

DECODING

HOLLYWOOD HIDDEN HOMOSEXUAL ADGEDA,
BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ELLEN,
AND JERRY FALWELL...

BLACK SPORTS HEROES

IN the beginning, Hollywood, [i.e. They] mis-
appropriated Jackie Robinson... BASEBALL...

Then came Jason Collins, I am a Black Man
and I am gay... BASKETBALL...

Thereafter: Came-out Michael Sam, SAME
SCRIPT: I am a Black Man and I am gay. [AND I
kissed my white Boyfriend's mouth!]. FOOTBALL.

A Lovely Black Lesbian. BASKETBALL Player was
into the PLAY!

Recently, TEENVOGUE.COM did a piece on
Superstar Magic Johnson's Fancy gay son E.J.
but the actual TOPIC, with FULL page PHOTOS
in his LAKERS UNIFORM, was Magic Johnson
Advocate GAY RIGHTS. SEE below, p. 7

RAP MUSIC

FOX EMPIRE

The Executive Producer and Co-Creator of Fox "EMPIRE" is a Black Male homosexual, Lee Daniels_ Who Proudly Confesses his Intention to make GAY acceptable to the Black Community.

The show is HOT! HOT! TOO HOT!! A HUMONGOUS HIT with a GAY MISSION!!!

The preceding Wednesday Night EPISODE to the SEASON FINALE, featured a Fanciful RAP Battle ... duel between (Reimagine Rocky V. ALI)_ a black gay male and Black male, who wasn't a vocal gay supporter!

OF COURSE, the gay beat him. SEE, below, P.P. 8, 9, 10, 11

BLACK SO-CALLED OPINION LEADERS
GAYS A BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Michael Eric DYSON_

is a noted author, Professor and Political Analyst for MSNBC, co-Lead vigorously this Advocacy. CHECK OUT his ILLUSTRATIVE PIECE "WHAT MICHAEL

SAM HAS TAUGHT US" MAY 2014, P. 35 EBONY.
COM SEE below, p. 12

PLUS, Whoopi and Raven Symone ON ABC.COM
/THE VIEW and Asihia Tyler and Cheryl Under-
wood ON CBS.COM /THE TALK... AND the
Like.

POLITICS

" HE WHO WAS LAST WILL SOME DAY BE FIRST.."

The first "BLACK" President Obama, Like BILL
CLINTON WAS SO-CALLED "THE FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT";
IS "THE FIRST GAY PRESIDENT" CHECK-OUT: PBS.ORG/
AMERICA MASTERS / INVENTING DAVID GEFFEN "
gay BILLIONAIRE, who boldly Boast he got Obama
to back the Gay Movement.

ON Monday, July 6, 2015, AN... A caller claim-
ing to be a Black man educated in Africa HIS-
TORY... into Stephanie MILLER'S RADIO SHOW,
EXPOUNDED ON African's homosexual cultured
... cultural Tendancy and Seldom Married to
Women. To which Stephanie and Crew
giddily chimed headlong into this Hollywood
Rewriting of Africa (MANTHOOD!) History.

QUESTION
WHY !!!

Ancient Greek Homosexual Cultural is well Documented, and even appears in President Nixon's WHITE HOUSE TAPES as he discussed GAYS.

WHY ISN'T THIS ILLUSTRATION SUFFICIENT TO THEIR MISSION??

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The GAY Movement Usurped Dr. King as their Phantom Leader.

Though this blogger would concede that Dr. King would support their GAY Movement.

FIRST GAY MARRIAGE

OLE MISSISSIPPI

First gay marriage in ole State of Miss was of a White/Black couple per Stephanie Miller Radio Show... SEE LOVING (Supreme court INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE CASE)

FIRST TIME ON BROADWAY
BRIGHT SPOTLIGHT

Black Male Actor Tye DIGGS, set to replace Neil Patrick Harris, as First Black, in Hedwig A NIGHT.. to play in LIPSTICK and Drag Hedwig, a Transgender ON Broadway.
SEE: ET.com JULY, 2015

ESPY

ARTHUR ASHE'S COURAGE AWARD

Now it comes full circle in Bruce Jenner ON JULY 15, ON ABC, being crowned with ON AWARD FOR "COURAGE" bearing ON ICONIC Black Sports Figure Arthur Ashe's NAME

JERRY FALWELL
WAS CORRECT

Rev. Jerry FALWELL was correct about HOLLYWOOD having a HIDDEN HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA!

CHECK OUT: INSIDE STORY OF HOW
SAME SEX MARRIAGE TOOK ON THE
POLITICANS, PUNDITS AND WON
— BY AUTHOR MARK SOLOMON

AUTHOR WAS GUEST ON "KATHLEEN DUNN'S
RADIO SHOW" WPR.ORG JUNE 29, 2015
MONDAY 2: p.m. CDT.

XOXO ! ! ! !

I AM A LOVER,
NOT A HATER

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: JULY 08, 2015
6 OF 12

FAMILY FRIEND "IN 1997"

1.2 million viewers who tune in to watch #RICH KIDS OF BEVERLY HILLS ON E! - ...

EJ AKA EARVIN JOHNSON ZZZ - ... After all, he grew up with Lakers LEGEND EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON AS HIS FATHER.

EJ, ZZ;

VOCAL SUPPORTER OF LGBTQ RIGHTS.

EJ ALSO LAUNCHED HIS OWN FASHION AND LIFESTYLE BLOG, ejjohnsonstyle.com, where his fans (he has more than 200,000 on Instagram alone!) ... read about his favorite causes - the Human Rights Campaign, among them. zdf. 110..

— BY: MOLLY CREEDEN; PHOTOGRAPHED BY KENNETH CAPPALLO

EMPIRE RATINGS GROW YET AGAIN, DEFY ODDS

"The Target Canada team has worked tirelessly to improve the fundamentals, fix operations and build a deeper relationship with our guests," Cornell said. "We hoped that these efforts in Canada would lead to a successful holiday season, but we did not see the required step-change in our holiday performance."

Cornell also said that "we were unable to find a realistic scenario that would get Target Canada to profitability until at least 2021." Early fatal flaws in Target's Canadian expansion were too big to overcome as the chain struggled to gain traction in the country, industry analysts say. The company lacked the distribution network it needed to supply stores, leaving shelves inconsistently stocked and disappointing shoppers. And Canadian shoppers who had previously frequented Target's U.S. stores were confused by the pricing disparity between the two countries.

"The expectation of the Canadian shopper was Target's pricing in Canada would mimic pricing in the U.S., and that's not what happened," says Charlie O'Shea, a retail analyst with Moody's. "When that didn't happen, they obviously lost a lot of traction and momentum." He says Target Canada stores didn't price merchandise as competitively as the company's U.S. stores. Even Target itself admits the Canadian business was plagued with problems. "We tried to do too much, too fast," says spokeswoman Molly Snyder. "We have a lot of operational challenges. From how sharp we are on pricing ... we certainly had supply chain and logistics issues."

Target also overlooked key differences between the U.S. and Canadian markets and couldn't compete with well-established brands that have developed strong loyalty in the country, says Kevin Sternecker, chief marketing officer of Order Dynamics, a retail software company.

"A major issue in Canada is geography," he says, speaking to how spread out the country is. "The nature of the consumer in Canada changes dramatically depending on what region of Canada you're in."

Both Sternecker and O'Shea say Target didn't grasp how to cater to the Canadian customer and didn't tailor store assortment to a consumer base influenced by both European and American lifestyles. "It's a much different market than the U.S., and I don't know that people really recognized that," O'Shea says.

Target Canada currently employs approximately 17,600 people. To ensure fair treatment of Target Canada employees, Target said it is seeking the court's approval to voluntarily make cash contributions of about \$59 million into an employee trust. Under the proposed trust, nearly all Target Canada-based employees would receive a minimum of 16 weeks of compensation, including wages and benefits coverage. Target Canada stores will remain open during the liquidation process, which is expected to

be complete between May and June, Snyder says.

