pronounced himself "little short of astonished by the old man's reckless disregard for the rules."

And yet for all the raucous tales of misconduct, the midshipmen of the McCain family abided by the

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school's honor code not to lie, cheat or steal.

McCain's Vietnam experience gave him new confidence in himself and his judgment. But it did not tame his wild side, and his first marriage was a casualty. McCain blamed the failure of the marriage on "my own selfishness and immaturity" and has called it "my greatest moral failing."

One month after divorcing his first wife, Carol, McCain married Cindy Hensley, 17 years his junior.

McCain's war story made him a celebrity in Washington. When he became the Navy's liaison to the Senate, he quickly established friendships with some of the younger senators, who would stop by his office, put their feet up, and chew over the events of the day. The experience opened McCain's eyes to the impact that politicians could have, and to the notion that he could be one of them.

His marriage to Cindy, the daughter of a wealthy beer distributor in Arizona, helped clear the path forward. In one day, McCain signed his Navy discharge papers and flew west with his new wife to his new life. By 1982, he'd been elected to the House and four years later to an open Senate seat. He and Cindy had four children, to add to the three from his first marriage. Their youngest child was adopted from Mother Teresa's orphanage in Bangladesh.

McCain set about establishing a conservative voting record and a reputation as a tightwad with taxpayer dollars. But just months into his Senate career, he made what he called "the worst mistake of his life." He participated in two meetings with banking regulators on behalf of Charles Keating, a friend, campaign contributor, constituent and savings and loan financier who was later convicted of securities fraud.

The S&L situation simmered for a few years, but eventually boiled over, and McCain got burned.

As the industry collapsed, McCain was tagged as one of the Keating Five — five senators who, to varying degrees, were accused of trying to get regulators to ease up on Keating. McCain was cited for lesser involvement than the others by the Senate ethics committee, which faulted his "poor judgment."

But to have his honor questioned, he said, was in some ways worse than the torture he endured in Vietnam. He spent years trying to live down the taint.

Another move McCain would eventually say he regretted came earlier in his career as a lawmaker when in 1983 he voted against establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a federal holiday. In doing so he followed the political tradition of Arizona, which was the last state to recognize the holiday for the slain civil rights leader.

In the 1990s, McCain shouldered another wrenching issue, the long effort to account for American soldiers still missing from the war and to normalize relations with Vietnam.

"People don't remember how ugly the POW-MIA issue was," former Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey, a fellow Vietnam veteran, later recalled, crediting McCain for standing up to significant opposition. "I heard people scream in his face, holding him responsible for the deaths of POWs."

Few politicians matched McCain's success as an author. His 1999 release "Faith Of My Fathers" was a million-seller that was highly praised and helped launch his run for president in 2000. His most recent best-seller and planned farewell, "The Restless Wave," came out in May 2018.

More reporting on John McCain can be found at https://apnews.com/tag/JohnMcCain

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at http://twitter.com/nbenac

Filling McCain's seat a political balancing act for governor By MELISSA DANIELS and NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Sen. John McCain's death in office has handed Arizona's governor an empty Senate seat to give out — and a difficult political puzzle to solve before he does.

Arizona law requires only that Gov. Doug Ducey name a replacement who is a member of McCain's Republican Party and who will fill the seat until the next general election in 2020. But in a state with a deeply divided Republican Party, where McCain was a towering but divisive figure, the choice is far more complicated.

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Ducey is balancing the demands of the many conservative Arizona Republicans who have soured on McCain due to his dovish immigration stance, criticism of President Donald Trump and vote against a rollback of President Barack Obama's health care law. They are wary of Ducey appointing a moderate. But naming someone with dramatically different views from McCain could be viewed as disrespectful to McCain's legacy, carrying its own risks. In either case, Ducey wants to set the party up to hold the seat two years from now, no easy task given the turmoil in his party.

The decision is under close scrutiny in Washington. While McCain has been treated for cancer in Arizona and unable to vote in Washington, his party's already narrow Senate majority had shrunk from two votes to one. With the confirmation of Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, scheduled for next month the GOP needs every reliable vote it can get. Ducey's office has heard from Vice President Mike Pence's aides about the choice, a person familiar with the discussions said Sunday. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and asked for anonymity.

A day after McCain's death, political types from Arizona to Washington were buzzing with options. The senator's wife, Cindy McCain, was viewed as a possibility, as was former Sen. John Kyl and former McCain chief of staff, Grant Woods. Another group of former lawmakers and state officials were floated as middle-ground options — including Ducey's chief of staff Kirk Adams — who might not anger the right wing of the party.

"If he picks someone too far left, we're going to have a primary in two years," said Constantine Querard, a conservative Republican strategist.

Ducey himself faces a weak primary challenge from his right in the state's primary elections Tuesday, and spokesman Daniel Ruiz said on Sunday that the appointment will not be made until after McCain's funeral, which will likely be next week.

"Now is a time for remembering and honoring a consequential life well lived," Ruiz's statement said.

Doug Cole, a former McCain staffer and veteran Arizona strategist, said one of Ducey's key choices has to be whether he wants to name someone who wants the job for the long term. "Do I appoint a caretaker or do I appoint someone who will stand for election?" Cole asked. "Does he choose from the family?"

Some observers predict the governor will be solicitous to the McCain family's wishes. That's led to widespread speculation that Cindy McCain could be selected, likely under the assumption that she would not run for the seat in 2020. But Cindy McCain's politics are largely unknown.

Another caretaker option would be Kyl, now a Washington lobbyist viewed as a safe, uncontroversial choice. But Kyl already is tasked with shepherding the Kavanaugh nomination and Republicans may be loath to upend that process.

Barrett Marson, a Republican strategist in Phoenix, said that if Ducey opts for someone with long-term designs on the seat, "he has to pick someone who can galvanize voters in 2020."

Woods, a former Arizona attorney general and McCain aide, is another possibility. But he is known for sharing McCain's stances on immigration, which could be anathema to the state's conservative voters.

Arizona operatives speculate that one of two former congressmen from the state, John Shadegg and Matt Salmon, could fill the seat. They're both GOP stalwarts who don't have a history of feuding with the base, as is Adams, Ducey's top aide and a onetime speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives. State Treasurer Eileen Klein could also be a strong candidate in 2020 if Ducey wants to pick someone who'd run for election rather than a caretaker, according to Republican operatives.

The person who was previously seen as McCain's most likely successor is Arizona Rep. Martha McSally. Like the late senator, she's a former fighter pilot — one of the first women to fly in combat and an air force colonel. But she is running for the Senate seat vacated by Sen. Jeff Flake, who, like McCain, outraged the state's conservative base for bucking Trump on immigration and other issues.

Like Ducey, McSally faces a primary on Tuesday, but her challenge from the right has been stiffer than the governor's. It's also illustrated how fraught the McCain issue is for Arizona Republicans.

One of her rivals, former state senator Kelli Ward, ran against McCain in the 2016 GOP primary. On Saturday, hours before McCain died, Ward speculated on Facebook that the McCain family announced the

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senator was ending medical treatment on Friday to distract from her final push in the primary.

In a sign of how hostile many GOP primary voters are to the state's late senior senator, earlier this month McSally had avoided mentioning McCain's name while boasting that she'd been with Trump at the signing of the defense bill named in McCain's honor. McCain supporters and the senator's daughter Meghan lacerated McSally for following the president's lead in not mentioning McCain.

McSally said she didn't intend to snub McCain and went on to praise him.

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed from Washington.

