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TUESDAY

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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 145

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Area bound

BSHS play troupe looks to push on

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer
The Big Spring High School Drama Department is looking to get out of its comfort zone. For the third time in four years under current Department Director Tabatha Wright, the BSHS thespians will compete in the upcoming University Interscholastic League One

See **PLAY**, Page 3

HCVFD snuffs wildfire

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer
Howard County volunteer firefighters fought back a grass fire Monday afternoon in the area of Sherrod Road that threatened a pair of homes. It was just one of several such incidents, officials say, marking an increase in wildfires in the Crossroads area. According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, he and his crew responded to the fire off Highway 350 near the old Howard County airport.

"The fire burned a total of five acres and threatened two homes," Sullivan said. "We received the call at approximately 3:30 p.m. and when firefighters got on the scene, the fire had already engulfed a wooden fence near a

See **FIRE**, Page 3

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Crews work on the main entrance area of the new Goliad Elementary building Monday afternoon. Construction of Goliad and its three sister elementary campuses is expected to be completed prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

Check your voter cards now in time for May 12 elections

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer
Time is running out for Crossroads residents who plan to cast a ballot in this year's municipal elections but haven't yet registered to vote, as Thursday, April 12, is the last day they can file their voter registration in time, according to local election officials.

Howard County Elections Admin-

istrator Sandra Bloom said the deadline is quickly approaching and urges area residents to check their voter readiness in preparation for the municipal contest, which is slated for May 12.

"The deadline to register to vote is 30 days prior to any election, so that deadline is right around the corner," Bloom said. "If you haven't received your voter certificate in the mail or you're simply not sure

about your registration status, you should contact our offices so we can check. It's much easier to check on these kinds of things ahead of time and get the ball rolling before the day or two before the deadline."

Bloom said voter certificates were mailed out to Howard County residents last week.

"Everyone should have received

See **VOTE**, Page 3

Area man sentenced to 87 months

46-year-old pleads guilty to transportation of child pornography

Herald Staff Report

Tomas Lira Jr., 46, was sentenced Friday by U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings to 87 months in federal prison, to be followed by a 10-year period of supervised release, following his guilty plea in late December 2011 to one count of transportation of child pornography.

Lira, a resident of San Angelo, has been in custody since his arrest in October 2011.

According to documents filed in the case, Lira ad-

mitted that in August 2011, he posted an Internet ad on Craigslist.com in the personal category, "Men seeking men," under the title, "looking for a son." A special agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), acting in an undercover capacity and posing as a 15-year-old, responded to the ad and asked Lira what kind of "stuff he was into."

The two communicated by email and text messaging, discussing sexual

matters on several occasions, with Lira advising he was into gay porn and preferred young males whom he referred to as "twinks." On Aug. 20, 2011, Lira texted an image of child pornography to the undercover agent.

This matter was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice, to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the

Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section,

The investigation was conducted by ICE HSI. Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven M. Sucsy of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lubbock, Texas, was in charge of the prosecution.



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Obituaries

Billie Pinkerton

Billie Pinkerton, 81, of Stanton died Monday, April 2, 2012, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- **ANDY DEMOND PIPER**, 25, of 1217 W. Third St., was arrested Monday on warrants for no driver's license – when unlicensed, driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
- **JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD**, 38, of 303 S.E. Ninth St., was arrested Monday on warrants for issuance of a bad check and theft by check – more than \$20 and less than \$500.
- **JOAQUIN AGUIRRE DUENEZ JR.**, 40, of 700 N. Moss Lake Rd., was arrested Monday on a warrant for harassment.
- **ANDREW WAYNE ARMSTRONG**, 39, of 700 Aylesford, was arrested Monday on charges of public intoxication and prohibited substance in a correction facility.
- **CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN**, 27, of 225 Brooks Rd., was arrested Monday on charges of no driver's license – when unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- **ASSAULT** was reported: In the 1200 block of Lloyd.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported: In the 400 block of N. Gregg Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported: In the 300 block of E. Interstate Highway 20.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported: In the 900 block of Nolan.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported: In the 600 block of Caylor.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ANASTACIO CARRASCO BAEZA**, 60, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – third or more offense.
- **JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD**, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of issuance of a bad check and theft by check – more than \$20 and less than \$500.
- **JOAQUIN AGUIRRE DUENEZ**, 40, was arrested

- Monday by the HCSO on a charge of harassment.
- **CHELSEA LEE HOLMES**, 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle (lowered to a state jail felony).
- **ANDY PIPER**, 25, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid, no driver's license and failure to appear.
- **CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN**, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license – when unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- **ANDREW WAYNE ARMSTRONG**, 39, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication and prohibited substance in a correctional facility.
- **GLEN WILLARD OVERTON**, 60, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Support Groups

TUESDAY
• Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jody at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.

- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
• **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease)**, a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

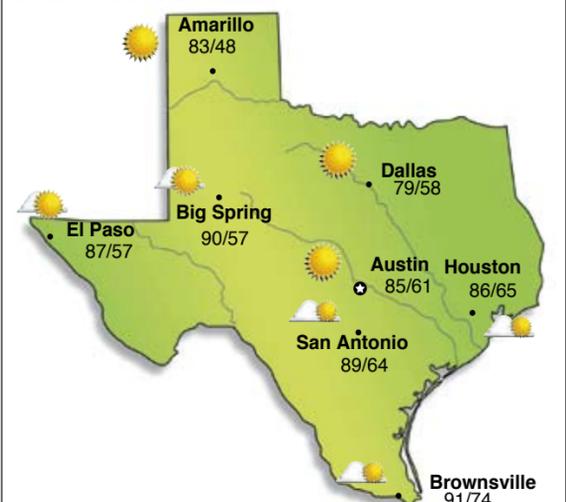
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 4/5	Fri 4/6	Sat 4/7	Sun 4/8	Mon 4/9
90/57 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s.	92/62 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.	91/60 Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.	80/60 Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.	83/52 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 8:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 8:10 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 8:10 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 8:11 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 8:12 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	83	58	sunny	Kingsville	95	71	pt sunny
Amarillo	83	48	sunny	Livingston	84	58	mst sunny
Austin	85	61	sunny	Longview	79	57	mst sunny
Beaumont	85	64	pt sunny	Lubbock	86	50	mst sunny
Brownsville	91	74	pt sunny	Lufkin	84	58	mst sunny
Brownwood	84	58	sunny	Midland	92	60	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	90	72	pt sunny	Raymondville	95	72	pt sunny
Corsicana	77	57	sunny	Rosenberg	86	64	pt sunny
Dallas	79	58	sunny	San Antonio	89	64	pt sunny
Del Rio	96	68	mst sunny	San Marcos	86	61	pt sunny
El Paso	87	57	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	76	56	sunny
Fort Stockton	92	59	mst sunny	Sweetwater	86	57	mst sunny
Gainesville	74	54	sunny	Tyler	79	57	sunny
Greenville	75	54	sunny	Weatherford	77	54	sunny
Houston	86	65	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	75	53	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	77	57	rain	Minneapolis	57	36	mst sunny
Boston	54	35	pt sunny	New York	57	40	mst sunny
Chicago	49	35	mst sunny	Phoenix	85	57	mst sunny
Dallas	79	58	sunny	San Francisco	54	45	sunny
Denver	70	45	mst sunny	Seattle	49	39	rain
Houston	86	65	pt sunny	St. Louis	59	45	rain
Los Angeles	67	48	pt sunny	Washington, DC	61	44	mst sunny
Miami	87	71	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 4/5	Fri 4/6	Sat 4/7	Sun 4/8	Mon 4/9
9	9	9	6	9
Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 being the lowest and 11 the highest. A higher UV Index shows the need for greater skin protection.

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FIRE

Continued from Page 1

home. They were able to knock that down and fight the fire back away from the home without any damage to the structure.