Target entered Canada in 2011 with the purchase of 220 locations from Zellers Inc., a subsidiary of Hudson's Bay Co.

'Empire' ratings grow yet again, defy odds
Inconceivable! Fox's *Empire* ratings have gone up again. The hip-hop drama's third episode climbed to 10.9 million viewers and a big 4.3 rating among adults 18-49. That's up 8 percent after the show already shocked the industry by climbing in week two from its strong premiere. This just doesn't ... hardly ... ever ... happen.

There were mitigating factors which almost certainly helped: *Empire's* lead-in *American Idol* (11.5 million, 3.3) was up this week while *Empire's* biggest rivals in the hour—ABC's *Modern Family* and *Black-ish*—were both in repeats last night. But still: The typical pattern is a show's highest-rated episode of the season is its premiere, then ratings drop for two weeks and then (hopefully) settle into a groove for the rest of the season, rising somewhat for the season finale. *Empire* has done the opposite. The midseason drama premiered big. Got bigger. Then got bigger again.

The last time this kind of growth happened for a new drama was three years ago, with a short-lived Fox series called *The Finder*. But its debut ratings were so modest that posting gains was relatively easy. Usually when shows debut really high like *Empire*, that kind of performance is an outlier and more likely to get pulled down—and often drop quite sharply—to a more average number in subsequent episodes. For instance: In 2004, even ABC's hugely successful and long-running *Lost* debuted to a 6.8 rating, but then went to a 6.5 and then a 6.2. Fox was so impressed with last week's performance of *Empire* executives gave the show an ultra-early season-two renewal.

Last week some readers were annoyed when I pointed out that it's probably not wise to call any show a hit after a mere two weeks. But after this, how can you not?

Two weeks from now will be another big test: *Modern Family* and *Black-ish* will be back to originals. Can *Empire* hold onto its new series high? One assumes it would drop. But who wants to bet against it?

George Lucas says Disney 'didn't want to do' his version of 'Star Wars: Episode VII'
More than two years after he sold his empire (and his rebels!) to Disney, George Lucas is enjoying his retirement from making *Star Wars* movies—not to mention his retirement from people getting angry at him for making *Star Wars* movies.

So when CinemaBlend reporter Nick Romano asked Lucas about his contribution to the upcoming *Star Wars: Episode VII—The Force Awakens*, the filmmaker genially responded that Disney basically ignored Lucas' ideas for the new trilogy. Lucas explains that he had sold his ideas for *Episode VII* to Disney, but "they came up

to the decision that they didn't really want to do those. So they made up their own." It's not really clear if Lucas had a specific story in place for *Episode VII*, or just vaguely-defined notions like "Han and Leia's children have lightsabers" or "this time it's personal" or "Death Stars???" or "Z-wing." *Episode VII* Kremlinologists will recall that Lucas had some interaction with Michael Arndt, the screenwriter who was writing *Episode VII* until he wasn't writing Episode VII. Of course, *Star Wars* scholars will also recall that Lucas spent a couple decades variously claiming that he was definitely making a sequel trilogy and definitely not making a sequel trilogy. So it's all as clear as a summer day on Mimban, which is a swamp planet covered in clouds. You can see Lucas's full statements in a video at [CinemaBlend](#).

LL Cool J will host the Grammys again
LL Cool J will once again return to the Grammys as host, CBS has announced. This will be the fourth year in a row that the rapper and *NCIS: Los Angeles* star has occupied this role. LL Cool J began hosting in 2012, following a period in which the show had no official host.

"I'm thrilled to again be part of Music's Biggest Night," LL Cool J said in a statement. "The performances and moments you see on the Grammy stage are nothing less than amazing throughout the years and this year's show is shaping up to be one you will never forget."

Artists performing during the Feb. 8 ceremony include Common, John Legend, Miranda Lambert, Sam Smith, and Ariana Grande.

On the Books: James Patterson's \$300,000 novel to self-destruct after reading
-Famed author James Patterson is ready to test his fans' loyalty by selling his next novel, *Private Vegas*, for \$300,000 – and then making it self-destruct 24 hours after it's been opened. As absurd as that might sound, Patterson is confident he'll find someone to buy in. The \$300,000 does include a five-course meal with the author, so at least the memory of that would last longer than the book itself. But never fear, Patterson fanatics, *Private Vegas* will be available to those who don't have \$300,000 to spare on January 26.

-While promoting his new movie *Paddington*, producer David Heyman revealed that writer Jane Goldman will adapt the *Fables* comic book series to the big screen with Nikolaj Arcel directing. This news is just as exciting as that time Snow White married the Big Bad Wolf in the series. Goldman previously worked on *X-Men: First Class*, *Kick-Ass* and *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, while Arcel directed *A Royal Affair*, which starred Mads Mikkelsen.
-Robots might not have begun taking over the world, but they've started taking over in the kitchen. IBM's cognitive computing system Watson is putting his mechanical chef's hat on and, with the help of the Institute of Culinary Education, is publishing a cookbook

it could be a decade or longer until passengers see another all-new aircraft type produced by either of the world's two major jetmakers.

The A350 itself is the third all-new aircraft to be rolled out by either Airbus or Boeing during the past decade. It joins Airbus' superjumbo A380 – which debuted in 2007 – and Boeing's new-age 787 "Dreamliner," which made its first flight for an airline in 2011.

In part, the A350 is Airbus' answer to Boeing's Dreamliner. Like the Dreamliner, the new A350 is made partially from lightweight carbon composite fibers that improve fuel efficiency and enhance comfort for passengers by allowing for things like larger windows and more comfortable pressurization and humidity levels.

Also like the Dreamliner, Airbus promises the jet will allow airlines to begin flying routes between cities that previously could not profitably support nonstop service.

Boeing's Dreamliner has delivered on that promise. United, for example, says its Dreamliners allowed it to add nonstop service between San Francisco and Chengdu, China. And British Airways used its Dreamliner to connect London and Austin, giving the Texas capital its first-ever regularly scheduled flight to Europe.

Both the A350 and 787 burn less fuel than other comparable widebody jets that fly long-haul routes. The A350 holds roughly 275 to 370 passengers, depending on the variant and how airlines choose to configure the aircraft. Still, Airbus hopes its A350 eventually will compete not only against Boeing's Dreamliner, but also against Boeing's popular 777 model.

As for Qatar Airways, it has 79 more A350s on order.

"The delivery of this new aircraft category into the Qatar Airways' fleet ... is a moment of absolute national pride for Qatar Airways and the state of Qatar," Qatar Airways CEO Akbar al-Baker said at an inauguration ceremony last week, according to The Associated Press.

Qatar Airways has configured its A350s to hold 283 seats, including 36 full-flat-bed business class seats and 247 in coach.

New Mustang-based Shelby GT spits out 627 horsepower

With the 2015 Ford Mustang comes a new muscle-car version from the Carroll Shelby's performance outfit, Shelby American, unveiled Friday at the Barrett-Jackson auction in Scottsdale, Ariz. The company, which soldiers on despite the death of its founder, plans to make a bigger effort to sell globally.

The new Shelby GT, not to be confused with Ford's own Mustang-based Shelby GT350, will sport a supercharged 627-horsepower V-8 engine, the company says it is the most powerful GT ever. Shelby American says it is taking orders. Deliveries begin later this year. Customers buy a Mustang GT from Ford, then bring in for the modifications to make it

a Shelby GT. Shelby charges \$39,995, which doesn't include the car.

"This 2015 Shelby GT incorporates all of the engineering lessons we've learned building high performance vehicles over the past 50 years," said Joe Conway, CEO of Shelby American. "With the international distribution of the current Ford Mustang, we worked closely with our partners to develop a car that can be offered in both North America and overseas."

He describes it as the first Shelby designed to be a "truly global vehicle."

Shelby GT will come with either a manual or automatic transmission. It can be registered in all states and uses standard gasoline, not racing fuel, Shelby American says. There's also a kit to deliver more than 700 horsepower from the GT, along with adjustable suspension, upgraded big brake kit, and interior upgrades.

