

A BIRD AT ITS BEST

Lexington cook's chicken sandwich is finalist in national contest

A LA CARTE - C1



MARCH 26, 2009 | THURSDAY | METRO FINAL EDITION | 50¢ | 75¢ outlying areas

RELAXED GILLISPIE AWAITS UK DECISION

Coach only says hard work is in his future



JOHN CLAY
HERALD-LEADER SPORTS COLUMNIST

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — For him, Billy Gillispie seemed almost uncharacteristically relaxed.

In the Joyce Center auditorium that housed the post-game press conference after this NIT quarterfinal game, answering questions from the media, Kentucky's basketball coach sat back in his chair with his legs crossed.

He wasn't leaning forward. He wasn't rocking back and forth.

He wasn't wringing his hands. The nervous habits were nearly absent.

Oh, he still flashed that thin smile, and his voice quaked a little. He stammered a couple of times, and his eyes looked red, either the product of emotion or the bloodshot look that comes when you watch nine tapes of opponents' games in less than 48 hours.

But, in less than another 48 hours, Gillispie could be out after just two years as Kentucky coach.

And once his Cats lost 77-67 to host Notre Dame before a crowd of 7,636 — nearly half of it dressed in Wildcat Blue — Billy Gillispie seemed a man resigned to his fate.

Press conference question: What's next for you?

"Get better," said the coach.

Question: Do you expect to be back?

See CLAY, A8



MARCUS MARTER | SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

Kentucky Coach Billy Gillispie watched his team late in a 77-67 loss to Notre Dame in the NIT quarterfinals Wednesday. The loss dropped Gillispie's two-year record at UK to 40-27.

More in Sports

More of the same: The elements that led to Kentucky's loss to Notre Dame were familiar ones. **Page B1**

To stay or not to stay: UK stars Jodie Meeks and Patrick Patterson are noncommittal about their future. **Page B4**



See a slide show from the last game of the Wildcats' season.

Postmaster makes dire projections

Says money will run out this year if no help given

ASKS FOR 5-DAY-A-WEEK DELIVERY

By Randolph E. Schmid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The post office will run out of money this year unless it gets help, Postmaster General John Potter told Congress on Wednesday as he sought permission to cut delivery to five days a week.

"We are facing losses of historic proportion. Our situation is critical," Potter told a House panel.

The agency lost \$2.8 billion last year and is looking at much larger losses this year. Reducing mail delivery from six days to five days a week could save \$3.5 billion annually, Potter said.

Potter also urged changes in the way the post office pre-pays for retiree health care to

cut its annual costs by \$2 billion.

If the Postal Service does run out of money, the lingering question, Potter told the House Oversight post office subcommittee, is which bills will be paid and which will not. Ensuring the payment of workers' salaries comes first, he said, but other bills might have to wait.

Potter first raised the possibility of delivery cutbacks in January, but the idea has not been warmly received in Congress.

"With the Postal Service facing budget shortfalls, the subcommittee will consider a number of options to restore financial stability and examine ways for the Postal Service to

See MAIL, A8

United Way to lay off 4, trim giving

AGENCY WILL CUT \$300,000 FROM BUDGET

Valerie Honeycutt Spears
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The United Way of the Bluegrass, feeling the pain of the community that supports it, is laying off four employees, cutting \$300,000 from its budget and reducing the amount that it gives to area agencies.

Agencies supported by the United Way, including the Red Cross and Salvation Army, will take a 9.39 percent cut from July 1 to June 30, 2010, said board treasurer Lindy Karns.

With many Central Kentucky corporations laying off workers, Karns said, "We think we are promised dollars that we might never get."

Karns said there is no link between the financial issues and the resignation on Monday of Kathy Plomin, presi-

dent of the local United Way.

Plomin, who had requested family medical leave at the beginning of March, resigned for personal reasons, said Laura Voss, chairwoman of the United Way board of directors.

The United Way of the Bluegrass supports 84 agencies in nine counties.

The latest campaign, which began in September 2008, raised \$6,991,792. That was down 4 percent, or \$319,610, from the previous year.

Keeping the failing economy in mind, and knowing that they would not collect from laid-off workers in the Bluegrass who made pledges before they lost their jobs, United Way officials have budgeted for an additional 5 percent loss. That means cuts

See GIVING, A8

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INSIDE TODAY | HERALD-LEADER

Charged with wanting to blow up husband

A grand jury will hear the case against a couple accused of plotting to kill a man with a grenade. **City | Region, D1**

Read our booze-covered lips: no new taxes

Several states are considering higher taxes on tobacco and alcohol and customers don't like that idea at all. **Business, D6**

Saving by the month

The FruGal says if you want to save money, start by examining your monthly expenses. **A la Carte, C1**

Plane crash in Woodford

A small, single-engine planes crashes near Delaney Ferry Road in Woodford County. **City | Region, D3**

COMING UP FRIDAY

Weekender: Rich Copley chats with the Jonas Brothers. Also, reviews of *Monsters vs. Aliens* and *The Haunting in Connecticut*.

ONLINE TODAY KENTUCKY.COM

LexGo: Use searchable event calendars to plan your weekend. **Week in pictures:** See the latest and best from our photographers.

WEG and more

Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry unveiled a broad outline Wednesday for the Spotlight Lexington Festival — 17 days of music and special events that will begin the day before the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010 and continue for all 16 days of the competitions.

Cost

Events will be free. The festival will cost \$800,000 to \$1 million and will be funded by private donors or corporate sponsors.



CHRIS WARE | cware@herald-leader.com

What and where

Music, arts and crafts, children's activities and daily "remedaling" ceremonies for winning Games competitors will be shown on large TV screens.

Three main sites downtown will be used: the Fayette County Courthouse plaza and Cheapside and Triangle parks.



Souvenirs

Spotlight Lexington merchandise will be sold before and during the festival.

Symbols and saddles

A 12-foot-high framed horse topiary of plants and flowers will be created for the festival, and even the city's mounted police horses will be decked out in special Spotlight Lexington saddle pads.



Get involved

Entertainers and volunteer workers can begin signing up to participate in the festival at the city government's Web site: www.lexingtonky.gov. Click on the "2010 WEG" logo at the site.

COMPILED BY JIM JORDAN



SHOWERS
Chance of precipitation 70%. **Weather, D12**

62 | 46
HIGH | LOW

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