"Once they were able to get the house out of danger, the fire began to move east, threatening a doublewide mobile home nearby. However, firefighters were able to get to it before the fire reached it or caused any damage to the home. The wind really kept us moving, but we were able to keep it from damaging anything other than the wooden fence that was already engulfed when we got there."

Sullivan said six fire trucks with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and 15 firefighters responded. No injuries were reported and damages — aside from the fence — were limited to brush and grass.

The fire was caused by an electric fence that made contact with a tree, according to Sullivan.

"The insulation around the knob that attaches the electric wire to the post had come off," he said. "That area had made contact with a tree, which started a very slow-burning fire. Add to that the low humidity and the high winds and it didn't take long for it to turn into a wildfire."

Sullivan said the Sherrod Road fire is just one of several the volunteer fire department has responded to since Saturday, a rather pronounced upswing in the number

of wildfires in the Howard County area.

"Thanks to recent rains, we've been pretty lucky in this area for some time now. However, that moisture is just about gone," Sullivan said. "We've responded to at least one fire a day since Saturday, so things are beginning to pick back up, there's no doubt about that."

"I've already spoken to the County Judge (Mark Barr) and we feel like we'll be OK until April 15. However, after that, if we don't get some more rain, we may be looking at a situation where we need to enact a burn ban again. Right now it's looking like we might get some rain this coming Sunday or Monday, but if we don't, we're definitely running out of moisture."

In the meantime, Sullivan urges area residents to remain vigilant when working outdoors with any type of ignition source.

"So far this year, we only have one fire that was caused by human error," Sullivan said. "That's pretty amazing, to be honest with you. We have to do everything in our power to keep that streak alive. There are always going to be fires like the one on Sherrod Road, fires caused by nature or just chance and we'll deal with them as they come. We just have to be careful not to let our guard down and start letting human error become a problem."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

PLAY

Continued from Page 1

Act Play Area contest, to be held April 14 in Midland.

The top two rated plays at the area contest will advance to the UIL state contest later this spring in Austin. The state contest is relatively uncharted territory for BSHS; the school has qualified for a trip to Austin once in the past decade.

Big Spring won the right to compete in the area contest by receiving the highest score at the recent District 5-3A One-Act Play Contest at Sweetwater. Abilene Wylie placed second at the district level to also qualify for area competition, while Brownwood was third.

BSHS will perform Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice," a modern update of the classic Greek tragedy.

"It's a very bizarre show, and I wanted to do something different than what other schools would possibly bring to the table," Wright said. "I didn't want to do anything classic and I realized this was something so unique and challenging it might take us to the next level."

The judges were doubtlessly impressed by Big Spring's performance at the district contest. Aside from the play receiving top ratings, several cast and crew members won individual honors. April Zavala and Wiley McIntosh were named to the all-star cast, while Clay Branscom, Morgan Slaughter, Marilee Rodgers and Maranda Scott received honorable mention all-star cast recognition.

BSHS also won best technical crew honors. Crew members are Lacy McMurtrey, Lauren Puga, Caleb Pirkle, Hannah Overby and Josh Morgan. McMurtrey received the top individual crew member award, Wright said.

"I am very proud of our students," Wright said. "They went to compete and brought home an advancing show and numerous awards. I am excited to get the chance to continue working on this show with this incredible group of students."

"We are definitely looking forward to the area contest and the level of competition from the other advancing schools," Wright added.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

Man accused of urinating on co-workers' chairs

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — An information technology worker accused of urinating on colleagues' chairs at an office in Iowa has surrendered to police.

The *Des Moines Register* reports that 59-year-old Raymond Foley turned himself in Saturday to face a charge of second-degree criminal mischief.

Foley declined to comment to The Associated Press on Tuesday, other than to acknowledge that he no longer works at the Farm Bureau office in West Des Moines.

Police say some co-workers had complained about stains on their chairs. A security system was installed, and police say it caught Foley in the act.

Police documents say Foley looked up employee photos in the agency database and then would go into the office during off hours and urinate on their chairs.

The chair damage was estimated at \$4,500.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

their voter certificate in the mail by now," Bloom said. "If you haven't received it, you need to contact our office. Also, if you received one in the mail for someone who no longer resides at that residence, you need to mark it 'return to sender' and drop it back in the mailbox. This is one of the main ways we're able to update and clean up our voter rolls each year."

Big Spring voters will only have one city council contest to weigh in on this year, as the race for the District 4 seat will be on the ballot May 12.

Bobby McDonald — local businessman and husband of incumbent District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald, who decided not to run for re-election — will face off against local resident Loretta Farquhar for the seat.

The District 2 seat, currently held by Manuel Ramirez Jr., who did not file to run for

re-election, drew only a single candidate. Carmen Moreno Harbour will run unopposed.

The District 6 seat, held by Councilman Terry Hansen, who also declined to file for re-election, drew a lone candidate. Marvin Boyd, owner of Boyd's Auto Glass.

Big Spring voters will also be asked to decide the fate of a proposed overhaul of the municipality's water and wastewater facilities using up to \$13 million in economic development funding through a 4B project.

Members of the Big Spring City Council voted unanimously to have the proposed project placed on the May ballot during their Feb. 14 meeting, a move that drew both praise and criticism from various voices in the community.

As part of the agreement between the council and the Big Spring Economic Development board of directors, if voters approve the project the EDC will provide

\$750,000 a year for the first two years, and then 40 percent of its sales tax revenue — with a floor of \$500,000 and a ceiling of \$750,000 for the following 18 years — with the city of Big Spring picking up the remainder of the tab.

The proposal also contains an agreement City Attorney Linda Sjogren said she hopes will quell the idea within the community the city council will simply begin using the Big Spring EDC — and, more importantly, its sales tax funding — as a revenue source, an idea at the heart of many arguments currently surrounding the proposed 4B project.

"We also added a provision to belay any concerns the city council was going to keep coming back to the well and pushing the EDC in this direction," Sjogren said. "In the future, if the city council propos-

es a 4B project and it is approved by the voters, the amount of the (new) project would reduce this project. This was just to show the spirit of the agreement."

The city of Big Spring has struggled with its water and wastewater systems, most recently being cited by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality numerous times due to high levels of turbidity in municipal waters.

Voters will have the opportunity to either vote for or against the project on the May 12 ballot, according to city officials.

Early voting in this year's municipal elections is slated to begin April 30 and end May 8, according to local election officials.

The deadline to request a mail-out ballot is May 4, according to Bloom.

"If you haven't already

requested your mail-out ballot, please phone-in and make your request that way," Bloom said. "We're trying to avoid any confusion between the municipal elections and the party primaries, which are also being held in May."

Also May 12, several area public schools will be having trustee elections.

For more information on the upcoming elections, contact the Howard County Elections

Administration at 432-264-2273.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

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Governor
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• JIM LANDTROOP

State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 1105

• KEL SELIGER

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Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101

Big Spring, 79720
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BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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GLEN CARRIGAN — Home: 263-3207.

GLORIA McDONALD — Home: 263-4835. Work: 263-7615.

CRAIG OLSON — Cell: 270-0703.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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DONNIE BAKER — Home: 267-5325.

JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793.

JOHN CLINE — Home: 263-7158.

Does Romney have a home?

Mitt Romney has three houses. The former Massachusetts governor would like to do a \$12 million "fix-up" on one of them, a beachfront property in La Jolla, Calif. The plan is to tear down the existing 3,000-square-foot structure and build an 8,100-square-foot replacement, plus a car elevator.

Within the top sliver of the richest 1 percent — in which Romney holds secure membership — such extravagant displays are not unusual. But Romney is also the likely Republican candidate for president. He seems unable to connect the two.

We've had great presidents who were rich and privileged, the two Roosevelts being examples. But Romney has crossed the border from rich to super-in-your-face rich. The idea of building a private Xanadu on the Pacific doesn't quite work with the one of winning over anxiety-ridden middle-class voters. You really have to question the guy's judgment.

