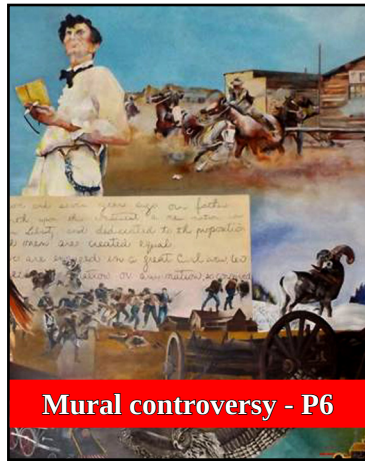
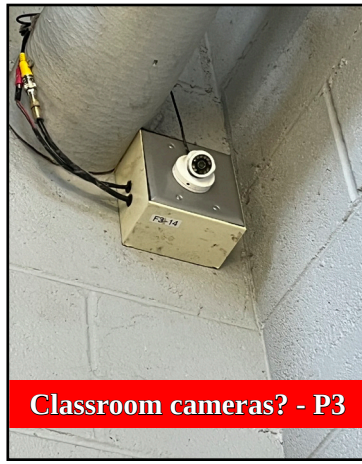


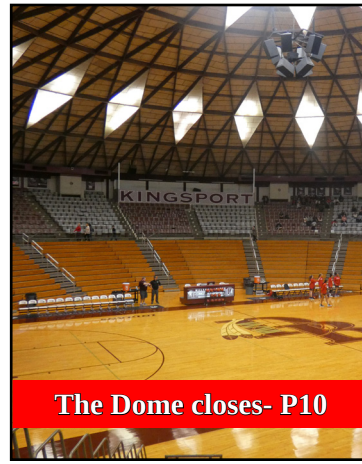
Monkeypox concerns - P5



Mural controversy - P6



Classroom cameras? - P3



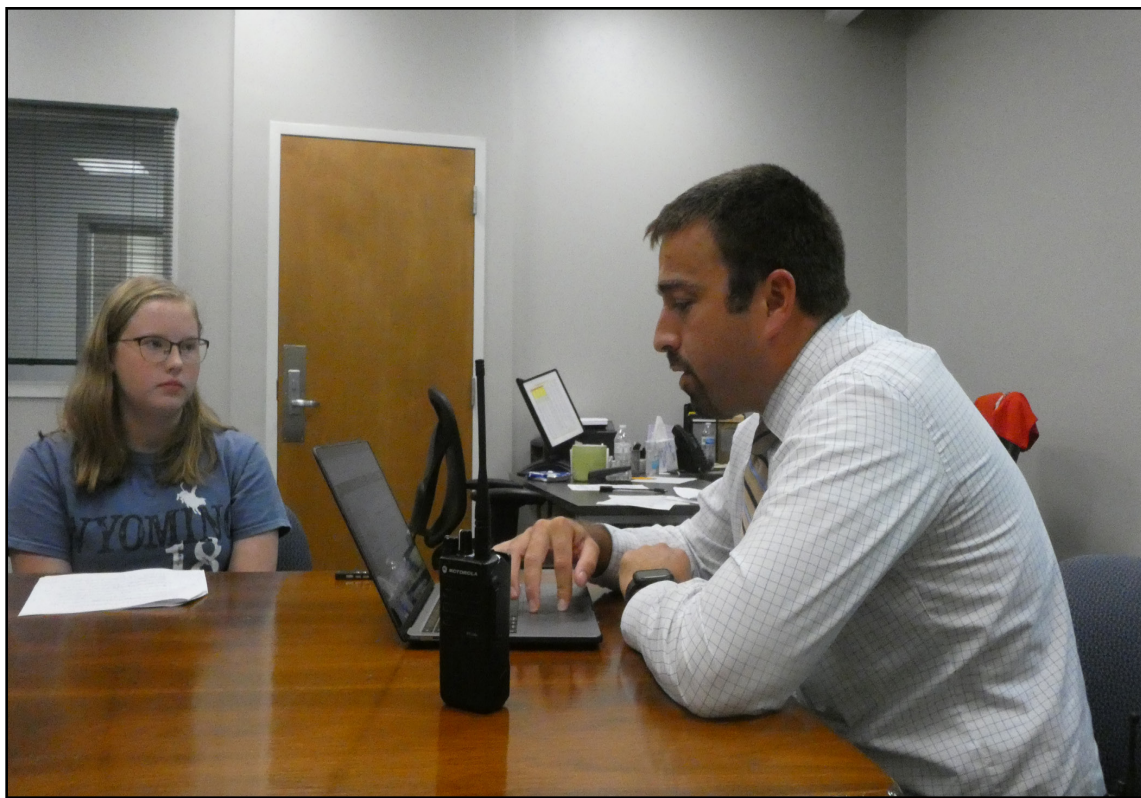
The Dome closes- P10



Cartoon worries - P15

The Sequoyah SCRIBE

A student publication of John Sevier Middle School, Kingsport, Tennessee



Scribe Photo/ALLI VALENTINE

A NEW LEADER. Kyle Loudermilk, right, sits for an interview with Scribe staff. Loudermilk has taken charge as principal of Sevier Middle, replacing former principal Kelli Seymour.

New principal takes charge of school

BY ADELINE LYTTLE

After Kelli Seymour was Sevier Middle's principal for two years, the school has now received a new leader once again: Kyle Loudermilk. Loudermilk was most recently principal at Jackson Elementary.

"I've been an assistant or associate principal at both middle schools and Lincoln Elementary and at Kennedy Elementary," he said. "Before that, I taught fifth-grade math."

Loudermilk was born in

Blountville and still lives there today. He has a 25-minute drive to and from Sevier each day.

"I enjoy it because it gives me time to think about the day ahead or to reflect on all the things that happened on the way home," he said.

He attended Blountville Middle School and did not participate in many extracurricular activities like sports or music.

Loudermilk wanted to become a teacher to help students and teachers grow.

He started his education stud-

ies at Northeast State Community College and then continued to the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. He completed his Bachelor's degree at East Tennessee State University, then attended Union College to get his Master's degree in administration.

He also received an educational specialist degree from Lincoln Memorial University before returning to ETSU to earn his Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

See **PRINCIPAL** page 5

Actors struggle with sound issues

BY JESSYCA COOK

Each school year, Sevier Middle performs a play for the public and the student body in the Koffman Auditorium. In recent years, this performance has become more challenging due to some serious sound problems.

Annie Griffith is the chorus and theater teacher at Sevier. As director of the play, she often has to deal with the auditorium's sound issues.

"The sound system is so old," she said. "Certain parts can't be replaced if they stop working due to the age of the system, nor can we get a good sound to come through the system without compromising other aspects of the show. It's really hard to try and create a pleasing sound when the sound system only partially works."

During last year's play, "The Music Man", the audience reported that it was hard to hear the actors even with their microphones on.

"It's obviously something that we struggle with and we are working to find a way to resolve some of the problems," Griffith said. "We are well aware that hearing cast members can be difficult, especially when we don't have enough mics to fit all the students".

A donation last year will allow the theater program to purchase extra microphones for this year's show. Griffith hopes this will help

solve some of the issues.

Nathan Anderson performed in last year's school play. To him, the sound system is a major problem.

"It will glitch out and start a soundbite," he said. "It will also randomly restart mid-track. There are no speakers in the back, either, causing the audience to not be able to hear."

Amelia Lockhart, another actor from last year's play, agreed.

"The biggest challenges with the sound system are when it cuts out during a song or when it skips a part of the song," she said.

The microphones Sevier uses are Shure brand. They have a headset which is connected to the mic pack that is hidden in the costumes of the students.

"These mics are wonderful, but they are newer than the sound system, which can cause some technical issues," Griffith said. "It's not a problem with the mics, it's a problem with the sound system."

Pearce Farr, another member of last year's cast, ran into some problems with the microphones.

"There are a few good microphones that work well and are up-to-date, but those are for the leads," he said. "The other microphones are definitely not as good and could use replacements."

According to Anderson, battery life is also a problem.

See **SOUND** page 4

New "Delta 8" products put drugs in lookalike candy packages

BY ALLI VALENTINE

Everyone loves candy, but kids should be more cautious when they eat it. There are candies and snacks packaged to look like popular candy, but contain a drug called "Delta 8" that can cause a high similar to marijuana.

Mike Campbell is the student resource officer at John Sevier Middle School. His main job is making sure that students are

safe.

"Delta 8 is one of over 100 different cannabinoids found in the hemp plant," he said. "Delta 8 is psychoactive, meaning it causes temporary changes in psychological and physiological processes."

Delta 8 is actually legal as of right now, which makes regulating it extremely difficult.

Robert Pack is the Director of the East Tennessee State University Addiction Science Center.

"Delta 8 is right now legal," he said. Okay. "It's not regular marijuana; it's like a different variation of cannabis, which is delta 9, THC."

Now, however, Delta 8 edibles have started showing up in packaging that looks almost exactly like regular candy from popular brands.

"Products containing Delta 8 are often packaged to appear

as Gummie Bears, Skittles, Life Savers, and common chocolate candies," Campbell said. "Delta 8 can also be found in packages that look like common snack chips such as Doritos, Ruffles, and Pringles. We have seen popular cereals such as Fruit Loops and Captain Crunch, with packages almost identical to the original products, containing Delta 8."

Many students are worried about the effects these products

could have on teens.

"It will hurt our bodies as we are still growing and could lead to a higher risk of diseases in the future," eighth grade student Sid Sigmon said.

Some students are unaware of this trend, so they could accidentally eat Delta 8 products, especially during the Halloween season.

See **DELTA 8** page 4



THE SEQUOYAH SCRIBE
JOHN SEVIER MIDDLE
1200 WATEREE STREET
KINGSPORT, TN 37660

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— STAFF EDITORIAL —

TN should keep hands off school library books

A new Tennessee law aims to remove books from school libraries across the state if parents don't approve of them. This law's goal is to remove "age-inappropriate" content from school libraries when one parent decides they don't like a book.