Self-serve auto shops cater to DIY mechanics

DES MOINES, Iowa — With the clack-clack-clack of an impact wrench, T.J. Shouten tightened the last bolt on a new steel edge for his pickup's snowplow.

"I like to do a lot of the work myself if I can," the 28-year-old said last week inside DIY Garage, a new business here that lets car owners rent garage space, vehicle lifts and tools by the hour. "Right now it's real cold and I would have to work on it in my driveway if I wasn't here."

Self-serve auto shops are popping up around the country. Offering professional — and heated — garage space for gearheads and backyard mechanics, such do-it-yourself operations have opened during the past year in Southern California, rural Ohio, Wichita, Kan., suburban Seattle and a handful of other cities.

"For the longest time we expected someone else to do everything for us," said DIY Garage owner Dave Brown. "I think the generation that we're seeing come up is more do-it-yourselfers."

It's not a new concept. The hosts of NPR's *Car Talk* got their start with a do-it-yourself garage outside Boston. Military bases have long offered self-serve garages. In fact, many of the do-it-yourself auto shops opened recently are owned by veterans who were inspired by the on-base garages that allow service members to rent space to work on their personal vehicles.

"For the longest time we expected someone else to do everything for us. I think the generation that we're seeing come up is more do-it-yourselfers."

Dave Brown, owner of DIY Garage in suburban Des Moines That includes Brown, a 43-year-old former F-15 mechanic for the Air Force. Brown opened DIY Garage last week in a former Chevrolet dealership in suburban Des Moines. Customers can rent one of the 27 garage stalls for \$35 an hour. They can enlist the help of an on-staff mechanic for \$85 an hour.

Brown is also offering auto-maintenance classes. He wants part of the garage to operate like a barbershop, where certified mechanics would rent stalls and build their own client base. Brown said the shop has a 3-D printer so if you need, say, a plastic volume knob for a 1982 Dodge Horizon, you can have it made on-site.

Brown hopes to build a customer base among gearheads and car club members as well as apartment residents who don't have a garage but want to save money by doing their own oil changes and brake jobs.

Some auto industry officials, though, say letting car-owners start turning wrenches under their vehicles poses safety concerns.

"Who determines how qualified these people are?" said Joseph Henmueller, president of the Automotive Maintenance and Repair Association, a trade group that represents about 75,000 repair shops, suppliers and auto-part makers. "You can just imagine if you have someone who is untrained, a do-it-yourself kind of guy, and something falls on him or the car comes off the lift."

Brown said his goal is to empower people to work on their vehicles safely. His uncle was killed decades ago when a car he was working under fell off its jack-stands in his driveway.

Vehicle lifts are safer than the jack stands people use at home and DIY Garage staffers help customers operate them, Brown said. Customers do have to sign a waiver, though, and the shop had to take out a \$1 million insurance policy.

Insurance is one of the biggest hurdles for DIY auto shops, often costing more than a garage lease, said George Patterson, owner of the Self Serve Garage in Kent, Wash.

Patterson opened the shop about five years ago and now also works as a consultant for other DIY shops. He has seen many come and go.

"They're opening up more and more, but most of them close after a couple years," he said. "It's a hard business to start. It takes quite a bit of capital and you're not going to get your money back right away."

Target to shutter all stores in Canada
Target is pulling out of Canada after two disastrous years.

The U.S. retail icon said Thursday that it plans to abandon its 133 stores in Canada, which have suffered from poor supply chain management and a misguided pricing strategy. The operation has lost more than \$2 billion since the expansion was announced in 2011.

Target (TGT) stock closed up 1.8%, to \$75.67 a share.

The Canadian business is seeking court approval to begin liquidation, the Minneapolis-based retailer said in a statement. The move will lead to a \$5.4 billion write-down. CEO Brian Cornell said in a statement that the holiday season wasn't strong enough to bolster Target Canada's chances for success.

FOX SMASH HIT SERIES "EMPIRE" HAD ITS SEASON FINALE ON WEDNESDAY

Brain swelling and headaches

Headaches occurred in 22% of patients given BIIB037, compared to 5% of the placebo-treated patients.

But there was a more serious (and probably related) side effect as well: amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA), which can include edema, or swelling around the brain. The edema was more likely in patients who carry a variant of the gene APOE4, which increases a person's risk of Alzheimer's. These patients comprised about 2/3rds of the patient population, Biogen says. Edema was reported in 5% of the APOE4 patients in the 1 and 3 mg/kg groups; in 43% of those in the 6 mg/kg group; and in 55% of those in the 10 mg/kg group.

Yes, to emphasize that: more than half the APOE4 patients had some degree of edema in the top dose group. In those without the APOE4 gene, edema was seen in 9%, 11%, and 17% of the 3, 6, and 10 mg/kg groups. Gandy said the edema could probably be managed; Schneider wanted to see more data. Both agreed that the edema might make it difficult to use the highest dose in future studies. Biogen said it was too early to talk about what dose it will use in its larger studies because it needs to talk with regulators.

Picking the right patients

If Biogen's drug does work where other medicines have failed, it might be because the company has a better drug – or because it did a better job picking patients for its study. Al Sandrock, Biogen's senior vice president and chief medical officer, says that BIIB037 was created by looking for antibodies in patients who survived into old age without getting Alzheimer's. These patients had anti-amyloid antibodies, and one of them was turned into a drug.

But this study also focused on treating early, when patients are only first starting to notice cognitive impairment, and on making sure that patients have amyloid plaque in their brains. Sandrock says that 30% of patients were rejected from the study because they didn't have visible buildup of amyloid on PET scans. In general, investors have been doubtful that the amyloid-clearing drugs in clinical trials will prove effective. In a note to investors yesterday, analyst Timothy Anderson at Bernstein Research wrote that investors forecast only a 25% chance the drugs will reach the market and that analyst forecast no revenues for them. The Biogen Idec results seem almost too good to be true – but that's partly because up until now the odds for amyloid-clearing Alzheimer's treatments have seemed so bleak.

Chris Kyle was the subject of the top-grossing film "American Sniper."

(CNN)The widow of the man whose life was portrayed in the acclaimed film "American Sniper" has penned a heartfelt letter to him on their 13th anniversary. Taya Kyle posted her letter March 16 on the Chris Kyle Facebook page, where she proclaimed, "I miss you and I love you. I feel you in my heart and soul so strongly. I am more blessed to have been your wife than anything else in my life." Today, I have a choice. I can bury myself under the covers and acknowledge the pain of missing you and mourn the future anniversaries

without you," she wrote. "Or, I can celebrate never having a day without you in my heart because you loved me enough to leave me a lifetime of memories and beauty." Kyle, a Navy SEAL, has been credited as the most successful sniper in United States military history. Bradley Cooper was nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of Kyle in this winter's film "American Sniper," which was based on Kyle's bestselling autobiography. The film, directed by Clint Eastwood, has become the highest-grossing war movie ever. Why "American Sniper" is a smash hit Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield were shot and killed at a gun range in 2013 by Eddie Ray Routh. A Texas jury found Routh guilty of capital murder in February, and he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Jury finds Eddie Ray Routh guilty in "American Sniper" case

(CNN)Fox's smash hit series "Empire" had its season finale on Wednesday night, and the ratings once again grew. According to Deadline, the drama reached 16.5 million viewers, up 10% from the 14.9 million who tuned in the week before. The show has managed to grow its total audience every week since its premiere, a rare feat in the television landscape. Deadline notes that it's the best showing for a new series in a decade. Most fans were not disappointed with Wednesday night's season finale. M As the show aired, #EmpireFinale was a worldwide trending topic on Twitter, and the show got its most tweets ever during the two-hour finale. The show about the passionate Lyon family and the drama surrounding them and their record label has been a TV phenomenon, with ratings growing weekly. Its soundtrack scored a rare success this week, debuting in the No. 1 spot on Billboard's top 200 album chart, topping Madonna's "Rebel Heart." Danny Strong told Deadline that he and fellow "Empire" creator Lee Daniels have steered the series to be both socially conscious (issues of race and sexuality were central to the plot) and night-time soapy. "I think that's one of the secrets of success to the show," Strong said. "That it's working on both levels, and the layered character drama grounds the juicy soap turns. So the soap turns are a blast, but we have this drama there that also keeps it emotional and real." In January, the network announced plans for a second season.