Romney is certainly not the first politician whose grandiose lifestyle came under harsh scrutiny. Former Vice President Al Gore, the Democrats' 2000 presidential choice, famously owns a 20-room Nashville mansion plus pool house. Critics chided him for pounding the lectern over the threat of global warming while consuming enough electricity to power a small village in Moroc-

co. They had a point.

But "inconsistency" aside, the worry about politicians swaddled in cashmere is this: Can they serve the American people if their experience of America is limited by their platinum surroundings?

Consider how Romney's father lived. The CEO of American Motors and later Michigan governor, George Romney was a rich man. But he put his family in a 5,500-square-foot house that — though located in Detroit's comfy Palmer Woods neighborhood — would have been merely upper middle class by today's yardstick of residential splendor. (Interesting that when the feds took over the beach house of swindler Bernard Madoff, the media expressed surprise at its modest size.

The Montauk Point, N.Y., hideaway was a mere 3,014 square feet.)

Romney's luxury-home portfolio includes a six-bedroom contemporary sitting on 11 choice acres along the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee, in the resort town of Wolfeboro, N.H. Real estate experts value the 5,400-square-foot residence plus separate guest house at around \$10 million. The family also has a townhouse outside of Boston, covering a mere 2,100 square feet. (We must also mention the Romneys' 9,514-square-foot extravaganza in the plush skiing resort of Park City, Utah, sold in 2009.)

What's notable about Romney's real-estate holdings, including the townhouse, is how totally they physically separate him from the rest of humanity. One can easily drop a dozen mil-

lion dollars on a house in San Francisco or Manhattan, but the homeowner who walks out the front door goes cheek-by-jowl with other kinds of people. His father's house put the family within the borders of a teaming blue-collar city. What Romney has done is create a coast-to-coast buffer zone of luxury.

Note that the Romneys' only arguably middle-class residence is in Massachusetts. For the two years before buying it, Romney claimed the basement of his son's nearby house as his legal residence. Has he treated the state where he served as governor as merely a mailing address? Furthermore, does anyone who has three houses, two of them ginormous, really live anywhere? Or is he merely the globe-trolling private-equity zillionaire, happy wherever other rich people congregate?

Previous political gaffes — like casually mentioning his wife's two Cadillacs — have created the storyline that Romney hasn't the foggiest idea how ordinary Americans go through their days. Choosing this time to construct a Pacific palace really makes you wonder what's going on in Romney's head — and whether he has much idea of what's going on in anyone else's.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Obama radicalism doubling down

You can't even casually surf the Internet on any given day without numerous reminders of just how radical President Obama is — and this is during an election year, when it should be in his political interest to mask his radicalism.

Minding my own business, I happened on an article by Jacob Laksin on Front-PageMag.com, titled "Obama's Pick for World Bank Hates Capitalism." I'd heard a bit about this before but hadn't yet studied it. I'm so used to Obama's extremism that such revelations hardly move me, much less surprise me. I know where he stands; I just wish everyone else did.

Obama has nominated Dartmouth College President Jim Yong Kim to head the World Bank. In 2000, Kim edited a collection of studies under the title "Dying for Growth: Global Inequality and the Health of the Poor."

The "book's radical central premise," writes Laksin, is that "capitalism and economic growth (are) bad for the poor across the world." Kim co-wrote the introduction, which includes the claim that the book shows "that the quest for growth in GDP and corporate profits has in fact worsened the lives of millions of women and men." It says that even in those instances in which free trade and free markets have led to economic growth, they've done so without benefiting "those living in 'dire poverty,' one-fourth of the world's population." Can't you just hear Obama himself in those words?

One thing that helps the plight of the very poor, according to one chapter, is a socialized health care system, such as the one in Communist Cuba. The chapter's author touts that system because of the Cuban government's "commitment not

only to health in the narrow sense but to social equality and social justice." As we opponents of Obamacare have said repeatedly, Obamacare is hardly just about making health care more affordable or more accessible, neither of which it will do in the end, but is a stealth vehicle to greatly expand governmental control over limitless aspects of our lives to enable the leftist central planners to effectuate "social equality and social justice" under the innocuous guise of providing health care.

As with so many of its ideas, the left is wrong about the record of free markets on the poor, notes Laksin, who points to "overwhelming evidence" that economic growth raises income levels and reduces global poverty. But again, leftist ideologues aren't motivated by a desire to improve the lot of the downtrodden, domestically or globally, but by a burning passion for statism.

This book is right out of Obama's playbook.

Can you not see the common thread running through these alleged glories of the Cuban system and Obama's approach to health care and his war on oil, coal and gas, along with his corresponding commitment to green energy and his various stimulus bills, all of which increase our national deficits, debt and unemployment but greatly increase governmental control?

Obama's nomination of Kim should be no surprise to anyone, considering his consistent record of radical associations and appointments, from Van Jones to transnationalist Harold Koh. For Obama, one's radicalism is not a deterrent to one's resume, but an enhancement. His appointment of Van Jones was not a mistake owing to the administration's failure to vet him as Obama's defenders later claimed once Jones' radicalism was exposed. Obama appointed Jones precisely because his administration was intimately familiar with Jones' views; indeed, the White House carved out a new position — green energy czar — specifically tailored for

his worldview and then happily placed him in it.

Tearing myself away from this uplifting article, I next encountered one detailing Obama's ongoing fulfillment of his promise to bankrupt the coal industry — with his Environmental Protection Agency's issuance of new proposed rules on carbon emissions, which will please the goddess Gaia but won't do much for the production of energy, economic growth, jobs or the poor, for that matter. This was after watching a report on Fox News earlier that morning highlighting Obama's obstruction of oil shale production based on other dubious environmental doom-saying.

Next, I saw John Fund's piece on National Review Online outlining Obama's background in the sordid community organizing tactics of famed leftist radical Saul Alinsky and Obama's close ties with the now fallen ACORN. According to New York Times reporter Jodi Kantor — in her new book on Obama — Obama still thought of himself as a community organizer when he was senator. He still does today, and, Fund warns, conservatives should be prepared for his Alinsky tactics in the 2012 campaign.

Maybe this all wouldn't be so exasperating if Obama didn't hold himself out as a uniter, but he is the furthest thing from it, as he, if anything, is doubling down on his polarizing radicalism and his unswerving commitment to a statist agenda for America.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we have You in our philosophy, Lord,
we are set for life.

Amen

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ELECTION 2012

Will President Obama win re-election? Or will a new president be chosen? This year, American voters will decide.

The president must be at least 35 years old, have been born a United States citizen and have resided in the United States for at least 14 years. He or she can only be elected president for two four-year terms.

Presidential elections, which occur every four years, are managed according to rules set out in the Constitution. The system for electing the president in our democracy is called the **Electoral College**. You have to be eighteen years old to vote.



★ Choosing a Candidate: ★ Caucus or Primary? ★

The difference between a **caucus** and a **primary** is that a caucus is usually a meeting where party members use discussion to eventually choose a candidate, while in a primary, party members vote privately for their choice of candidate.

While both systems are ways to choose a presidential candidate, the processes are different, with the caucus being a more informal approach. The caucuses and primaries in each state also select representatives, called **delegates**, to attend the convention.

★ Standards Link: Civics: Understand structure of political parties.

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and see if you can find the eight errors. Circle and correct them. One is done for you.

Electoral College

The Electoral College is not a place with teachers, professors and students. The Electrikal College is a system for electing the president of the Untied State.

Presidential candidates choose electors from each state to vote for them in the **electoral vote**. The number of electors for each state includes the state's two **senators** plus that state's **U.S. representatives**.

The number of representatives depends upon how many people live in the state. California has the most electoral votes with 55. The Distrik of Columbia, while not a state, has just three electoral votes.

