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PAROLE RIGHTS EXPANDED FOR YOUNG MURDERERS

Supreme Court rules 2012 decision banning mandatory life terms be applied retroactively

BY ADAM LIPTAK

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled that its 2012 decision banning mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juvenile killers must be applied retroactively, granting a new chance at release for hundreds of inmates serving life sentences without the possibility of parole for murders they committed in their

youth.

The vote was 6-3, and the majority decision was written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court's leading proponent of cutting back on the death penalty and other harsh punishments for entire classes of offenders. His opinion strengthened the 2012 decision, which merely required new sentencing where life without parole had been imposed automati-

2,000

Number of people serving sentences of life without parole for crimes they committed when they were not yet 18

cally, without taking into account the defendant's youth.

Monday's opinion indicated that life-without-parole sentences for juvenile offenders should be exceedingly

rare. Kennedy also gave states a second option — instead of re-sentencing the affected prisoners, they could make them eligible for parole.

The case, *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, No. 14-280, concerned Henry Montgomery, who was 17 in 1963 when he murdered an East Baton Rouge police officer. He is now 69.

Kennedy said there was evidence that Montgomery deserved to be released, describing "his evolution from a

SEE JUVENILES • A6

OBAMA RESTRICTS USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

BY JULIET EILPERIN

President Barack Obama on Monday announced a ban on solitary confinement for juvenile offenders in the federal prison system, saying the practice is overused and has the potential for devastating psychological consequences.

In an op-ed that appears in today's editions of *The Washington Post*, the president outlines a series of executive actions that also prohibit federal correction officials from punishing prisoners who commit "low-level infractions" with solitary confinement. The new rules also call for expanding treatment for mentally ill prisoners.

The president's reforms are expected to affect about 10,000 inmates.

The reforms come six months after Obama, as

SEE SOLITARY • A6



HIROKO MASUIKE THE NEW YORK TIMES

ABORTION OPPONENTS INDICTED OVER VIDEOS

Group targeted
Planned Parenthood

U-T NEWS SERVICES

AUSTIN, Texas

A Houston grand jury investigating undercover footage of Planned Parenthood found no wrongdoing Monday by the abortion provider, and instead indicted anti-abortion activists involved in making the videos that targeted the handling of fetal tissue in clinics and provoked outrage among Republican leaders nationwide.

David Daleiden, founder of the Center for Medical Progress, was indicted on a felony charge of tampering with a governmental record and a misdemeanor count related to purchasing human organs. Another activist, Sandra Merritt, was also indicted on a charge of tampering with a governmental record, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

It's the first time anyone

SEE VIDEO • A9

One flight that wasn't canceled

Matt Cruz goes snowboarding Monday in the snow-blanketed Lower East Side of New York. After last weekend's blizzard, the East Coast's transportation system struggled to return to normal with commuters and travelers snarled at train stations and airports. Story, A4.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Female flag football teams raise money to tackle Alzheimer's



KARLA PETERSON

When people hear that the flag-football players participating in the "Tackle ALZ-San Diego" fundraiser are all women, they often ask Alzheimer's San Diego President and CEO Mary Ball if she will be suiting up. She is happy to say she isn't, and she is thrilled to explain why.

"These are really strong athletic women, and this game is very competitive," Ball said of the yearly fundraiser, which hits the "Little Q" field at Qualcomm Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 6, at noon. "There is a real structure and a real rigor to what they're doing. I always say, 'You have no idea how serious this is.'"

Now in its fourth year, the Tackle ALZ fun-
SEE DIFFERENCE • A8



K.C. ALFRED U-T

"Team Blonde" captain Shannon Gearing and "Team Brunette" captain Ginny Chacos are ready for the big game.

WEATHER MIGHT BE AIDING SLOW START TO FLU SEASON

CDC reports virus at minimal or low levels in 47 states

BY SOUMYA KARLAMANGLA

Two years ago, influenza killed 146 Californians between October and late January. When the flu season ended months later, more than 400 people had died of the infection — an outbreak the state rated "moderately severe."

After a huge improvement last year — the season's death toll plummeted to 78 — the situation looks even better now.

There have been just three flu-related deaths in California among those age

64 and younger since October, and experts say the weather could be part of the reason.

Influenza spreads easiest in cold and dry conditions — and California has experienced a largely warm fall and winter, punctuated by heavy rains, especially in the northern part of the state.

Much of the rest of the country has also recorded unusually warm temperatures — the weekend's massive blizzard notwithstanding — in part because of El Niño.

Last month was, on average, the country's hottest and wettest December on record, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. In other
SEE FLU • A7

COMING TOMORROW

Kitchen specialist creates flavorful dishes from raw foods. Food



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EX-POLICE CHIEF WHO DERIDED CRIMINALS AS 'MOPES' CONVICTED

Ohioan who drew Facebook following pleads no contest to four misdemeanors

BY KANTELE FRANKO

COLUMBUS, Ohio
A former small-town Ohio police chief who developed a Facebook following for blunt, humorous commentary about the criminals he calls "mopes" found himself grouped with them Monday as he was convicted of four misdemeanors, including assault of a female officer who accused him of sexual harassment.

"You've become the mope that you wrote about in your book," Portage County Judge Laurie Pittman told David Oliver, who resigned as Brimfield Township's chief a year ago after being suspended.

Pausing before his responses, Oliver was visibly reluctant as he pleaded no contest to simple assault, unlawful restraint, attempted theft in office and unauthorized use of property. His attorney, Brian Pierce, said Oliver entered the pleas to get closure for his family.

