

THE TENNESSEAN

LOCAL NEWS

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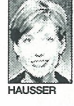
Council pushes \$5 Sounds parking

Three-fourths want to up \$2 plan to help pay for ballpark upkeep

By MICHAEL CASS
Staff Writer

Parking for the proposed Nashville Sounds ballpark could cost up to \$5, instead of the original \$2, under a proposal by the majority of the Metro Council.

The extra money would help pay for the city's \$500,000 a year in maintenance expenses for the city-owned park, which the council approved earlier this month.



HAUSSER
Councilwoman Ginger Hausser of Hillsboro-West.

The idea to charge more for parking is outlined in a letter from 31 council members to the Metro Sports Authority, the board that serves as the landlord for Nashville's pro sports venues. The Sounds parking would be at the Coliseum, where the Tennessee Titans play football and at a 930 a.m. Cumberland River from the proposed baseball stadium.

The sports authority has agreed tentatively to let Sounds fans use about 2,000 parking spots in four lots around the Coliseum. The original \$2 parking fee would be used by the sports authority to cover such things as lighting, staffing and security.

The proposed increase of \$3 per spot would bring in \$432,000 a year for the city's maintenance fees on the stadium if Sounds fans used all of the available spots.

Hausser said she didn't think fans would complain too much about the parking fee around the Coliseum costing \$5.

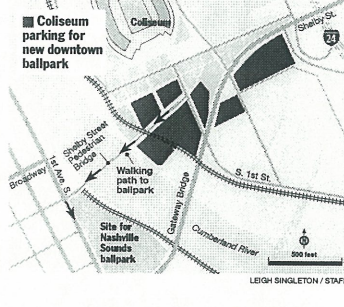
"It costs more than that to park downtown," she said. "Clearly, \$5 is far and away a great deal, compared to event parking for other events."

Sounds General Manager Glenn Yaeger has said that the Sounds don't plan to collect any revenue from the parking spots. ■

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COLISEUM PARKING FOR BASEBALL?

Several parking lots around the Coliseum are being considered for use during games played at the new Nashville Sounds ballpark.



LEIGH SINGLETON / STAFF



GARCIA
Metro Schools Director Pedro Garcia is expected to push for improving Metro's graduation rate in his State of the Schools address tonight.

Garcia to call for increase in grad rate

Address to outline goals for Metro schools

By DIANE LONG
Staff Writer

Improving Metro's dismal 60% high school graduation rate will be a central theme for Schools Director Pedro Garcia as he makes his State of Schools address tonight.

While this year's jump in achievement test scores shows progress, Garcia said, he can't say that schools are really better until that rate is above the state's benchmark of 90%.

"Until we get that dropout rate down to 3% or 4%, we won't be there," he said yesterday. "The hottest city in America ought to have the hottest school district in America. But it takes a lot of work, and it takes money, and it takes people out there banging the door."

The emphasis on high schools is echoing across the state, from Gov. Phil Bredesen's call in his annual budget speech to the Metro citizen's report card on schools earlier this month.

But longtime education advocate Sonnye Dixon will be listening for something more in Garcia's second annual assessment of schools.

While he applauded Garcia's push to link curriculum from elementary to middle to high schools, Dixon worries that Garcia isn't listening to some signposts of Nashville's community.

"He's gone to a medium point, but there are people who sit on the outside of that realm, whether it's the special interest of advanced placement or Encore or African-American or people with disciplinary problems," said Dixon, former head of the Nashville NAACP. "The special interest folks still don't believe he is responsive. And I don't still don't believe

Governor asks United Way to help fund pre-K

Metro group accepts challenge to state sites

By JASON PRAGER
Staff Writer

The United Way of Metropolitan Nashville should make pre-kindergarten education programs one of its top priorities, Gov. Phil Bredesen said yesterday at the organization's annual meeting.



BREDESEN
Gov. Phil Bredesen.

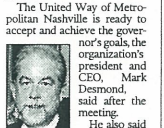
Bredesen challenged all of the United Way sites throughout Tennessee to help fund the opening of 40 new pre-kindergarten education classrooms for 4-year-olds.

"I'm looking for partners as we grow the pre-K program, so I gave (the United Way) a challenge," Bredesen said.

"That will make a lot of difference to a lot of children if they can do that. I think they'll take the challenge."