UN team: Myanmar military chiefs should face 'genocide' case By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Investigators working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said Monday that Myanmar military leaders should be prosecuted for genocide against Rohingya Muslims, taking the unusual step of identifying six by name to pinpoint the main alleged perpetrators of deadly, systematic crimes against the ethnic minority.

The call, accompanying a first report by the team of investigators, amounts to some of the strongest language yet from U.N. officials who have denounced alleged human rights violations in Myanmar since a bloody crackdown began last August.

The three-member "fact-finding mission" and their team, working under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, meticulously assembled hundreds of accounts from expatriate Rohingya, as well as satellite footage and other information to assemble the report.

"The military's contempt for human life, dignity and freedom — for international law in general — should be a cause of concern for the entire population of Myanmar, and to the international community as a whole," said fact-finding mission chair Marzuki Darusman, a former Indonesian attorney-general, at a news conference.

The council created the mission in March last year — nearly six months before a string of deadly rebel attacks on security and police posts set off a crackdown that drove Rohingya to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The U.N. estimated that more than 700,000 have fled.

The team compiled accounts of crimes including gang rape, the torching of hundreds of villages, enslavement, and killings of children — some before their eyes of their own parents. The team was not granted access to Myanmar and has decried a lack of cooperation or even response from the government, which received an early copy of the report.

The team cited a "conservative" estimate from aid group Reporters Without Borders that some 10,000 people were killed in the violence, but outside investigators have had no access to the affected regions — making a precise accounting elusive, if not impossible.

Above all, the investigators said the situation in Myanmar should be referred to the International Criminal Court, and if not, to a special tribunal. Last week, Myanmar's government rejected any cooperation with the ICC, to which it is not a party. China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with veto power over whether the issue will be brought before the ICC, has been reticent about condemning Myanmar's government during the crisis.

U.N. leaders, foreign government officials, and human rights watchers have for months cited evidence of genocide in Myanmar, and the United States late last year said that "ethnic cleansing" was occurring in Myanmar. But few experts have studied the issue as in-depth, and in such an official way, as the fact-finding mission with a mandate from the 46-nation council.

The United Nations does not apply the word "genocide" lightly. The team's assessment suggests the crimes against the Rohingya could meet the strict legal definition, which was last applied to state-supported abuses with respect to crimes in Bosnia and Rwanda nearly a quarter-century ago.

Human rights watchers say that determining "genocidal intent" is perhaps the most difficult criteria to meet: In essence, it's the task of assessing the mindsets of perpetrators to determine if ethnicity, race,

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religion or another attribute had motivated them.

"The crimes in Rakhine state, and the manner in which they were perpetrated, are similar in nature, gravity and scope to those that have allowed genocidal intent to be established in other contexts," the report said, alluding to a region of Myanmar that is home for many Rohingya.

Adding into their assessment: The extreme brutality of the crimes; "hate rhetoric" and specific speech by perpetrators and military commanders; policies of exclusion against Rohingya people; an "oppressive

context;" and the "level of organization indicating a plan for destruction."

The investigators cited six Myanmar military leaders as "priority subjects" for possible prosecution, including the commander-in-chief, Min Aung Hlaing. A longer list of names is to be kept in the office of the U.N. human rights chief for possible use in future judicial proceedings. The United States and European Union have already slapped sanctions on some Myanmar military leaders, though Min Aung Hlaing is not among them.

"The main perpetrator, the people that we want the spotlight on, is the Tatmadaw," said mission member Radhika Coomaraswamy, a Sri Lankan former U.N. undersecretary-general, referring to Myanmar's military.

Christopher Sidoti, an Australian human rights expert, acknowledged that no "smoking gun" linked the six military leaders directly to orders to carry out genocide, but pointed to inferences of their role based on a strict chain of command in Myanmar.

The authors called for the creation of a special body, or "mechanism," to keep watch on the still-evolving human rights situation in Myanmar. They said the United Nations' own role in the country since 2011 should be reviewed to see if the world body did all it could to prevent such a crisis.

They also faulted Aung San Suu Kyi for not using her role as head of Myanmar's government, nor her "moral authority" — she is a Nobel peace prize laureate — to stop the events in embattled Rakhine state.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Myanmar is not a member of the Human Rights Council

Services for McCain set for Phoenix, Washington, Annapolis By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John McCain's service to his country began more than six decades ago at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and will end there in a cemetery overlooking Maryland's Severn River.

A private burial service next Sunday will conclude nearly a week of events honoring the Navy aviator, prisoner of war, congressman, longtime senator and presidential contender. The Arizona Republican died of brain cancer Saturday at 81 at his ranch near Sedona.

Plans taking shape called for McCain to lie in state Wednesday in the Arizona State Capitol on what would have been his 82nd birthday. A funeral will be conducted Thursday at North Phoenix Baptist Church with former Vice President Joe Biden speaking.

In Washington, McCain will lie in state Friday in the Capitol Rotunda with a formal ceremony and time for the public to pay respects. On Saturday, a procession will pass the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and arrive for a funeral at Washington National Cathedral. Former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama are expected to speak at the service.

A private funeral is planned for Sunday afternoon at the Naval Academy Chapel followed by a private burial at the academy cemetery. As he wished, McCain will be buried next to a Naval Academy classmate and lifelong friend, Chuck Larson.

President Donald Trump was not expected to attend any of the services. McCain had long feuded with Trump, and two White House officials said McCain's family had asked, before the senator's death, that Trump not attend services. Vice President Mike Pence is likely to attend, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

Trump noted the senator's death in a tweet Saturday: "My deepest sympathies and respect go out to the family of Senator John McCain. Our hearts and prayers are with you!" First lady Melania Trump tweeted thanks to McCain for his service to the country.

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Bush and Obama had been McCain's political opponents, too, blocking his White House ambitions in 2000 and 2008, respectively. "These were bitter contests, both of them," Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," and "to ask them to speak at your funeral, and for them to be honored at the opportunity, that tells you all you need to know."

One of McCain's long-serving Senate colleagues, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Sunday, "The nation mourns the loss of a great American patriot, a statesman who put his country first and enriched this institution through many years of service."

With McCain set to be honored in Arizona's Capitol, GOP Gov. Doug Ducey said in a tweet, "This is a rare and distinct occurrence for a truly special man."

Ducey did not plan to announce his selection of a Senate successor to McCain until after McCain's burial. Under state law, the governor's appointee to serve until the next general election, in 2020, must come from the same political party.

Tributes poured in from around the globe. French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted in English that McCain "was a true American hero. He devoted his entire life to his country." Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said McCain's support for the Jewish state "never wavered. It sprang from his belief in democracy and freedom." And Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, called McCain "a tireless fighter for a strong trans-Atlantic alliance. His significance went well beyond his own country."

McCain was the son and grandson of admirals and followed them to the U.S. Naval Academy. A pilot, he was shot down over Vietnam and held as a prisoner of war for more than five years. He went on to win a seat in the House and in 1986, the Senate, where he served for the rest of his life.

"He had a joy about politics and a love for his country that was unmatched," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., told CNN's "State of the Union." 'And while he never made it to the presidency, in the Senate, he was the leader that would see a hot spot in the world and just say, we need to go there and stand up for that democracy."

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman

Competitor: No one deserves to die over playing a videogame By RUSS BYNUM and BRENDAN FARRINGTON, Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Marquis Williams and Taylor Poindexter at first thought they heard a balloon popping. When the loud bangs kept coming, the Chicago couple and fellow video gamers attending a weekend tournament recognized them as gunfire and began scrambling for an exit.