If one parent, just one parent, complains to the librarian through a website, none of the students in the school can read that book.

This new law is a big problem because it could cause a dip in students' grades and affect their attitude toward school. Some of the subjects parents find "offensive" are necessary for the education of students. Giving a small group of parents the ability to change every student's education is outrageous.

The removal of books from libraries will be a huge problem. Research shows that students who read more score higher in school-related work; so much so that reading 20 minutes every day can raise scores to the 90th percentile.

Research suggests that reading for at least 20 minutes each day sharpens a variety of skills that are valuable in the workforce.

Removing certain books will cause students to not go to the school library because they want to borrow books specifically about those subjects. Their grades and scores will drop.

Tennessee already has enough problems with reading. Recent scores on the NAEP test, the "Nation's Report Card" proves it. Only one-third of Tennessee fourth-graders earned a proficient reading score in 2019. In Memphis, almost 80% of students aren't reading at grade level.

Research also shows that students are more engaged in school after discussions of controversial topics, including slavery and bigotry. An ethnic studies course developed by the San Francisco school district increased participating ninth grade students' attendance, course completion rates, and grades, according to a University of California study.

A new bill restricting how teachers educate their students on these subjects, however, makes such discussions more difficult in Tennessee. Now, with librarians forced to remove books on these topics, students won't have access to these subjects.

Some of the books on the chopping block also concern subjects such as World War II and the Holocaust. These subjects may be difficult to discuss, but they are also necessary topics so that the eyes of middle school students can be opened to a small amount of the world's darkness.

President Joe Biden said in his Juneteenth remarks that "great nations don't ignore their most painful moments. They don't ignore those moments of the past. They embrace them". He's right. Controversial topics, even when they are uncomfortable, should be talked about and taught.

Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel "Maus", a book showcasing the lives of Jews during the Holocaust, was removed from the 8th-grade curriculum in McMinn County, Tennessee. School board member Tony Allman complained during one meeting that the book "shows people hanging, it shows them killing kids. Why does the educational system promote this

kind of stuff?"

This may be true, but all the deceased people are drawn as mice, while the Nazis are drawn as cats. This is a much easier way for kids to learn about the Holocaust. It happened, after all.

Many of these challenged books will still be available in public libraries, so it's completely pointless to remove the books from school libraries. Students can get a free public library card and get these books. The only kids that can't get these books are those without transportation.

Teenagers will find a way to read these books, especially if they are told not to read them. This law won't solve the problem. It will, however, be a massive time sink for school librarians, who have to search through their libraries and catalog their titles to submit to a website so parents can look at them.

A better solution would be to create a system in which parents can access their child's school library account and ban them from borrowing books with certain ratings or content tags. A kid would go to check out a book, but when the librarian scans it in, the system would show that the parent does not approve of the book.

This would mean that, outside of the class curriculum, students wouldn't be exposed to said subjects. Suddenly, one or two parents won't be able to tell every kid in the school district what to read.

There have been so many cases of censorship in the past. It has never done anything good. There's never a good reason to create an obstacle for the public to find the truth.

Students need to pay attention to Amber Alerts



BY JESSYCA COOK

It could happen anywhere: at a doctor's appointment, a birthday party or even while mowing the lawn. The eerie sound of an Amber Alert appears on a phone to warn that a child is missing. Most people turn off the alert and move on. That's a big mistake.

An Amber Alert is a "Wireless Emergency Alert" sent by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to let the public know that a child is missing. It's a message sent through cell phones. Wireless Emergency Alerts can also be about the weather, a threat and problems in an area.

Middle school students don't pay much attention to Amber Alerts. Most times, they completely ignore them.

When the alarm goes off in the middle of class, the sound snatches on students. Teachers know that the student has their phone on. Most middle school students think Amber Alerts are annoying because of this reason.

Around 400 to 600 kids go missing in Tennessee every month. Some cases date back as early as 1969. Right now, 5 are subject to Amber Alerts and 14 are listed as endangered, according to the TBI. Students need to read Amber Alerts more often.

There are nearly 800 students that attend John Sevier Middle School. Each one has their own personal life, families, friends and lifestyles. When they leave school, they could easily run into a missing child or spot a suspected kidnapper's car. They could see something that could help bring another kid home safely.

If, for one second, every middle school student in Tennessee picked up their phones and read the message that the TBI sent, they could help bring missing kids home.

If it's important enough for the TBI to send a message to every phone in the state, then middle school students should be worried, as well. The police aren't trying to get likes or views; they're trying to spread awareness.

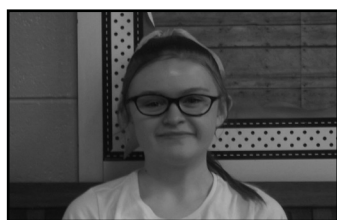
It's not just the students' fault. Some of it is the teachers, too. Teachers probably think emergency alerts in the middle of class are as annoying as the students do. They make it even more difficult for kids to have their phones out to check Amber Alerts.

It takes every Tennessean, even middle school students, to prevent more kidnappings.

Pick up the phone and look at the problem. Maybe then we can fix it.

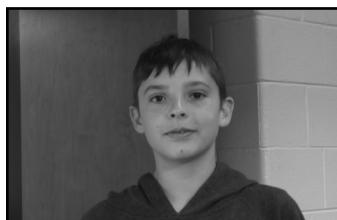
SEVIER TALK

Do you think inappropriate books should be removed from school libraries?



"I think yes, because they must be romance books."

SOFFIA ROGERS
7th Grade



"Yes, [but] some books are important for the learner."

BECKLY DAVIS
8th Grade



"No, because our librarian is very capable of choosing these on her own without policies being a part of it."

CAROLE LONG
Teacher

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

Do cameras in classrooms ensure student safety?

Classroom cameras make sense for safety and educational reasons



BY ISAAC TATE

Security cameras are present in the school hallways, but they should also be in classrooms. In Iowa, a bill was proposed that would have put cameras in all public school classrooms, except for physical education and special education classes.

Although the bill did not become law, it was a good idea.

Classroom cameras have many perks, such as monitoring student behavior, stopping theft, evaluating teachers and allowing parents to see what is going on in classrooms. Over 75% of public schools use cameras

in the hallways, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Kingsport City Schools should use cameras in classrooms, too.

Cameras can help monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves, teachers and parents can look at the footage and see what really happened. The footage would make sure only guilty students are punished.

Cameras can also be used to check to see what happens if a teacher leaves the room, or if there is a substitute. That way, teachers can check on their students even when they are not there. Giving teachers access to the cameras would be really helpful.

If students knew that their parents were watching what they do in class, it would also help to reduce behavior problems. Most students would not want to misbehave in front of their parents.

Cameras can also be used to stop theft and catch the students who steal. If something goes missing, or a student steals something from a classroom, cameras can help put a stop to the theft.

Sevier Middle already has cameras in the hallways to stop the theft of things like soap dispensers, so adding cameras to classrooms would ensure even more security from theft.

Adding cameras to classrooms would also help administrators and parents evaluate

teachers and make sure they are actually teaching the students. That way, if a teacher is not teaching or is teaching something incorrectly, administrators can see the problem and do something about it.

Cameras can also be used for teachers to share their lessons with others. Teachers can share videos

to show other teachers their lessons. A live stream could even be used to help absent students learn.

If a parent wants to know what happens at school, cameras in classrooms will allow them to see that. They will allow parents to see what their child is learning in class. If a parent doesn't like what their child is learning, they can address their complaints with the video as evidence.

Some people say that cameras in classrooms are an invasion of privacy, or that anyone can see the footage. These are valid points, but the advantages far outweigh these concerns.

There should be cameras in every single classroom across Kingsport City Schools.

“If parents want to know what happens at school, cameras will allow them to see that.”

- Isaac Tate

Classroom cameras would cause both privacy and educational issues



BY SARIAH DEHENAUT

Earlier this year, lawmakers in Iowa introduced a bill that would have required cameras in almost every public-school classroom across the state, allowing parents to see live streams. Although the bill did not have enough votes to become law, there now is a lot of controversy surrounding this idea.

There are a few reasonable benefits to having cameras in classrooms, such as bullying rates going down and student behavior improving. However, there are lots of issues that come along with those cameras.

The biggest issue, by far, is privacy. A parent won't only see their own kid, but every other kid in the classroom. A student may not feel comfortable being watched by people they do not know and cannot see. It can make it difficult for students to work efficiently.

Parents may also not be comfortable with a bunch of other adults, strangers, watching their child in class.

A camera could also pick up something a student tries to say privately to a teacher or friend. Suddenly, a private moment was heard by lots of other people. This would be extremely embarrassing to the student.

Students may even get too caught up with how they look or act, not allowing them to be themselves in fear of judgment from a bunch of strangers hiding behind a camera.

This goes for teachers, too. They may be too focused on putting on a show and be too afraid to discuss controversial topics with the students, instead of doing what helps students learn.

There is always a chance that someone outside of the school or family could tap into the camera stream. Cameras, no matter how expensive, can always be hacked. There have been many stories during COVID lockdowns of people hacking into Zoom classroom sessions.

Even when not live, the school will have recordings of these students, and how they are kept and used could end up being problematic. Parents could request to see this footage even after the class has ended.

Setting up the cameras would be expensive, too. Average cameras used in schools can cost from \$20 to \$200, which means one in every classroom would be very costly. Schools may also need to pay a fee to have them installed, adding to the price. Then there's the internet bandwidth required to stream that many cameras all the time.

All this money, all this effort, could be used for school clubs, kid's supplies, school events, book fairs, and any number of things that would help students learn.

