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SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012 » PNJ.COM

Astronaut Armstrong dead at 82

He commanded first mission to moon, took 'giant leap'

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Neil Armstrong was a quiet, self-described "nerdy" engineer who became a global hero when as a

steely-nerved U.S. pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with the first step on the moon. The modest man who entranced and awed people on Earth has died. He was 82.

Armstrong died of complica-



Armstrong

spacecraft that landed on the moon July 20, 1969, capping the most daring of the 20th centu-

ry's scientific expeditions. His first words after setting foot on the surface are etched in history books and in the memories of those who heard them in a live broadcast.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong said.

In those first few moments on the moon, during the climax of a heated space race with the then-Soviet Union, Armstrong

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Read more about Neil Armstrong's life, including a remembrance from Nancy Fetterman of Pensacola.

stopped in what he called "a tender moment" and left a patch to commemorate NASA astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts who had died in action.

"It was special and memora-

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Isaac preparations get into high gear

NAS jets prepared to evacuate

By Rob Johnson
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Commanders at Pensacola Naval Air Station plan to evacuate most of the 107 aircraft on the base starting this afternoon.

The destination of those planes to escape the path of the storm that could become Hurricane Isaac was uncertain as of Saturday afternoon, but base spokesman Harry White said the Navy will be all the aircraft that can be flown. "Some may have maintenance issued and those would most likely be stored in hangars," he said.

Base commanders are scheduled to meet at noon on Sunday to finalize plans for the aircraft evacuation.

White said there are still no plans to evacuate the roughly 5,000 student-sailors who are attending schools at the base's Navy Education and Training Command. Most of them live in barracks on the base that officials have assessed as being safe if Isaac hits.

That could change, White said, depending on the intensity of the storm as it's reported over the next 24 to 48 hours.

There was no word whether the Blue Angels would evacuate their aircraft and team of more than 100 aviators and ground crew. The Blues are scheduled to be out of town until at least Sunday night anyway, having traveled to a weekend air show at Prince Edward Island in Canada.



From left, Mark, Danielle and Wendi Butler fill sandbags on Saturday at the Tiger Point Recreational Facility as they try to prepare their home for possible flooding from Tropical Storm Isaac. BRUCE GRANER/BGRANER@PNJ.COM

Storm has Pensacola area on alert

By Kaycee Lagarde
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Boarded windows, sandbags, empty grocery store shelves and long lines at gas stations are becoming more common as residents and officials make early preparations for Tropical Storm Isaac.

The storm is expected to reach hurricane strength sometime today and is expected to make landfall on the Panhandle coast early this week, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Although Isaac's track and intensity are still uncertain, most people are taking a "better safe than

sorry" approach to the storm.

Pensacola Beach residents Jim Cook and his wife, Gail, worked on Saturday to put homemade aluminum storm shutters on their Ariola Drive home, which survived Hurricane Ivan in 2004 with little damage.

"I don't think it's going to be an Ivan," Cook said. "I think it's just going to be a lot of rain and storms. We're just going to go ahead and get ready for the worst."

As of Saturday evening, Isaac had maximum

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Milton man a delegate at RNC

GOP stalwart bound for Tampa

By Louis Cooper
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Martin Simmons' blood runs red — as in, red state.

"I was conservative before I knew that was what you called it," said Simmons, 51, of Milton.

"When I was in middle school, I never understood why some people didn't want us to have guns. I never understood why some people

thought it was not good to have God as part of your everyday life. I never understood why people thought it was

good to take so much money out of my dad's paycheck."

Now, Simmons is taking his conservative credentials to the Republican National Convention in Tampa this week as the only delegate from the Santa Rosa/Escondido area. He'll proudly cast his vote for former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, whose acceptance speech for the Republican presidential nomination is scheduled for Thursday night.

The other delegate from Florida's first congressional district is Bob Jones of Holmes County. Susan Moore and Ashley Carr from Pensacola are attending the convention as alternates.

Simmons said he grew up going into the voting booth with his parents, Bobby and Norma Simmons. He also remembers talking politics with his grandfathers, Enoch Hall and Elmer Simmons, both of Jay.

Hall was a farmer who "jokingly claimed he was the only Republican in Santa Rosa County," Simmons said. Elmer Simmons was a farmer, general store owner and home builder.

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