As he fled, Williams, 28, said, he could see the back of the gunman's head as the attacker appeared to be walking backward as he fired.

"We didn't see like a face," Poindexter, 26, told reporters a few hours after the attack, standing on crutches after spraining her ankle trying to escape. "We did see him with two hands on a gun, walking back just popping rounds."

The couple said people trampled others in the panic to escape. They ran to a nearby restaurant, where workers were waving people inside, and hid in a bathroom until police arrived.

The deadly violence stunned gamers competing Sunday in Jacksonville during a "Madden NFL 19" video game tournament. Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams said the gunman killed two people and shot nine others before fatally shooting himself.

The competition was held in a gaming bar that shares space with a pizzeria. Viewers could watch the games online and see the players.

Williams said authorities believe 24-year-old David Katz of Baltimore carried out the attack using at least one handgun at the Jacksonville Landing, a collection of restaurants and shops along the St. Johns River. He said final confirmation of the suspect's identity was pending as the FBI in Baltimore aided in

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the investigation.

The sheriff said Katz was attending the tournament in Florida. The "Madden" game's maker, EA Sports, lists a David Katz as a 2017 championship winner.

Authorities did not give a motive for the shootings.

"No one deserves to die over playing a videogame, you know?" said "Madden" competitor Derek Jones, 30, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. "We're just out here trying to win some money for our families and stuff."

Jones said he was sitting in a back patio outside the tournament venue when he heard the gunshots Sunday. He jumped a fence and ran, leaving behind his backpack and cellphone.

"You know, I'm glad I lost today," Jones said. "Because if I'd won, I would have been in that game bar right then playing a game and not paying attention. And he could have come and I'd probably be dead right now."

Jones said he knew Katz by the gamer tags he used online — often "Bread" or "Sliced Bread" — and had played against him online but had never spoken to him personally.

Nine other people wounded by the gunfire were all in stable condition Sunday evening after being taken to hospitals, Williams said. He added that two others were injured in the rush to flee the gunfire.

Investigators were looking into an online video that appeared to capture the scene right before the shooting began, Williams said. A red dot that appears to be a laser pointer is visible on the chest of a player seconds before the first of about a dozen gunshots rings out.

Jason Lake, the founder and CEO of compLexity, a company that owns professional esports teams, said on Twitter that one of his players, 19-year-old Drini Gjoka, was shot in the thumb.

Gjoka tweeted: "The tourney just got shot up. Im leavinng and never coming back." Then: "I am literally so lucky. The bullet hit my thumb. Worst day of my life."

On Sunday evening, the FBI said, its agents searched a family home of the man authorities believed was behind the attack.

Heavily armed agents, some in bulletproof vests and brandishing long guns, could be seen entering an upscale townhome complex near Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

An FBI spokesman, Dave Fitz, confirmed that agents had gone to the house of the man's father in Baltimore. He declined to release specifics, citing the ongoing investigation. T.J. Smith, chief spokesman for the Baltimore Police Department, also said that the agency was assisting law enforcement partners "with some information that has led authorities to Baltimore."

In Washington, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Donald Trump had been briefed on the attack and the White House was monitoring the situation.

The Jacksonville Landing, in the heart of the city's downtown, also hosts concerts and other entertainment. It was the site of a Trump rally in 2015, early in his campaign for the White House.

Marquis Williams said the shooting rampage was another tragic sign that elected officials should take action to curb gun violence.

"Politicians, wake up because the people you're supposed to be representing are dying," Williams said. "Quit sitting on your butts. Quit collecting checks and do something."

Farrington reported from Tallahassee, Florida. Associated Press Writer Tamara Lush contributed to this report from the Tampa area and Laura Heald from Jacksonville, Florida.

AP Sources: PGA plans major changes for revamped FedEx Cup By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP) — The PGA Tour is putting the final touches on a revamped FedEx Cup structure that would award a cash bonus to the leading player from the regular season, followed by a new scoring format for the Tour Championship to decide the FedEx Cup champion, The Associated Press has learned.

Five people aware of the discussions say FedEx Cup points will not be involved in the final playoff event at East Lake. Instead, the No. 1 player would start the Tour Championship at 10-under par, with scores

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to par staggered depending on the 30 players' position in the standings.

The winner will be the FedEx Cup champion, and the bonus is expected to be more than the current \$10 million prize.

That means whoever gets the 30th spot at East Lake would have four rounds to make up as many as 10 shots. The change eliminates the awkward moment — and divided attention — of one player winning the Tour Championship and another winning the FedEx Cup, which happened last year for the second time.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the tour has not publicly announced what they are planning to do, and because there are still loose ends.

One item unsolved is when the regular season would end.

Since the FedEx Cup began in 2007, the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, North Carolina, has been the final regular season tournament for players to finish among the top 125 to retain full PGA Tour status and qualify for the postseason.

What emerged from a Player Advisory Council meeting last week was the possibility of ending the regular season the previous week at the FedEx Invitational, a World Golf Championship in Memphis, Tennessee. The top players in the FedEx Cup typically take a week off before the playoffs instead of playing the Wyndham Championship.

But by ending the season in Greensboro — which one person said is the more likely scenario — there could be a case where a player adds the Wyndham Championship if he has a chance to win the regular season.

Two people said the bonus for the regular season would be awarded only to the top three players, with \$3 million going to the leading player.

The larger overhaul involves the conclusion to the FedEx Cup.

Starting next year, the number of playoff events will be reduced from four to three. The Northern Trust will rotate each year between Liberty National in Jersey City and the TPC Boston, followed by the BMW Championship and then the Tour Championship. The size of the field is reduced each week until 30 reach East Lake in Atlanta.

For the last 10 seasons, points were reset going into the final event so that all 30 players had a mathematical chance to win the FedEx Cup, and the leading five had a clear shot at the title because they only had to win the Tour Championship.

The problem was splitting attention on two trophies. A year ago, Xander Schauffele won the Tour Championship by one shot over Justin Thomas, who won the FedEx Cup. Thomas said later it was a "weird" moment to lose the tournament and win the \$10 million prize.

"Wasn't my week this week in terms of winning the golf tournament, but it definitely came with a nice consolation prize," Thomas said that day because his mind for the final round was solely on winning the Tour Championship.

The tour hopes the new format, where some players essentially have a head start before a shot is hit — will keep the focus squarely on the FedEx Cup. The winner still gets credit for a victory in the Tour Championship.

It was not clear how the scores would be staggered for the top 30 beyond the leader starting out at 10 under. The better a player finishes in the regular season, the closer he starts to the lead going into the Tour Championship.

And during four days at East Lake, it will do away with TV projections of points and other distractions. Two years ago, for example, Dustin Johnson would have won the FedEx Cup if either Ryan Moore or Kevin Chappell had won a three-man playoff with Rory McIlroy, who wound up winning both.

The PGA Tour last year announced a 10-year extension for the title sponsorship of the FedEx Cup, an important deal because it gave the tour's postseason continuity for another decade. PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said last year he expects the bonus pool — previously \$35 million with \$10 million for the winner — to increase.

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Mind-altering breast milk? New pot study poses that question By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Marijuana's main mind-altering ingredient was detected in nursing mothers' breast milk in a small study that comes amid evidence that more U.S. women are using pot during pregnancy and afterward.

Experts say the ingredient, THC, has chemical properties that could allow it to disrupt brain development and potentially cause harm, although solid evidence of that is lacking.