Cameras in these kinds of workspaces can even be an insult to teachers. A doctor certainly isn't required to live stream a patient's surgery. A lawyer won't stream writing a brief for a client. Why are teachers, specifically, not trusted to do their jobs?

Some children also have special needs, meaning there are rules about how and when they can be recorded, if at all. Schools may not be able to place a camera in a class with a student with special needs. Figuring out these exceptions would be a nightmare for school administrators.

Any of these reasons could lead to a child not feeling safe or comfortable in a classroom environment. It's simply not worth the disruption cameras would cause.

If a parent or guardian wants to watch their child learn, they can partake in home school or one on one tutoring. They can even visit the school and sit in the classes with their kid. Classroom cameras are not going to be beneficial to students or teachers. Any idea that would hurt students should never be allowed.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



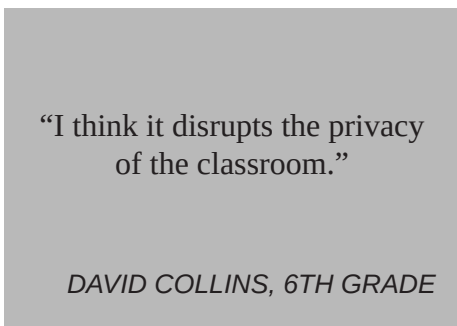
“Yes, because if someone is breaking the rules, they need to see who broke them.”

ANDREW LEPKOWSKI, 7TH GRADE



“Yes to cameras, because I am always doing my job and if there were cameras in the room, then more students would regularly do their jobs [and have] better behavior.”

REBEKAH TIPTON, TEACHER



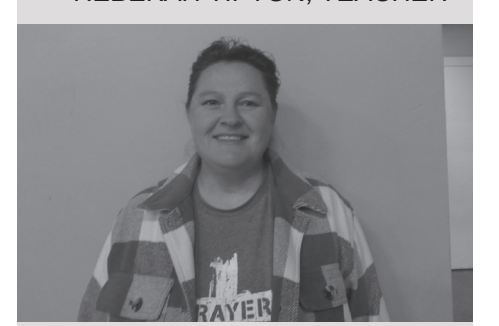
“I think it disrupts the privacy of the classroom.”

DAVID COLLINS, 6TH GRADE



Absolutely not, because it invades privacy.

ELI HODGESON, 8TH GRADE



Scribe Survey/CHARLES COX

Should KCS install cameras in each class?

NEWS BRIEFS

BY GARRETT HUMPHREY

Monkeypox Vaccine released

Monkeypox is a disease that affects rodents and primates and sometimes can be transmitted to humans. Dr. David Kirshke, director of the Northeast Health Office, recently stated publicly that his office will try to get everyone in the Northeast region of Tennessee a monkeypox vaccine.

All health departments in Northeast Tennessee will get the monkeypox vaccine. The symptoms of monkeypox can include: fever, chills, exhaustion, aches and respiratory symptoms.

Mysterious Illness Infects Dogs

An illness that is sometimes fatal has been infecting dogs in Michigan. This virus is highly contagious and can cause vomiting and bloody stools. There have been about 40 fatalities from this virus.

More cases could be occurring across the state. There could be even more cases all around the U.S if it spreads outside the state.

Dino Tracks Uncovered After Drought

New dinosaur tracks found at Dinosaur Valley State Park have been uncovered due to a drought that dried up a river. The park is located near Dallas, Texas, where visitors can view dinosaur tracks and other animals.

In usual river conditions, the tracks are underwater and filled with sediment, so they were not visible to the eye before the drought.

1,200 Year-Old Estate Unearthed

A 1,200 year old mansion in Israel was unearthed in the desert. The home was built around a courtyard and had multiple rooms. Under it, archaeologists found vaults, so those who lived there could store cold food and drinks.

An archaeologist at the site believes that the luxurious estate and vaults are evidence of the owner's means.



Scribe Photo Illustration/ALLI VALENTINE

UNSAFE CANDY. A Scribe model holds up a candy wrapper. Not all candy is safe for students anymore, since there are now candies on the market that include a drug called Delta 8. The drug is currently legal and causes people to have a high similar to marijuana.

DELTA 8: students may accidentally eat drug-laced candy

continued from page 1

"I don't know anything about it," Brently Woliver, an eighth grade student, said.

Delta 8 does not appear to be addictive.

"Addictive means that when you don't have it, your body actually develops what's called a withdrawal symptom," Pack said. "Withdrawal symptoms are not common for people who use any type of cannabis product, Delta 8, 9, or 10."

Still, there are dangers, especially for kids.

"Products containing Delta 8 are not tested or regulated by the Food and Drug Administration," Campbell said. "They may contain large amounts of THC, the main cause of the 'high' effect of marijuana and could be harmful mentally and physically to a middle school student."

Pack agreed.

"We need to think about what the risks are," he said. "Maybe there are some pretty significant risks, especially huge risks for any kind of kid who might get a hold of these products, especially if they're disguised as candy."

According to the Food and Drug Administration, Delta 8 candy side effects include hallucinations, vomiting, tremors, anxiety, dizziness, confusion, and loss of consciousness.

According to Campbell, students have begun to take advantage of the packaging of Delta 8 candy.

"Sneaking Delta 8 candy into middle and high schools due to the products being packaged as ordinary candy, or chips, or cereal is a proven fact," he said. "This is something that needs to be monitored by teachers, staff, administration, and SRO."

Several students feel that administrators at Sevier Middle should take action to help prevent this problem.

"[We should have] meetings or assemblies," Lyric Wolfe said.

The Delta 8 drug is becoming very popular. According to the website Healthline, Delta 8 produces feelings of euphoria, relaxation, and potential pain relief. These effects are milder than those of marijuana.

The FDA received 104 reports of adverse events in patients who consumed Delta 8 THC products between December 1, 2020 and February 28, 2022. Of these 104 adverse event reports, 8% involved pediatric patients less than 18 years old.

Even Sevier Middle students have been affected.

"On two occasions during the 2021-2022 school year, we had incidents of students using Delta

8," Campbell said. "One was in the form of edible gummies and the other was vaping. One student had to be transported to the hospital."

Pack believes that if the Delta 8 candy was designed for adults, it can be dangerous to kids.

"[Let's say it] was sold legally to an adult," he said. "There, the amount that they could safely take will be higher than it would be for a kid because their bodies are different in size. Think about it like my dinner. I eat more rice than a kid because my body needs more fuel."

Many adults, including Pack, are concerned about how these products could fool students.

"I actually think that it's irresponsible of manufacturers to do this," Pack said. "If it's not illegal, it should be. I think it's very dangerous, particularly if kids can't tell the difference."

SOUND: thousands of dollars needed for upgrades and repairs

continued from page 1

"It will be fine, then lose battery charge overnight," he said.

According to Griffith, it would take a lot of money to update the sound system.

"When I've spoken with administration last year and the year previously, it's basically out of the question to repair the sound system with the move to the North building; however, since that keeps getting delayed, I see no reason as to why we can't make these repairs now," she said. "The cost would be in the thousands to even begin fixing the system."

Although the sound system is old, it is not a major challenge for

students to run the sound system.

"Each mic is connected to a different channel, so the students running sound have a list of which mic is on which channel and have a cue sheet that tells them when to mute and unmute the mics," Griffith said. "In terms of the music and running that side of the sound, students follow a sound cue sheet and have multiple systems to operate in order to get the sound running correctly."

Technology, however, is not the only problem Sevier's actors face.

"The stage is very old and slippery," Anderson said. "There's also so much carpet [in the auditorium] that the noise gets

'sucked up'."

Farr, too, is concerned about the stage.

"There was barely enough space on stage during full cast scenes," he said.

Performing for a middle school audience is also not without challenges.

"People were bullying other kids and one person cussed out a teacher," Lockhart said. "We need kids who won't be mean and listen to the adults."

Anderson agreed.

"The back [of the auditorium] is dark and cold," he said. "It's the perfect spot for not wanting to watch the show. However, most of the time, the people interested

in the show get plopped in the back, while the kids who don't care as much tend to be near the front."

The age of the technology is easily the biggest obstacle to a strong school play production.

"There's always something happening that is out of our control or that can't be seen, making fixing the issues incredibly difficult," Griffith said. "The sound system and lighting system are both ancient and need to be repaired or replaced. Some of the spotlights don't work, half the stage lights are out. We've just gotten really good at working with the resources we are fortunate enough to have."

Monkeypox brings up fears, memories of COVID-19

BY GABRIEL WHITEHEAD

After more than two years of lockdowns, masks, and social distancing to prevent COVID-19, another disease has gained much recognition: monkeypox.

Monkeypox has begun to spread at a rapid rate through infected individuals traveling internationally. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 59,179 monkeypox cases have been reported globally in 102 countries since January 1, 2022.

The U.S currently is the global leader in infections. In total, there have been more than 21,000 reported cases since the month of May.

Heather Mullins is a Regional Epidemiologist with the Sullivan County Regional Health Department. She has worked with the Health Department for 16 years and has been carefully monitoring the spread of monkeypox.