These **electors** meet to vote for the **president**. The candidate who gets the majority of the electoral votes (more than half), will be the president.

It is possible for a candidate to receive the most votes by the people but still loose the Electoral Kollege vote.

Standards Link: Writing: Use strategies to edit written work.

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word VOTES in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

V	O	T	E	S
S				V
		V		
			V	
V				

Conventions

When all the state primaries and caucuses are over, each political party has a big meeting called a **convention**. Thousands of delegates vote to choose their party's presidential candidate from the few most popular candidates chosen from the primaries and caucuses.

The chosen presidential candidate will usually select his or her own vice-president.

Use the code to find out where each party's conventions will be held this year.

The Republican National Convention will be held during the week of August 27, 2012 in this city:

1	4	1	9	1	2	1	5	8	1	1	3	7	3	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

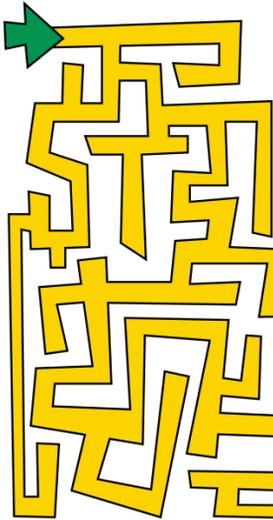
The Democratic National Convention will be held during the week of September 3, 2012 in this city:

2	6	1	1	3	8	1	1	4	1	4	4	1	0	2
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A=1 C=2 D=3 E=4 F=5 H=6 I=7
L=8 M=9 N=10 O=11 P=12 R=13 T=14



Help this candidate find his way to the press conference.



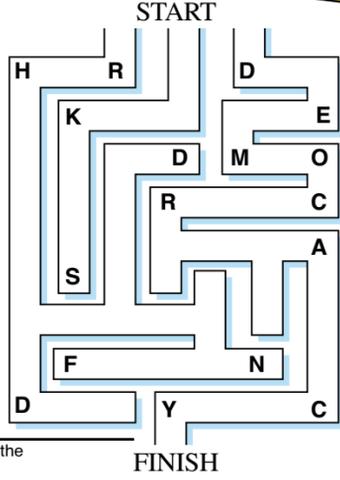
Election Day!

Election Day is the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

On Election Day, all U.S. citizens can vote for the president plus that candidate's chosen vice-president on what is called the **ticket**.

Many Americans believe they are casting their vote to choose the president, but in fact, they are selecting the **Electoral College**. The person who wins the most votes in each state wins that state's **electoral** votes.

Standards Link: Civics: Understand structure of government and the process for electing the president.



The right to vote makes our form of government in the United States a

To find the word that goes in the blank, write down each letter you pass along the correct path of this maze.

Extra! Extra! Candidate Search

Look through the newspaper for the names of people running for public office. Write down each name and the office that person is running for. Can you discover which political party each candidate represents?

Standards Link: Civics: Understand the role of political parties; understand the value of multiple parties in a democracy.

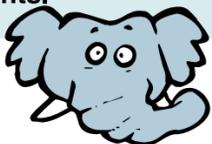
Kid Scoop Puzzler

Donkeys and elephants have long been the symbols of the two biggest political parties in the United States, thanks to a cartoonist named Thomas Nast. In the 1870s, Nast drew a donkey to represent one party and an elephant to represent the other for *Harper's Weekly* magazine.

Unscramble the letters to see which party each animal represents.



TRACMODE



EARPBUCLNI



This quiz tests your knowledge of presidential elections. Go to: www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

- PRIMARIES
- CANDIDATE
- ELECTION
- CAMPAIGN
- INFORMAL
- SENATORS
- COLLEGE
- TICKET
- CAUCUS
- TERMS
- PARTY
- VOTE
- VICE
- WINS
- TWO

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

L	S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S	C
A	C	P	G	V	O	T	E	A	O
M	A	W	I	N	S	I	N	Y	L
R	U	R	A	T	R	D	T	I	L
O	C	M	P	A	I	R	E	T	E
F	U	A	M	D	A	C	R	W	G
N	S	I	A	P	I	Y	K	O	E
I	R	T	C	V	S	M	R	E	T
P	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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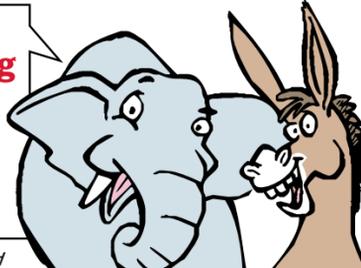
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Voters Needed!

What if there was an election and no one voted? Look through today's newspaper for articles about the candidates. List facts from the articles that would encourage citizens to vote for those candidates.

Standards Link: Comprehension: Identify main ideas and details.

What's the hardest thing about learning to ride a donkey?



What's grey, carries flowers and cheers you up when you're sick?

ANSWER: The ground.

ANSWER: A get-well-elephant.

Write On!

You're the Candidate

Pretend you have been chosen for class president. What would you like to happen in your class that would make it a better place to learn?

Bird Poop: Lather, rinse and repeat

Usually we handled them during fall migration. Increasingly, the dark, slate gray birds needed assistance during early April. With the latest arrival, we could smell it coming.

When the oil field worker opened the door on the right side of his truck, a strong aroma preceded his wiggling passenger. Having found this bird struggling in his company's pond, he had fetched the slimy blob of feathers from light crude.

Realizing something had to be done before the bird began to preen, the employee had acted quickly. After grabbing a product he often used to remove oil and grime, he had applied a liberal amount of hand cleanser on the bird.

Since chemicals in their product could cause excessive dryness, the manufacturer of the cleanser had also included a substance to alleviate that lingering effect. While it would soothe the skin and leave a slight essence for workers, it was not meant for use in large quantities for cleaning oiled birds.

As a water and shore bird, the American coot relaxed after being placed in the water on the left side of our kitchen sink. Residue from a Blue Dawn bath quickly coated the sides of this makeshift tub. After transferring the bird to the other side of the sink, the rinse water discolored rapidly.

Refilling the basins, we started the second bathing attempt. Slowly the bird seemed to be regaining its natural appearance. Once again, the rinse suggested yet another application of



BEBE
MCCASLAND



Called marsh or mud hen, the American coot nests on the muddy margins of lakes, ponds, rivers and creeks. Moving to another part of a lake, the bird will run on top of the water. Once relocated, it appears comical as it tips up like a dabbling duck. With its head and upper body submerged, only its posterior is seen as it feeds on underwater growth.

Courtesy photo

Dawn was needed.

When the third cleansing was completed, we started the drying process. By that time, our kitchen and the bird's bath attendants reeked with the odor of lanolin.

While it had been in the rinse cycle of our endeavor, we had once again noticed how unique a coot is in physical design. As it had stretched its greenish legs, we had been privileged to see its long, lobed toes.

Positioned near the rear of its body, these extremities limited its abilities on land. When in the water, however, they enabled it to be a superb swimmer and diver.

After examining its wings and body and finding no injuries, it was easy to see its dense feathers had acted as insulation against the chill of spring nights and cold, inland lakes.

Somehow, its physique almost seemed too large for its

wings. The bird's milk-white bill was a stark contrast to its black head and gray body.

Since it still smelled of lanolin, the coot was delivered to the Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland. Remaining with Midge Erskine, the bird could be evaluated further.

Weatherproofing was essential to water birds, and the effects of the hand cleanser were still unknown. Under her care, the coot could preen, exercise, and prove that it could once again survive within harsh, natural, climatic events.

After returning home, we raised windows to allow the April day to lessen the pungent and lingering lanolin aroma throughout the house. Even the next day, our vehicle reminded us of our guest.

That evening, the phone interrupted our watching Letterman and Leno. Glancing at my watch, I noticed it

was 11 o'clock.