The new study involved 50 nursing mothers who were using pot and provided breast milk samples to researchers at the University of California, San Diego. Lab testing found small amounts of THC, the psychoactive chemical that causes marijuana's "high," in 34 of 54 samples up to six days after they were provided. Another form of THC and cannabidiol, a pot chemical touted by some as a health aid, were detected in five samples.

The study authors said "it is reasonable to speculate" that exposing infants to THC or cannabidiol "could influence normal brain development," depending on dose and timing.

The results echo findings in case reports from years ago, when pot was less potent than what's available today, said study co-author Christina Chambers, a pediatrics professor. It's not known if the amounts detected pose any risk, but she said her research team is studying children whose moms' were involved to try to answer that question.

Two small studies from the 1980s had conflicting results on whether pot use affects breastfed infants. One found no evidence of growth delays; the other found slight developmental delays in breastfed infants, but their mothers had used pot during pregnancy too.

Most pediatricians encourage breastfeeding and its health benefits for infants, but "they're stuck with a dilemma" with infants whose mothers use pot, Chambers said.

A new American Academy of Pediatrics report recommending against pot use while pregnant or nursing acknowledges that challenge.

"We still support women breastfeeding even if using marijuana but would encourage them to cut down and guit," said Dr. Seth Ammerman, a report co-author and Stanford University pediatrics professor.

"In counseling patients about this, it's important to be nonjudgmental but to educate patients about the potential risks and benefits," Ammerman said, to ensure "a healthy outcome for themselves and their baby."

The study and report were published Monday in the journal Pediatrics .

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has similar advice.

The academy report says its advice is based on theoretical risks to developing brains, but it acknowledges conflicting evidence and a dearth of research. Some studies have linked pot use during pregnancy with lower birth weights or preterm birth, along with developmental delays and learning difficulties in older children. But additional factors including women's use of other drugs during pregnancy complicated the results, the report says.

Marijuana is legal for recreational use in nine states and Washington, D.C., and for medical use in 31 states, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

As more states legalize marijuana, its use is increasing along with the "false impression" that it is safe, the academy's report says. Ammerman said caution makes sense, given the uncertainties.

According to U.S. government data, about 1 in 20 women report using marijuana during pregnancy. Estimates for use among breastfeeding mothers vary, but a study in Colorado, where recreational marijuana is legal, put the number at almost 20 percent among women in a government supplemental food program.

The report, study and a journal editorial all said more research is needed.

Last year, a federal advisory panel said lack of scientific information about marijuana poses a public health risk.

Research has been hampered by federal government restrictions based on its view that marijuana is an illegal drug.

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That has contributed to a stigma and shaded doctors' views, said Keira Sumimoto, an Irvine, California, mother who used marijuana briefly for medical reasons while pregnant and breastfeeding. She said smoking a joint daily helped her gain weight when she was sick before learning she was pregnant, and eased childbirth-related pain, but that she quit because of backlash from marijuana opponents.

She said her daughter, now 8 months old, is healthy and advanced for her age.

Sumimoto runs @cannabisandmotherhood , an Instagram account that she says aims to present truthful information about marijuana so women can make their own choices.

She said she agrees with advice to be cautious, but that the academy's stance is "is just a little too much." "The fear is taking over and the need and want to understand this plant is being ignored by the stigma," Sumimoto said.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at @LindseyTanner . Her work can be found here .

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Gentle humor was the lifeblood of playwright Neil Simon By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When master playwright Neil Simon accepted the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in 2006, he was visibly nervous. But his gentle humor was evident.

"It took me six years to write my first play," he said, recalling that he found the title for "Come Blow Your Horn" from one of his daughter's nursery rhyme books. He said it turned out to be "a so-so play" that was turned into "a so-so movie" with Frank Sinatra.

But it was successful enough that Simon considered calling his subsequent works "The Sheep's in the Meadow" and "The Cow's in the Corn."

"For the first time," he said, "I had money in the bank. Yes, sir, yes sir, three bags full!"

Simon, who died Sunday at 91, was a meticulous joke-smith, peppering his plays, especially the early ones, with one-liners and humorous situations that critics said sometimes came at the expense of character and believability.

No matter. For much of his career, audiences embraced his work, which often focused on middle-class, urban life, many of the plots drawn from his own personal experience. His characters battled depression, alcoholism and loneliness.

Simon's stage successes included "The Odd Couple," "Barefoot in the Park," the "Brighton Beach" trilogy, "The Prisoner of Second Avenue," 'Last of the Red Hot Lovers," 'The Sunshine Boys," 'Plaza Suite," 'Chapter Two," 'Sweet Charity" and "Promises, Promises." Many of his plays were adapted into movies and one, "The Odd Couple," even became a popular television series.

For seven months in 1967, he had four productions running at the same time on Broadway: "Barefoot in the Park," 'The Odd Couple," 'Sweet Charity" and "The Star-Spangled Girl."

Simon's ability to recognize life's little annoyances — too many pillows piled on a sofa, being told as a kid you may not eat any more cookies — connected with audiences. A scene in "The Odd Couple" when Felix Unger passive-aggressively leaves a note on Oscar's pillow — "We're all out of Corn Flakes. F.U." — got huge laughs.

The loss of Simon was especially hard for playwrights and screenwriters. Randi Mayem Singer, who copenned the film "Mrs. Doubtfire," mourned Simon as a "truly great American storyteller."

"If you write comedy, if you write period, you learned something from Neil Simon," Singer said.

Kristoffer Diaz, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, took to Twitter to remember an icon: "In a different life, I would have loved to have been my generation's Neil Simon. I'm sad that we don't have that kind of voice." And "Big Bang Theory" creator Bill Prady wrote that "there is no American comedy writer whose work isn't influenced by the rhythm and music of Neil Simon's words."

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Simon was the recipient of four Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize, the Kennedy Center honors (1995) and, in 1983, he even had a Broadway theater named after him when the Alvin was rechristened the Neil Simon Theatre.

The bespectacled, mild-looking Simon (described in a New York Times magazine profile as looking like an accountant or librarian who dressed "just this side of drab") was a relentless writer — and rewriter.

"I am most alive and most fulfilled sitting alone in a room, hoping that those words forming on the paper in the Smith-Corona will be the first perfect play ever written in a single draft," Simon wrote in the introduction to one of the many anthologies of his plays.

Simon's own life figured most prominently in what became known as his "Brighton Beach" trilogy — "Brighton Beach Memoirs," 'Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound" — which many consider his finest works. In them, Simon's alter ego, Eugene Morris Jerome, makes his way from childhood to the U.S. Army to finally, on the verge of adulthood, a budding career as a writer.

Simon originally started as a radio and TV writer with his older brother, Danny. Yet Simon grew dissatisfied with television writing and the network restrictions that accompanied it. Out of his frustration came "Come Blow Your Horn," which centered on two brothers (not unlike Danny and Neil Simon) trying to figure out what to do with their lives. The comedy ran for more than a year on Broadway.

But it was his second play, "Barefoot in the Park," that really put Simon on the map. Critically well-received, the 1963 comedy, directed by Mike Nichols, concerned the tribulations of a pair of newlyweds, played by Elizabeth Ashley and Robert Redford, who lived on the top floor of a New York brownstone.

