



# NCAA tournament lineups unveiled

Commodores face W. Michigan On 1C

Kentucky takes top seed On 8C

• Men's NCAA brackets on 4C

UT, Belmont, Austin Peay in NIT On 8C

PREDATORS, RED WINGS TIE Nashville hangs on to 7th place in playoff race On 1C

Vandy women play Lipscomb On 9C

Lady Vols get overall No. 1 seed, vs. Colgate in Round One On 9C

• Women's NCAA brackets on 5C



# CROSS DRESSING

Fashions that perform at work as well as at play

SHORTCUTS, 8D



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# Nashville's budget problems may hit needed services hard

## Hospital, police, fire services could face drastic cuts

By BRAD SCHRADE  
Staff Writer

If your house catches fire, it may take a little longer to get Nashville firefighters there. Some of the 75,000 people treated annually at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry could go without some services. And east Nashville golfers may need to find another place to play if the

METRO

Shelby Park course closes. These are among the scenarios that Metro department heads painted when they were asked to confront the prospects of budget cuts between 10% and 15% in the next budget year. Fewer firefighters would mean stretched services; cuts at

General could close some clinics, and the Shelby course could be closed.

No one expects Mayor Bill Purcell's administration to ax them all as he prepares his 2004-2005 operating budget for release near the end of May, but with an \$80 million-\$100 million gap between expected revenues and expenses, as many as 1,400

city jobs and some significant services are dangling over the chopping block, officials said.

The worst-case scenario would result in a loss of as many as 238 police officers, 147 firefighters and emergency medical technicians and 65 library employees — all cuts that would alter the service those departments provide. The 1,400 general government jobs don't include the 240 Metro teachers and 300 other jobs that are



PURCELL



MANNING

in the mix as part of a possible 3% budget reduction in Metro school spending. Metro Finance Director David Manning and Purcell's office emphasize that Man-

ning's request for departments to identify possible cuts to their next budget by 10%-15% is part of the process needed in a tight budget year.

They say they don't expect across-the-board cuts at those levels and will try to minimize the impact on public safety and other vital services.

The 71-page itemized list of proposed budget cuts — department by department — reveals some dramatic

reductions among the mundane.

For example, Fire Chief Stephen Halford said the loss of jobs would mean slower average response times because some units at Nashville's 30 fire stations would have to be disbanded. The department's response in 65% of calls is within five minutes. The ability to arrive within five minutes would

► Please see CUTS, 2A

### INSIDE TODAY

#### An unusual route to the Ivy League

More and more bargain-conscious students are using community college credits to aim as high as the Ivy League and other top-tier campuses. Some of those schools, in turn, are showing more interest in recruiting from community colleges that have diverse student bodies and learners who sometimes prove highly motivated. On 3A

#### Two bombers kill selves, 11 Israelis

Two Palestinian suicide bombers infiltrated Israel's second-busiest harbor and set off explosions moments apart yesterday, killing themselves and 11 workers in the first attack in more than 3½ years of conflict on a major Israeli industrial complex. On 6A

#### Earnhardt Jr. wins Golden Corral 500

Dale Earnhardt Jr. streaked to victory in the Golden Corral 500 in Atlanta yesterday, a vast improvement over his 35th-place finish in Las Vegas a week ago. On 1C

#### BR549 mixes sad with glad on CD

Rockabilly group BR549's latest album, *Tangled in the Pines*, "is an inspired mix of beery sad stuff and propulsive rave-ups," says *Tennessean* music writer Peter Cooper. Also reviewed: Lambchop and The Von Bondies. On 5D

#### Nashville woman dies in fall off ride

A Nashville woman died yesterday after she fell about 60 feet from an amusement park ride called "The Hawk" at Rockin Raceway in Pigeon Forge. On 2B

## Parade rejoices in luck of Irish



Nashville's third annual St. Patrick's Day Parade proceeded through the mist yesterday. Kate Adams, right, and Meghan Nussle, second from right, danced a jig with other members of the Scott-Ellis School of Irish Dance.

Photos by  
Shelley Mays / Staff

◀ A green hat set the mood for Uncut, a 7-year-old greyhound taking part in the parade with the Nashville chapter of the Greyhound Pets of America.



Ron Ault and other musicians from the Franklin Kennedy branch of the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann played Irish music in the parade, which covered about four blocks in the Baptist Hospital area. Nashville, like other cities, held its parade on the weekend although St. Patrick's Day is Wednesday.