Having noticed a strange bird in her backyard, a neighbor asked if we could come. "It wasn't there an hour ago," she stated as we walked through her house to the patio.

When we saw the errant stranger in her flower bed, we had to laugh. Another migrating coot had chosen an abnormal landing site.

After driving to the city lake, Art led our way down to the shoreline. It was amazing how different a familiar trail looked with only a flashlight to guide our way.

Once at the water, he lowered the bird into the lake. Immediately, it paddled away from us toward open water. Resurfacing from a dive, it looked about, and then dove again.

Most of its food could be found on, near, or under the water. Foraging along the shore, it could access

the roots of tender, aquatic growth. Algae and small fish could help satisfy it, as well as our emerging insects of spring.

Another evening in April, it would rise up, flap its wings, and run its way out of the water and down the lake. As it cleared the trees and left this watery haven, only the night creatures on shore and permanent waterfowl would hear the ruckus created by its departure.

Climbing back up the hill toward our vehicle, Art wondered if it was beginning to rain coots. As he opened the door for me, I comforted him with the reminder that at least this one's feathers had not been saturated with lanolin.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Poop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Just who is really in charge around here?

Former President Clinton once made this statement — "I have a pretty good idea how the 21st century works and there's not a single successful country on the planet that operates on the theory the government is the problem, not one."

Upon hearing this statement, Charlie Reese, a former columnist of the *Orlando Sentinel*, responded with an article that is

worth noting, certainly applies to us today and is quite interesting to read:

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered: if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, why do we have deficits?

If all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, why do we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget; the president does.

You and I don't have the constitutional au-

thority to vote on appropriations; the House of Representatives does.

You and I don't write the tax code; Congress does.

You and I don't set fiscal policy; Congress does.

You and I don't control monetary policy; the Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president and nine Supreme Court justices equates to 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

Those 545 human

beings spend much of their energy convincing you what they did is not their fault. It seems inconceivable to me a nation of 300 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted, by present facts, of incompetence and irresponsibility.

I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair.

If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If the Army and Marines are in Iraq and Afghanistan, it's because

they want them in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If they do not receive Social Security but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way.

There are no insoluble government problems.

Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power.

Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation," or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible.

They, and they alone, have the power.

They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses — provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees.

We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!

Now that you have read the words of Mr. Reese, you can understand why so many folks are upset with the situation today and who they blame.

But it does seem like we are going in circles, doesn't it?

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



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Forsan defeats Coahoma, stays atop District 3-2A

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

FORSAN — It was almost an upset. The young Coahoma Bulldog baseball team — winless on the season — trying to take out the first place Forsan Buffaloes on their own turf.

For the first two innings, it looked like they might succeed.

Anthony Salazar singled for the Bulldogs in the top of the third, setting Kaleb McAdams up with a RBI double to tie the game 1-1. Robert Guzman doubled, and with two outs Brandon Sanders singled, picking up two RBI and giving Coahoma a surprising 3-1 lead.

That would prove to be Coahoma's last stand, however.

Though Coahoma starting pitcher Ryan Reed started strong, the Buffs' batsmen were waiting to erupt.

Patrick Robles led off with a base hit

in the bottom of the third. Foster Burchett hit a liner up the third base line, then Bryson Phillips tied the game with a double and two RBI. T'oA MauMau took a base after being hit by a pitch and Clayton Galloway singled to score Phillips.

Blaise Coffman drew a walk and Dalton Doss hit a liner into the gap in right center field, driving MauMau home.

Trevor Burchett doubled, picking up two RBI and making it a 7-3 game.

After the reversal of fortune, the wheels started to come off for the Bulldogs.

Foster Burchett led off the bottom of the fourth inning with a triple followed by a base on balls by Phillips. MauMau was hit by a pitch for his third consecutive at-bat to load the bases for Forsan.

Marcus Cervantes singled to score

Burchett. Galloway then hit a liner to and was thrown out at first, but picked up two RBI bringing the score to 10-3.

The last at-bats came in the bottom of the fifth. Coahoma couldn't manufacture any more runs, while Forsan crossed home plate three more times to force an early close to the game, winning 13-3 via the 10-run mercy rule.

For Coahoma Coach Chris Smith, the 0-15 Bulldogs' season may be a wash, but the strides they have made as a team are undeniable.

"I was very pleased with our efforts," Smith said.

"It's a big task playing those guys, but we have improved. It was like night and day since the first time we played them."

With only three seniors, Coahoma has a potentially bright future, as not-

ed by Smith.

"We have a lot of youngsters, and they don't always get the innings they need. But they are getting experience on the varsity level. Next year should be a whole different story," he added.

Forsan now sits at 7-0, and is in sole possession of first place in District 3-2A, and that is where Coach Jason Phillips hopes to remain.

"It's a cliché, but we got to take it one game at a time," he said.

"We can't look past Post or Denver City. We just have to stay focused."

Coahoma has a bye week in district play, while Forsan travels to Post on Good Friday. The first pitch is scheduled for noon.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball

• Midland College at Howard College, 3 p.m., Jack Barber Field.

• Sweetwater at Big Spring, 7 p.m., Steer Park.

Softball

• Sweetwater at Big Spring, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Tennis

• Forsan at Denver City, TBA.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com



Big Spring's Brandon Portocarrero slides safely into first during a game earlier this season. The Steers will host Snyder tonight at 7 p.m. at Steer Park. Photo by Tony Claxton

Lady Buffaloes fall to first place Bulldogettes

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

FORSAN — Both the Coahoma Bulldogettes (12-11, 7-1) and the Forsan Lady Buffaloes (11-6, 6-2) are vying for control of their district 3-2A softball destinies and Monday, Coahoma took one giant step ahead by defeating rival Forsan 6-3.

The usually dominant Lady 'Buffs were rattled early in the top of the first inning when Coahoma put three runs on the board as a result of fielding errors.

Coahoma pitcher Kyla Clanton consistently found the strike zone, punching out six batters during her mound appearance.

The Bulldogettes kept charging in the top of the second inning.

Jennifer Castilaw doubled and Laurel Nix laid down a sacrifice bunt to

advance Castilaw to third. Tobi Robinson singled, picking up a RBI. Savannah Ness doubled, driving Robinson home. At the end of the inning, Coahoma led 5-0.

Forsan — not used to being on the short end of a ball game — started producing runs of their own in the bottom of the third inning when Brittini Cline reached base on a liner to center field. Jahnia Willard bunted, advancing Cline and reaching second on a bad throw. Cline, however, was called out at third.

Ali Knight doubled, scoring Willard and starting pitcher for Forsan, Ashley Buzbee hit an RBI single to score Knight, putting the Lady Buffs on the board for the first time and making it 5-2.

That score would remain until the bottom of the fifth when Knight hit a second double, and Kayla Tilley sin-

gled to bring her home, cutting the Bulldogettes lead to two runs.

Robinson drew a walk in the top of the sixth inning, and Ness got a RBI double to score Robinson, making it 6-3.

Coahoma held on to the lead, and now have to defeat Colorado City — who got the best of Coahoma in the last meeting — or else the district could be decided by a coin toss.

Coahoma coach Rob Glasscock hopes it doesn't come to that.

"You always want to be in the driver's seat," Glasscock said.

"But in this district, it's a three-horse race. We just have to stay focused. Colorado City beat us six to nothing, so we have a bone to pick with them," he added.

Despite the loss, one of those horses is Forsan.

The Lady Buffs' coach, Shanna Tay-

lor, was disappointed but is confident that her team can make a strong play-off run.

"We didn't play well at all defensively," Taylor said.

"It's going to come down to what happens with Coahoma and Colorado City. We went in confident, but we let those errors get to us. We are a young team and we have our work cut out for us, but we will take it one game at a time."

Next up for Coahoma will be Lubbock Coronado's junior varsity No. 1 team — a 5A squad — who they meet on Good Friday at noon on the road.