Board member scolded for opening building to police protesters; judge threatens sanctions over immigration lawsuit; 11 more Wisconsin stories

MADISON – A Dane County Board member has surrendered his keys and pass card to the City-County building, for letting late-night protesters into the facility just six hours after the Madison Police shooting of Tony Robinson. The DeForest Times-Tribune first reported that Supervisor Leland Pan helped let over 100 protesters enter the building that houses the Madison Police Department just after midnight on March 7. That was soon after officer Matt Kenny shot and killed the bi-racial Robinson. In a complaint letter, Police Chief Mike Koval said his officers were stretched thin enough at the time, and they needed to bring additional officers to the City-County building. The chief said it was an "irresponsible act." They did not reach the secured police quarters, but Koval said officers and others who worked throughout the building were scared for their safety. He said the group yelled things like "Kill the cops," and "We have guns, too." The Wisconsin State Journal said Koval

considered seeking charges against Supervisor Pan, but decided against it. At least one county supervisor called for a censure of Pan, who represents a downtown Madison district. However, board chairwoman Sharon Corrigan said there's no substantial action Pan's colleagues could take against him. Corrigan made it clear to Pan and other supervisors that he overstepped his authority. Corrigan said Pan has agreed not to ask to regain his building keys and pass-card.

Bradley accuses Daley of overt partisanship
MILWAUKEE – State Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley accused her election opponent of catering to the Republican agenda for what's supposed to be a non-partisan judicial post. Bradley and Rock County Circuit Judge James Daley appeared together in Milwaukee Thursday, in the first of four scheduled forums before their April 6 contest. Daley said he's only trying to reach voters who are most likely to share his admittedly conservative philosophies – and in his words, "The Republican Party does not run my campaign." Bradley said she disagrees with a recent rule change that lets judges seek campaign donations from parties with cases pending before the Supreme Court. The 20-year incumbent said she would never accept such donations. Daley said judges who do accept those donations should not be required to remove themselves from cases and it should be up to the justices to determine if it affects their requirement to be fair. Bradley is considered one of two liberals on the seven-member court.

Judge trades barbs with Justice lawyers over immigration rules

BROWNSVILLE, Tex. –A federal judge says he might order sanctions against the U-S Justice Department, if he finds that the agency misled him on exactly when an Obama immigration order was carried out. Judge Andrew Hanen held a hearing Thursday in a lawsuit brought by Wisconsin and 25 other states that want the president's executive immigration actions ruled unconstitutional. In a sometimes tense hearing in Brownsville, Tex., Thursday, Hanen went back and forth with the Justice Department on whether the judge was misled. Hanen believed the administration would hold off on a key Obama order until the judge ruled on a request for a preliminary injunction. However, the government had already given three-year reprieves from deportation to 108,000 people. It was part of a program that keeps young immigrants from being deported if they're illegally brought to the U.S. as children. Those people also received work permits. Hanen said he was an "idiot" in believing a Justice Department lawyer who said in January that nothing would occur in the program until Feb. 18. Justice Department attorney Kathleen Hartnett apologized for any confusion, but said the reprieves were granted under guidelines issued in 2012 and the injunction which the judge granted did not stop those moves. Hanen said the reprieves were supposed to be for two years, not three and his injunction should have halted them. Gov. Scott Walker told South Carolina Republicans he has the leadership to put the nation on a path toward the political right. The potential 2016 presidential candidate spoke Thursday at a pair of GOP fundraising events in the early-voting state. Walker said he's worried about his children's futures but he's an optimist, and he still "feels good about America." Walker highlighted his accomplishments in his four-plus years as Wisconsin's governor, citing is efforts to weaken labor unions, restrict

abortions, and adopt conservative fiscal policies. He called it a "common-sense conservative" approach that could also work in Washington. He called that city "68 square miles surrounded by reality," borrowing a line from the late Gov. Lee Dreyfus who once called Madison "ten square miles surrounded by reality" — a number that others expanded over the years. Walker's visit followed a two-day South Carolina trip by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Walker didn't mention any of his GOP rivals in his speeches, but he did say that his success in the 2012 recall election helped him build a national profile and fund-raising network. With \$300,000 smaller donations from every state, Walker said only Mitt Romney has more unique donors among Republicans.

Ready To Get Your Drugs By Drone? Why Amazon Plan Could Be Game-Changer

"I know this looks like science fiction. It's not," Bezos told *60 Minutes* more than a year ago, showing off Amazon's test-model octocopters. And he acknowledged that Amazon's proposal to use robot drones faced major regulatory and technical hurdles.

But the visionary CEO was confident that "Amazon Prime Air" would fly.

"It will work, and it will happen, and it's gonna be a lot of fun," Bezos argued.

Launch day is still a few years away — at best — but it just got a lot closer.

The Federal Aviation Administration on Thursday awarded an "experimental airworthiness certificate" to Amazon AMZN +1.39% that would clear the way for the company to begin testing its drone program. It's not blanket approval; the FAA's permitting only limited forms of testing, such as having a pilot on hand to fly the drone at all times. (That's important, because Amazon wants its Prime Air drones to be autonomous.)

But the FAA certificate represents a necessary step for Amazon, especially after the company made several moves that were contingent on winning federal support. For example, Amazon's already been hiring drone software developers, drone regulatory experts, and even drone pilots, too.

So. Let's say drone delivery actually happens, with Amazon taking the lead. The new model could dramatically reshape the retail industry, and affect Amazon's fortunes. It could cut down on delivery trucks, for instance, and change our expectations and interactions with companies.

But the most exciting — and important — application of drone delivery would be in health care. There's no comparison.

An Amazon Prime Air test model. (AP Photo/Amazon)

How Amazon Prime Air Could Affect Health Care

In fact, for all of the major new players eyeing the health care market — with Apple AAPL +0.28% pushing to collect health data through the Apple Watch, or Walmart beginning to deliver care at its stores — Amazon's innovative plan is arguably best-positioned to fill an existing gap.

Consider:

1. *Americans are heavily medicated:* Collectively, the nation spends more than \$300 billion per year on prescription drugs. And the sheer demand for medication therapy is only going to rise, as chronic health conditions worsen: More than 150 million Americans may require regular medication by the year

2020, the World Health Organization has predicted.

2. *But Americans don't always take the drugs they need:* About half of prescriptions aren't followed, as CDC has reported. Up to 30% of prescriptions don't even get filled by patients in the first place.
3. *This hurts our health, and our health care system:* Poor medication adherence leads to more illnesses, more deaths, and more unnecessary spending on health care. Some studies suggest that failing to take the right prescriptions adds up to as much as \$290 billion in added costs per year.

Amazon's somewhat familiar with the health care market; the company's already playing a major role in drug delivery, by sending prescriptions through the mail. (Although Amazon's gotten in trouble for its lax controls; physician Ford Vox last year noted that Amazon customers could easily order illegal steroids, stimulants, and other dangerous drugs.) But if Amazon can get its act together, get federal approval, and get its technology to work, the potential of Amazon Prime Air is obvious.

Think about the patients who fail to get a prescription filled because of the time commitment, or the travel distance, necessary to pick up medication. For these patients, autonomous drones could go the last mile — or the last couple miles — in helping improve medical adherence and patient outcomes. Especially as more doctor visits and care end up shifted to telehealth, as my Advisory Board Company Advisory Board colleagues have projected.

(For example, this Marketing and Planning Leadership Council research brief explores the rise in programs designed to remotely monitor patients.) In this new world, health care really would be patient-centered. Imagine sitting in your kitchen, finishing a virtual consult with your doctor, and then getting a package 20 minutes later with your prescription.

