

## 9th Year a 'Reason for Celebration'



The Pink Ribbon Celebration Committee enjoys a moment at the photo booth. Pictured left to right: Janine Mingie, Tammy Pickles, Nic Mingie, Ramona Watson, Ann Marie Hatfield and Deborah Maudlin.

Right, Emily Ann Roberts, rising country star and graduate of Karns High School, performs during the Pink Ribbon Celebration Thursday evening. The breast cancer event highlighted cancer survivors and one person present was celebrating more than 45 years as a survivor.



PHOTO BY MARLENE DEGEN

## Pink Ribbon Celebration has huge turnout

By Mike Steely  
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The house was packed Thursday during the 9th Annual Pink Ribbon Celebration, which saluted Breast Cancer Survivors and raised funds for the Compassion in Action fund, at the Grande Event Center in North Knoxville.

WBIR's Robin Wilhoit and 697.5's Michele Silva welcomed the full house and introduced guests and speakers. Breast cancer survivors were recognized and applauded and one woman was celebrating 45 years of survival.

The theme was "Reason for Celebration" and Janine Mingie said that about 450 people

attended.

"We had 63 tables and someone was at every table," she said.

Following a buffet dinner Knoxville's Emily Ann Roberts entertained and later Mike Willis also sang. Cancer survivor Michael Holtz spoke of his cancer battle and the aftermath of a successful

struggle. Other speakers included Becky Dodson, Nic Mingie, Deborah Maudlin and Mingie.

"I think the highlight of the evening was when Emily Roberts came back out at the end and sang 'I Don't Know Who Holds Tomorrow,'" Mingie said, noting

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## McMillan questions validity of Leadership Academy agreement

By Focus Staff

Mike McMillan, East Knox County's member of the Board of Education, says the agreement between the school system and the University of Tennessee may not be valid. The Board will be discussing the Leadership Academy or Center for Educational Leadership at tonight's meeting. Dr. James McIntyre, former superintendent of the Knox County School system, heads the Leadership Academy. After his resignation following a controversial tenure as superintendent, McIntyre chose to head the Leadership Academy. Before leaving the superintendent's office, McIntyre ran the academy on a part-time basis.

McMillan was McIntyre's most persistent critic during much of McIntyre's time in office. McMillan contacted Richard "Bud" Armstrong, Knox County Law Director, in preparation of the discussion of the Leadership Academy, posing several questions. After asking one of the top administrators for a copy of the agreement between the Leadership Academy and the Knox County School system, McMillan said he was surprised to learn "apparently nobody could find a copy of the supposed agreement." McMillan then asked Law Director Bud Armstrong about the agreement. Armstrong wrote back, "I cannot find a record of an executed agreement with School Board approval or Commission approval regarding the Leadership Academy." Armstrong said "the only record" he is

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## Busler Announces for Re-Election

By Mike Steely  
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Charles Busler, vice chairman of the Knox County Commission, is a man with an inquisitive mind and outgoing personality. Busler has lived in the 7th District for more than 41 years and, aside from his commission duties, is involved in various aspects of the community.

Last Friday Busler announced his campaign

for re-election. He's serving his first term and has been one of the few commissioners to ask questions and seek county funds for things like the Heiskell-Powell Community Center. His inquiries into the past and current contract with AMR-Rural/Metro Ambulance continue as he receives more and more complaints from residents and homeowners about the charges for

emergency and non-emergency response.

The 4 p.m. kick-off saw many elected officials drop by to support Busler; friends and neighbors dropped by the Powell Community Center and voters lined up to speak with him. The crowd was invited to dine on pinto beans, cornbread and sweet tea. Entertainment was from the White Water Band and Commissioner

Busler visited with each person who came by, talking with them near a campaign table with stickers and cards. Nearby were yard signs for volunteers to take with them. Coming by to wish him the best were Tim Burchett, Bob Thomas, Carson Dailey, Ed Shouse, Sherry Witt and Richard "Bud" Armstrong.

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County Commission Vice Chairman Charles Busler visits with Commissioner Bob Thomas during his kick-off for reelection for Commissioner in the 7th District. The County Primary is May 1, 2018.

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