Forsan will have a chance to regroup on the same day as they travel to Post. Game time is slated for noon.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com.

Kentucky wins NCAA title

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Before his confetti-flecked suit gets back from the cleaners, John Calipari will be on the road.

Such is life for a coach who recruits all that NBA-ready talent — especially when those players get in the habit of bringing championships back to their ol' Kentucky home.

Cal's latest group of one-and-donors doesn't have much left to prove at this level. Despite a rough shooting night by the best of Kentucky's talented freshmen, Anthony Davis, the Wildcats defeated Kansas 67-59 on Monday night to win their eighth national title, and first since 1998.

"What I'm hoping is there are six first-rounders on this team," Calipari said. "I'm fine with that. That's why I've got to go recruiting on Friday."

Among those he could be looking to replace:

—Doron Lamb, a sophomore with first-round-draft-pick potential, who led the Wildcats with 22 points, including back-to-back 3-pointers mid-way through the second half that shut down one of Kansas' many rallies.

—Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, a probable lottery pick, who scored all 11 of his points in the first half, while the Wildcats (38-2) were building an 18-point lead.

—Terrence Jones (nine points, seven rebounds), Marquis Teague (14 points) and Darius Miller (two of Kentucky's 11 blocked shots) are in the mix, too.

—And then there's Davis, who might have had the most dominating six-point night in the history of college basketball, earning the nod as the most outstanding player. Mid-

See **KENTUCKY**, Page 12

Parcells approved as Saints' coach

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says he won't stand in the way if the New Orleans Saints ask Bill Parcells to take over as interim coach for suspended Sean Payton.

"That's their decision. They need to make those decisions and we'll move forward," Goodell said Monday at the opening of an NFL pop-up store featuring new team apparel. "Bill's a great coach, and I'm sure (he) will add a lot of personality and intrigue. And he's as competitive as they get so I'm sure he'll do a good job."

Before the Saints pick someone to run the team this year, though, Goodell still has to rule on Payton's appeal of his season-long suspension, along with the appeals of shorter suspensions to assistant coach Joe Vitt and general manager Mickey Loomis and penalties handed down to the team.

Goodell expects to hear the appeals

this week, and hopes to making a ruling shortly thereafter.

"Part of it depends exactly when the appeal is going to be, and second of all what information comes up in the appeal," said Goodell, who has met with Payton twice before the appeal was filed.

Meanwhile, league officials were meeting with NFL Players' Association representatives Monday about penalties involving players who took part in the bounty program.

The union has asked the NFL to provide it with all the information from the league's investigation that revealed 22 to 27 defensive players were part of the Saints' pay-for-pain bounty pool. The pool awarded thousands of dollars in cash bonuses from 2009-11 for vicious hits that knocked targeted opponents out of games.

See **PARCELLS**, Page 12

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The moon moves out of Leo's hurly-burly vaudeville show and into Virgo's wholesome goodness. As if to punctuate the progress, Mercury decides to stop messing around and fly straight for a while. Take measures to improve and educate yourself. You'll find the process most edifying, amazing and uplifting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have a wide range of emotions and do not just operate on one note. Anyone who thinks you should always be cheerful is being unreasonable. Expressing your true feelings makes you credible and trustworthy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's something specific you do in your work that sets you apart from the crowd. You'll have the chance to share with others how you came to do it that way. The information is more valuable than you know.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can tell that you're focusing externally when little things get in your way that really shouldn't make a difference to you at all. Turn your focus inward. Being internally centered will smooth your path.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People can be as territorial as animals and even more so under today's aspects. You'll recognize people's zones and be careful not to enter into them unless you're doing so for a particular reason.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You wouldn't trust anyone who sounded sweet all the time. Remind yourself of this when you feel like expressing your edgy attitude. It's perfectly natural, and it might even render you more sincere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As you lift a hand to help another, you are lifting your own spirits, whether or not you thought they needed lifting. Why put a limit on how good you should feel?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Seize the opportunity for stillness and peace wherever you can get it. A calm body and mind will give you the sense that you can make it through the wilderness of today's busy agenda.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll have a physical sense of yourself that doesn't entirely match up to your whole identity. Like Alice said to the caterpillar in Wonderland, "I can't explain myself ... because I am not myself, you see."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are sincere and straightforward, and you see no harm in shooting from the hip. You have nothing to hide, so

what could go wrong? You'd like others to do the same, as that would certainly keep things simple.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like an audience trying to clap in time with a shaky rhythm section, a pattern you just established may quickly fall apart. Don't give up. Tonight, you'll have another chance to get into a solid groove.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No one said that expanding your awareness was going to be easy. There's a certain amount of discipline that will be necessary, and you'll have to let go of the way you used to see things. You're ready in every way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try not to be idealistic. Learn the truth. Your happiness depends on having an accurate understanding of what others need and want. Otherwise, you'll be in danger of becoming disillusioned.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 3). Your birthday is like the wave of a magic wand. The first gift: You'll finally make time for the things you love but have rarely been able to do until now. The next 10 weeks ramp up your professional scene. July and September are good for your financial bottom line. The most romantic months are May, June and December. Pisces and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 30, 26 and 2.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Do you have any tips for dealing with my Cancer father-in-law? He's very demanding of my attention lately, and I resent the way he bosses me around, commandeers the conversation and is generally needy. I have three children to care for, and that's nearly impossible to do when he's around, because he acts like a child himself. My husband often is not around to manage him, and it all falls on me. I'm a Virgo."

Perhaps your father-in-law is going through something difficult in his life and his acting out is a way of getting the care and attention he needs. He may be sick, lonely or afraid of growing old. Even though you are tapped to the max, this man is your family, and a conscientious Virgo is not going to

feel good about herself knowing she turned away her husband's father. So take a breather, get your bearings, and then go back to the situation with an open heart. When your sensitive Cancer senses your reluctance to tend to him, it only makes him behave worse. Recognize his need, and help him out with a glad heart.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Tapping into his natal Venus and Mars in Aquarius, Alec Baldwin spouts eccentric wisdom as the ambitious network executive Jack Donaghy on the hit television show "30 Rock." Baldwin's real-life ambitions are as lofty as Donaghy's, if not more so. The Aries actor has said, "I wanted to be president of the United States. I really did. The older I get the less preposterous the idea seems."

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.
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HOLIDAY MATHIS

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

			4			5		
2	1							7
		3			8			2
	7	4	9	2				6
5								9
	9			8	6	4	5	
	4		5			7		
	3						4	1
		1			9			

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Infernal Optimist

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A
♥ 9 3 2
♦ A K Q 10 4
♣ K 10 8 2

WEST
♠ Q J 10 7 4
♥ J 8 6
♦ 7 5
♣ Q 7 4

EAST
♠ K 8 3
♥ K 10 7 5
♦ J 9 8 3 2
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ 9 6 5 2
♥ A Q 4
♦ 6
♣ A J 9 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 2♣ Pass
4♣ Pass 4♥ Pass
4NT Pass 5♥ Pass
5NT Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Optimism is a required trait in bridge; why else would one be advised to open the bidding — and thereby bid for more than half the tricks — when holding less than one-third of the honor cards?

But while optimism is necessary for consistent success, it must be tempered with a degree of pessimism. To blindly assume that everything will always go well is sure to cost many points that could have been saved over a period of time.

Take this case, for example. After

the dummy came down, South thought he would make six clubs in a walk. Indeed, if the trumps were divided 2-2 and the diamonds 4-3, he would score all 13 tricks.

So, without giving the matter further thought, he won the spade lead and cashed the K-A of clubs. When clubs failed to break, South carried on with his initial plan — discard two hearts on dummy's diamonds, ruff a diamond to establish dummy's fifth card in the suit and eventually ruff two spades in dummy and discard another on the good diamond.