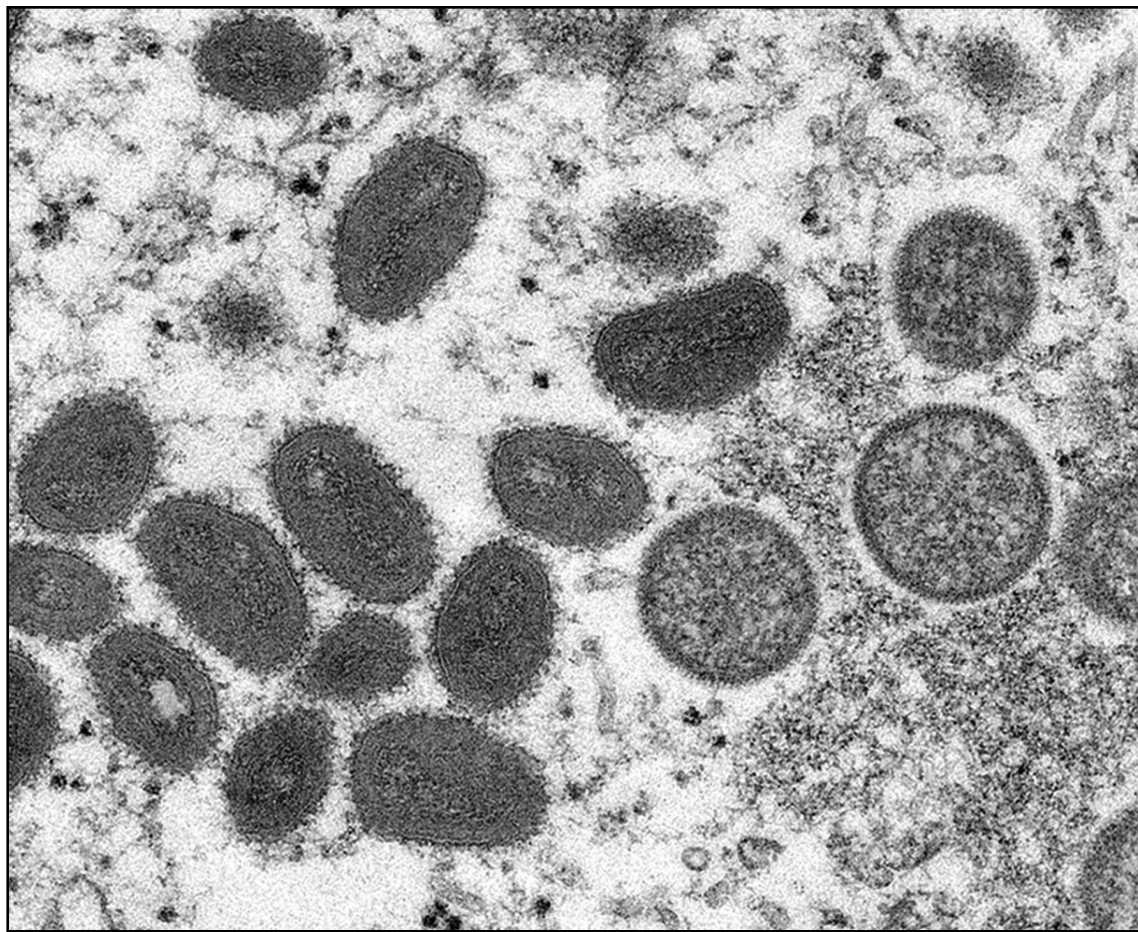
“Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by a virus,” Mullins said. “It is similar to smallpox but is much less severe when compared to smallpox. Monkeypox has been around for quite some time.”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, middle school students are much more aware of diseases. Many students are worried about monkeypox.

“Monkeypox is a disease similar to chickenpox, it gives you rashes,” eighth grade student Isaiah Franklin said.

The main sign that someone has monkeypox is a specific rash that could be located on any part of the body, unlike chickenpox.

“This rash progresses through various stages before it scabs over and falls off,” Mullins said. “Once all the rash scabs fall off, then an individual is considered to no longer be able to transmit the virus to someone else.”



Photo/CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION

MONKEYPOX ON THE RISE. This image from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention illustrates what the monkeypox virus looks like. A worldwide outbreak of the virus is the latest global health scare.

It can take 2 to 4 weeks from the time the rash forms to when the scabs fall off.

“There are other symptoms that can occur prior to the rash forming or even after the rash has formed,” Mullins said. “These symptoms include fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, muscle aches, backache, headache, or respiratory symptoms.”

The first human case of Monkeypox took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in West Africa in 1970. It was originally spread through household pets.

“Prior to the 2022 outbreak of monkeypox, there had been very few cases within the United

States,” Mullins said. “In 2003, there were 47 cases reported from six states within the U.S. Each of these cases had exposure to pet prairie dogs.”

The first outbreak in the U.S sparked more to come, as monkeypox reappeared in 2021.

“Many of the initial monkeypox cases within the U.S. had reported international travel in the 21 days prior to their onset of symptoms,” Mullins said. “These individuals had visited countries that do not normally experience cases of monkeypox. While traveling, many of the U.S. cases had participated in large festivals and other activities where close, personal, skin-to-skin contact likely

occurred.”

Once enough people brought the disease to the U.S., the community began to transmit monkeypox without international travel.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people are concerned about any disease outbreak. Monkeypox, however, is rarely deadly. “Monkeypox seems equally scary as any other disease or virus we have been in contact with,” eighth grade student Riley Sigmon said.

He believes Monkeypox is a somewhat scary thing due to the recent outbreak of Covid-19.

“From what we have learned from those that have been diag-

nosed with monkeypox, the rash can be very painful,” Mullins said. “Monkeypox can become a very serious illness for those that have weakened immune systems due to other health issues.”

Monkeypox is also less infectious than COVID-19.

“In order to contract monkeypox, someone would have to have prolonged, close or intimate contact with someone currently experiencing symptoms of monkeypox or by touching/sharing objects that have been used by someone with monkeypox.”

The CDC and other public health officials have advised to avoid close contact with infected people, avoid objects which have been used by an infected person and make sure to wash hands and stay clean.

The actual likelihood of someone in Tennessee getting monkeypox has been increasing at a rapid rate. As of mid-August, there have been over 100 cases in Tennessee, with less than five in East Tennessee. So far, there have been no cases in Sullivan County.

There’s also a new vaccine called JYNNEOS which helps slow down the effects of monkeypox. Not everybody, however, can get this vaccine.

“The CDC and the Tennessee Department of Health have established eligibility criteria based on those that the data suggest are at highest risk for contracting monkeypox,” Mullins said.

Mullins also cautions people about using social media as a source of information about diseases.

“There is a lot of miscommunicated and false information throughout most social media platforms,” she said. “Always go to reputable sources in order to find factual, scientific-based information, especially when you are researching anything to do with your health and wellbeing.”

PRINCIPAL: Loudermilk hopes to be a cheerleader for teachers and students

continued from page 1

Loudermilk decided to become a school administrator because he gets to work with teachers and is able to impact more students. Although he enjoys being a principal, he doesn’t “get to see all the fun and engaging things that happen in a classroom”.

The extra hours, before and after school, and the extra responsibilities can be challenging, but Loudermilk still enjoys his work.

“The best thing about being a principal is working with teachers, and getting to hear teachers talk about how their students are being successful,” he said.

The job of principal is a lot more complicated than most students may suspect.

“My job is making sure that students have an environment where they can learn, making sure the students have the resources they need in the classroom, and making sure that teachers have an environment where they can

teach,” Loudermilk said. “I make sure they have all the resources they need to prepare lessons, make sure that we’re as a school following our district policy, our state laws, and make sure that we just have a good environment for learning.”

He does miss some of the engagement with students inside the classroom.

“Sometimes, I don’t get to see the light bulb moments that students have when they learn something,” he said.

Kevin Stafford, one of Loudermilk’s best friends, is one of his biggest role models.

“He and I share very similar thoughts about life, about faith, about just the way that things should be done, the way we should conduct ourselves,” he said. “I think it’s important for students to have a role model as far as someone they look up to, they respect, and somebody that’s already gone through different challenges, different grade levels,

different opportunities, so they can see how other people have handled themselves in different situations.”

Since he has attended and worked in schools most of his life, he has lots of fond memories.

“My favorite school memory is attending prom my senior year because it was the first official date that I had with my wife,” Loudermilk said.

He decided to come to Sevier because there was a great opportunity to come to a school that has a rich history and school pride from the community.

“It was an exciting opportunity to come here to be the principal, and to just really help students and staff shine and to make sure our community knows about the great things that are happening,” he said.

Under Loudermilk, some important changes have been happening at Sevier, including a crackdown on cell phones and hoodies.

Stephanie Kilgore, an 8th-grade language arts teacher, appreciates the changes made at Sevier.

“I miss the music that was played over the intercom every morning,” Kilgore said. “I hope that this school year brings growth in education, student-teacher relationships, community and family connections, and overall morale.”

Chris Carr, a 7th-grade social studies teacher, also likes the changes to Sevier. He enjoys having Social-Emotional Learning first thing in the morning.

“The delay in starting academic instruction benefits classes with students that are habitually tardy,” Carr said. “They do not interrupt instructional time as often when they come to school late.”

After working with elementary students for many years, Loudermilk has noticed big differences between middle school students and younger kids.

“The difference between a

middle schooler and an elementary schooler is when you work with middle school students, consequences become more significant and lessons that they have to learn can sometimes be harder to learn,” Loudermilk said.

Loudermilk enjoys his position as Sevier’s new principal.

“There are a lot of great teachers and staff here at Sevier Middle School that truly care about the students, care about the school,” he said.

In the end, Loudermilk wants to be an advocate and cheerleader for Sevier.

“I want our community, our parents, families, students that have been to Sevier in years past to know and to appreciate that there are great things happening and that our students are accomplishing amazing things, whether it’s in their classes, academic classrooms, or extracurricular activities,” he said. “Our students are amazing and I want our community to know that.”

Sullivan North mural causes controversy for KCS

BY SADIE BLALOCK

Kingsport City Schools recently bought the former Sullivan North building as a new home for Sevier Middle. There have been some arguments about whether or not a large mural at Sullivan North should be painted over or edited.

The mural is located in the school library. Sevier is supposed to move to the location on an undetermined date.

Students in teacher Don Hilton's art class drew and painted the mural in 1980, not long after the school first opened. It shows various historical figures, including Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson, as well as cultural figures like Uncle Sam and Santa.