There's a bit of irony here. Drugs are already being delivered by drone — illegal drugs, that is. Various cartels are using drones to send methamphetamine and other narcotics over the heads of authorities. One drug-toting drone infamously crashed in a parking lot in January.

And legal drugs are being delivered in other countries, which have been more permissive. German packaging company DHL last year spent a month testing drug delivery-by-drone to a remote island off the country's coast.

But the test was plagued with problems; two of the first ten drone flights were scrapped because of bad weather.

Would-be drone delivery services in the United States face complications, too. Last month, Amazon complained that the FAA's proposed regulations on drones would be too harsh. And a San Francisco startup called QuiQui got considerable attention for its plans to use drones to deliver drugs last year, although the company ultimately wasn't able to get off the ground. That said, investors remain bullish on the U.S. drone sector. In the third quarter of 2014 alone, investors poured a record \$65 million into drone tech startups. Backers included major VC players like Adreessen Horowitz (a16z) and Google Ventures

"I hope what you'll see is the regulations get cleared very soon and you'll see a whole bunch more activity," a16z's Chris Dixon said last year. "My hope is that 2015 will be the year of the drone."

Milwaukee mom charged in rollover that killed 7-month-old son

MILWAUKEE — A 22-year-old woman has been charged with causing a drunk driving crash that killed her seven-month-old son. Prosecutors filed a complaint Thursday charging Regina Mitchell with homicide by drunk driving, homicide by driving with a prohibited blood alcohol level, and causing death while driving with a suspended license. O'Ryan Shaw was killed in the accident, which occurred about 1:30 a.m., Wednesday morning at a northwest side Milwaukee intersection. Authorities said Mitchell's blood alcohol level was .124, well over the legal limit. Investigators said her car struck a fence and a building before coming to rest on its side next to a utility pole. The baby was in a car safety seat, but officials said it apparently was not properly secured in the vehicle. The mother was taken to a hospital for her injuries, but officials did not say Thursday whether she was released.

New trolling rules not likely for fishing opener

MADISON — Wisconsin anglers who look forward to trolling for fish for the first time will probably have to wait awhile. A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources official said a new rule that allows trolling on all of Wisconsin's inland waters probably won't be ready in time for the season's Opening Day on May 2. Fisheries' management specialist Tim Simonson said the Legislature is still in the process of reviewing the new rule which was approved by the Natural Resources Board last May. It allows trolling on lakes throughout 17 counties where the practice had been fully or partially banned. Simonson says it appears the rule will be implemented in mid-to-late May at the earliest. Once it takes effect, trolling in the new places will be limited to one line per angler and no more than two lines per boat. In the other 55 counties, three lines per angler are allowed. The DNR board agreed that the new policy should be reviewed every three years in order to keep it in effect.

Illinois woman, collared in Wisconsin, facing animal neglect charges

ELKHORN — An Illinois woman faces extradition from southern Wisconsin, to face charges of mistreating over 150 animals at a rental house. Tina McKinnon, 45, was arrested yesterday at Linn in Walworth County. Authorities said she had at least 65 dead dogs and cats, and 85 live dogs at her rural home near Freeport, Ill. The animals were found Monday by the property owner, who said he heard loud barking from a machine shed. He told officials that more than 30 dogs ran out when he opened the shed's door. McKinnon reportedly moved to the site after last Christmas. Animal control officials said they discovered animals roaming through feces and urine and dogs were hiding in closets, duct work, and a stove. Freeport authorities say they're coordinating with Walworth County officials on McKinnon's extradition. Meanwhile, an animal hospital is taking care of the most of the living dogs. Others are at shelters, where they could be put up for adoption once a judge approves.

Bo Ryan has been named one of four finalists for the 2015 Naismith Men's College Basketball Coach of the Year award.

EMPIRE¹ KEEPS BUILDING SOUNDTRACK TOPS CHART

Convinced he can ride out the slowing fortunes of America's oil and gas industry, Shawn Kluver arrived at Thursday's heavy equipment auction with money to spend and bets to make.

Kluver flew to Colorado from North Dakota on a one-way ticket, confident he'd find bargains to drive home.

"Everyone says we're crazy, but we're hoping to capitalize on the downturn," he said, walking around the sprawling, dusty auction site, where more than 3,000 bidders haggled over backhoes, bulldozers and the trucks he was shopping for, called hydro excavators. Used oil field equipment is a bargain these days. Hundreds of drilling rigs across America are being shut down by oil companies facing low petroleum prices, putting tens of thousands of roustabouts, drillers, mudders and truckers out of work and idling the equipment used to prepare the ground. But in this downturn, just as in others, someone's pain will someday be another's gain.

The fall has been fast: The price of a barrel of the benchmark U.S. crude known as West Texas Intermediate closed at \$43.96 on the New York Mercantile Exchange Friday, down more than 50% from a year ago.

At the Ritchie Bros. auction here, bidders in jeans and Carhartt pants clutched rolled-up inventory catalogs, consulting with partners and wives and bankers by phone before staking their place in the company's auditorium where auctioneers rattled off bids for a seemingly never-ending stream of rumbling diesel engines that totaled \$23 million in sales. Ritchie Bros., which bills itself as the world's largest auctioneer of heavy equipment, says it's seen record-setting interest in its auctions this year, driven in part by contractors seeking bargains on oilfield equipment that can be repurposed for construction.

On the block at its Longmont auction Thursday were more than dozen hydro excavator trucks, which use high-pressure water to clean drilling rigs and probe for buried utility lines near wells. Many of those trucks came from Decatur, Texas.-based H2X, which laid off 60 employees and shut down in February after oil companies stopped calling them for work, said former CEO Mike Clark.

"I don't know how much they sold for, and I don't really want to know," Clark said Thursday by phone from Texas. "The oil and gas companies pulled in their horns really fast. Everyone I talk to, they're stunned at how fast everybody reacted."

The oil and gas industry hasn't collapsed entirely. Thousands of rigs are still boring into the earth, and many workers are still benefiting from rig jobs that can pay about \$100,000 annually, according to Rigzone.com, an industry job and news site. But a major slowdown is well underway. Nationally, last week's count of active U.S. drilling rigs was down 40% from the same week a year ago, according to industry expert

Baker Hughes. The number fell by 56 from the previous week, with 1,069 operating as of Friday, Baker Hughes said.

The reductions are the most significant drop in drilling since 2008, said Tim Hess, a short-term energy outlook analyst with the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Hess said oil companies are reducing drilling because there's an oversupply of oil across the world, which is driving prices down. In the United States, many oil companies have hydraulic fractured, or fracked, their wells, which allows them to extract oil and gas from previously unprofitable areas, helping supercharge the American oil boom. Hess said companies are finishing the wells they're already drilling, but are only starting new ones in areas they think will be most profitable. That will lead to production declines and potentially rising prices by this fall, he predicted.

Federal energy analysts predict "very high uncertainty" about oil prices over the coming months, with December 2015 futures for West Texas Intermediate crude oil trading between \$32 and \$108 a barrel.

While oil prices and production levels remain uncertain, people are already losing their jobs.

Halliburton, one of the country's most recognizable oilfield service companies, last month announced that it will cut up to 8% of its overall workforce, or approximately 5,200 to 6,400 jobs. Baker Hughes in January announced layoffs of about 7,000 people, or 11% of its workforce. Shareholders of the two companies are voting on a proposed merger on March 27. And Schlumberger, another oilfield services company, announced in January it was laying off 9,000 people. Kluver, the hydro excavator buyer, knows all that. He still laid down \$142,000 to buy two of the trucks, which he and a colleague planned to drive 10 hours home to Kildeer, N.D., as fast as possible. The trucks can also be used to clean out carwashes and industrial kitchens, and Kluver plans to keep busy until the higher-paying oil industry again comes calling.

"It will come back eventually," he said. "But it will weed out a lot of people first."

FAA allows Amazon to fly drones experimentally

The Federal Aviation Administration approved Amazon Logistics Inc. on Thursday to fly drones experimentally.

The approval will allow the company to conduct research, development and crew training for deliveries called Amazon Prime Air.

