

IS LEXINGTON THE LITERARY CAPITAL OF MID-AMERICA?

» Kentucky Sunday, Page D1



Singer Whitney Houston is found dead » Page A13

CATS PASS A TEST

UK FIGHTS OFF VANDERBILT RALLY » PAGE B1

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MUST READS



» **Sports, C1:** The annual guessing game is under way on who will rule the Derby on the first Saturday of May.

■ See a photo gallery at Kentucky.com



» **Mark Story, C1:** Jim Dinwiddie, who died last week, had shining moments as a Kentucky guard.



» **Your Money Sunday, Page D4:**

A \$5,000 grant gave a Lexington family a chance to become homeowners

■ See a database of Fayette County property records at Kentucky.com.

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» **Photo galleries on Kentucky.com**

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HUNGER PANGS



ALMOST HALF OF FAYETTE STUDENTS RELY ON FREE OR REDUCED-COST SCHOOL MEALS

By Jim Warren (jwarren@herald-leader.com)

Fayette County's public schools are closing in on a milestone that no one is happy about.

District figures show that, as of January, 49.4 percent of students enrolled in the Fayette County Public Schools were receiving free or reduced-cost school meals, based on their families' low incomes.

Putting it another way, that means nearly half of the district's roughly 38,000 students are living at or near poverty level. And officials say it could be only a matter of time before that figure hits 50 percent.

District officials have not conducted a formal analysis, but they cite several factors in the rising percentage: increased enrollment in recent years, more single-family households, more children being raised by grandparents or other relatives. But they say the main culprit is the national economy.

See **LUNCH, A7**

■ Who qualifies for the program? Page A7

A lunch tray at Booker T. Washington Academy.

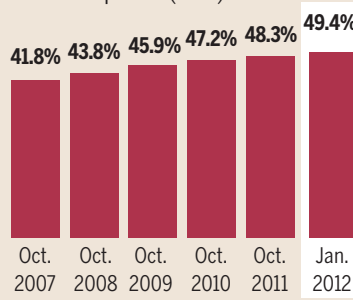
CHARLES BERTRAM cbertram@herald-leader.com

Free and reduced lunch program

Almost half of students in the Fayette County Public Schools now receive free or reduced cost school meals as a result of their families' low incomes. School officials blame the upsurge, which started in 2007, on the continuing state and national economic crunch. They say it will pose many challenges for the school system.

Fayette County Public Schools

Percentage of free and reduced lunch recipients (K-12)



Source: Fayette County Public Schools

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Page A8: U.S. safety net expands to support increased needs among middle class.

WEG tax return shows a net loss

2010 GAMES FINISHED NEARLY \$1.4 MILLION IN THE RED, BUT OFFICIALS CALL IT A SUCCESS

By Janet Patton

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The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, once lauded as likely to be the first championships of its kind to make money, apparently fell shy of that mark despite last-minute help from sponsor Pearse Lyons and FEI's president, Princess Haya.

According to its 2010 tax return, the non-profit World Games 2010 Foundation closed the year \$1,386,625 in the red after receiving almost \$70 million in revenue, including more than \$36 million in 2010 alone.

Because the Games were put on by a private foundation, tax returns are the only financial information required to be made public. Individual contributions do not have to be disclosed.

But according to foundation chairman John

See **WEG, A2**



Horse Park falls into deficit in recent years

GAMES DIDN'T HELP BOTTOM LINE

By Linda B. Blackford

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The Kentucky Horse Park had its biggest year ever in 2010, hosting the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games with an array of new facilities and upgraded infrastructure.

The Games burnished the park's reputation for equine events, but it didn't help the bottom line. The park received a flat fee of \$500,000, but that didn't make up for the park being closed nearly seven weeks that summer.

The pre-Games closing, along with declining attendance during the recession and soaring utility costs for a new indoor arena, have meant annual deficits for the park since 2008.

The deficit, which started at \$47,000 in 2008, has ballooned to \$3.6 million.

To right its books, the park will need an ad-

See **HORSE PARK, A2**

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\$75 for a one night stay at Acorn & Fox Inn Bed & Breakfast! (\$150 value)



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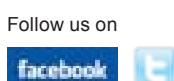
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