But when he played the A-K-Q of diamonds, discarding the 4-Q of hearts, West ruffed the third diamond and returned a spade. Declarer ruffed in dummy, but, with the diamonds breaking 5-2, he could not avoid losing a spade at the end for down one.

Once South discovered that he had a trump loser, he should have taken the time to reformulate his initial plan, which would no longer work if the diamonds failed to behave. There was nothing wrong with playing the A-K-Q of diamonds, but rather than discarding two hearts, he should have kept the queen of hearts and discarded a spade instead.

This would have allowed him to keep the heart finesse in reserve in case the diamonds didn't break, and when East later turned up with the heart king, the slam would still have been made.

Tomorrow: 'Tis better to receive than to give.

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girl scouts
1912-2012



Nancy Hogshead-Makar
Girl Scout alumna
Girl Scout Olympian
Girl Scouts of Gateway Council



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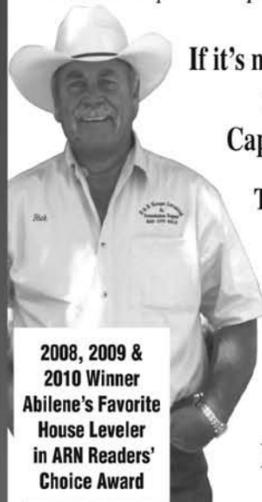
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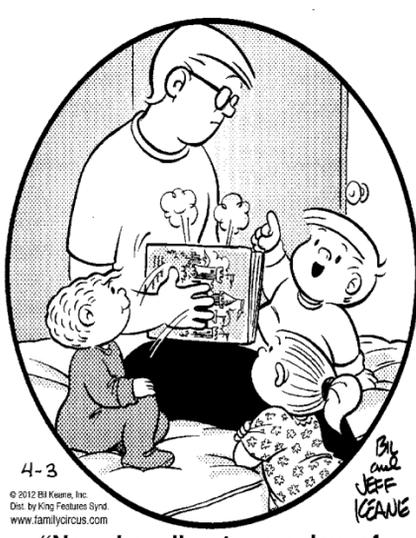
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Scrivner Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King King	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Miami	Movie: Ocean's Twelve, Matt Damon	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang Ent	News CBS	Caso Cer-rado	News News	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Alan Lee L. Moore	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Miami	Bones	Bones	Jessie	ANT Farm	NFL Live	NCAA
7:PM	Last Man Standing	Cougar	Raising Hope	NCIS (DVS)	Una Maid en	The Biggest Loser	Big Bang Upd	Grand Coulee Dam: American	Ringer	90210	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Backdraft, Robert De Niro	Bones	Together Together	Movie: The Suite Life Movie	NBA Coast to Coast	Women's College Basketball	
8:PM	Dancing With Stars	Abismo de Pasión	New Girl Breaking	NCIS: Los Angeles	Corazón Valiente	The Voice	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Cops	Til Death	Movie: Backdraft, Robert De Niro	Bones	Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy	Shake It Austin	Baseball Tonight		
9:PM	(01) Body of Proof	La Que No	Simpsons	Unforgettable	Relaciones Peli	Fashion Star	Big Bang Big Bang	Conan	Chevalme Dr.	Til Death	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Backdraft, Robert De Niro	Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportsNation	SportsCenter
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	Dr.	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	70s	South Pk	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Roll Bounce, Mike Epps	Good Good	NBA SportsNation	SportsCenter		
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	Upd	South Pk	Focus 4	Homecoming	Movie: Three Amigos	Wizards	ANT Farm	World, Poker		
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Upd	Alewine										
1AM	Paid	La Jaula	American Ent	Paid	Pagado	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest										
1:30	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula		Seinfeld											

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE BABY SITTER FELL ASLEEP. COULD YOU READ ME A STORY?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Now, how 'bout a preview of tomorrow night's story?"

HAGAR



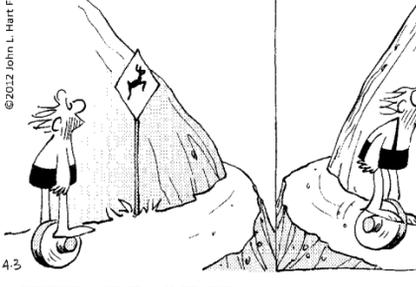
AT LAST I'VE FIGURED OUT THE SECRET OF LIFE!!

BLONDIE



I LOVE THIS DRESS, BUT I CAN'T DECIDE WHICH OF THE THREE COLORS AVAILABLE TO CHOOSE FROM

WIZARD OF ID



WIZARD OF ID

AGNES



AGNES

HI AND LOIS



HI AND LOIS

THE OTHER COAST



THE OTHER COAST

SNUFFY SMITH



SNUFFY SMITH

BEEBLE BAILEY



BEEBLE BAILEY

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 3, the 94th day of 2012. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 3, 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces began their final assault on Bataan against American and Filipino troops who surrendered six days later; the capitulation was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March.

On this date:

In 1776, George Washington received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard College.

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1911, Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 4 in A minor, Op. 63, had its world premiere in Helsinki, Finland, with Sibelius conducting.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J. for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander held responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.

In 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers. North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

In 1974, deadly tornadoes struck wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted.

In 1979, Jane M. Byrne was elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Wallace D. Johnson.

In 1985, the landmark Hollywood Brown Derby restaurant closed after 56 years in business.

In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 89. Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is 82. Conservationist Dame Jane Goodall is 78. Actor William Gaunt is 75. Actor Eric Braeden is 71. Actress Marsha Mason is 70.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Women's links org.
 - 5 Gives off
 - 10 Masculine
 - 14 Very much
 - 15 Place for a barbecue
 - 16 Aroma
 - 17 Breakfast or dinner
 - 18 Subtle sarcasm
 - 19 Julius Caesar costume
 - 20 Skillful handling of many jobs
 - 23 Cape Canaveral org.
 - 24 60-minute periods
 - 28 Drain completely
 - 31 ___ spumante wine
 - 34 Get-up-and-go
 - 35 "Me, neither"
 - 36 Makes an offer for
 - 38 That woman
 - 39 Problem requiring tact
 - 42 Male sheep
 - 43 Swear (to)
 - 44 Chose from a lineup
 - 45 British brew
 - 46 Gusto
 - 47 Requirements
 - 48 Green sauce
 - 50 Bar bills
 - 52 Unstable structure
 - 59 Matching sock
 - 62 Beginning
 - 63 Money posted in court
 - 64 Ripens
 - 65 Wallpaper goo

HANDLE WITH CARE by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle

ORBIT	HULAS	RAP
HARSH	ANISE	ECO
SHOWRWITH	GIFTS	
ENE	TEAROSE	
STRAIGHTEN	ALAS	
TIER	OAR	ANDS
YEN	SOS	ALI
SOAKUPS	SOMESUN	
TOP	EMS	PET
ARTS	ELI	LOAD
FLEA	PASTE	VENTS
APACHES	PEA	
WASHONES	HANDS	OF
NCO	UNLIT	TOPAR
SAN	RESTS	SNAKY