Earlier, Rob Grunewald, an associate economist with the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, Minn., gave a keynote address in which he touted the importance of early childhood development.

"Our economy demands highly skilled workers," said Grunewald, who co-authored a 2003 report on the topic. "So it is important to invest in our schools."



DESMOND
United Way CEO Mark Desmond.

The United Way of Metropolitan Nashville is ready to accept and achieve the governor's goals, the organization's president and CEO, Mark Desmond, said after the meeting.

He also said natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina did not negatively impact the group's fundraising across the nation.

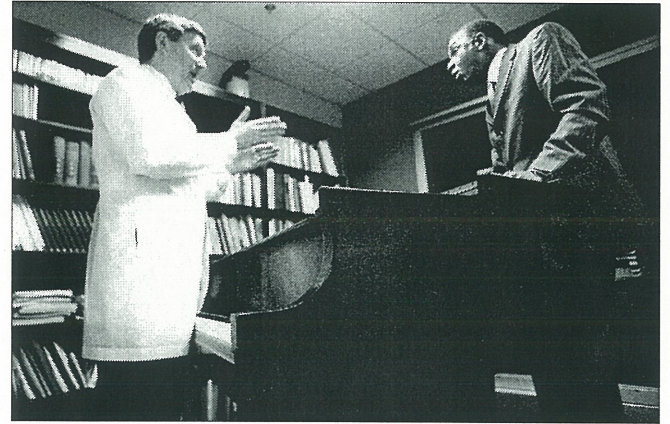
"Generally speaking, United Ways across the country have not had any effect as we can tell by the hurricanes," he said.

According to tax filings from 2004, the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville received nearly \$24 million in grants and contributions.

The group's local officials expect to surpass that amount by about \$1 million this year.

"We're going to get the word out about ... prevention and getting at root causes (of problems)," Desmond said, "as well as continuing to raise money to respond to people who are suffering." ■

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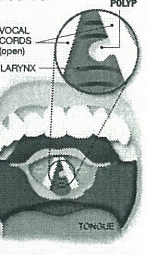
The Rev. Enoch Fuzz, right, consults with Dr. Thomas Cleveland a vocologist at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Voice Center earlier this month. "The hardest thing was stopping, not being involved, staying at home, shutting down and resting," said Fuzz, minister of Nashville's Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church.

Silence, surgery let minister preach again

The Rev. Fuzz tells how he faced a vocal cord problem that sidelined him for five months

By JEANNINE F. HUNTER
Staff Writer

For almost five months, a major voice in the greater Nashville area was muted.



The Rev. Enoch Fuzz could not talk, relinquishing his pulpit at Nashville's Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church and his weekly radio program on WVOL 1470-AM to guest preachers and hosts.

He had developed a noncancerous polyp on his vocal cords, which had to be removed surgically, temporarily costing him his voice.

"The hardest thing was stopping, not being involved, staying at home, shutting down and resting," said Fuzz, a community activist who also served as president of Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, a clergy group championing a range of causes, including economic and health disparities and race relations.

Fuzz's problem is not unique. People prone to

SOURCE: Vanderbilt Voice Center, Northwestern Univ. KENT TRAVIS / STAFF

Coming up

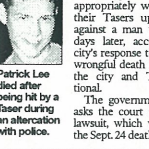
► Get a preview of the Rev. Enoch Fuzz's first sermon back in the pulpit in *The Tennessean*. An excerpt will appear as the Message of the Week on the revamped Faith & Values page, launching in Local News on Saturday.

► Please see GARCIA, 3B

► If you go
► Metro Schools Director Pedro Garcia will speak on the State of Schools at 6 tonight at Cohn Adult High School, 4805 Park Ave.

Metro defends officers, asks court to dismiss Taser death lawsuit

By CHRISTIAN BOTTORFF
Staff Writer



Metro police officers acted appropriately when they used their Tasers up to 19 times against a man who died two days later, according to the city's response to a \$60 million wrongful death lawsuit against the city and Taser International.

The government's response asks the court to dismiss the lawsuit, which was filed after the Sept. 24 death of 21-year-old

Patrick Lee.

An autopsy found that Lee's death was the result of "excited delirium," caused by a mix of extreme agitation and drug use. Marijuana and LSD were found in his system, according to the findings of Metro's medical examiner. The medical examiner could not rule out Tasers as a contributing factor.