Simon cemented that success two years later with "The Odd Couple," a comedy about bickering roommates: Oscar, a gruff, slovenly sportswriter, and Felix, a neat, fussy photographer. Walter Matthau, as Oscar, and Art Carney, as Felix, starred on Broadway, with Matthau and Jack Lemmon playing the roles in a successful movie version. Jack Klugman and Tony Randall appeared in the TV series, which ran on ABC from 1970 to 1975. A female stage version was done on Broadway in 1985, and a TV series revival was done in 2015 starring Matthew Perry.

Besides "Sweet Charity" (1966), which starred Gwen Verdon as a goodhearted dance-hall hostess, and "Promises, Promises" (1968), based on Billy Wilder's film "The Apartment," Simon wrote the books for several other musicals, including "Little Me" (1962), featuring a hardworking Sid Caesar in seven different roles, and "They're Playing Our Song" (1979), which had music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager.

Many of his plays were turned into films as well. Besides "The Odd Couple," he wrote the screenplays for movie versions of "Barefoot in the Park," 'The Sunshine Boys," 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue" and more.

Simon also wrote original screenplays, the best known being "The Goodbye Girl," starring Richard Dreyfuss as a struggling actor, and "The Heartbreak Kid," which featured Charles Grodin as a recently married man, lusting to drop his new wife for a blonde goddess played by Cybill Shepherd.

Simon was married five times, twice to the same woman. He is survived by his fourth wife, actress Elaine Joyce; two daughters, Ellen and Nancy; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Simon's death also hit home for actor Matthew Broderick, who made his Broadway debut in Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs" in 1983 and also that year made his movie debut in Simon's "Max Dugan Returns."

"It was my great good fortune that my very first Broadway play was written by Neil Simon. He also wrote my first film. I owe him a career," Broderick wrote. "The theater has lost a brilliantly funny, unthinkably wonderful writer and even after all this time I feel I have lost a mentor, a father figure, a deep influence in my life and work."

Follow Mark Kennedy on Twitter at http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits.

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For McCain, a cross-country farewell from public, presidents By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two former presidents are expected to speak at Sen. John McCain's service and he will lie in state in both the nation's capital and Arizona as part of a cross-country funeral procession ending with his burial at the U.S. Naval Academy, according to plans taking shape Sunday.

McCain had long feuded with President Donald Trump, and two White House officials said McCain's family had asked, before the senator's death, that Trump not attend the funeral services. Vice President Mike Pence is likely to attend, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

A day after McCain died of brain cancer at 81, his family, friends and congressional and state leaders were working out details of the farewell to the decorated Vietnam War hero, prisoner of war and six-term senator.

His office said that McCain will lie in state in the Arizona State Capitol on Wednesday. A funeral will be conducted at North Phoenix Baptist Church on Thursday with former Vice President Joe Biden speaking.

The procession will then head to Washington, where McCain will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda on Friday with a formal ceremony and time for the public to pay respects. The next day, the procession will pass the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and head to a funeral at Washington National Cathedral. A private funeral is planned for Sunday at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Trump tweeted that his "deepest sympathies and respect" went out to McCain's family. First lady Melania Trump tweeted thanks to McCain for his service to the country.

Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, who blocked McCain's own White House ambitions, are among those expected to speak at McCain's funeral at Washington National Cathedral.

"These were bitter contests, both of them," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and "to ask them to speak at your funeral, and for them to be honored at the opportunity, that tells you all you need to know."

Flake told CBS' "Face the Nation" that McCain "was quick to forgive — certainly put the good of the country above himself, and the fact that his former opponents will be there speaking says all we need to know."

McCain died at his Arizona ranch after a yearlong battle with brain cancer.

A black hearse, accompanied by a police motorcade, could be seen driving away from the ranch near Sedona where McCain spent his final weeks. For 50 miles along Interstate 17 southbound, on every overpass and at every exit ramp, people watched the procession. Hundreds, including many waving American flags, parked their cars and got out to watch.

Congressional leaders announced that McCain would lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda, though they did not give a date. "The nation mourns the loss of a great American patriot, a statesman who put his country first and enriched this institution through many years of service," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Arizona will accord McCain that honor on Wednesday, when he would have turned 82. "This is a rare and distinct occurrence for a truly special man," GOP Gov. Doug Ducey said in a tweet.

Ducey does not plan to announce his selection of a Senate successor to McCain until after McCain's burial. Under state law, the governor's appointee to serve until the next general election in 2020 must come from the same political party. A statement from Ducey's office said that "now is a time for remembering and honoring a consequential life."

Trump's brief Twitter statement said "hearts and prayers" are with the McCain family.

Trump and McCain were at bitter odds until the end. The president, who as a candidate in 2016 mocked McCain's capture in Vietnam, had jabbed at the ailing senator for voting against Republican efforts to roll back President Barack Obama's health care law.

Earlier this summer, McCain issued a blistering statement criticizing Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Obama, who triumphed over McCain in 2008, said that despite their differences, McCain and he shared a "fidelity to something higher - the ideals for which generations of Americans and immigrants alike have fought, marched, and sacrificed."

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Obama said they "saw our political battles, even, as a privilege, something noble, an opportunity to serve as stewards of those high ideals at home, and to advance them around the world."

Bush, who defeated McCain for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, called McCain a "man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order" and a "friend whom I'll deeply miss."

Other tributes poured in from around the globe.

French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted in English that McCain "was a true American hero. He devoted his entire life to his country." Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said McCain's support for the Jewish state "never wavered. It sprang from his belief in democracy and freedom." And Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, called McCain "a tireless fighter for a strong trans-Atlantic alliance. His significance went well beyond his own country."

McCain was the son and grandson of admirals and followed them to the U.S. Naval Academy. A pilot, he was shot down over Vietnam and held as a prisoner of war for more than five years. He went on to win a seat in the House and in 1986, the Senate, where he served for the rest of his life.

"He had a joy about politics and a love for his country that was unmatched," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn. "And while he never made it to the presidency, in the Senate, he was the leader that would see a hot spot in the world and just say, we need to go there and stand up for that democracy," she told CNN's "State of the Union."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who developed a friendship with McCain while they served together in the Senate, said the Arizona lawmaker will "cast a long shadow."

"The spirit that drove him was never extinguished: we are here to commit ourselves to something bigger than ourselves," Biden said

The Senate's top Democrat, New York's Chuck Schumer, said he wants to rename the Senate building that housed McCain's suite of offices after McCain.

"As you go through life, you meet few truly great people. John McCain was one of them," Schumer said. "Maybe most of all, he was a truth teller - never afraid to speak truth to power in an era where that has become all too rare."

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman

Pope on McCarrick claims: "I won't say a word about it." By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Francis declined Sunday to confirm or deny claims by the Vatican's retired ambassador to the United States that he knew in 2013 about sexual misconduct allegations against the former archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, but rehabilitated him anyway.

Francis said the 11-page text by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, which reads in part like a homophobic attack on Francis and his allies, "speaks for itself" and that he wouldn't comment on it.

Francis was asked by a U.S. reporter during an airborne press conference Sunday if Vigano's claims that the two discussed the McCarrick allegations in 2013 were true. Francis was also asked about Vigano's claims that McCarrick was already under sanction at the time, but that Francis rehabilitated him.

Francis said he had read Vigano's document and trusted journalists to judge for themselves.

"It's an act of trust," he said. "I won't say a word about it."

The National Catholic Register and another conservative site, LifeSiteNews, published Vigano's text Sunday as the pope wrapped up a two-day visit to Ireland dominated by the clerical sex abuse scandal.

Vigano, 77, a conservative whose hardline anti-gay views are well known, urged the reformist pope to resign over what he called Francis' own culpability in covering up McCarrick's crimes.

Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation as cardinal last month, after a U.S. church investigation determined that an accusation he had sexually abused a minor was credible.

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Since then, another man has come forward to say McCarrick began molesting him starting when he was 11, and several former seminarians have said McCarrick abused and harassed them when they were in seminary. The accusations have created a crisis of confidence in the U.S. and Vatican hierarchy, because it was apparently an open secret that McCarrick regularly invited seminarians to his New Jersey beach house, and into his bed.

Coupled with the devastating allegations of sex abuse and cover-up in a recent Pennsylvania grand jury report — which found that 300 priests had abused more than 1,000 children over 70 years in six dioceses — the scandal has led to calls for heads to roll and for a full Vatican investigation into who knew what and when about McCarrick.

Vigano apparently sought to answer some of those questions. His letter identifies by name the Vatican cardinals and U.S. archbishops who were informed about the McCarrick affair, an unthinkable expose for a Vatican diplomat to make. He said documents backing up his version of events are in Vatican archives.

The Vatican's ambassador to the U.S. from 2011 to 2016, Vigano said his two immediate predecessors "did not fail" to inform the Holy See about accusations against McCarrick, starting in 2000. Vigano said he himself sent at least two memos on him.

He said Pope Benedict XVI eventually sanctioned McCarrick in 2009 or 2010 to a lifetime of penance and prayer, and to no longer celebrate Mass in public or travel.

He said Francis asked him about McCarrick when they met on June 23, 2013, at the Vatican's Santa Marta hotel where the pope lives, three months after Francis was elected pope.

Vigano wrote that he told Francis: "Holy Father, I don't know if you know Cardinal McCarrick, but if you ask the Congregation of Bishops, there is a dossier this thick about him. He corrupted generations of seminarians and priests, and Pope Benedict ordered him to withdraw to a life of prayer and penance."

Soon thereafter, Vigano wrote, he was surprised to find that McCarrick had started traveling on missions on behalf of the church, including to China. McCarrick was also one of the Vatican's intermediaries in the U.S.-Cuba talks in 2014.

Vigano's claim that McCarrick had been ordered by Benedict to stay out of public ministry and retire to a lifetime of prayer is somewhat disputed, given that McCarrick enjoyed a fairly public retirement. But Vigano insisted the sanctions had been imposed, and said a former counselor in the embassy at the time was "prepared to testify" about the "stormy" meeting when McCarrick was informed of them.

Barry Coburn, McCarrick's civil attorney, said the allegations in the Vigano letter are "serious."

"Archbishop McCarrick, like any other person, has a right to due process. He looks forward to invoking that right at the appropriate time," he said in a statement.

The letter also contains a lengthy diatribe about homosexuals and liberals in the Catholic church. It often reads like an ideological manifesto, naming all of Francis' known supporters in the U.S. hierarchy as being complicit in a cover-up of McCarrick's misdeeds.

"Now that the corruption has reached the very top of the church's hierarchy, my conscience dictates that I reveal those truths regarding the heart-breaking case of the archbishop emeritus of Washington," Vigano wrote.

Vigano, however, also has had his own problems with allegations of cover-up, and he and Francis had a major dust-up during Francis' 2015 visit to the U.S., which Vigano organized.

In that incident, a leading U.S. opponent of gay marriage, Kim Davis, was among those invited to meet with the pope at Vigano's Washington residence. Francis was so enraged that Davis' supporters had leaked word of the meeting that the Vatican subsequently insisted he only held one private audience while there: with one of his former students, a gay man and his partner.

The cover-up accusation, which Vigano denied, concerned allegations that he tried to quash an investigation into the former archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minnesota, John Nienstedt, who was accused of misconduct with adult seminarians.

In 2016, the National Catholic Reporter said Vigano allegedly ordered the investigation wrapped up and a piece of evidence destroyed. The report cited a 2014 memo from a diocesan official that was unsealed

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following the conclusion of a criminal investigation into the archdiocese. No charges were filed.

In a statement provided to the AP Sunday about the Nienstedt case, Vigano said a Vatican investigation of the allegation found no wrongdoing on his part.

He said the allegation that he destroyed evidence was false and that his efforts to have the archdiocese correct the record have been met with silence.

Nienstedt was forced to resign in 2015 over complaints about his handling of sex abuse cases.

Vigano's name also made headlines during the 2012 "Vatileaks" scandal, when some of his letters were published. In them, he begged not to be transferred to the Vatican embassy in Washington from the administration of the Vatican City State.

He claimed he was being punished for having exposed corruption in the Vatican. The letters showed a clash with Benedict's No. 2, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who is also a target of his McCarrick missive.

The document's authenticity was confirmed to The Associated Press by an Italian journalist, Marco Tosatti, who said he was with Vigano when the archbishop wrote it Wednesday.

"He was very emotional and upset at the end the effort," Tosatti told AP, adding that Vigano left Tosatti's home afterward without saying where he was going.

Pope apologizes for 'crimes' against Irish women, babies By NICOLE WINFIELD and PIETRO DE CRISTOFARO, Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Pope Francis issued a sweeping apology Sunday for the "crimes" of the Catholic Church in Ireland, saying church officials didn't respond with compassion, truth or justice to the many children and women who were abused over generations.

Francis was interrupted by applause from the crowd of 300,000 as he read the apology out loud at the start of Mass in Dublin's Phoenix Park, the largest gathering of his two-day trip. It was a response to the tens of thousands of Irish children sexually and physically abused at Catholic Churches, schools and workhouses, and the women who were forced to live and work in laundries and give up their children if they got pregnant out of wedlock.

"We ask forgiveness for those members of the hierarchy who didn't take responsibility for this painful situation, and who kept silence," Francis said. "May the Lord keep this state of shame and compunction and give us strength so this never happens again, and that there is justice."

Hundreds of kilometers (miles) away, a few hundred somber protesters marched through the Irish town of Tuam and recited the names of a 796 babies and young children who died at a Catholic-run orphanage there, most during the 1950s. The children were buried in a mass grave in a septic area of the grounds.

"Elizabeth Murphy, 4 months. Annie Tyne, 3 months. John Joseph Murphy, 10 months," the protesters said. With his weekend visit to Ireland, Francis became the first pope to visit the predominantly Catholic country in 39 years, and the first since the truth of Ireland's Catholic abuses began to come to light in the 1990s. He told the hundreds of thousands of people who turned out for Mass that he met Saturday with victims of all sorts of abuses: sexual, labor and religious.

Responding to a plea from the children forcibly put up for adoption, the pope assured their aging mothers that it wasn't a sin to look for the children taken from them so long ago. For decades, church officials told the women just the opposite.

"It was painful, painful for me" to learn of this betrayal by the church, Francis told reporters afterward. He said he felt "consolation of having helped clarify these things."

One forced adoptee who met with the pope, Clodagh Malone, said Francis was "shocked" at what the group told him and "he listened to each and every one of us with respect and compassion."

Survivors said the Argentine pope understood well their plight, given Argentina's own history of forced adoptions of children born to purported leftists during its 1970s military dictatorship.

"That is a big step forward for a lot of elderly women, particularly in the countryside in Ireland, who have lived 30, 40, 50, 60 years in fear," another adoptee, Paul Redmond, told The Associated Press. "That would mean a lot to them."

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The abuse scandal has devastated the church's reputation in Ireland since the 1990s and exploded anew in the United States with reports of misconduct among the U.S. hierarchy.

