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Remote Area Medical kicks off 2018 with medical clinic

Remote Area Medical, the largest nongovernmental provider of mobile medical clinics delivering free high-quality dental, vision and medical care to underserved and uninsured individuals, children and families, is coming back to Chilhowee Park's Jacob Building located at 3301 East Magnolia Avenue in Knoxville, Tennessee. RAM's 900th clinic will operate from Wednesday, January 31 through Sunday, February 4. All services are free and no insurance or ID is required.

"We are facing a serious crisis and it is not just poor folks who are suffering," said RAM Founder and President, Stan Brock. "Washington continues to debate the cost of health care, the costs continue to rise, and our numbers are not getting any lower."

Patient parking for the Knoxville clinic will be located on-site and will open at 12 a.m. midnight on Wednesday, January 31. Ticket distribution will begin at 3 a.m., and patients will be seen in chronological order according to their ticket number as clinic doors open at 6 a.m. This process will repeat each clinic day. Services available include dental cleanings, dental fillings, dental extractions, dental x-rays, dentures (on a limited basis), eye exams, eyeglass prescriptions, free eyeglasses made on-site, women's health exams, and general medical exams. Patients of the Knoxville RAM clinic will be able to register their unaltered household pets for free spay/neuter surgery. Pets should not be taken to the RAM clinic.

Data from the Appalachian Regional Commission shows that Appalachian communities, like Knoxville and other nearby areas, face serious disadvantages that negatively affect the health of their residents. In Knoxville alone, poverty rates typically exceed the national average, and there is a disproportionately higher prevalence of poor health and chronic health conditions, as well as a general lack of access to health services and health insurance. Due to these factors, RAM and its corps of volunteers expect to treat more than 2,500 people during the five-day clinic.

Scholars' Bowl begins tonight on PBS

By Mike Steely
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What happens when you have top students from area high schools competing to see who knows the most Literature, Science, Art, Math, Geography, Government, Music, Sports and History trivia?

See for yourself when the East Tennessee PBS Scholars' Bowl kicks off its 34th season tonight at 5:30 p.m. on East Tennessee Public Television. This season 57 teams will represent 47 high schools from East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky. Ten schools

have two teams taking part this season. The first show features Rockwood High School against East Tennessee State University School. The four-member high school teams' battles will air Monday through Friday at 5:30 on the local public television station.

The "Smart 16" round will begin airing on March 7 and the "Educated 8" on March 19. The final round, beginning on March 23, sees the "Fortuitous Four" face off to ultimately compete for the Frank Miller Memorial Trophy and a \$1,000 cash prize.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ERNIE ROBERTS.

Students from Alcoa and Temple Baptist High School will face off on Thursday during the first week of the East Tennessee PBS Scholars Bowl.

Little Ponderosa Holds Memorial



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA.

Charlie the dog and his goat friends are temporarily living in a tent after a fire destroyed the barn at Little Ponderosa Zoo and Rescue.

Area zoo mourns loss, plans for rebuilding

By Pete Gawda

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Little Ponderosa Zoo and Rescue is coming back to life after a devastating fire on December 4 that resulted in the death of over 40 animals. The facility, located in nearby Clinton, serves as a refuge for exotic animals that have been abused or abandoned. Owner James Cox plans to reopen March 1. He also said he will continue to provide field trips for school children.

The fire, which was attributed to accidental electrical causes, spread

so quickly there was not time to rescue many of the animals that were housed in the barn. Among the fatalities were seven monkeys including Mikey, who had been there over 20 years, and everyone's favorite, George. George had come from an abusive situation in a drug house and was learning to be friendly with humans. Only two monkeys, who were housed in a separate building, survived. All parrots and a 122-year-old tortoise were also among the fatalities. Even though many of

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Mayoral candidates speak in Karns

By Mike Steely
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Although all three candidates who have announced for Knox County Mayor agree on many things, they do have differences on a few items. The three Republican candidates drew a large audience to the Karns Community Club Tuesday as local citizens and sixteen other local candidates packed the warm house on a very cold evening to hear their platforms.

Terry Hill, school board member and candidate for reelection to her District 6 seat, hosted the meeting and asked half a dozen questions submitted by citizens of Commissioners Brad Anders and Bob Thomas and Glenn Jacobs.

In opening statements, Anders promised to "keep the momentum going" in county government while Jacobs said the biggest threat is big government, and Thomas said he wants to bring the same success to county government as he's had in his professional life.

When asked about growth and the Metropolitan Planning Commission all three candidates said the county should have its own planning commission. Anders said the county has a 28-year-old road plan and has "grown into a rush hour."

When the subjects of raising taxes came up Jacobs and Thomas both said they would not raise property taxes. Anders said that if the county continues to grow at the current rate then no tax increase would be needed but hedged by saying that the county is spending more money than it takes in.

Jacobs said the county "needs to learn to live within our means."

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Brad Anders, Glenn Jacobs and Bob Thomas answered questions at the Karns Community Club last week.



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