

MONDAY

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THE City Paper

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NASHVILLE'S NEWSPAPER

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12 South tour set

The first 12 South Neighborhood Tour is set for April 17 and will feature houses of worship, businesses and historic homes. Get a preview on **page 7**.

Influential nod

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon got backing for his Gaza Strip withdrawal plan from political rival Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday. Find out how much of a boost that gives Sharon on **page 9**.



Nelson plans trendy Bible

Publisher Thomas Nelson is planning another hip Bible version, this one aimed at teenage boys. See **page 13**.

Fairgrounds promoter is son of an Imperial

Tennessee State Fair and Fairgrounds Marketing Director Joe Moscheo has gospel in his roots. Learn more about him in *City Confidential*, **page 21**.



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CITYSCOPE



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

TONIGHT
28° partly cloudy

TOMORROW
57° mix clouds/sun

More weather, **PAGE 10**



Java lowers disease risk

Study says diabetes peril reduced by coffee. See **page 17**



Fighting for a spot

Preds hang tough down stretch, p. 25

Super plans for SoBro

By William Williams
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You've read about Rolling Mill Hill, the Gateway Bridge, the Franklin Street Corridor, the District Energy System and the Thermal site, all well-publicized components of Nashville's South of Broadway — or SoBro — corridor.

Now meet Michael W. Hayes, who is primed to make a serious redevelopment impact — perhaps upwards of \$100 million worth — on this raw yet potential-packed area.

A Nashville native and member of the city's venerable Ragland family (once a major player in the South's wholesale grocery industry), Hayes returned to his hometown last November after working in Atlanta and Memphis.

Hayes, only 30 and now leading the family real estate operation C.B. Ragland Co., will spearhead the drive to reinvent about three full blocks of SoBro property the Hayes/Ragland family group controls.

"We will begin the master planning process for our parcels as soon as we know what will happen to the Thermal site," said Hayes, who lives in The Cumberland downtown.

The Hayes/Ragland land and buildings to be redeveloped include: The Castle, 300 Second Ave. S.; the 217 Second Ave. S. building that once housed Have A Nice Day Café; a massive parking lot bordered by Second, Third, Molloy and Franklin streets; and the land that included the former 328 Performance Hall building. The family buildings that house XO Communications (on Molloy between First and Second) and an MCI facility (100 Franklin St.) will not be razed.

"They own and control properties that are critical to the successful long-term development of our downtown core," said Tom Jurkovich, director of Mayor Bill Purcell's office of economic and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 ▶



Photo by William Williams

Michael W. Hayes, standing on the roof of The Castle at Second Avenue and Franklin Street, will spearhead the effort of the Hayes/Ragland family to redevelop about three key blocks of SoBro property.

Schermerhorn could rock 'n' roll

Hall may host rock concerts

By Colleen Creamer
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Rock concerts in Nashville's new symphony hall? It's a probability.

Though the Schermerhorn Symphony Center would not be suitable for heavy metal, officials say it will be ideal for those rock groups that aim less for sheer amplification and more for finesse, such as Dire Straits or Eric Clapton.

The new concert hall could become one of the finest lighter rock or pop venues in the country.

"It could, absolutely," said

Michael Buckland, director of marketing and communications for the Nashville Symphony. "Going right across the spectrum to rock bands that care about sound other than just noise, it could be one of the best halls in the country."

Buckland said because the hall could handle all types of music, it would be "the people's concert hall and not just an elitist symphony hall."

The hall's managing director agreed.

"There are a number of different groups that would look for a smaller, intimate setting if they really understand the room's capabilities and properties," Ted DeDee said. But, he added, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ▶

Cohen puts skids on belt campaign

By Judith R. Tackett
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Sen. Steve Cohen (D-Memphis) is sponsoring a resolution to stop the national Click It or Ticket campaign in Tennessee, a highly advertised education campaign encouraging people to wear seat belts.

"We're not a Click It or Ticket state, and we shouldn't put out anything that is not accurate or true and misleading. It reminds you of Watergate," Cohen said.

Because Tennessee does not have a primary safety belt law, Tennesseans cannot be stopped for not wearing a seat belt. They can only be fined for the offense if they were stopped for another violation; for example, speeding.

Cohen's resolution reads, "... While the goal of the Click It or Ticket campaign (to save lives through increased seat belt usage) is laudable, the premise of such program is fundamentally untrue ..."

