



Even the simplest of tasks can be exhausting because of all of the equipment required to care for Lincoln DeLuna. Here, his dad puts him back to bed after a bath.

LINCOLN'S SHOT

# The science.

BY LANE DEGREGORY • Times Staff Writer

The ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn in Chicago was packed. Families from across the country wore T-shirts with a logo that promised “Strength for Today” and “Hope for Tomorrow.”

Maggie Hoyle-Germann and Anthony DeLuna stood in the doorway, watching the crowd. Dozens of boys were slumped in wheelchairs, lying on stretchers, hooked up to machines — just like their son. Some were teenagers, with thin limbs and long faces, the telltale signs of rare and fatal muscular disorders.

“This is amazing!” Maggie said, squeezing Anthony’s arm. “And so scary.”

Lincoln was 19 months old that summer of 2015. He had been born with X-linked myotubular myopathy, so he couldn’t swallow, sit up or breathe on his own. He was much too fragile to travel.

His parents had left him that weekend, for the first time. Maggie’s sister, Katie, had promised to “take care of Bubba,” so that Maggie and Anthony could attend the second biannual conference for families like theirs.

» See LINCOLN, 6A

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## Pledge to not drill in doubt

With Zinke out, will Florida’s opposition to offshore drilling be honored?

BY STEVE CONTORNO  
National Political Correspondent

The future of Florida’s promised exemption from President Donald Trump’s offshore drilling plans is more doubtful after the head of the federal department in charge of natural resources has quit.

Nearly a year ago, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke told Gov. Rick Scott that any new plans to expand offshore drilling wouldn’t include Florida, giving the Republican an environmental victory just before he launched his Senate campaign.

“Florida is obviously unique,” Zinke said alongside Scott at a hastily assembled January news conference in a Tallahassee airport. “For Floridians, we are not drilling off the coast of Florida, and clearly the governor has expressed that it’s important.”

But Zinke’s resignation over the weekend amid an ethics investigation has left many wondering: Was there ever really a deal?

The Trump administration has yet to unveil a long-anticipated proposal to expand offshore drilling along the East Coast, including the Gulf of Mexico, and off of California

» See ZINKE, 11A

## Rays will play on at the Trop — for now



A view of Tropicana Field, the current home of the Tampa Bay Rays, with the city of St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay in the background Tuesday.

The team will not seek to extend a deal that let it explore sites in the Tampa Bay area for a new stadium.

BY JOSH SOLOMON AND CHARLIE FRAGO  
Times Staff Writers

ST. PETERSBURG — The Tampa Bay Rays are staying in St. Petersburg — for now.

The team sent a two-sentence letter to Mayor Rick Kriseman on Monday formally notifying him that it will not seek to extend the agreement that allowed it to explore a new stadium site in Hillsborough County. The three-year looking period St. Petersburg granted the team to research stadium options throughout Tampa Bay is officially over with no deal in place.

The letter follows a similar announcement Rays principal owner Stu Sternberg made last week at Major League Baseball’s winter meetings in Las Vegas. He said the team was dropping its bid to relocate to a site in Ybor City, where it hoped to build a \$900 million domed stadium with a translucent roof that Tampa

officials thought would connect downtown and the Channel District to the historic Cuban neighborhood.

The team remains mum on its future and has not signaled that it’s interested in pursuing a new stadium in St. Petersburg. At this point, the only contract the Rays are bound to honor is the one that states the team must play in Tropicana Field until 2027. After that, where the Rays

» See RAYS, 5A

## Amid ‘illegality,’ Trump shuts charity



Candidate Donald Trump and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi at Mar-a-Lago in March 2016.

The president agrees to do so as the New York attorney general accuses him of “self-dealing.”

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has agreed to close his embattled personal charity and give away its remaining money amid allegations he used the foundation for personal and political benefit, New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood said Tuesday.

The Donald J. Trump Foundation will shutter as her office pursues a suit against the charity, Trump and his three eldest children.

Underwood said Tuesday her

investigation found “a shocking pattern of illegality — including unlawful coordination with his presidential campaign, repeated and willful self-dealing” and more.

The closing comes after the Post found lapses at the foundation. Trump used money to pay legal settlements for his business, to purchase art and to make a prohibited political donation.

Trump made the \$25,000 donation to Republican Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi. Instead of telling the IRS, as required, the

» See CHARITY, 8A

The ABCs of Christmas  
26 ways to create a festive holiday with food. **Taste, 1E**

Actor-director Penny Marshall dies at 75

Marshall, who found fame on TV in *Laverne & Shirley*, went on to direct beloved films such as *Big* and *A League of Their Own*. **Etc, 2B**



Judge recuses self from suit over tax  
Circuit Court Judge Laurel Lee is stepping away from a lawsuit she was assigned over Hillsborough’s transportation tax. Her husband was a prominent critic of the tax. **Local, 1B**

Population boom? Well, not necessarily  
A new study finds more manatees than in the past, but don’t get excited just yet. **Local, 1B**

Partly cloudy

8 a.m. 52° Noon 70° 4 p.m. 70° 8 p.m. 65°

20% chance of rain  
More. back page of Sports



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