Alex White is the band director at Sevier Middle. He has seen the mural in person.

"I have seen the library mural and know it was done by Sullivan North students," he said. "I know that it holds sentimental value to the Sullivan North community."

There are three main issues that some people have with the mural. First, the mural includes a large portrait of general Robert E. Lee sitting on a horse. Lee fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War.

The mural also includes no major figures from African American History, such as Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, or Martin Luther King. This may make the large number of African American students at Sevier feel awkward.

Finally, some feel that painting over the mural would give the "new" Sevier Middle a fresh start in their new building.

Many other people want to keep the mural. They feel the mural is a part of the building's history and should be preserved. It also was designed and created by students, and their work should be respected.

Matthew Curry is a sixth grade



Scribe Photo/BEN CULP

CONTROVERSIAL ART. A portion of the controversial Sullivan North Mural, located in the school library, awaits the building's renovation. The mural has sparked controversy about its exclusion of major figures from African American history, among other criticisms.

language arts teacher at Sevier Middle. He is unsure how the school system should handle the mural.

"Fresh and new can be a wonderful thing," he said. "However, sometimes preserving history is a wonderful thing. It depends."

Ava Ferguson, a seventh grade student at Sevier, disagreed.

"I think a fresh mural would be good," she said. "Although the mural is a part of North, Sevier is adding on to it, so we should add on to it."

Katy Lane, a sixth grade student, disagreed.

"I think it was a good piece of history because it was put there when the school was first built," she said.

White is not a big fan of the mural.

"I think some of the 'history' is suspect and it would not fall under my personal preference as 'art,'" he said. "I think the mural would have been more historically accurate to encompass all parts of American history."

Some people think the mural should stay because it is an important part of history.

"I understand what they are

saying but since Sevier is coming, it wouldn't just be North, or just Sevier, it would be both combined," Ferguson said.

Others feel that the mural should be replaced.

"In the same way North students did, [Sevier students should design their own mural]," White said. "I think it would be a great way for Sevier students to make the school their own."

In an interview with the Kingsport Times-News earlier this year, retiring superintendent Jeff Moorhouse stated that the mural would not be altered or replaced.

Some people feel that the mural issue is now dead.

"I disagree," Curry said. "If the majority of the community would still like to discuss this, then the issue isn't dead."

Although Kingsport City Schools seems to have made up its mind about the mural, there are several people who are unhappy with the decision.

Seventh grade student Malik Jones disagreed with them.

"They weren't trying to be racist," he said. "[The mural should stay] because people would admire it."

New "leadership ambassador" program set to return this year

BY JACKSON THORNTON

The Leadership Ambassador program is a joint program with the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce. It allows students the opportunity to be leaders in the school as well as see leadership roles in the community. After last school year's successful first year, the program is set to return to Sevier Middle again this year.

"We help the school and the community," Gillian Brents, one of last year's ambassadors, said. "Also, we provide a good example for other students."

Ella Smith agreed.

"It is a program where we help fix problems in the school," she said.

All students have the opportunity to apply.

"We hold interviews to get to know students a little better", the group's sponsor, Lynna Bingham,

said. "We find out why they want to be a part of this group. We select as many students as we can that we feel truly want to take a leadership role in the school and community."

Some students were invited to apply.

"I got a paper one day," Smith said. "I wanted to do it, so I did."

Others, like Sadejia Beaver, joined in a different way.

"One day, in the morning, I heard them talk about the program over the intercom, and they said a teacher I knew was going to run the program," she said. "So, I asked her about it."

The activities the program participated in last year include the "Isaiah 1:17" drive with Miss Sullivan County and a project to beautify the Sevier atrium.

"We got to water the plants in the entire school," Smith said.

Brents was excited about

working with members of the community.

Last year, the students in Leadership Ambassadors had a lot of positive experiences.

"I got to meet new people from other grade levels," Brents said. "We [also] got to meet Miss Sullivan County."

Leadership Ambassadors also faced many challenges.

"[Our biggest challenges were] finding time that everyone can meet and working with manageable projects," Bingham said.

Brents, who is involved in many school activities, agreed.

"Balancing school, orchestra, chorus, theater, and Leadership Ambassadors [was challenging]," he said.

Initially, the return of the Leadership Ambassadors this school year was in doubt, but now it looks like they will be back.

"The plan is for this program

to continue," Bingham said. "We were waiting for everything to be approved by the Administrative Support Center. We got started as soon as we had approval."

Some students from last year's ambassadors hope to continue this year.

"I'm going to do it again this year," Brents said. "I enjoyed it a lot and I love meeting people from other grades."

Beaver hopes to be a part of it this year, too.

"I do plan on joining the year," she said. "I do because being in the program was for a short time, but it really helped me with things going on."

The students in Leadership Ambassadors believe that the group is needed at Sevier.

"I know that, for the most part, there is a lot going on here," Beaver said. "Being in that group helps you know that, no matter

what, you will always have that group."

Everyone has high hopes for this year's projects.

"[I hope] that we take on a good project," Brents said.

Bingham hopes to expand the program.

"I hope that we have a few more students apply to be part of the group, and that we can participate in school leadership opportunities, but also be able to go out in the community and be part of some leadership events," she said. "I want students to be able to have some opportunities to do things in the community."

In the end, the students who participate in the program appreciate the opportunity to help their community.

"Being in this group helped me open up to people," Beaver said. "I realized that I can do more for my school."

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KCS superintendent announces retirement

Moorhouse steps down from top job as of November 1st

BY CHARLES COX

Jeff Moorhouse, the superintendent of Kingsport City Schools, has retired in the middle of the school year. On August 31st, Moorhouse publicly announced that he was retiring from KCS. His retirement went into effect on November 1st.

Moorhouse said that his retirement plans will be tranquil and calm.

"My wife and I have inherited a family farm, so I'm gonna have to learn a little about farming," Moorhouse said. "I've got several opportunities to ponder about what to do here that I need to make some decisions on. I hope to be able to continue to work closely with the education field."

His biggest challenge throughout his time with KCS was the COVID-19 pandemic, but he is proud that he steered the district through this crisis.

"I think that helping to navigate our school district through the pandemic, in a successful manner, is something that I'm proud of," he said.

COVID was far from the only challenge he faced, however.

"I came in and we had to initially make some budget adjustments, cut \$1.6 million out of our budget, where the county had made some changes that caused us to lose revenue," he said.

Moorhouse's history with KCS goes back four years, when he first took the job opportunity as superintendent.

"Growing up in Northeast Tennessee, Kingsport, in the education world, is a pinnacle position," Moorhouse said. "It's the things that are done in Kingsport that get repeated and replicated across our region."

Moorhouse grew up in Mountain City, which is a small rural community in Northeast Tennessee, about an hour from Kingsport. His mother was a teacher and a principal there.

"When I was in college, I would ask her why she does the things that she does in school," he said. "She would tell me 'well, that's what they do in Kingsport' and so she would just try to take the things that were working in Kingsport, and those would be the things that she would focus on in her school."

Naturally, when the opportunity came along to lead Kingsport City Schools, Moorhouse was all too glad to take the job.

"When your goal is to have as broad an impact as you can, for as many people as you can, for as long as you can [you come to Kingsport]," he said. "My career in this position was a dream come true."

Moorhouse was inspired to become an educator early on in life.

"I had a few influences in my life that were educators," he said. "I wanted to be able to do the same thing for other people what those people had done for me. My mother was a teacher and a principal, and then I had a basketball coach who was really influential in my life."

He started his career as an elementary school teacher for half a day in first grade and half a day in fifth grade. Then he was a system-wide elementary physical education teacher for a while.

"I saw everybody in that particular county, every elementary student, once a week for 30 minutes," he said. "So I had about

2400 students a week that I would see; that's a lot of students." He then moved into high school biology and taught that for four years. As a teacher, he coached many sports,

such as basketball and soccer.

"I felt like I was being called to coach," he said. "Early on in my career, I was a teacher and a basketball coach, track coach, soccer coach, and many different sports."

Moorhouse eventually decided to leave coaching and instead start coaching teachers.

"I had an administrator come to me and ask if I had ever thought about being a principal," he said. "Truthfully, at that point in time, very early in my career, I had not thought about being a principal."

One of the assistant principals at his school had to miss work

ple to achieve goals, processes and procedures for how to execute game plans, same kind of things," he said. "It was a little bit later in my career that I realized that I had been called to coach, I had just misinterpreted that as thinking that the only place that you could coach was on the sports field or on the court."

Next, he went to the state of South Carolina and was the director of the state alternative school.

"Students from across the state would come to live with me at our facility," he said. "As a residential facility, and we had cows, horses, goats, we ran a farm in addition to the school. That was a real learning experience."

When he came back to Tennessee, he worked as an elementary and high school principal for several years before becoming superintendent of Greeneville schools. That's when he got the offer to join KCS.

"It's the culmination of [a career]; that's about 31 years worth of experience," he said.

Looking back at his time as superintendent, there isn't much he'd do differently.

"If I had a choice whether I wanted to do the pandemic, no, I wouldn't want to do that," he said. "But there was a lot that was learned there. There's opportunity on the other side of this, as we move forward, so I don't know that there's a lot that I would do differently. I feel like we all did the absolute best that we could with the information we had at the time to make the most effective decisions possible. I don't spend too much time looking in the rearview mirror as to what could have been done, but try to look out the front windshield at the future we want to create now."

What Moorhouse will miss most about working with Kingsport City Schools is being able to interact with people, students and teachers alike.

