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November 5, 2018

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Comedienne Leanne Morgan entertains the packed house at the Grande Event Center during last Tuesday's celebration. Morgan appeared for the 10th year, reminding all that even through serious circumstances, fun and laughter are good medicine. WBIR's Robin Wilhoit returned as well to emcee the

Chris Blue, winner of season 12 of The Voice, honored Donna Smith with the Humanitarian Hero Award. Smith works year-round holding purse sales, basket raffles and rummage sells to raise funds for the annual event. This year those funds sponsored the Survivor VIP Room.

Survivors celebrated at 10th Pink Ribbon Celebration

The Grande Event Center was a sea of pink Tuesday for Compassion In Action's 10th Annual Gala, The Pink Ribbon Celebration, Of the well over 500 attendees, more than 200 breast cancer survivors were given VIP treatment with champagne punch, appetizers and goodie bags in the Survivor Room before being ushered to their seats in the Grand Ballroom.

"The event began 10 years ago to honor breast cancer survivors and raise funds for the Compassion in Action fund and has grown each year since. It's just amazing!" said Janine Mingie, founder of the organization and celebration. "This just wouldn't be possible without an amazing team of volunteers, who meet and plan for months, table decorators who help make the ballroom so beautiful and the sponsorship from local businesses, media outlets

Games, prizes, silent auction and raffles brought excitement while raising funds to help uninsured and under-insured women receive breast imaging and meet some of the

patients are undergoing treatment.

Chris Blue headlined, bringing songs of encouragement and words of hope along with some hits from the past that brought the packed house to their feet. In addition to an energetic and inspirational show, he presented his Humanitarian Hero Award to Donna Smith who led her team to sponsor this year's VIP Survivor Room.

"When Chris asked us for a nomination for the award, there was no doubt who our hero is," said Mingle, "Donna works tirelessly all year long to raise money and help people through Compassion in Action. She also helps in nursing homes, volunteers with homeless and provides baskets for the homebound. She's like a little stick of dynamite working and giving all over the community. She's certainly one of my heroes!"

Contributions to Compassion in Action, a non-profit organization, can be made to Compassion in Action Corporation, 3201 Chantilly Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917. You may also find them on Facebook or online at www.pinkribboncelebration.com

Chancellor rules in favor of mayor, county commission

ments before Chancellor John the government entities to abide Weaver last Monday the judge responded that he will make a or not the Knox County Law Director has the power to sue the pension board

That ruling came on Friday afternoon when Weaver stated is being legally applied but he'll that the law director's clients are the Knox County Mayor and Commission. The judge ruled that, as the mayor and the commission had directed Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong to drop the lawsuit against the pension board and several retiring deputies, the lawsuit must be dropped.

authority or standing to enforce by the charter?

"The law director does," Armclients directly tell him to stop. That's what just happened."

He said the county doesn't want to know if the pension plan follow the mayor and commission's direction.

Where does that leave the "settlement" of the lawsuit? Will it be decided in the November 5 hearing before Weaver?

"It's over," the law director said. He added that this morning's 9:30 a.m. hearing before Judge Weaver

Following the ruling The Focus may dismiss the class action suit. County proceeds with litigation in

"My power is there but it's not absolute," he said

Asked if he could pursue future violations of the charter or handle ruling within the week on whether strong replied, adding, "Until his cases involving county officials he said he could until ordered not to do so

> Mayor Jacobs issued the following statement:

"I believe the Law Director Armstrong was acting in what he believed was the public's best interest, but there are better ways of resolving this issue without resorting to an expensive and divisive lawsuit. The Chansets a precedent for how Know

asked Armstrong who has the and the case will be completed. the future. I'm glad to have this in forward.

Last week's hearing

Several attorneys gave various opinions on the power of the law director inside the packed courtroom last Monday, Attorney Melissa Carrasco, hired by the law director to pursue the case on his behalf, countered most of the arguments and cited, time and again, the county charter and the 2007 referendum setting the cellor's ruling defines a path of language on pensions the Uniresolution for this lawsuit and formed Officers of the Sheriff's

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Voting totals could surpass 2016 numbers in **Knox County**

By Mike Steely steelym@knoxfocus.com

"This is unheard of for a mid-term," Knox County Election Administrator Cliff Rodgers told The Focus

Tuesday is Election Day in Tennessee and across the country as voters cast their ballots for their picks to hold public office. The turnout in the state has already seen more than 1 million voters and after Election Day the unusually high number of people voting may surpass the number of people who voted in the 2016 presidential election

Tennessee has been one of the bottom four states in turnout. The Trump vs. Clinton election saw about 51% of registered voters making their chose of candidates.

There are 16,799,476 eligible voters in our state In the 2014 off-year election only 28 percent bothered to vote. The Knox County Election Commission has forecast that this year about 70% of those who planned to vote probably voted early. That might mean that this off-year election turnout would be equal to the turnout in the presidential election.

Thursday was the final day to vote early and 11,110 people voted that day, bringing the final total number of voters at the ballot places to 113,736. according to information from Rodgers

On the ballot locally are state representative and senate races, the governorship, and U.S. Congress and Senate seats. Since the Republican Party controls the state and Knox County it isn't unusual that that party's candidates are isted as the first name on each ballot, followed by the Democrat candidate and then the Independent candidates.

The expected close races include the race for U. S. Senate, pitting Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn against former Governor Phil Bredesen. A local close race between incumbent State Representative Eddie Smith and former State Representative Gloria Johnson is also getting some attention. Smith and Johnson faced

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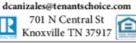


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