The American church's scandal took a new twist Sunday, when two conservative Catholic news outlets, the National Catholic Register and LifeSiteNews, published an 11-page missive from the former Vatican ambassador to the U.S. Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano.

He accused Vatican officials of knowing about the sexual escapades of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick since 2000, but making him a cardinal anyway. And he accused Francis of knowing since 2013, and of rehabilitating him despite sanctions that were imposed on him in 2009 or 2010.

Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation as cardinal last month after a U.S. church investigation determined an accusation he molested a minor was "credible."

Francis declined late Sunday to confirm or deny Vigano's report, telling journalists to judge for themselves. "I will not say a word."

In Tuam, meanwhile, survivors of the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home lit candles and placed hundreds of pairs of tiny shoes around a tiny white coffin at the site near a sewage area on the grounds where the babies and children were buried.

Irish government-appointed investigators reported last year that DNA analysis of selected remains confirmed the ages of the dead ranged from 35 weeks to 3 years old and were buried chiefly in the 1950s.

The Tuam home, which was run by an order of Catholic sisters, closed in 1961.

March organizer Annette McKay, who said her mother gave birth in 1942 to a daughter who died of measles and whooping cough at the age of 6 months, said the reading of the 796 names was meant to be "a silent rebuke."

"We wanted the babies' names to speak. And we wanted the babies to know 'Here we say your name.' There is no bells, there is no whistles, there is no Mass. We got nothing to say to the Catholic Church."

An amateur Irish historian, Catherine Corless, led to the discovery of the grave after she tracked down death certificates for nearly 800 children who had died as residents of the facility, but could find a burial record for only one child.

Corless and Tuam survivors are seeking an apology from the pope, as well as a decision to exhume the children's remains to give them a proper church burial.

Francis was informed of the grave site on Saturday by an Irish government minister, who told him the church had a role in the scandal. Francis said he accepted the minister's lament as "constructive collaboration" and said he would read a memo she prepared for him on the investigation.

AP video journalists De Cristofaro and Luigi Navarro reported from Tuam, Ireland. Helena Alves contributed from Dublin.

8 people, 6 of them kids, killed in Chicago apartment fire

CHICAGO (AP) — Eight people, including six children, were killed when a fire broke out before dawn Sunday at a Chicago apartment in one of the deadliest fires in the nation's third-largest city in years, officials say.

Two other people were hospitalized in very critical condition, Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Merritt said. One of the children who died was an infant, according to Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago.

"We have not had this in many, many years — this amount of fatalities and injuries in one location," he said.

A makeshift memorial along a nearby sidewalk included crosses for each child who died — a small Mickey Mouse doll set next to one. The Rev. Clifford Spears of Saint Michael Missionary Baptist Church led a crowd that gathered in prayer, the Chicago Tribune reported. A candlelight vigil was planned for Sunday night.

Officials had not released the names or ages of the victims, all of whom were in the same residence, Merritt said. The cause of the blaze hasn't been determined.

A woman who saw the blaze as she was returning home from work alerted people and gave them a

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chance to escape, Santiago said. She called 911 around 4 a.m., then began knocking on doors in the largely Hispanic Little Village neighborhood on the city's southwest side.

"So the female who did that saved a lot of lives," Santiago said.

At least two buildings caught fire, one of them described by fire department officials as a coach house. Video showed smoke coming from windows of a three-story building's stone facade, with flames engulfing the back. Police officers helped push a stretcher toward an ambulance, while a paramedic simultaneously performed CPR. One woman lay on a street crying while someone tried to comfort her.

The fire was put out by just after 5 a.m., fire department officials said. At least one firefighter was injured and was hospitalized in good condition.

Merritt said investigators have not found working smoke detectors.

The American Red Cross planned to work with the Chicago Fire Department to canvass the neighborhood to ensure homes have functional smoke alarms installed, the CEO of the Chicago & Northern Illinois Red Cross, Celena Roldan, told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Weight-loss drug Belviq seems safe for heart, study finds By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

For the first time, a drug has been shown to help people lose weight and keep it off for several years without raising their risk for heart problems — a safety milestone that may encourage wider use to help curb the obesity epidemic.

The drug, Belviq, has been sold in the United States since 2013 and is the first of several new weightloss medicines to succeed in a long-term heart safety study now required by federal regulators to stay on the market.

"Patients and their doctors have been nervous about using drugs to treat obesity and for good reason. There's a history of these drugs having serious complications," said study leader Dr. Erin Bohula of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

With this study, Belvig has been convincingly shown safe for the heart, she said.

Although Belviq did not raise heart risks, it didn't lower them either, as many had hoped it would. The weight loss it produced was fairly modest — after 40 months, Belviq users had shed 9 pounds (4 kilograms), twice as much as those on dummy pills.

It may be that weight loss alone is not enough to lower heart risks, or that there needs to be more to do that, some doctors said.

Results were discussed Sunday at a European Society of Cardiology meeting in Munich and published by the New England Journal of Medicine. Belviq's maker, Eisai Inc., sponsored the study and many of the researchers consult or work for the company.

Worldwide, 13 percent of adults are obese and 39 percent are overweight, raising their risk for a host of health problems. Diet and exercise are the first steps doctors recommend, but medicines also can be considered for people with dangerously high weight who cannot drop enough pounds by other means.

Several popular diet medicines were previously withdrawn from sale after they were found to raise the risk for heart valve damage, suicidal thoughts or other problems, prompting the new requirement for heart safety studies.

Belviq is an appetite suppressant that works by stimulating brain chemicals to give a feeling of fullness. It costs roughly \$220 to \$290 a month in the United States.

Researchers tested it in a study of 12,000 people who were either obese or overweight with heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure or cholesterol. They were given Belviq or dummy pills to take twice a day and offered lifestyle and diet advice.

At one year, 39 percent on Belviq and 17 percent on dummy pills had lost at least 5 percent of their starting weight. Several previous studies also found the drug effective for weight loss.

After about three years, 6 percent of each group had suffered a heart-related problem or death.

Fewer people on Belviq developed diabetes — 8.5 percent versus 10.3 percent on dummy pills.

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Serious side effects were similar, but more on Belviq stopped taking their pills because of them -7 percent versus 4 percent. Common side effects included dizziness, fatigue, headache and nausea.

Dangerously low blood sugar happened in 13 people on Belviq versus four in the other group; all but one case involved people also taking diabetes medicines, which lower blood sugar.

Tests for heart valve damage were done on 3,270 participants but no big differences in rates were seen. Suicidal thoughts or behavior were reported in 21 people on Belviq versus 11 on dummy pills, but more on the drug had a history of depression and the difference was so small it could have been due to chance, Bohula said.

In a commentary, two of the journal's editors, Drs. Julie Inglefinger and Clifford Rosen, said there might be alternatives to Belviq. Liraglutide, when used to treat diabetes, also causes weight loss and lowers heart risks, though it hasn't been tested for cardiac safety at the dose used for weight loss.

For now, Belviq "may be best used on a cautious basis, according to the needs of individual patients," they write.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP

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Aspirin disappoints for avoiding first heart attack, stroke By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

Taking a low-dose aspirin every day has long been known to cut the chances of another heart attack, stroke or other heart problem in people who already have had one, but the risks don't outweigh the benefits for most other folks, major new research finds.

Although it's been used for more than a century, aspirin's value in many situations is still unclear. The latest studies are some of the largest and longest to test this pennies-a-day blood thinner in people who don't yet have heart disease or a blood vessel-related problem.