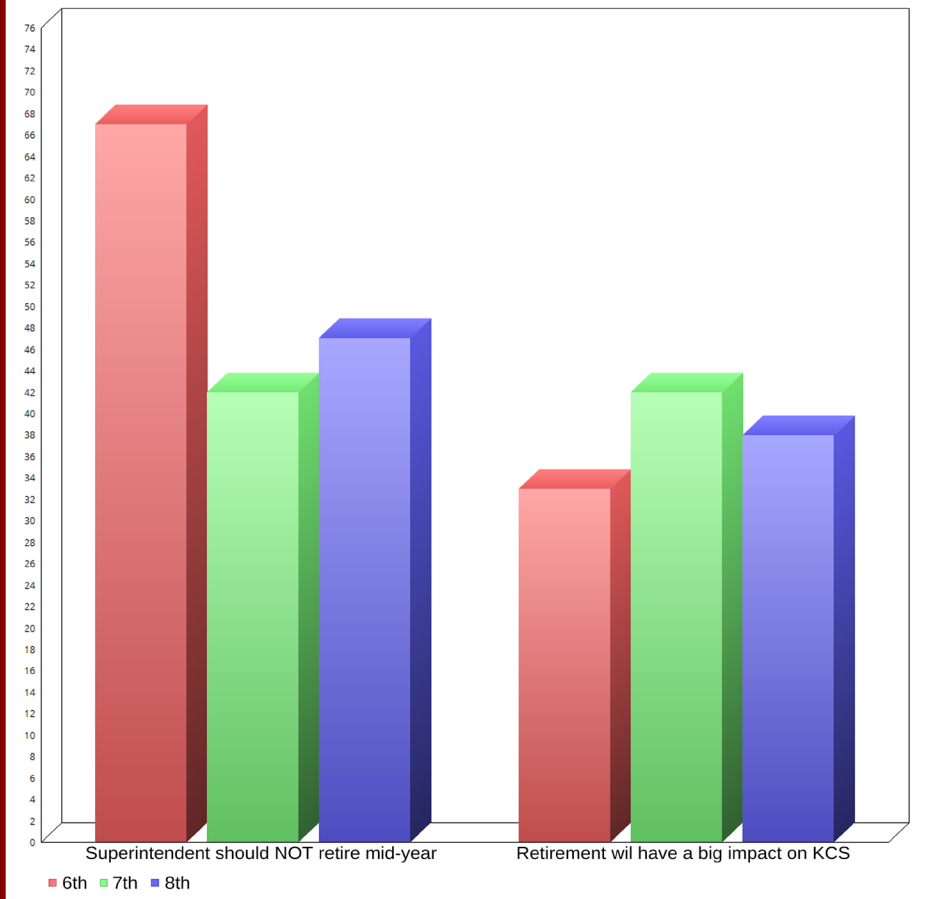
"The everyday challenge of trying to unlock the potential of every student you are responsible for, and making sure that they have all the tools they need to succeed in their future [is what I'll miss most]," he said.

Moorhouse is proud of his record. "I am proud of our community," he said. "I'm proud of our students. I count it a great honor that the final chapters of my book on K-12 education are going to be written as the superintendent in Kingsport City Schools. It's been a true honor for me to have been able to serve and to be able to contribute to the story of Kingsport City Schools and wish nothing but the best for the system, the students, and the community."



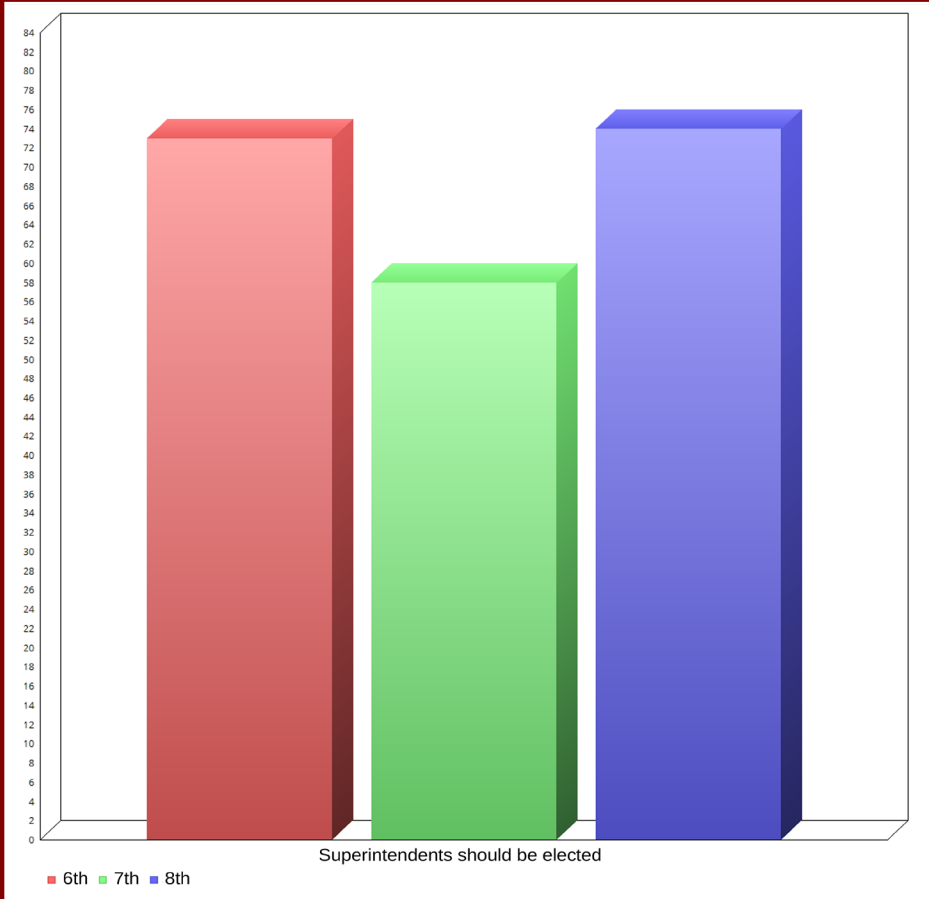
Photo/COURTESY OF KCS

RIDING OFF INTO THE SUNSET. After four years as superintendent of Kingsport City Schools, Jeff Moorhouse has decided to retire from the position. Moorhouse is not sure yet what the future holds after he retires.



Scribe Survey/ANTON BARRERA

EARLY RETIREMENT. More than half of students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade do not believe a superintendent should be able to retire in the middle of a school year. Around 40 percent of students feel that Moorhouse's retirement will have a big impact on the school system.



Scribe Survey/ANTON BARRERA

NON-ELECTED LEADER. Across John Sevier Middle School, a big majority of students favor the next superintendent to be elected, rather than hired by the Kingsport City Schools Board of Education.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Board begins search for new superintendent

DB principal Hampton named interim superintendent

BY CHARLES COX

Since Jeff Moorhouse has announced his retirement from Kingsport City Schools, the Board of Education now has to begin the search for a new leader. Searching for a new superintendent is a big scavenger hunt through the area.

Melissa Woods is the president of the KCS Board of Education. To her, it is not optimal to replace a superintendent in the middle of a school year.

"Obviously it would be optimal to be able to have a fresh start with a new person at the beginning of the year, just because you can set things in place," she said. "However, since we have an interim that is within our district, they are familiar with Kingsport City Schools, it should be a smoother process in transitioning to a new person."

Because there is no current superintendent, the BOE chose a temporary replacement for Moorhouse: Chris Hampton, Dobyns-Bennett High School's principal. "He has a lot of experience in leading large groups of people," Woods said. "He's been the principal at Dobyns-Bennett for over 12 years. There are roughly 2500 students there."

Hampton has been with KCS for over 25 years, so he's familiar with the procedures of Kingsport City Schools.

"He's very passionate about Kingsport," Woods said. "He loves Kingsport. He's very invested in Kingsport. He has shown the ability to lead during some very difficult times, so it was an easy choice."

With Hampton in place as interim superintendent, the BOE can now focus on finding the right candidate to permanently take charge of Kingsport City Schools.

There are different routes that the BOE can take: the board itself could actually do the search, they could advertise for the position and accept applications and review those applications, or they could hire a search firm.

"So, we would come up with a criteria that we would like in a superintendent, and then they would search for that person," Woods said. "They would put that information out in various states, and then bring the information back to us. There are also independent firms of individuals who actually do that. They go out and seek a superintendent and they're knowledgeable in the field of who is available."

The superintendent usually is picked from inside of the district, as the past two have been, but this time the superintendent was picked from outside of the district.

"The past two superintendents that we have had, we have had them within our district with the understanding that the interim would not be selected as the final candidate," Woods said. "We chose to use an outside firm to go out and choose different candidates that they felt would be good for Kingsport City Schools."

The BOE generally looks for someone who can manage a large group of people, such as staff, students, and facility workers.

"For us, specifically, we need someone who can manage a budget," Woods said. "Kingsport City Schools has a rather large budget, there are a lot of moving parts. We have over 700 Certified staff and about that much classified staff. We have over 1400 employees. So, that's a lot to manage."

According to retiring superintendent Jeff Moorhouse, the next superintendent will face some unique challenges.

"We've got some facility challenges; we're experiencing growth in our city," he said. "So we're going to need to make some decisions on facilities and how to renovate the ones that we currently have. I think that the biggest challenge right now is around those facilities."

Some believe a superintendent should be elected, like the BOE members, instead of hired. Woods disagreed.

"I look at being a superintendent like being the CEO of an organization," she said. "Most of the time, those are selected by a board of directors, which is what will happen in our case."

Whoever the BOE selects to lead Kingsport City Schools, Moorhouse has some advice for them: build community.

"What I often tell people is to work in Kingsport City Schools, there are high expectations, but high expectations are not unique to Kingsport City Schools," he said. "What's unique is the community that's around, that's willing to jump in and help to accomplish those high expectations. That's one of the things that's really refreshing. So, to build those networks, to rely on your community to help you make those decisions, and to continue to be the lighthouse for our region, that's my advice."



Kaesyn Sexton

"I didn't know who he was until now, but it's bad that he will leave because the schools are good overall."



