

TUESDAY

AUGUST 16, 2005

# THE City Paper

www.nashvillecitypaper.com

NASHVILLE'S NEWSPAPER

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## Belmont, Vol State join forces for nursing program

Belmont announced that Volunteer State Community College is joining the Partners in Nursing Consortium to address the growing shortage of registered nurses in Tennessee. Volunteer State students accepted into the program will be allowed to transfer credits to Belmont. See **page 5**.

## Iraq extends constitution deadline



Iraq is still waiting for a constitution as the parliament agreed on Monday to allow an extra week for negotiations after politicians asked for more time to reach a deal. The delay is a blow to U.S. hopes that a timely agreement could be reached. Turn to **page 6**.

## Saint Thomas unveils system

The three largest hospitals of Saint Thomas Health Services are implementing a new Web-based system to improve staff scheduling efficiency. See **page 7**.

## Bands aid ailing musician friend

Old Union is one act set to play the Zanny Gaudet benefit at the Mercy Lounge tonight. To tune in to more music around town, see *What, when & where* on **page 13**.



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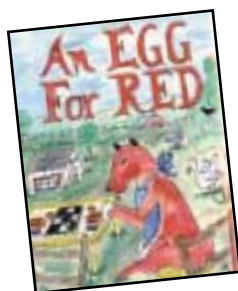
## CITYSCOPE



Recognize it? Win. Details **PAGE 2**.

**TONIGHT**  
**72° T Storms**

**TOMORROW**  
**88° A.M. Showers**



## Aunt Marie shares sweet animal tales

All the eggs aren't in a basket, find them in the doghouse, **page 9**



## Mickelson wins PGA title

Triumph gives him second major, **page 17**



Photo by William Williams

Union Station will undergo a multi-million dollar restoration thanks to its new owners, local investors Corner Partnership LLC and Florida-based Turnberry Associates.

## Union Station gets new ownership

*Group planning to restore building*

By Don Mooradian  
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Historic Union Station now belongs to the same people who own the Downtown Hilton and they plan to restore the 106-year-old property to its former glory.

Nashville real estate investors Mark Bloom, Ronnie Scott and Larry Papel,

as Corner Partnership LLC, will be minority owners of Union Station, 1001 Broadway, with Aventura, Fla.-based Turnberry Associates as majority owners. This is the same arrangement in which the two parties own the Downtown Hilton.

The partners closed the sale Monday with Lone Star Funds, a Dallas-based investment firm that had bought Union Station about a year ago. The purchase price was not disclosed.

Work is expected to begin soon on what Bloom said would be a multi-million dollar

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >**

## Bidding war has to pass Metro muster

By Craig Boerner  
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With approximately 300 properties to be auctioned online by Metro in the coming months, bidders may want to read the disclaimer before celebrating a purchase.

Local resident John McPherson said he won an online property auction last September, but the city told him his winning bid of \$9,875 for .05 acres at 19 Lafayette Street wasn't high enough.

He had planned to use the property on the corner of Second Avenue South and Lafayette for a fast food stand.

"E-bid sent me an e-mail saying 'Congratulations, you win' but Real Property Services said 'My boss thinks it didn't go for enough so we are going to put it back up for auction again,'" McPherson said

"I don't think it was the spirit of the law to just go out there fishing for bids. They had a minimum bid of \$9,800, which should have been what they wanted out of it. If they wanted more, they should have started the bid higher."

In a subsequent bid on that same piece of property, McPherson more than doubled his offer to \$20,400 but now it appears he could actually lose his \$2,040 down payment with no land to show for his efforts.

Metro Assistant Finance Director and Director of Public Property

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >**

## Homeless cure will take private dollars

By Judith R. Tackett  
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Ending chronic homelessness in Nashville will take a massive infusion of private money to be successful.

Mayor Bill Purcell's Homeless Commission will start tackling the problem of how to implement Nashville's 10-year plan Wednesday.

But to get federal dollars, cities and states usually have to raise matching funds.