In its Feb. 17 response to the lawsuit, Metro says that the force used against Lee was needed and that Lee's "intentional misconduct" is responsible for the injuries.

"It is admitted that compliance techniques were attempted on (Lee), but it is officers about the potentially fatal dangers of the Taser,

despite warnings from the device's maker. Metro denied those allegations.

The city's response did not come as a surprise to Lee's family.

"They're pretty much denying any responsibility for the death of Patrick," said Nashville attorney Tommy Overton, who represents Lee's parents. "It's pretty much a boiler-plate denial of responsibility." ■

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FROM PAGE ONE

Fuzz: 'The hardest thing was ... shutting down and resting'

Polyps on vocal cords

What are they? They are benign growths associated with smoking, hypothyroidism (decreased activity of the thyroid), acid reflux and chronic vocal misuse. Other common disorders, also known as hyperfunctional voice disorders, result from vocal abuse and misuse and include laryngitis, vocal nodules, and contact ulcers.

What causes them? Vocal overuse and misuse includes any behavior or occurrence that strains or injures the vocal cords such as excessive talking, inhaling irritants, speaking at abnormally high or low pitch or too loudly.

What are some symptoms? People who develop a vocal polyp usually have a low-pitched, hoarse, breathy voice. Some audible symptoms of voice disorders can include loss of range, pitch changes or problems, as well as running out of breath and breaks in the voice. If a voice change persists for more than two weeks, it is recommended that sufferers consult a speech-language pathologist. Also, those at risk for voice disorders are recommended to have a baseline assessment of their voice used in evaluations if any problems develop later.

Where are the polyps found? On the vocal cords, which are two bands of smooth muscle tissue located inside the larynx or voice box.

Who gets them? Anyone who uses their voice excessively may develop them, including children, performers, broadcasters, ministers, teachers and lawyers.

How to treat them? Surgery to remove them. Most vocal abuse disorders are reversible. Treatments for voice disorders include identifying and eliminating the vocal behavior, undergoing voice therapy to learn vocal techniques for proper speech and breath support, and using medication. While it may not be easy for children to change their vocal behaviors, they are less likely to require surgery because they tend to outgrow their vocal behaviors.

FROM PAGE 1B

develop polyps on their vocal cords tend to use their voices a great deal including teachers, professional singers and ministers — particularly those who combine singing with their preaching, as Fuzz does. Longtime smokers and people who experience hypothyroidism or suffer from gastroesophageal acid reflux also are prone to develop them.

Clergy and professional speakers tend to fail to see themselves as "vocal athletes the way professional singers do," said Christopher Beatty, who operates The Vocal Coach, a Brentwood company that provides vocal training, primarily for Christian singers and speakers.

"The result is that they don't warm up and they should. And they don't cool down, particularly after aggressive preaching, and they should," said Beatty, himself a former minister.

Aggressive forms of preaching — in which the minister uses different cadences and vocal ranges and perhaps intersperses oration with singing — can be the toughest on the voice, said Beatty who has more than 30 years of coaching experience.

Fuzz fits that mold. He sings as he preaches. And while the pastor doesn't holler the entire time he's in the pulpit, his voice does dance up and down a few octaves. As he brings forth his message, it is accented by periodic chanting giving his words a musical intonation and sparking call and response between him and the congregation.

Fuzz first detected chronic hoarseness and weakness when he spoke late last summer. He thought it was allergies or a cold he couldn't shake.

His smoking habit didn't help. But when the problem persisted, Fuzz sought medical help first from a physician friend, Dr. Wonder Drake, who referred him to Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Then he ended up at the Vanderbilt Voice Center, which is part of the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences near downtown Nashville.

The diagnosis: a polyp, a soft, fluid-filled lesion that can develop on the vocal cords when vocal abuse occurs, said Dr. Tom Cleveland, director of otology at the



Dr. Gaelyn Garrett checks the vocal cords of the Rev. Enoch Fuzz at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Voice Center earlier this month. Fuzz could not use his voice for nearly five months after a polyp was removed.

Vanderbilt Voice Center

"A polyp can prevent the vocal cord from vibrating well," Cleveland said during one of Fuzz's recent visits. "The roughness includes two weeks of vocal silence, gradual increase in talking time and a couple of months of speaking and singing therapy."

Instead of speaking, Fuzz carried a notepad to write and pass messages.

"One time, during Thanksgiving, I overused my voice and a hemorrhage happened on the vocal cord and it caused that vocal cord not to vibrate," Fuzz recalled.

