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DOGGED BY POLITICS

Maggie wins, Tom's going back to golfing. From the Valley.

OPINION/6A

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

1 Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration retained a key sports business legal expert to help keep the Buffalo Bills from relocating. Three weeks after Ralph Wilson's death in March, the Empire State Development board extended a contract with Foley & Lardner and specifically firm partner Irwin Raji, who played a key role in negotiating the Bills' 10-year lease, a state official confirmed Wednesday.

2 Scientists implanted a thin sheet of pig tissue into a few young men with disabling leg injuries and the experimental treatment coaxed their own stem cells to regrow new muscle. The study, funded by the Defense Department, is a small but important step in the quest for regenerative medicine.

3 Ukraine's acting president conceded Wednesday that his police and security forces were "helpless" to stifle unrest in the country's east, where pro-Russia gunmen seized more buildings, walking into the police station and mayor's office in Horlivka, a mining hub, without resistance.

WHERE TO TURN

STATE LOTTERIES
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PHOTOS BY JOED VIERA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A volunteer work crew is renovating 571 Walnut St. for SERV Niagara, the local veterans advocacy organization whose mission is to establish veterans housing in Niagara County.

HOUSE WORK

SERV Niagara securing housing for veterans in need

BY JOE OLENICK
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SERV Niagara Director Jennifer D'Andrea-Terreri couldn't believe how quickly the volunteers finished work on Tuesday.

A group of about 10 spent a few hours demolishing the interior of a one-family home at 571 Walnut St. D'Andrea-Terreri thought the work would take all day, but shortly after noon, the group had finished for the day.

"I can't believe we're already done," she said. SERV Niagara and volunteers spent Wednesday renovating the house, in an effort to turn it into the first veteran-exclusive housing site in Niagara County. That work continues today.

Demolition at 571 Walnut St. wasn't the only thing that moved quickly. The same could be said about the creation of SERV itself.

While it accepts donations and distributes them to veterans in need, the main objective of SERV Niagara, which stands for "Supporting, Empowering, Respecting Veterans and their Families," is to find housing options for homeless and disabled veterans. The not-for-profit group formed just a little over a year ago.

The search for veteran housing led SERV to a pair of homes on Walnut Street. The organization took possession of lot 571 in March and is finalizing acquisition of the other, a few doors away, now.

The second house will become permanent housing for homeless veterans and their families. It will be the first of its kind in the area, D'Andrea-Terreri said.

"We want to help the veterans but we also want to



Air Force personnel William Mark and Ronald Tanner patch up a bathroom at 571 Walnut St. on Wednesday.

help the family," she said. At 571 Walnut, by June, SERV is aiming to house six or seven veterans who are completing drug rehabilitation. A "house manager" will live there with the veterans, who will be selected after interviews with SERV Niagara officers. Veterans living there will have transportation to Veterans Affairs, supervised visits with family, educational or therapy opportunities and the like.

The house will feature a newly renovated meeting room, converted from a kitchen. Extensive work is being done on the four bedrooms, kitchen and two bathrooms.

As is true of the volunteers, assistance and donations to SERV have come from just about everywhere. Tops Markets, Molinaro's and SubDelicious donated food and water for the volunteers. Modern Corp. donated a Dumpster, Sherwin Williams donated paint, Babcock Utilities of Gasport donated materials and the Niagara County Sheriff's Office sent a few off-duty deputies to help out. The

SEE WORK ON PAGE 4A

Owner ban ma see suit

CONTROVERSY: NBA's action against Sterling could be tested in court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Silver's deci to ban Donald Sterling life and start the pro to remove him as own the Los Angeles Clip has been universally h as a bold message that NBA will do everythin its powers to protect players, coaches, staff corporate partners f racism.

While the NBA com sioner's outrage-tinged dict may have helped league avoid a player boycott of playoff ga and slowed the exodu sponsors that were l ing on the Clippers, it brings the risk of settin ambiguous new prece for stripping a team f an owner while rai questions about wheth will ultimately hold up courtroom.

"We are in uncha territory here," said C Feldman, a law profe and director of the Tu Sports Law Program.

Dallas Mavericks ov Mark Cuban, who l issued a statement in support of Silver, init raised concerns abou slippery slope that coul created by forcing an c er to sell a team bec of comments he made were meant to remain vate, no matter how o sive they were.

"How many people bigoted in one way the other in this leag Cuban asked on M day, a day before Si announced the pun ment. "I don't know. you find one, all of a den you say well, you play favorites being r against African-Amer Where do you draw line?"

Silver was under e mous pressure to act s ly and decisively. In days following the rel of an audio recordin which Sterling made eral racist remarks i female companion, Si heard calls for action f President Barack Ob; Magic Johnson, Mic Jordan, LeBron Ja

SEE SUIT ON PAG