In Atlanta, for example, the city raised \$17 million through private partnerships.

Right now, Nashville has less than \$1 million. Metro Social Services Director

Gerri Robinson said the Metro Council budget allocated \$600,000 to combat homelessness, and the Metro Public Health Department recently received \$300,000 over two years to expand its mental health and substance abuse program at the Downtown Clinic.

Philip Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, said federal dollars have increased for the last four years to target the homeless.

President Bush's 2006 budget proposal includes a record \$1.4 billion for homelessness — an 8.5 percent increase over

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines chronic homelessness "as being disabled and either being continuously homeless for a year or more or having had at least four homeless episodes during the last three years."

last year.

Congress still has to confirm that amount in its appropriation process.

But local housing advocate Rusty Lawrence, director of Urban Housing Solutions, said while the federal

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >**

# Nursing schools linked

By Craig Boerner  
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Belmont University President Dr. Robert Fisher announced Monday that Volunteer State Community College is joining the Partners in Nursing Consortium, an initiative created to address the growing shortage of registered nurses in Tennessee.

The partnership with HCA's TriStar Health system also includes Trevecca Nazarene University.

Volunteer State students accepted into the program will be allowed to transfer credits to Belmont, after receiving their associate degrees to work toward a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing.

Volunteer State President Dr. Warren Nichols said his 7,000-student college includes approximately 400 pre-nursing students.

Up to 16 Volunteer State students who apply to Belmont's nursing program during the spring semester of



Photo by Craig Boerner

Belmont President Dr. Robert Fisher, left, and Volunteer State President Dr. Warren Nichols sign a memorandum of understanding Monday to formalize the two schools' nursing partnership, as HCA's MidAmerica Division President Paul Rutledge applauds.

their freshman year will be officially accepted following the successful completion of that year.

Belmont has increased enrollment in its nursing program from 131 students in 2002 to 256 students this year. A statewide shortage of 9,500 nurses is projected by 2020, according to a task force report issued last

year by the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA).

"Ours is the most ambitious effort taken by any Tennessee university to address the state's growing shortage of nurses — a shortage that is growing toward crisis proportions," Fisher said. **CP**

## Auction complaint

# Online bidder cries foul over ruling

■ FROM PAGE 1

Ken Maynard, who is familiar with McPherson's complaint, said his office worked closely with Metro Legal in setting up its online property auctions.

The high bid is not accepted in certain cases, he said, because there is also a minimum amount that the property can be sold for, which is not necessarily the minimum bid.

"The Web site says clearly that Metro reserves the right to reject any and all bids," Maynard said. "And we did that the first time and we put it back out and Mr. McPherson bid again the second time and he was the high bidder the second time."

Maynard said Metro has sent McPherson a letter stating that if the property sells for more than what he bid then he will be reimbursed part

or all of his down payment.

"We are just trying to be fair to everybody and we aren't trying to gouge anybody," Maynard said.

Real Property Services is developing a plan to selling approximately 300 back tax properties that have accumulated over the years, he said.

McPherson said the property next door sold in August 2003 for much less per square foot. **CP**





**great'ness (n.) - marked by outstanding achievement or importance.**

Greatness. We all aspire to it. For some it can take a lifetime. For others, it comes in an instant.

For those who ride in the MS Bike Tour every year, greatness comes from putting aside the reasons why they can't ride to find the reasons why they can. Reasons that bring hope to the 400,000 people living with the devastating effects of MS.

The Jack Daniel's "Bike to Jack & Back" will take place Oct. 1-2, 2005. The ride will begin at Page High School in Franklin and ride through the Tennessee countryside to Motlow State Community College in Lynchburg. Jack Daniel's will host a party on the hill Saturday night at the new BBQ pavilion. To register, or for more information, please call 1-800-269-9055, or visit [www.msouth.org](http://www.msouth.org)

Proceeds from the "Bike to Jack & Back" fund local programs and services for the 6,000 Middle Tennesseans living with MS and national research for a cure.








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