During his recuperation, Fuzz stepped down as president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship. Fuzz said he felt neither minister to church members and others, like he wanted, nor speak out on important social issues such as Medicare and the Metro Schools budget cuts.

"One time I was at a meeting where leaders were discussing the Metro Schools budget cuts and I felt I was not able to defend the schoolchildren in my church and the community of children I knew who lived around the church. I

The surgery took place in November, and for seven days Fuzz could not talk at all.

could only say to myself, 'Wait till I get my voice back,'" he said. He returns to the pulpit Sunday. Fuzz said he is grateful for the break he had from the pressure of substituting preachers and radio hosts. He is also grateful for the substitute preachers and radio hosts. The break gave him time to visit other houses of worship and time to quit smoking. As chairman of the health committee for the Nashville NAACP, Fuzz said he hopes to use his experience as an opportunity to help other people.

Specialists at Vanderbilt's Voice Center said they plan to attend IMF meetings to counsel other clergy about ways in which they may be hurting their vital instruments. Fuzz also plans to work with his primary care physician, Dr. Melvin Lightford, who already offers smoking-cessation classes.

"Though the past four or five months have been difficult for me they have also rewarded me with better health, renewed zeal, and a greater appreciation of people," Fuzz said.

"When I return to the pulpit and radio I will have a much stronger voice. I have been sincerely touched by all the expressions of concern and support from so many people throughout the community."

Return to pulpit, radio

The Rev. Enoch Fuzz, senior pastor of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, 819 32nd Ave. N., resumes preaching on Sunday, after a five-month absence to be treated for polyps that developed on his vocal cords. The worship service at the north Nashville church begins at 11 a.m. To hear his sermon live at 12:30 p.m., tune into WVOL 1470-AM, or go to www.wvol1470.com. Later that afternoon, Fuzz returns to the talk radio show he hosts on WVOL 1470-AM. His show airs from 6-7 p.m. And the first show will include guest Dr. Tom Cleveland, director of otology at the Vanderbilt Voice Center.

Whom to contact

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National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

National Institutes of Health
 31 Center Drive, MSC 2320
 Bethesda, MD 20892-2320
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Garcia: Better graduation rate to be goal

FROM PAGE 1B

he has changed that image." In addition, Dixon said, he wants to know whether Garcia is still committed to Nashville after the Metro school board voted last year not to renew his contract beyond 2007.

"I need to hear that," Dixon said. "While he'll give a report on how things are, I'll be listening to see whether or not it includes a direction for the future and whether he says he's in that future. That's what I'll be listening for, which ultimately will determine if we can maintain the continuity."

The speech gives Metro's school

director an opportunity to lay out the broad strokes for next year, said Pam Garrett, chairwoman of the school board.

"He doesn't get interrupted time very often," Garrett said. "It's his time to say what he wants to say about what we've done, where we are and where we need to go."

In an interview yesterday, Garcia said the district is making progress on most of the goals he laid out last year, including discipline, attendance and middle school achievement.

"I hear a lot less issues on discipline than I did last year," Garcia said, citing the next attendance

workers, social workers and 22 new guidance counselors that were added to schools for 2005-06.

"It's only been six months, and it will be at least a year or two before we really know how effective they are," Garcia said. "I don't have any data that we have more or less kids suspended, but I just know from the calls that I get ... it seems like there are less incidents."

As for middle school achievement, Garcia cited the increase in students taking advanced classes.

"We've gone from very few students taking geometry in the eighth grade ... to today when we have 407 kids in the eighth grade taking geometry," he said. "And we see the same thing in algebra and pre-algebra. I think that's huge."

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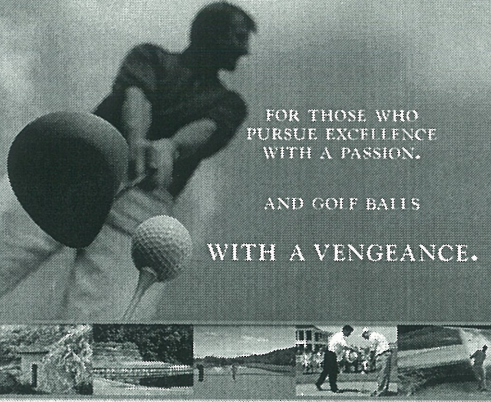
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