The company is required to fly remote-controlled aircraft lower than 400 feet during daylight hours, and the pilot must have a private pilot's certificate. Other restrictions include keeping the aircraft within view of its pilot or a partner, called a "visual observer," and flying at least 500 feet away from people not associated with the experiments.

While Amazon is the highest-profile company to get FAA approval to fly drones

commercially, the agency has granted 48 petitions through Friday for purposes such as movie-making, smokestack inspection, agriculture and aerial photography. But hundreds more applications are pending, as the industry urges faster regulatory action. In 2012, Congress ordered the FAA to integrate drones into the skies with passenger planes by September 2015. Watchdogs have said the agency is unlikely to meet that deadline. The FAA proposal for small drones, which is open for public comment now, is expected to take 18 months to two years to complete.

Amazon ([AMZN](#)) shares were flat in after-hours trading.

The approval was granted under an airworthiness certificate that requires Amazon to report monthly to the FAA. The reports must include the number of flights, a pilot duty time per flight, any malfunctions, deviation and instructions from air-traffic controllers and unintended loss of links between the aircraft and remote pilot. Amazon ignited interest in the commercial use of drones with a December 2013 story on *60 Minutes* about the prospects for drones to deliver products bought on its website. But the company has bristled at the slow development of FAA rules for commercial drones.

The FAA released a long-awaited proposal in February for rules governing remote-controlled aircraft weighing up to 55 pounds. But even that development required a pilot for each drone, which could hinder deliveries envisioned along automatic flying directions. The approval Thursday allows Amazon to expand its research in coordination with the FAA. Amazon committed to following safety rules strictly.

"At Amazon, our energy comes from inventing on behalf of customers," the company's associate general counsel, Stephanie Burns, wrote last month in asking for FAA approval. "Amazon Prime Air, a new delivery system that will get packages to customers in 30 minutes or less using small aerial vehicles, is one invention we are incredibly passionate about."

'Empire' keeps building: Soundtrack tops charts

When the *Empire* soundtrack made its debut atop *Billboard's* albums chart Wednesday, it marked the first time an album had kept an artist with a better-selling title from the No. 1 spot.

Madonna's *Rebel Heart* outsold the soundtrack to Fox's hit TV series, moving 116,000 copies to *Empire's* 110,000. But when it came to on-demand streaming and individual track sales — two factors that have been part of *Billboard's* chart methodology since December — *Empire* had a clear edge. The soundtrack had nearly three times the streams as *Rebel Heart*, and its tracks outsold *Rebel Heart's* 4-to-1, giving it the No. 1 spot. "When you get a show that is as tied into the music as this is, all the songs do fairly well," says Nielsen Entertainment analyst David

defiant speech challenging the Houthis in his first public address since leaving Sanaa, the AP reported.

Diplomats from the United States and several European nations fled Yemen in February amid embassy closures resulting from deteriorating security conditions.

Violence in the country has grown in the past week. On Friday, 137 people were killed and 357 wounded after four suicide bombers targeted two Shiite mosques in Sanaa in one of the deadliest attacks in the nation's history. The U.S. government, prior to the Houthi takeover, had considered Yemen to be a critical partner in its efforts to battle al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. That branch of the terror organization has plotted several attacks against U.S. citizens, including schemes to destroy airliners. Between 2007 and 2012, the U.S. government provided more than \$1 billion in assistance to Yemen, including nearly \$500 million in weapons and training. Last week, *The Washington Post* reported that the Pentagon could not account for about \$500 million in American weaponry sent to Yemen, including helicopters and weapons.

Buick, Jaguar tops in dealer service satisfaction

Buick technicians do good work.

The General Motors brand is a repeat atop the mainstream brands in J.D. Power's annual Customer Service Index, a measure of dealer service, Power said today.

Jaguar was tops among luxury brands, and best of any brand.

In fact, the top five luxury brands outscored Buick, suggesting that owners of high-dollar machines do, in fact, get better treatment and higher-quality work in return for paying luxury prices.

The CSI measured how pleased owners of one-to-five-year-old vehicles are with work done at franchised dealerships in 2014. Power notes that recalls last year by GM and others pushed up the percentage of recall-related service visits to 16%, from a recent peak of 15% in 2011.

That increase in recall work actually boosted the overall average in the survey. Owners reported being more satisfied with recall work than previously, at the same time owners overall said they were slightly less-satisfied with ordinary maintenance and repair work.

"Even though recalls can create a large influx of customers into the service department and really strain capacity, automakers are better prepared to handle recalls than they were a few years ago," said Chris Sutton, vice president, U.S. automotive retail practice at J.D. Power.

"Manufacturers have shown that it is possible to turn a potential negative into a positive when it comes to recalls if they're done in a way that doesn't inconvenience the customer," Sutton said.

Jeep may make Wrangler offroad pickup

Jeep brand CEO Mike Manley says the company is evaluating whether to offer a pickup version of a Wrangler as the company

decides where to build the next-generation SUV.

Manley hinted that a Wrangler pickup could eventually become part of the Jeep lineup after the next generation model is launched. "I am a huge fan of a pickup truck in the Jeep brand. Not just because of the history -- it has been part of our history over the years -- but also because it is one of the top subjects of topics that we have for discussion with our customers," Manley said.

Manley made the comments about a possible Jeep pickup on the same day that the company revealed the Jeep Wrangler Red Rock Responder -- a pickup concept version of the Wrangler.

If the company makes a Wrangler pickup, it would do so as part of the development of the next-generation Wrangler, which is already underway.

Jeep's parent, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, also is trying to work out issues related to production of the next Wrangler. Manley said the company must solve production constraints at the company's plant in Toledo, the cost of retooling the plant to potentially build a Wrangler with an aluminum body and how to make the transition with the least amount of lost production time.

"Obviously, what you are trying to do is to solve as many parts of the equation as you can going forward," Manley said. "You get rare opportunities to do that."

Manley said FCA US, the company previously known as Chrysler, is reviewing a proposal from Toledo and Ohio officials that includes tax incentives and a way for the company to purchase up to 100 acres of land adjacent to the current plant.

The company must decide on where and how to build the Wrangler quickly to meet its goal of launching the next-generation Wrangler in 2017.

"We are going to give it the most appropriate time it takes to get the decision right," Manley said.

More gas stations want to sell beer on tap
DES MOINES, Iowa — Move over slushy machines. Gas stations and convenience stores are making room for a more adult beverage dispenser.

Draft beer taps where customers can have 64-ounce growlers filled with beer to go have been installed in dozens of gas stations, grocery stores and other retailers around the country.

About 35 states allow retailers to sell the refillable, half-gallon glass jugs known as growlers, according to the Brewers Association, a national trade group, and several states, including Florida, Iowa and Missouri are considering laws to allow the practice.

"It's definitely becoming more popular," said Paul Gatza, director of the Brewers Association, a national industry group. "The American public wants to be able to control their experience. They want to be able to take their beer home and pour as much or little as they want."

Some brewers, though, are skeptical about putting their beer on tap in gas stations and corner stores, and wholesalers have voiced opposition to growler-friendly laws, which they say undermine tested alcohol distribution systems.

Still, retailers are eager to tap into the nation's growing thirst for craft beer.

According to the Brewers Association, craft beer sales grew 22% in 2014 to \$19.6 billion, although a portion of the increase was due to a looser definition of craft breweries.

One of the first retailers to embrace growlers was Sunoco. The fuel and convenience store company opened its first "Craft Beer Exchange" in 2011 in a Buffalo, N.Y., gas station.

Today, Sunoco fills growlers in 65 convenience stores in New York and South Carolina. Each has six to 12 beers on tap ranging from \$8 to \$20 per half-gallon. Customers can bring in an empty growler or buy one for about \$4. Employees trained to work the taps fill and seal the growlers. In the craft beer-loving Pacific Northwest, The Growler Guys has opened 10 franchises. The company's original location in a Shell gas station in Bend, Ore., has more than 30 beers on tap.