Andrew Lepkowski

"That is not good, because if he's been hired for a while, then he knows most of the people and all of the things to do in that position."



Kallie-Jane Clevenger

"I'm kind of glad that he is going because the rules are out of hand, including dress code. I hope people put more thought into the superintendent so they will think about the rules they put in play."

"I think he has been a wonderful leader. He is very compassionate, caring and insightful. I wish him the best during his retirement."



Robin Kerkhoff



Alaina Wooten

"We will have a new person leading us and he or she might be strict with the dress code."

"He was strict with the dress code and I hope the next one does better."



Gracie Miller



Maddison Puckett

"I feel like the next superintendent needs to change the dress code, because it is kind of strict."

"I've heard good things about him and people are sad about him leaving."



Andrew Pahos



Scribe Photo/TAISHAWNA DAVIS

UNDER THE DOME. The Sevier girls basketball team competes against Robinson Middle during last year's Tribe Classic at the Buck Van Huss Dome. This year, the Dome has been closed due to structural problems.

Structural problems close Buck Van Huss Dome

BY MAXX BALL

The Buck Van Huss Dome at Dobyns-Bennett High School has been closed since the first week of the school year. The Dome was closed due to low moisture and density in the wood of the roof. The dome was built in the 1960s.

The damage was discovered during routine maintenance on the roof of Dobyns-Bennett High School.

"The roof over the majority of Dobyns-Bennett is being replaced, due to its end-of-life," Andy True, Kingsport City Schools' Assistant Superintendent, said. "Last summer, to help get ready for that project, KCS wanted to have some analysis done on the wooden structure of the Buck Van Huss Dome. There had not been any damage or incidents with the roof, but understanding that the Dome structure was over 50 years old and made of wood, we wanted to know more about its condition before re-roofing."

The outcome of the testing of the Dome showed that the moisture levels have gone down over time. After the test, Dobyns-Bennett staff decided to close the

Dome for safety issues.

Students are concerned about the Dome closure.

"Many sports will have to be played at Sevier and maybe some games for Sevier will be canceled," sixth grade student Landrey France said.

Another sixth grade student, Elsie Cross, agreed.

"Where the people go to practice; it will affect that," she said.

The Dome closure has affected multiple sports and daily physical education classes. The Dobyns-

Bennett volleyball team has had to practice at the TNT Sports Complex because of the closure.

Physical education classes and other programs are being

held at the Kingsport Civic Auditorium.

Landrey France found out about the closure because Dobyns-Bennett's volleyball home games had to be held at Sevier Middle.

"I heard about it by listening in on my mom," Cross said.

Nobody knows the exact price range for the repairs of the Dobyns-Bennett Dome yet.

"It would be premature to know the scope and cost of any

future action, if it is warranted," True said. "We are currently waiting on further analysis of the structure by a noted expert in dome construction and engineering."

That information will help determine next steps and any further action.

There's also some worry how

the Dome's closure will affect the annual Tribe Classic basketball game between Sevier Middle and Robinson Middle.

"Maybe the game would be canceled, which would be big because it is tradition and that is just what happens," France said.

Even True is not sure yet what will happen.

"The Tribe Classic is an incredible event that showcases all the best of Sevier and Robinson Middle Schools," True said. "If the Dome is not available for use during the Tribe Classic, school and district administrators will work together to determine the best next steps."

Since the Dome first closed, Kingsport City Schools has worked toward an alternative location for athletic events. In September, the KCS Board of

Education decided to renovate the gym at the former Sullivan North building to use as a "Tribe Athletic Complex".

On September 16, 2022, the KCS Board of Education and Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a bid by Preston Construction Company to perform the renovation of the Sul-

livan North gym.

The first DB game held at the complex likely will be with Volunteer High School on December 16, followed by the Alpha Invitation-

al basketball tournament starting December 20.

It is not clear what this means for the future of the Sullivan North building, which was set to become the new home of Sevier Middle.

"We are fortunate to have the former Sullivan North High School gymnasium as a possible location for events, and work is underway to prepare that facility for possible KCS athletics use," True said. "KCS is also currently in the middle of a facilities study that will provide district leaders additional information as to the long-term use of the North campus."

North needs renovations

— COMMENTARY —



BY JACK WEAKLEY

Kingsport City Schools recently purchased the Sullivan North building for 20 million dollars, promising a larger building and better sports facilities for Sevier. These new facilities need major renovations.

Athletes at Sevier know the school's current facilities aren't the best: there's an old, non-regulation track, for example. There are also combined football and baseball fields that can only be used for practicing; the football and baseball teams have to play at Dobyns-Bennett High School. The cross country team has to run through town, on concrete, because Sevier does not have a practice course. The facilities set aside for Sevier's new location also have some problems.

Some of the facilities are in good condition, but most of them need lots of renovations and upgrades to be safe and comfortable. The lights for the baseball and football field, for example, were not safely operable last year, so Kingsport City Schools contracted out work to move the transformer to a safer location.

Some things on the football field also need attention. The football field itself is in good shape, but the scoreboard, restrooms, field house, and other pieces are old and could use some upgrades.

Some fields can be used in their current condition, like the softball field. Robinson Middle used the field last year because they do not have a softball field. A dedicated softball field is something the current Sevier building also doesn't have.

There are some fields that Sullivan North has that Sevier doesn't have at all, like a football field. In addition, Sullivan North contains other practice fields that Sevier can use.

The gym at Sullivan North is also getting updated for use by Dobyns-Bennett High School while the school system repairs the Dome. This will provide athletes with a better gym to train and play games.

The gym renovations are a start, but Kingsport City Schools will have to invest a lot of money to get the school and sports facilities ready for students and athletes.

KCS will also have to work to make the building compliant with the "Americans with Disabilities Act", meaning the school has to be accessible to people with major disabilities.

The Sullivan North facilities are not up to par yet. Once KCS completes renovations, Sevier will have better facilities than the school currently does.

Thurman caps off three years of volleyball



Scribe Photo/CALI GROENEWOLD

UP FOR THE SERVE. Anna Thurman prepares to serve the ball during a volleyball match against Indian Trail. Thurman is in her final year at Sevier and has played volleyball all three years of her middle school career.

BY SARA BROWN

Anna Thurman is a volleyball player at Sevier Middle. She has been on the team for three years and left a mark on Sevier and her teammates.

"I play volleyball because I really like the sport and I have a lot of friends on the team," Thurman said.

Her worst moments as an athlete are when her team loses difficult games.

She also celebrates her team's achievements.

"My greatest moment as an athlete was winning the tournaments last year," she said.

It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to become a successful

student athlete on the volleyball team.

"I go to practice every day and play on a travel team during the off-season," Thurman said. "I don't eat any particular foods."

Her mother is Thurman's biggest fan.

"She goes to almost every game and tournament," Thurman said.

The most satisfying thing about playing volleyball, according to Thurman, is when the team wins against a really good opponent.

"The most difficult thing about volleyball is coming back when you are losing," she said.

Thurman enjoys working with Coach Ferguson.

"She is competitive, encourag-

ing, and wants the best for us," she said. "She is a great coach."

Anna's teammates are all very kind, according to Anna, and have good relationships with her. Sometimes they even hang out when practice isn't in session.

Anna's parents are very proud of her for achieving so many things with the volleyball team.

"My parents like me playing volleyball," she said. "They both enjoy sports."

Balancing her involvement with volleyball with her school work can be challenging. Thurman works hard at it, however, because she hopes to continue playing volleyball in high school and college.

"I try to do most of my work at school so I don't have to at home," she said. "I use my time wisely."

Three things Thurman thinks are important to being an athlete are working hard, working with your teammates, and most importantly, being coachable.

"[I try to] be a good teammate and work hard to improve," she said.

Thurman also has some advice for her fellow athletes: play middle school sports.

"Middle school sports are more serious than recreational league sports," she said. "You have to work harder."

“

I try to be a good teammate and work hard to improve.

- Anna Thurman

”

“

I go to practice every day and play on a travel team during the off-season.

- Anna Thurman

”

AT A GLANCE

Football Results

vs. **Crockett**

V - Loss

vs. **T.A. Dugger**

V - Loss

vs. **Sullivan Heights**

V - Win

vs. **Indian Trail**

V - Win

vs. **Liberty Bell**

V - Loss

vs. **Greeneville**

V - Win

vs. **TN Middle**

V - Loss

vs. **Robinson**

V - Win

Volleyball Results

vs. **TN Middle**

JV - Loss V - Loss

vs. **Sullivan East**

JV - Win V - Win

vs. **Sullivan Heights**

JV - Loss V - Win

vs. **T.A. Dugger**

JV - Loss V - Win

vs. **Indian Trail**

JV - Win V - Loss

vs. **Liberty Bell**

JV - Loss V - Loss

vs. **Greeneville**

JV - Loss V - Win

vs. **Robinson**

JV - Won V - Loss

vs. **TN Middle**

JV - Loss V - Loss

vs. **Sullivan East**

JV - Win V - Win

vs. **Sullivan Heights**

JV - Loss V - Win

vs. **T.A. Dugger**

JV - Win V - Loss

vs. **Indian Trail**

JV - Loss V - Win

vs. **Liberty Bell**

JV - Loss V - Win

vs. **Greeneville**

JV - Loss V - Loss

vs. **Robinson**

JV - Loss V - Win

Conference Tournament

JV - 4th V - 8th

Cross Country

Daniel Boone Run

Boys - 1st Girls - 2nd

City Championship

Boys - 1st Girls - 1st

Run for the Hills

Boys - 4th Girls - 4th

Terry Hull Classic

Boys - 2nd Girls - 2nd

Conference Championship

Boys - 2nd Girls - 3rd

TMSAA Sectionals

Boys - 2nd Girls - 3rd

Bristol Cross

Boys - 1st Girls - 1st

TMSAA State Meet

Boys - 6th Girls - 11th

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Kerkhoff joins Sevier staff to work with students and families

BY MIKAELA PYATTE

From Knoxville and central Phoenix to Kingsport, Sevier's new family and community liaison, Robin Kerkhoff, brings a ton of experience to the job. After 21 years in education, and 13 in Kingsport City Schools, Kerkhoff has joined Sevier Middle's faculty.

