

Brock's spirit endures as RAM prepares for free Knoxville Clinic

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Stan Brock, founder of Remote Area Medical, passed away last August but his spirit will be with the organization as they prepare for the 1,000th medical clinic. Held at Chilhowee Park's Jacob building at 3301 East Magnolia Avenue over three days from February 1st to February 3rd, the non-profit provider will deliver free, high-quality medical, dental, and vision services including eyeglasses made on site, women's health exams and general medical exams.

Patients for the Knoxville RAM clinic may be able to register their unaltered household pets for free spay and neuter surgery as well as vaccinations, city dog tags, and microchipping. The pets should not be taken to the clinic.

RAM will open patient parking through Gate One no later than 12 midnight

on the first day of the event and ticket distribution usually begins about 3 a.m. The process repeats on Saturday and Sunday, February 2 and 3. Patients are being urged to arrive early, especially those seeking dental service.

The city of Knoxville has 26.5% of the population at or below the national poverty rate of 12.5%. Nearly one in six people under the age of 65 lack health insurance coverage. RAM expects about 1,000 people from Knoxville and surrounding communities to seek medical service.

"We are so excited to hold our 1,000th expedition, offering free dental, vision, medical and veterinary care right here where it first started in 1985," said RAM CEO Jeff Eastman.

For information about volunteering, especially for medical professionals, you may call (865)579-1530.



RAM's free clinic is coming to back to Knoxville and anyone wanting dental care is being asked to arrive early. The 1000th free medical clinic is scheduled for February 1-3. (Photo courtesy of RAM)



The Scholars' Bowl features high school students from across our region going and premiers for the 35th season today on East Tennessee Public Broadcasting System.

Scholars' Bowl broadcast begins today

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

What happens when you take some of the smartest kids in high school and pit them against the smartest kids from another high school?

What you have is the Scholars' Bowl. Today the popular series premieres for the 35th season on East Tennessee PBS. The students have already played in the bowl, answering questions that even their parents probably couldn't, and all the contests between schools will begin to air tonight for the first time. This year the Scholar's Bowl is doing something new, adding two Kentucky schools to the mix from Middlesboro and Whitley counties.

During each show one school wins and one school loses and the matches continue until the champs face off. Frank Murphy of Classic Hits 93.1 KNOX hosts the program which is written and produced by ETPBS Mathline's Ernie Roberts. It features 59 teams of students competing against each other in matchups. The show appears on East Tennessee Public Broadcasting System

each weekday at 5:30 p.m.

The show's longtime producer and founder, Frank Miller, passed away three years ago and Roberts said he took over the role, organizing brackets across the region's schools and writing more than 4,000 questions that will be asked this season. The questions come from a wide range of categories including math, science, the arts, history and current events.

This year some schools submitted two or three teams for the competition. The shows were taped in late 2018 and although the winners have already been determined the producer wants that to be a surprise. The winning school will receive \$1,000 and the "Frank Miller Memorial Trophy" in honor of the game's founder. The coach of the winning team gets an additional cash prize.

The school coming in second will receive \$500. The "Fortuitous Four" competitions, featuring the four remaining schools, will be shown on March 25.

The best of Knox County



Catholic junior offensive lineman Bryn Tucker (6-5, 300) fires out to block during TSSAA playoff time late in the season. Tucker fills a big spot on The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2018 All-Knox County football team, which is announced this week along with the Knox County Player and Coach of the Year. Please see the honorees in Sports and Recreation, Section B. Photo by Kelly Kearse.

Senators Richard Briggs and Becky Duncan-Massey answer questions

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knox County state Senators Richard Briggs and Becky-Duncan Massey answered questions from an audience at a League of Women's Voters forum Saturday. The event, held at the Knoxville News Sentinel, drew a sizable audience and began with a greeting from LWV President Linda Maccabe, who reminded everyone that next year will be the organization's 100th birthday.

She also said that Senator Randy McNally could not be there because of an engagement in West Tennessee. The LWV president also recognized Senator Massey's birthday and presented a birthday cupcake with two candles.

Massey said the change in this year's legislature is the "biggest change since the Civil War" noting that 34 new members are joining both houses of state government.

The senators said that the new governor, Bill Lee, may bring proposals they can support including judicial and sentencing reform and expansion of career and technical education.

Both Massey and Briggs agreed to continue to push for health care reform, noting they had supported former Governor Bill Haslam's failed effort to reform it. Briggs mentioned health care and noted the state is still at the bottom of the nation. He said the state is not making progress on health care and said it has slid from 34th to 36th.

Briggs said that if the state chooses to take part in the Medicaid program that \$1 to 1.2 million would come to Tennessee in federal funds paid by state taxpayers. He bemoaned the closure of hospitals including the two in Knoxville.

Both said they are working to revise a health care plan that could be passed in the strongly Republican state houses.

"Our TennCare is the envy of the nation but we could get almost all our citizens insured," Briggs said.

Massey said one of the health care

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