In Irvine, Calif., a company called The Growler Station manufactures equipment that uses carbon-dioxide to keep beer fresh longer in growlers. Since 2012, the company has installed its patented growler-filling system in more than 100 gas stations, grocery stores and other shops.

"I don't think it's going to be a flash in the pan," co-founder Tony Lane said. "We're trying to change the way beer is distributed." But some brewers remain skeptical. Brewers guilds in Colorado and California have voiced opposition to retailers filling growlers, Gatza said. The concern is that a dirty keg line or an unwashed growler could result in tainted beer that reflects poorly on the brewer.

Dave Ropte, president of the Iowa Brewers Guild and co-founder of 515 Brewing in suburban Des Moines, said he is open to convenience stores selling growlers but would prefer customers buy beer directly from breweries.

"There's a reason gas stations and grocery stores want to do it," he said. "They can buy a keg a heck of a lot cheaper than they can buy bottles so they can make a lot more money selling growlers."

Beverage distributors have also voiced opposition to laws expanding where and how growlers can be sold.

"You're not selling something like popsicles," said Mike Heller, a lobbyist for the Iowa Wholesalers Association. "You're selling something that has a lot of taxation and a lot of controls on how it can be sold and distributed and we think those controls are good public policy dating back to Prohibition."

Across American oilfields, layoffs and auctions

Bakula. "It's not like an album where one hit single goes to radio and that's all you hear." According to *Billboard*, the *Empire* collection is the first TV soundtrack to debut atop its albums chart since Fox's *Glee* put three albums there in 2010.

"I always felt the show could hit an audience and have success, but I never dreamed of this," says Geoff Bywater, Fox Television's head of music. He compares *Empire* to "a developing hit record, going up the charts each week." The show's audience grew to nearly 15 million leading up to Wednesday's season finale, so many viewers knew the soundtrack's songs, just as if they'd been playing on the radio.

"When you have exposure for every single song, it does have the appeal of a greatest-hits" collection, Bakula says.

The album contains performances by Mary J. Blige, Jennifer Hudson, Estelle and Courtney Love, as well as the show's actors, including Terrence Howard, Jussie Smollett and Bryshere Gray (who goes by the stage name Yazz), giving the album appeal beyond a core hip-hop audience.

That was intentional, says songwriter/producer Jim Beanz, who creates most of the show's music with executive music producer Timbaland.

"I tried to make sure the music had a more diverse fan base," Beanz says. "I tried to make sure that somebody could take something away from every song."

Beanz calls the process of creating music for *Empire* "the hardest I've ever worked." He'll likely get some help during the show's second season, Bywater says, because "we're definitely going to do more than 12 episodes."

Bywater adds that urban radio programmers have begun showing an interest in *Empire*'s music, which could help maintain interest in the show during the off-season. So could an *Empire* tour, which likely would feature Smollett, Gray and Howard.

"It'll happen," Bywater says. "I just don't know when."

Twisted Sister drummer A.J. Pero dies at 55

Heavy-metal band Twisted Sister announced on its Facebook page that drummer A.J. Pero died Friday.

He was 55.

AP says Pero had an apparent heart attack. Twisted Sister guitarist Jay Jay French said Pero was on tour with the band Adrenaline Mob, and members of that group were unable to rouse him on their bus Friday morning. He was taken to a hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he died.

Anthony Jude Pero was the drummer behind the throbbing, fast-paced sound of Twisted Sister. *Loudwire.com* says he was "easily the band's most celebrated man behind the kit. Pero had many stints with Twisted Sister, the longest being his latest run of 12 straight years (2003 – 2015) with the heavy metal legends."

He was well-known for a scene in the video for 1984's *We're Not Gonna Take It* in which he struck a snare drum covered with glitter, sending it spraying into the air.

Dee Snider, frontman for the band, shared a tweet saying he was "heartbroken" by the news.

My friend, my brother, my band mate passed away today. My heart is broken. RIP A.J. Pero.

— Dee Snider (@deesnider) March 20, 2015

SXSW: Thousands of gigs later, fest is a wrap

AUSTIN — Over the last week here, more than 2,200 bands and artists performed more than 3,000 gigs in music halls, bars and even hotel lobbies.

And that's just the official number from South By Southwest. Unofficial performances throughout the city numbered in the hundreds more.

While most of the acts were up-and-coming and lesser-known, big names such as Iggy Azalea and Miley Cyrus made surprise appearances. As the week came to an end, lingering rain showers dampened outdoor venues, too.

Snapshots from a week of music:

- Nashville band Pujol rocked the late shift Saturday night at Red Eyed Fly, taking the indoor stage at midnight. They broke out a rock version of *Drunk in Love* and new song *Circle* that suggested to the standing listeners that it may have "been a real bad day, but I can turn it around."

- South Korean punk rock godfathers No Brain were among the last performers inside the Austin Convention Center on Saturday. Lead singer Buldaegal took seriously his job of inciting a sluggish 1 p.m. crowd, telling them their first attempt at cheering didn't match the band's previous South By Southwest audiences.

Their furious set paid homage to The Ramones and The Clash with short, straight-ahead rock songs and a dalliance with reggae. Drummer Hyoonga took the microphone to sing a song devoted to soju, a Korean alcoholic beverage. A cover of Social Distortion's *Bad Luck* broke down any language barriers.

- Australian mood rockers The Church performed a short set Friday night at Buffalo Billiards, but apparently the logistics weren't to singer Steve Kilbey's liking. "We're so pressed for time, we have no time for my hilarious stage banter, so we are just going to press on with our songs," he said. The set ended with a clamorous crescendo that felt as if the band was trying to make the room spontaneously combust.

- Brazilian band Call Me Lolla faced logistical issues, too, but delivered a tidy performance of laidback folk Friday during happy hour while competing with the NCAA men's basketball broadcasts in the Hilton Austin's Liberty Tavern. Frontwoman Brenda Mayer's vocals recalled those of Edie Brickell.

- Thursday night at the Midcoast Takeover, an unofficial showcase of Kansas City area bands, provided a wide swath of rock: power punk from The Bad Ideas, Primus-y dark grunge from The Medicine Theory (a two-piece joined by a cellist) and theatrical indie rockers Me Like Bees.

A late addition to the bill, Austin-based Sphynx, had listeners dancing to its glam pop. Hard rockers The Architects, the last band of the night, tossed in a rendition of The Clash's *Bankrobber*.

- NPR Music's showcase Wednesday night at Stubb's BBQ had talent to satisfy nearly any musical palate. Rapper Boogie kicked the show off with a lyrical set that would surely test radio censors. Las Vegas native Shamir then mashed up pop and disco to catchy effect.

Next up, Courtney Barnett, an Australian singer/songwriter, brought some loud crunchy power pop. Belgium singer Stromae connected with danceable pop music sung mostly in French. Closing band TV on the Radio segued from straight-ahead to synth-driven rock.

- Loud electropop band Passion Pit helped unofficially kick off the musical segment of South By Southwest Tuesday night in the Fader Fort. Their performance was the first concert live streamed in 4K online and throughout Austin on ultrahigh-definition displays. Later that night, Austin native Gary Clark Jr. closed out the He^rd/PayPal SXSW Music Tech Mashup with a blistering blues-rock set at the Empire Control Room & Garage.

- After earlier appearing on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, which sets up residence here for a week during the festival, Brad Paisley played an energetic late-night set Monday in the Samsung Lounge. Kimmel took the stage with a harmonica to duet with Paisley on a cover of Huey Lewis and the News' *I Want a New Drug*.

'Insurgent' shows 'Divergent' box office might

The Divergent Series: Insurgent showed franchise staying power, topping the weekend box office with \$54 million.

The box office success comes one year after the first screen adaptation of Veronica Roth's best-selling book series, 2014's *Divergent*, opened to \$54.6 million on its way to a \$150.9 million domestic haul.

Insurgent overcame tough reviews, earning a lowly 32% critical rating on

RottenTomatoes.com. Audiences were far kinder, giving it an A-minus on CinemaScore.