# Nashvillian falls from ride, dies

## Accident occurs in Pigeon Forge

Associated Press

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — A Nashville woman died yesterday after she fell from a ride at an amusement park.

June Carol Alexander, 51, of Nashville died from injuries sustained after falling from "The Hawk" at Rockin Raceway. The ride is shaped like a ship and rocks back and forth, going higher each time. It eventually turns completely upside down.

Alexander fell about 60 feet from the ride when it turned upside down, said Lt. Lynn Wilhoite of the Pigeon Forge Police Department. Alexander was taken to Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead.

"We don't know why this happened," Wilhoite said.

Representatives from the park's insurance company and the ride's manufacturer are on their way to Pigeon Forge to inspect the site, which has been secured by police. The investigation is continuing, Wilhoite said.

No one else was injured in the early afternoon incident, he said.

"To my knowledge, I don't think we've ever had anything like this at any of the amusement parks around here."

Dollywood also is in Pigeon Forge, about 30 miles southeast of Knoxville. 2

# Proposed TennCare limits may save little

## Average hospital stay already below suggested cap

By BONNA de la CRUZ  
Staff Writer

Gov. Phil Bredesen's proposed limits on how long TennCare enrollees can stay in a hospital and how many times they can visit a doctor are aimed at saving taxpayers' money. But an examination indicates those restrictions may not affect many enrollees.

Average hospital stays, outpatient procedures received and doctor visits were below the governor's recommended annual limits, according to an analysis of

TAX DOLLARS

how enrollees handled by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee used TennCare services from November 2002 to October 2003.

The average number of laboratory tests and X-rays ordered was the only category where enrollees exceeded the limits, according to BlueCross data. The proposed restriction for those services is 10 a year; enrollees averaged 11 in the

► See TENNCARE, 2A

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# Plug your ears! Cicadas ready to end 17 years of silence

## Outbreak expected to be worst in a few of Midstate's outlying counties

By HOLLY EDWARDS  
Staff Writer

Some are groaning in dread and canceling outdoor weddings, others are filled with fascination and fondly recalling childhood memories as parts of Middle Tennessee brace for the spring emergence of Brood X — the largest population of cicadas on Earth.

After spending 17 years underground, sucking the sap from tree roots, billions of the red-eyed insects will

NATURE

burrow their way to the surface, mate for six weeks and die.

The shrill, piercing, incessant sound that drives many people to near insanity is the male cicada's mating call, a love song designed to lure as many female cicadas as possible during the brief breeding cycle.

For people, however, the call is anything but enticing. "That noise just doesn't stop, and it gets really loud out here in the sticks," said Mark Hadden, a Hickman County vegetable farmer. "The frogs are bad enough, but they stop. And then these things fly into your head. They're just a nuisance."

But Valerie Chaffin of

Wilson County said she thought the expected emergence of Brood X was "hysterical." While her husband complains about the horrible crunching sound of trapped cicadas under his lawn mower, she said the sound of cicadas brings back memories of her childhood in Alabama.

"I have these memories of being a child and hearing that noise at night. It really takes me back. It's kind of nice."

Other un sentimental residents are making life-altering decisions in anticipation of the expected racket.

"I'm already getting calls from people who're going to postpone their outdoor weddings and receptions because it'll mess up their



TENNESSEAN / FILE

The shrill, piercing, incessant sound of the cicada drives many people to near insanity, but gives others a fond memory of childhood. This photo shows 13-year cicadas.

video," said David Cook, a lab technician at the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension center in Nashville.

"And cicadas aren't the cutest things in the world, with those bulging red eyes.

► Please see CICADAS, 2A

### Where to find them

Wilson, DeKalb, Hickman, Lincoln, Franklin and Wayne counties are the Midstate counties expected to get the brunt of Brood X. Davidson County, where many residents have vivid memories of the 13-year cicada in 1998, will get a reprieve from this one, though there may be a few isolated outbreaks in the area.

East Tennessee will see the worst of Brood X. West Tennessee sees the highest concentrations of a 13-year cicada that last emerged in 2002.

— HOLLY EDWARDS

### Hear a cicada song

To listen to a cicada's calling song, go to [tennessean.com](http://tennessean.com) and type keyword **cicada**