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Team Rio is looking for runners, walkers



Jimmy Olander, 2007 assistant Coach Jan Stumbo, Coach Billy Smith, Marty Roe and Gene Johnson helped Team Rio raise \$125,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2007.
SUBMITTED

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Here's just the thing to get you motivated to achieve your New Year's resolution of getting healthy in 2008: Team Rio is recruiting members to compete for charity in the Country Music Marathon & ½ Marathon on April 26.

Since 2004, members of **Diamond Rio** have led a team of runners and walkers to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. The team raised about \$125,000 last year and has set a goal of raising \$200,000

this year.

This year, DR's **Jimmy Olander** and **Marty Roe** are the celebrity running coaches, while Coach **Billy Smith**, a veteran marathoner, will provide weekly training and guidance. Arby's is sponsoring the team this year. "It should be a blast," Jimmy says. "We have our usual cast of characters."

A meeting for those interested in participating will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at D1 Sports Complex, 7115 South Springs Drive in Franklin. In addition to Marty and Jimmy, the meeting will be attended by *The Biggest Loser's* **David Griffin** and **Susan R. Cooper**, Tennessee's Commissioner of Health, who oversees the Get Fit TN program. It's open to runners and walkers willing to raise at least \$250 in pledges to benefit the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs. "Anybody can show," Jimmy says.

Jimmy will blog about his training and the race throughout the next few months on the *Tennessean's* Web site. For more information about joining Team Rio, visit www.teamrio.org.

Jimmy is nursing a strained hamstring. However, he promises, "The first group run is on Sunday and I will be out in full force."

Got talent? NBC wants to see you

America's Got Talent is holding auditions in Nashville on Jan. 30 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel.

The NBC show is looking for "anybody, everybody, anybody who thinks or knows they have talent," said senior casting director **Roz Taylor-Jordan**. "Anybody who is interested in sharing his or her special gifts, who wants to break out of the monotony of every day and have some fun. Amateurs are actually the heart of the show, not the professionals."

They're looking for professional singers, dancers and actors, of course, but also for spoon players, comedians and balloon blowers. "Anything that has entertainment value can make the show, no matter how bizarre, zany or unique it is." To make an appointment, visit www.nbc.com/agt.

SunTrust winner hits dry land

The story from **Jeff Williams** of Franklin about his most memorable driving experience wins the SunTrust-donated contest items, including a package for two to the Daytona 500 on Feb. 17 and a pair backstage garage passes from Sprint Sound & Speed presented by SunTrust.

When Jeff was 16 and his parents were away for the weekend, he decided to drive the family station wagon and pull the family boat behind it so he could get a young woman to spend an afternoon on the river with him.

The day went well until they left the marina. "I wasn't sure what those canvas straps were for until I pulled out and over the median of the highway, promptly depositing and introducing the new family watercraft into the middle of the four-lane highway and its asphalt surface," he wrote.

"After no less than two-dozen cars stopped to watch (and many fewer to help), about a dozen men 'heaved' our boat back onto its trailer while A) the sheriff wrote my citation for 'failure to secure a load'; B) photographs were being taken by curious onlookers; C) Pam was being humiliated beyond reproach and D) (drum roll please) my parents returning into town were in the stopped traffic!

"Needless to say, my driving privileges (road and river) were revoked until I 'worked off' \$1,200 in damages to the boat and trailer. Pam never spoke to me again."

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