Loyal young adult fans of the title continued to flock to see stars Shailene Woodley and Theo James in the next chapter, as the rebels are on the run from totalitarian leader Jeanine (Kate Winslet). The film's box office total included \$3.6 million on 356 IMAX screens. "*The Divergent Series* is this consistently high-performing franchise. *Insurgent* is a testament of the strength of this brand and great marketing," says Paul Dergarabedian,

box office analyst for Rentrak. "These movies are catnip to this young adult audience."

Sean Penn's foray into the possible-franchise action world was not nearly as successful with *The Gunman*, which earned a fourth-place finish with an unimpressive \$5 million. The R-rated tale of an assassin targeted for killing brought in some big Hollywood names, including a bulked-up Penn, Idris Elba and Javier Bardem. But it was shot up by reviewers, who gave it a 14% critical score on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences gave it a B-minus on CinemaScore.

"There's this rush to have this Liam Neeson-style action star career revival. But no one has been pull it off like Neeson himself," says Phil Contrino, analyst for BoxOffice.com. "Sean Penn is just another to miss the mark." Kenneth Branagh's live-action *Cinderella* took second place after winning last weekend's box office in its debut. *Downton Abbey* star Lily James' role as Cinderella earned \$34.5 million (\$122 million total). Liam Neeson managed to show enough box office stamina to pull into third place with his thriller *Run All Night*, which added \$5.1 million in its second box office weekend (\$19.7 million total).

Meanwhile, the amazingly resilient thriller *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, starring Colin Firth as the world's classiest spy, rounded out the top five with \$4.6 million in its sixth weekend (\$114.6 million total).

The faith-based *Do You Believe?* underwhelmed for a sixth-place finish in its debut weekend with \$4 million.

Final numbers are expected Monday.

NCAA Tournament men's hoops roundup for March 19, 2015

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Two wins by No. 14 seeds. Two sons winning games for their father-coaches. The team nobody thought belonged in the field winning a game. The Big 12 starting 0-3.

Just another opening day of the NCAA Tournament.

SOUTH REGION

UAB 60, IOWA STATE 59: William Lee scored the last four points for the 14th-seeded Blazers in their upset win Thursday.

The Blazers (20-15) came in as one of the youngest teams in the field and with nobody having played in this tournament before. They wound up winning the program's first NCAA game since 2005.

The third-seeded Cyclones (25-9) couldn't hold onto a 55-51 lead with 3:13 left as the Blazers outscored Iowa State 9-4 down the stretch.

Robert Brown had 21 points and Lee finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers who dominated the boards 52-37, including 19 on the offensive glass.

Morris finished with 15 points for the Cyclones, who were making a school-record fourth straight tournament appearance.

GEORGETOWN 84, EASTERN

WASHINGTON 74: D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera scored 25 points, Mikael Hopkins had

10 points and nine rebounds, and fourth-seeded Georgetown avoided another NCAA Tournament upset by beating No. 13 seed Eastern Washington 84-74 on Thursday night.

The Hoyas (22-10) had lost four of their last five tournament games — all to teams seeded 10th or worse — and fell behind by seven in the first half to the 3-point happy Eagles. But Georgetown got its groove back with its own long-range touch, going ahead by 23 early in the second half and holding off Eastern Washington's late rally.

The Hoyas will face fifth-seeded Utah on Saturday in the round of 32.

National-scoring leader Tyler Harvey finished with 27 points, and Venky Jois had 19 points and eight rebounds for the Eagles (26-9), who entered averaging 80.8 points behind Harvey's 22.9 per game. Instead, Georgetown tired Eastern Washington with its fast-paced approach.

UCLA 60, SMU 59: Bryce Alford made four 3-pointers in the final 3:40, his last on a rare goaltending call with 13 seconds remaining, to push 11th-seeded UCLA to the upset.

All of Alford's points came on nine long-range shots but his last attempt was the most debated as his shot from the left side was hit by SMU's Yanick Moreira before it reached the rim. Officials awarded Alford, the son of coach Steve Alford, the basket, to the disbelief of SMU players and coach Larry Brown.

The sixth-seeded Mustangs (27-7) had two shots to win in the final seconds, but Nic Moore missed a 3-pointer and then a 2-point attempt that sent the Bruins (21-13) into a wild celebration.

Norman Powell added 19 points for UCLA, the team many felt didn't even belong in the field of 68.

Moore had 24 points, including six 3s.

UTAH 57, STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 50:

Jakob Poeltl had 18 points and eight rebounds, and fifth-seeded Utah opened its first NCAA Tournament appearance in six years by holding off Stephen F. Austin.

The high-scoring Lumberjacks were a trendy pick in brackets across the country, but the Utes used their stout defense to hold the Southland Conference Tournament champions well under their season average of 79.5 points. Ty Charles led 12th-seeded Stephen F. Austin (29-5) with 14 points.

Jordan Loveridge added 12 points for Utah (25-8), which will play the winner of the late game between No. 4 seed Georgetown and 13th-seeded Eastern Washington.

Utah had not won a tournament game since 2005.

Stephen F. Austin pulled off an opening-day upset last year as a No. 12 seed, ousting VCU 77-75 in overtime.

MIDWEST REGION

KENTUCKY 79, HAMPTON 56: Karl-Anthony Towns bounced back from a mini-slump with 21 points and 11 rebounds, Andrew Harrison added 14 points and No. 1 Kentucky rolled past 16th-seeded Hampton.

Limited by foul trouble the past two games, the 6-foot-11 Towns was forceful all night in helping the unbeaten Wildcats (35-0) to the site's most lopsided outcome of the day after three one-point finishes at the KFC Yum! Center.

Hampton's Quinton Chievous shook off an ankle injury sustained in Tuesday's First Four upset of Manhattan to score 22 points with 10 rebounds, but the Pirates (17-18) were no match for Kentucky after the first 10 minutes and trailed by as many as 35 with 12:43 left. **NOTRE DAME 69, NORTHEASTERN 65:** Zach Auguste scored 25 points, Jerian Grant added 17 and Notre Dame dodged a scare trying to erase its futile NCAA Tournament history.

The third-seeded Fighting Irish (30-5) returned to the tournament after a one-year absence. They have traditionally struggled in the tournament under coach Mike Brey. They made only one Sweet 16 since 2001.

Scott Eatherton had 18 points and David Walker had 15 for 14th-seeded Northeastern (23-12) which gave the Irish fits and threatened to keep Notre Dame's March malaise going.

With a chance to tie it at 67-all with less than 10 seconds left, Quincy Ford lost control of the ball — and the Huskies lost their chance at pulling off the shocker.

Auguste, who made 10 of 14 shots, sealed it with two free throws.

BUTLER 56, TEXAS 48: Kellen Dunham scored 20 points, including a pivotal 3-pointer with 1:18 to play, to lift sixth-seeded Butler (23-10).

The Longhorns (20-14) added to a miserable day for the vaunted Big 12. Texas joined Baylor and Iowa State, both No. 3 seeds, as early tournament exits.

Jonathan Holmes led the Longhorns with 15 points and Isaiah Taylor added 14 but Texas shot just 34 percent from the field and turned it over 15 times while failing to make it beyond the first weekend of the NCAAs for the seventh straight year.

A pullup jumper by Taylor drew Texas within 44-43 with 2:42 to play but the Longhorns never got closer. Dunham knocked down a free throw and then hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to make it 48-43.

CINCINNATI 66, PURDUE 65, OT: Troy Caupain got Cincinnati to overtime with his buzzer-beating layup, then Coreontae DeBerry helped the eighth-seeded Bearcats beat No. 9 seed Purdue.

The Bearcats trailed by seven with 48.5 seconds left in regulation and forced overtime with a 10-3 run. Caupain's driving layup banked off the glass, rolled around and hit the glass again — staying on the back rim for a moment — before falling through. That sent the Bearcats celebrating while officials reviewed the play to make sure Caupain did beat the buzzer.

In overtime, DeBerry scored four of his 13 points helping Cincinnati take a lead it wouldn't lose again.