Two of the charges related to physical restraint of the officer despite her objections, said Margaret Tomaro, a special prosecutor from the Ohio



David Oliver, former Brimfield Township police chief, resigned a year ago after being suspended.

TONY DEJAK AP

attorney general's office. The other charges stemmed from allegations that Oliver mishandled money and had an unlawful silent auction with weapons that were set aside to be destroyed or used for law enforcement purposes, Tomaro said.

Oliver, 48, was sentenced to probation and must surrender his certificate to be an officer and pay \$1,300 in restitution, plus a fine and court costs. A six-month jail sentence was suspended as long as he fulfills the rest of the sentence.

Oliver previously alleged his management style was

being used against him. He told the judge Monday that his staff filed no grievances during his decade as chief but the situation changed with tense contract negotiations in 2014.

"I never heard anything about hostile work environment or assault," he said.

Tomaro criticized Oliver for offering no apology.

"Perhaps Mr. Oliver should question what kind of leadership skills he used with those people, that they were too afraid to come forward until my office showed up to investigate and people were more than happy to tell

us about his crappy, horrible, deplorable behavior," Tomaro said.

The officer, Crystal Casterline, recounted her allegations, telling the judge that Oliver's initial encouragement of her escalated into unwanted hugs, groping, pinching and punching, and verbal harassment.

"I will guarantee you that Crystal punched me as much as I punched her," Oliver told the judge. "That's the relationship we had."

Casterline said the first part was true but that it was her fighting back.

"To his 177,000 Facebook followers, he was the model police chief, father, husband and man," she said, "but inside the station, he was a sadistic, manipulative sociopath," said Casterline, whose suit against Oliver is pending.

The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sexual crimes, but Casterline has spoken to the media about the allegations.

The single mother said she found consolation but no solution through a union representative and her supervisor, and that the situation negatively affected her health and her relationship with her children, leaving her seriously depressed and fearing for her job.

Franko writes for The Associated Press.

DIFFERENCE • Participants take game seriously

FROM A1
draiser is, indeed, a serious venture. The participants are serious about preparing for the big event, and they have the training hours and sore muscles to prove it. They are serious about filling the Alzheimer's San

Diego coffers, with nearly \$102,000 contributed so far.

And as you might have guessed from an event that also goes by the name "Blondes vs. Brunettes" (redheads are free agents), the Tackle ALZ team is extremely serious about having major fun for a significant cause.

"We spend half the year planning this, and there are definitely moments of stress," said "Team Blonde" captain Shannon Gearing during an interview at the Alzheimer's San Diego offices in Kearny Mesa. "But when you get thank-you notes from people who come to the Alzheimer's San Diego classes and when we get feedback from the organization, that's when you take a pause and realize what you're really doing this for."

Fun has been a great recruiting tool, and philanthropy is an important motivator, too. But when

"Team Brunette" captain Ginny Chacos decided to help bring the football fundraising concept to San Diego, it was all about family.

A big teddy-bear kind of a guy, Chacos' paternal grandfather coached football and taught at Montgomery College in Rockville, Md. Louis Chacos struggled with Alzheimer's before his death in 2007, but his wit and gridiron wisdom inspired his granddaughter to tackle the disease in true Chacos family fashion. Ginny and her four co-founders brought the "Blondes vs. Brunettes" concept to San Diego in 2012. The group's first game raised just over \$18,000 for Alzheimer's San Diego.

"My grandfather was a really smart guy, and he was very accomplished," said the 33-year-old South Mission Beach resident, who works for the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego

County. "He was just the nicest person, and since he was also a teacher, he always had these words of wisdom for us. He would always say, 'Be a good person, and follow that with your actions,' and I'm doing my best."

Recruiting women for the two teams wasn't hard. Chacos and her co-founders kept an eye out for fellow athletes when they went to the gym, and they also tapped into the VAVI Sport and Social Club, which organizes sports leagues and events for the county's fitness-minded adults.

While Gearing had played flag-football with a VAVI team before she was recruited, playing with the Tackle ALZ team wasn't exactly a no-sweat endeavor. But signing on was an easy choice, and seeing the bigger picture was even more rewarding than she expected.

"I had no personal experience with Alzheimer's, but I'm an athletic person, and this just sounded like fun. You get together with a group of girlfriends and play football for a cause," said the 30-year-old Gearing, who lives in downtown San Diego and works at the Pixelz software company. "But I really enjoy the organization and learning about what it offers to the community and to caregivers."

Since that first game, the Tackle ALZ organizers have learned the importance of new plays. They discovered early on that while women were happy to join the teams and men were surprisingly willing to don tutus and play cheerleader, not everyone was stepping up to the fundraising plate.

So the group instituted some pay-to-play rules. First-time players, coaches and cheerleaders are responsible for raising at least \$250. Veterans must raise \$500, and committee chairs and captains must raise \$750. Super fans or alumni who want to support the group but don't want to participate are asked to donate \$150. And your team affiliation is decided by whatever hair color you are sporting when you sign up.

In addition to the game and the many training sessions and social gatherings associated with it, Chacos, Gearing and their Tackle ALZ teammates make time for the organization that inspired it all. When the athletes behind the event drop in on a "Memories in the Making" or "Movement & Motion" class for people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, they see a string of victories that will go on long past game day.

"It has been really life-changing to see how many people want to come together for something bigger than ourselves," Chacos said. "It's such a good feeling to see the difference we can make for people with Alzheimer's and their families."

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