Cohen said he might be willing to support a primary seat belt law because he believes it saves lives.

"But I don't think we should be advertising that if you don't buckle your seat belt you're going to be ticketed as a primary offense, which just isn't true," he said.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is federally funded

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ▶

*Hinges on Thermal***Developer has big plans for SoBro**

■ FROM PAGE 1

community development.

"Michael brings a creative energy to this process, and we expect good things to result," he added.

Tom Turner, executive director of the Nashville Downtown Partnership, said the Hayes/Ragland properties are key in linking Rolling Mill Hill and the central business district.

"I'm impressed with Michael's vision and optimistic about his future development," Turner said.

Hayes said he hopes the Thermal site will eventually be redeveloped for a Nashville Sounds ballpark, accompanied by two to three mixed-used New Urbanism buildings to be developed by Baltimore-based Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, Inc.

"Of every proposal I've looked at, the Sounds proposal is the best," said Hayes, who previously worked as a financial analyst for L.J. Melody Co. in Atlanta and as a real estate development manager for AutoZone Inc. in Memphis.

Hayes envisions the family land to one day be anchored by mixed-used buildings housing office, retail and residential space. Since re-

turning, he has spent much time meeting with officials of the Nashville Civic Design Center, the Nashville Downtown Partnership, the Metro Development and Housing Agency and the Metro Planning Department.

In addition, Hayes is willing to coordinate a collaborative redevelopment effort at the appropriate time if the reception is positive.

"I have spoken to the owners of 11 properties in the area," he said. "They realize that in the long run, there could be a better use for their properties than the uses today."

Hayes said the eventual extension of Franklin Street from First to Fourth avenues (and, in time, to Eighth Avenue) is another key to how he will proceed with his plans.

"The road will change the dynamics of our assets," he said.

Hayes said he is determined to oversee quality urban development with a pedestrian-oriented feel and with the blessings of civic leaders.

"I hope the city realizes the opportunities we have to complement what they can start with the redevelopment of Thermal," he said. CP

'Driving to Cure' plates on sale

Tennessee license plates that support breast cancer research, "Driving to a Cure," are currently being sold statewide.

A minimum of 1,000 plates must be pre-sold by June 30 before any can be issued, according to Bernice McClure, Busom Buddies of Clarksville, who is spearheading the statewide effort. McClure is a nine-year breast cancer survivor.

Her grassroots efforts along with the members of the Clarksville Busom Buddies chapter were responsible for taking the "Driving to a Cure" license plate bill to the state Senate through Sen. Rosalind Kurita and to the House of Representatives through Rep. Tommy Head last March. The specialty license bill was signed into law last year by Gov.



Phil Bredesen.

The plates cost \$35 annually in addition to standard license plate fees. The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation is the designated recipient of \$15.50 per license plate. Monies will go to breast cancer research. CP

For more information on how to reserve a "Driving to a Cure" license plate, visit www.pinkribbonplates.com or contact McClure at (931) 232-6668 or The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation at (615) 467-1936. CP

— Staff reports

LOCAL BRIEFS

Learn backpacking skills

Spencer Knoch will give tips on lightweight backpacking for beginners to experts from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Green Hills Branch Library, 3701 Benham Ave. He will show slides of his 1992 Georgia-to-Maine hike along the Appalachian Trail. He has developed a personal gear selection that weighs just 13 lbs. 6 oz. The program is free. For more information call 862-5863.

Student art at the Frist

Student artwork from 59 Metro

schools will be on display at the Frist Center for the Arts beginning Friday. Mayor Bill Purcell and Director of Schools Pedro Garcia will lead the opening celebration from 5-7 p.m. The collection, called "The Mayor's Art Show," will be on display for four weeks.

MS Walk set for April 3

Saint Thomas Health Services is the title sponsor for the 13th annual MS Walk at Edwin Warner Park. There are more than 5,600 people in Tennessee with multiple sclerosis, a chronic, often disabling disease that

attacks the nervous system. Walkers and teams collect pledges that are used to fund MS research. The walk starts at 10:30 a.m. with registration at 9 a.m. For more information, call 269-9055.

Jazz on the Triangle

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 615 Sixth Ave. S., is sponsoring a jazz festival every third Sunday during April, May and June. Concerts will begin at 4 p.m. in the church nave. Admission is \$10 or \$25 for the series. For more information call 256-6379 or 329-9238. CP

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