One found that aspirin did not help prevent first strokes or heart attacks in people at moderate risk for one because they had several health threats such as smoking, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

Another tested aspirin in people with diabetes, who are more likely to develop or die from heart problems, and found that the modest benefit it gave was offset by a greater risk of serious bleeding.

Aspirin did not help prevent cancer as had been hoped.

And fish oil supplements, also tested in the study of people with diabetes, failed to help.

"There's been a lot of uncertainty among doctors around the world about prescribing aspirin" beyond those for whom it's now recommended, said one study leader, Dr. Jane Armitage of the University of Oxford in England. "If you're healthy, it's probably not worth taking it."

The research was discussed Sunday at the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Munich. The aspirin studies used 100 milligrams a day, more than the 81-milligram pills commonly sold in the United States but still considered low dose. Adult strength is 325 milligrams.

WHO'S REALLY AT RISK?

A Boston-led study gave aspirin or dummy pills to 12,546 people who were thought to have a moderate risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke within a decade because of other health issues.

After five years, 4 percent of each group had suffered a heart problem — far fewer than expected, suggesting these people were actually at low risk, not moderate. Other medicines they were taking to lower blood pressure and cholesterol may have cut their heart risk so much that aspirin had little chance of helping more, said the study leader, Dr. J. Michael Gaziano of Brigham and Women's Hospital.

One percent of aspirin takers had stomach or intestinal bleeding, mostly mild—twice as many as those on dummy pills. Aspirin users also had more nosebleeds, indigestion, reflux or belly pain.

Bayer sponsored the study, and many researchers consult for the aspirin maker. Results were published

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by the journal Lancet.

ASPIRIN FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES?

People with diabetes have a higher risk of heart problems and strokes from a blood clot, but also a higher risk of bleeding. Guidelines vary on which of them should consider aspirin.

Oxford researchers randomly assigned 15,480 adults with Type 1 or 2 diabetes but otherwise in good health and with no history of heart problems to take either aspirin, 1 gram of fish oil, both substances, or dummy pills every day.

After seven and a half years, there were fewer heart problems among aspirin users but more cases of serious bleeding, so they largely traded one risk for another.

FISH OIL RESULTS

The same study also tested omega-3 fatty acids, the good oils found in salmon, tuna and other fish. Supplement takers fared no better than those given dummy capsules — 9 percent of each group suffered a heart problem.

"We feel very confident that there doesn't seem to be a role for fish oil supplements for preventing heart disease," said study leader Dr. Louise Bowman of the University of Oxford.

The British Heart Foundation was the study's main sponsor. Bayer and Mylan provided aspirin and fish oil, respectively. Results were published by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Other studies are testing different amounts and prescription versions of fish oil, "but I can't tell people go spend your money on it; we think it's probably better to eat fish," said Dr. Holly Andersen, a heart disease prevention specialist at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell who was not involved in the study.

The new research doesn't alter guidelines on aspirin or fish oil, said Dr. Nieca Goldberg, a cardiologist at NYU Langone Medical Center and an American Heart Association spokeswoman. They recommend fish oil only for certain heart failure patients and say it's reasonable to consider for people who have already suffered a heart attack.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at @MMarchioneAP .

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Today in HistoryBy The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 27, the 239th day of 2018. There are 126 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 27, 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

On this date:

In 1776, the Battle of Long Island began during the Revolutionary War as British troops attacked American forces who ended up being forced to retreat two days later.

In 1859, Edwin L. Drake drilled the first successful oil well in the United States, at Titusville, Pa.

In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa erupted with a series of cataclysmic explosions; the resulting tidal waves in Indonesia's Sunda Strait claimed some 36,000 lives in Java and Sumatra.

In 1892, fire seriously damaged New York's original Metropolitan Opera House.

In 1949, a violent white mob prevented an outdoor concert headlined by Paul Robeson from taking place near Peekskill, New York. (The concert was held eight days later.)

In 1962, the United States launched the Mariner 2 space probe, which flew past Venus in December 1962. In 1964, the Walt Disney movie musical fantasy "Mary Poppins," starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van

Dyke, premiered at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

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In 1967, Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, was found dead in his London flat from an accidental overdose of sleeping pills; he was 32.

In 1975, Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see), the last emperor of Ethiopia's 3,000-year-old monarchy, died in Addis Ababa at age 83 almost a year after being overthrown.

In 1979, British war hero Lord Louis Mountbatten and three other people, including his 14-year-old grandson Nicholas, were killed off the coast of Ireland in a boat explosion claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

In 1989, the first U.S. commercial satellite rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida — a Delta booster carrying a British communications satellite, the Marcopolo 1.

In 2006, a Comair CRJ-100 crashed after trying to take off from the wrong runway in Lexington, Ky., killing 49 people and leaving the co-pilot the sole survivor.

Ten years ago: Barack Obama was nominated for president by the Democratic National Convention in Denver. A federal judge in Boise, Idaho, sentenced longtime sex offender Joseph Edward Duncan III to death for the 2005 kidnapping, torture and murder of 9-year-old Dylan Groene (GROH'-nee).

Five years ago: Maj. Nidal Hasan, the Army psychiatrist who'd fatally shot 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009, rested his case without presenting any evidence during his trial's penalty phase. (Hasan ended up being sentenced to death.)

One year ago: Hurricane Harvey sent devastating floods into Houston, with rising water chasing thousands of people to rooftops or higher ground; streets became rivers navigable only by boat. A rally in Berkeley, California, was disrupted when scores of anarchists wearing black clothing and masks stormed the demonstration and attacked several supporters of President Donald Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Author Lady Antonia Fraser is 86. Actor Tommy Sands is 81. Bluegrass singer-musician J.D. Crowe is 81. Musician Daryl Dragon is 76. Actress Tuesday Weld is 75. Actor G.W. Bailey is 74. Rock singer-musician Tim Bogert is 74. Actress Marianne Sagebrecht is 73. Country musician Jeff Cook is 69. Actor Paul Reubens is 66. Rock musician Alex Lifeson (Rush) is 65. Actor Peter Stormare is 65. Actress Diana Scarwid is 63. Rock musician Glen Matlock (The Sex Pistols) is 62. Golfer Bernhard Langer is 61. Country singer Jeffrey Steele is 57. Gospel singer Yolanda Adams is 57. Movie director Tom Ford (Film: "Nocturnal Animals") is 57. Country musician Matthew Basford (Yankee Grey) is 56. Writer-producer Dean Devlin is 56. Rock musician Mike Johnson is 53. Rap musician Bobo (Cypress Hill) is 51. Country singer Colt Ford is 49. Actress Chandra Wilson is 49. Rock musician Tony Kanal (No Doubt) is 48. Actress Sarah Chalke is 42. Actor RonReaco (correct) Lee is 42. Rapper Mase is 41. Actress-singer Demetria McKinney is 40. Actor Aaron Paul is 39. Rock musician Jon Siebels (Eve 6) is 39. Actor Shaun Weiss is 39. Contemporary Christian musician Megan Garrett (Casting Crowns) is 38. Actor Kyle Lowder is 38. Actor Patrick J. Adams is 37. Actress Karla Mosley is 37. Actress Amanda Fuller is 34. Singer Mario is 32. Actress Alexa PenaVega is 30. Actor Ellar Coltrane is 24. Actress Savannah Paige Rae is 15.

Thought for Today: "Genuine tragedies in the world are not conflicts between right and wrong. They are conflicts between two rights." — Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher (born this date in 1770, died 1831).