66 Gumbo vegetable

67 All finished

68 Turn the wheel

69 Have a good cry

12 Fireplace fuel

13 Historical period

21 Thumbs-down vote

22 Great Wall country

25 Positive aspect

26 Got the soil ready again

27 Pays out

28 Lure into wrongdoing

29 Team spirit

30 Prepares, as a pump

31 On ___ (counting calories)

32 Fast former fliers: Abbr.

33 Talk up

36 Computer memory unit

37 Believers: Suffix

40 Musical toy

41 Does one's shoelaces

47 "Peacock" TV network

49 This, this and this

50 Rich cake

51 Subsequent to

53 Letter carriers' org.

54 Immediately, to an MD

55 Alleviate

56 Leaf-gathering tool

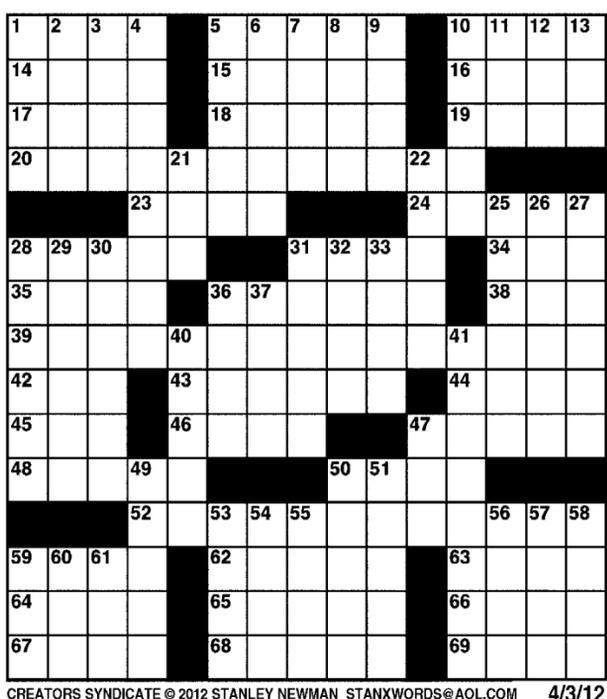
57 In ___ straits (desperate)

58 Open-handed hit

59 Angry

60 Long, long ___

61 Two hours before noon



PARCELLS

Continued from Page 7

One example, according to the league: Linebacker Jonathan Vilma offered \$10,000 to any New Orleans player who sidelined Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre during the 2010 NFC championship game.

"Our team will meet with the NFL today, ask hard questions and will expect to see all documents and direct evidence of a pay-to-injure scheme," DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, told the website Pro Player Insiders on Monday.

"That is what a fair process dictates. I will get a full briefing by our team and after that the next step will be to consult with players about what was learned. Only then will we confer with the NFL."

Goodell said the league has given the NFLPA two confidential reports on the investigation.

"I think we all need to move for-

ward," he said.

"We've been open about what we've been able to find. We released it publicly."

The commissioner said he's hopeful the NFLPA will have a recommendation soon after meeting with league officials.

The results of the appeal could well affect whether Parcells comes out of retirement to take over as interim coach while his former offensive assistant and protege is suspended.

Parcells has said he would consider coaching the Saints if asked.

Payton and Loomis played golf with the former NFL coach last week to talk to him about the team's predicament.

Parcells, who turns 71 in August, led the New York Giants to two Super Bowl titles, and also coached the New England Patriots, New York Jets and Dallas Cowboys.

There has been criticism of Goodell for allowing Payton to participate in picking his successor, but the commissioner says the decision rests with Saints owner Tom Benson.

"These are management decisions that Tom Benson will have to sign off on," Goodell said.

"He will get recommendations, I'm sure from Sean and Mickey and others, and make his determination. If it ends up being Parcells, then they've gone through the full process."

On Sunday, the NFLPA told players involved in the bounty case that there's a chance they could face criminal charges and it hired outside counsel to represent them if needed.

Asked about possible criminal charges, Goodell said, "Those aren't my decisions."

"To me, we're going to do what's right," he said.

"We're going to make sure our rules are enforced. And when they're violated we'll take the appropriate discipline."

On March 21, Goodell suspended Payton for all of the upcoming season, Loomis for eight games, Vitt for six games, and former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams indefinitely, a penalty that will last at least one season. Goodell also fined the Saints

\$500,000 and took away second-round draft picks in 2012 and 2013.

Williams, who left the Saints after last season to join the St. Louis Rams, ran the bounty program.

It's still unclear whether the appeals will change anything, but Goodell said Monday he's open to new evidence. He noted, though, that the investigation has lasted years, in large part because the Saints didn't come clean when first asked about the bounties.

"We've met with various personnel in the Saints, and for three years they denied that this was going on," Goodell said. "It's clear it was going on, and that's one of the reasons the punishment was harsh. ... They denied it repeatedly. And eventually we were able to get a credible source that came up late last year that gave us information that indicated clearly that it was going on."

Even then, Goodell said, the Saints still denied it.

"We want to hear if there's information we're not aware of," he said. "We'll take that into consideration and we'll deal with it from there."

KENTUCKY

Continued from Page 7

way through the first half, he was scoreless but still on pace for a triple-double.

He finished with 16 rebounds, six blocks, five assists and three steals — and made his only field goal with 5:13 left in the game.

It was a surefire illustration of how the 6-foot-10 freshman can exert his will on a game even on a rare night when the shot isn't falling.

"I love the fact Anthony Davis goes 1 for 10, and you all say he was biggest factor of game,"

Calipari said. "He was 1 for 10. I asked these guys what they would do without scoring. You have an idea what he does."

Over the next few weeks, Davis will decide whether to return to college — unlikely — or head to the NBA, where he'll probably be the top pick. Kidd-Gilchrist could go second.

Kansas (32-7) also has a lottery pick in AP All-American Thomas Robinson.

He was harassed all night by Da-

vis and Jones and finished with 18 points and 17 rebounds on a 6-for-17 shooting night.

He was huge in the second half, while the Jayhawks were making one of those desperate comebacks that have become their trademark this year.

This time, KU trimmed Kentucky's lead to five with 1:37 left. But the Wildcats made five free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

"It (stinks) that we have to be down 14 before we want to start fighting," KU guard Tyshawn Taylor said. "Guess that's kind of what happened."

So, the Jayhawks settled for the "B" League title this year, as Calipari avenged a final-game loss to Bill Self back in 2008 when Cal was coaching Memphis.

The Tigers missed four late free throws in blowing a nine-point lead in that one. Kansas didn't get any such help this time.

Even so, it wasn't a bad season in Lawrence, considering where KU began.

Kansas lost four of its top five scorers off last year's roster.

There were times early in the season when Self and his old buddy and mentor, Larry Brown, would stand around at practices

and wonder if this was a team that could even make the tournament. It did. Won its eighth straight conference title, too.

"Nobody even expected us to be here in the first place, for us to have a great season," KU guard Travis Releford said.

"And we did. We were able to compete for a championship. We had a great year."

Kentucky's was better, and Davis certainly did nothing to hurt his draft stock despite missing more shots in this game than he had in the last three.

He set the tone early on defense, swatting Robinson's shot twice, grabbing rebounds, making pretty bounce passes for assists.

Early in the second half, he made a steal that also could have been an assist, knocking the ball out of Robinson's hands and directly to Jones, who dunked for a 46-30 lead.

Then, finally. With 5:13 left in the game, he spotted up for a 15-foot jumper from the baseline that swished for a 59-44 lead, putting a dagger in one of Kansas' many comebacks.

"He was terrific," Self said. "The basket he made was one of the biggest baskets of the game."

His only bucket of the game — could that be a different sort of spin on "one and done?"

Well, if Davis does choose to leave,

Cal can certainly handle it. He has mastered the art of rebuilding on the fly.

He's the coach who brings in the John Walls, Brandon Knights and Derrick Roses (at Memphis) for cups of coffee, lets them sharpen up their resumes, then happily says goodbye when it becomes obvious there's nothing left for them to do in school.

The coach refuses to apologize for the way he recruits or how he runs his program.

Just playing by the rules as they're set up, he says, even if he doesn't totally agree with them.

Because he refuses to promise minutes or shots to any recruit and demands teamwork out of all of them, he says he comes by these players honestly.

He has produced nine first-round picks in the last four drafts, including five in 2010.

That draft day was as big a moment for the school as any, Calipari said. A pretty big statement for the program built by Adolph Rupp.

"The reason was, I knew now that other kids would look and say, 'You've got to go there,'" Calipari said.

This latest group came and won it all.

"I wanted that," Calipari said. "I told them I wanted this to be one for the ages."

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