Many students may not know what a Family and Community Liaison actually does.

"I work with families, students, and the community and help them connect to resources within our community," Kerkhoff said.

Kerkhoff also works with assistant principal Seaver on 504 plans for students, works with attendance, and tries to help families understand the importance of attendance and when students aren't here, they are not getting the education they need.

"I also help with the clothing, like if students are dress coded or have spills or accidents of any kind," she said.

Kerkhoff has been in education for 21 years. She has taught in Knoxville and Phoenix before joining Kingsport City Schools.

Kerkhoff is originally from the area. She got married and had two boys, who are teenagers now, and eventually moved back to the area to be with her family.

"In 2011, I became the associate principal at Johnson Elementary and did that for a few years," she said. "At that point,

after I was assistant principal for a while, I decided that I did not want to be a principal. It's a hard job, you're around the clock. You not only just have the students, but you have the staff and the budget and the data and the observations."

After some time away from education to raise her sons, Kerkhoff returned to Kingsport City Schools.

She loves the outdoors, but she said most of her time is consumed with sports.

"My sons play sports, travel sports and high school sports," she said. "So, I do a lot of watching football, baseball, and lacrosse. Both of them play golf for fun."

Kerkhoff has always wanted to do a job in education since she was a little girl.

"I remember lining up my Barbie dolls, lining up my baby dolls and having set a paper in front of them and just playing school," she said. "So that was something that was very normal for me, and I didn't do anything prior to that, because that was my first job."

She believes working in education is a great job and recommends it to students.

"If you're doing it for the right reasons," she said. "If you love children and love learning, you love sharing in learning, then absolutely, I would recommend it."

Kerkhoff strongly encourages students to be involved in extracurricular activities within the school.

"It usually helps students succeed and do well not only in their academics, but socially, and they have that social group of their peers," she said.

Kerkhoff enjoyed her own time as a middle school student, but she can tell that middle school now is nothing like it was when she was going to school.

"Middle school is a very difficult time," she said. "I would say that has a lot to do with social media. I think that is just in general, not just middle school, but teenagers. It consumes so much."

Kerkhoff's most memorable time in education was her first year as a teacher.

"So many people had said how hard your first year was and how difficult, and I have to say I think it was just so enjoyable because I was doing something I'd always wanted to do," she said. "I loved the school and the community that I worked at in East Knoxville and just that whole experience, that whole year [was memorable]."

Although she is no longer a classroom teacher herself, she still has a lot of respect for those working with students in a classroom setting.

"I love and very much admire teachers and classrooms," she said. "They are the heartbeat of education, without a doubt."

Her current job, however, comes with its own challenges.

"I would say just, naturally, being new to a role is difficult; that anyone would probably agree with," she said. "So, just finding



Scribe Photo/MIKAELA PYATTE

FOR THE FAMILIES. Robin Kerkhoff has joined the staff of Sevier Middle in the role of Family and Community Liaison. Her job is to work with families to help connect them to community resources.

my ground and knowing exactly what my role is and what I need to be doing more of, or less of. Ask me again in a few weeks or a month or two, and I may have a different answer."

Still, Kerkhoff finds her new role very rewarding.

"What I love about my job is connecting with families, and that is something that I feel comfortable doing, whether it is wonderful conversations or even difficult conversations," she said. "I love reaching out to families and hav-

ing that connection to our families."

Kerkhoff is also pleased to work at Sevier Middle, which she believes is a special place.

"There's just something very special about Sevier," she said. "I truly feel that way. It's got this feel to it, it's got a liveliness to it. I think there are a lot of amazing people here, adults and kids, just the whole school community. I would say it is nothing short of amazing and I feel very happy and privileged to be here."

Former park ranger joins seventh grade language arts staff

BY CALI GROENEWOLD

From park ranger with a passion for psychology to Sevier's newest teacher, Maggie Mason brings a variety of experiences to her new job.

Mason decided to become a teacher because she enjoys learning, has always loved school, and wanted to share that with others.

"Before I became a teacher, I worked as an interpretive park ranger and in psychology in the school system," she said. "I studied Psychology and English together in my undergraduate work and realized that it was what I wanted to do."

During her experience in psychology, she felt like she did not get to work with the students often enough.

Mason, prior to teaching at Sevier, was a high school ELA teacher in Scott County, Virginia. She enjoyed her time there.

Mason leads an active lifestyle in her spare time.

"I enjoy hiking, reading with my kids, and playing board games in my spare time," she said.

She also believes more students should follow in her footsteps and become teachers.

"I think education is such a meaningful career, and I hope students decide to go into this," she said. "We need good teachers."

If she were not a teacher, Ma-

son would like to be a pastry chef.

"My family and I have food allergies, and I love to find new recipes to enjoy in an allergy-free way," she said.

Mason believes that extracurricular activities are great for students.

"I believe learning cooperation and working as a team is vital for students," she said. "Also, researching and learning how to voice an opinion as they do for the newspaper is an important skill."

As a middle school student, Mason played with the school band,

"I was a band student and played clarinet," she said. "I participated in drama, one-act play, and was an active reader."

Although she has only been a teacher for four years, Mason has a lot of fond memories of her time in the classroom.

"The first time I saw the recognition in a student's eyes, it was clear they were learning and understanding something new," she said. "My fondest education-related memories are watching students graduate. It is great to see the culmination of all their hard work."

Although teachers are usually helping students learn, many teachers learn from their students, as well.

"I have learned grit from many

of my students," she said. "I have had many students who, no matter what came up or got in the way, kept going, and I admire that."

Mason loves to joke and have fun as much as her students.

"I think students think teachers are rigid, and one that always surprises students is that I like to joke and have fun, too," she said. "I know I am definitely not 'cool', but I like to strike a balance between a serious learning environment and joking around. I think it helps develop a rapport in the classroom."

Her love for language arts started because she has a love for reading.

"I started taking classes in college just because I enjoyed them and it blossomed into my field of study," she said.

Mason came to Sevier because of Kingsport City School's reputation.

"I came here because I wanted a new experience and had heard great things about Sevier and Kingsport City Schools," she said.

Mason likes being the new teacher.

"I enjoy the kids," she said. "The staff here are friendly and helpful."

Her co-workers, in particular, have made the change much easier.

"I think Sevier has some of the



Scribe Photo/MIKAELA PYATTE

VARIED EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM. Maggie Mason, a former park ranger with experience in psychology, teaches students about language arts. Mason is one of several new teachers at Sevier this year.

best teachers I have ever had as co-workers," Mason said. "They are helpful and accepting and make it a great place to be."

Still, as a new teacher, she faces certain challenges.

"My biggest challenge here is learning a new curriculum and

standards, but everyone is so helpful I think it will be easily overcome," she said.

She also has some advice for her students.

"Get involved in your school community, try new things, and discover your passions," she said.

Ronan Gallatin leaves Alaska, homeschool behind

BY MIKAELA PYATTE

Ronan Gallatin has embarked on a great adventure. Homeschooled all of his life, Gallatin has left his home state of Alaska and joined the student body of Sevier Middle.

Moving from Alaska to Tennessee has been a big adjustment, especially since he is now in public school for the first time.

"It took 5 days to drive from Washington to Kingsport, and [before that] one whole day to fly from Fairbanks to Washington state," he said. "That was the easy part. The hard part was packing everything and shipping the car."

Gallatin moved because his family was tired of the cold weather and dark.

"My parents were done serving in the military," he said. "My dad was in the Army and my mom was in the Air Force."

The biggest adjustment for Gallatin, however, was the heat in Tennessee.

"I got used to it," he said.

He also had to adjust to having four seasons.

"Fairbanks has three seasons," he said. "Winter, summer and breakup, when the snow melts."

Now that he is a public school student, there are some things he misses about home school.

"I really liked that school was done at home and I didn't have to get up so early," he said. "I liked that we were done with school by lunch, but I also went to school 12 months per year."

He has found a lot to like about the public school experience.

"It's been great, because I get to make new friends," he said. "I enjoy talking to my teachers and there are new experiences every day. My favorite class is social studies."

Gallatin actually finds public school easier than home school.

"My dad is a tougher teacher," he said. "He's more strict and wants my best every day and not to guess when answering. My teachers [now] are less strict."

Ronan said that he thinks being homeschooled is harder because "your parents are



Scribe Photo/MIKAELA PYATTE

LEAVING ALASKA. Ronan Gallatin, right, attends a public school for the first time. Homeschooled for most of his life, Gallatin attends Sevier Middle since moving from Alaska.

your teachers and also your principal".

There are other drawbacks to home school. "Home school kids don't get a summer break or snow days," he said. "It's hard work to be homeschooled."

When he was homeschooled, his parents also had to pay for all of the school books and supplies.

His new classmates and teachers made the switch to public school easier.

"The teachers are easy to talk to and the students, for the most part, are here to work hard, have fun, and learn," Gallatin said.

The best part of moving to Tennessee has

been that Gallatin can be outside more. Getting out of Alaska meant having much better weather.

"When we drove across the United States, I got to go to Mount Rushmore and see the place where Custer had the battle of Little Big Horn," he said.

Ronan has some advice for his fellow students, especially those moving from home-school to public school.

"Buy an alarm clock and pack your lunch the night before," he said. "Don't just stay home all the time, go out and travel and meet new people. Have an adventure."

Savoy Powell adjusts to life in Kingsport

BY TRISTAN BALCH

Shavoy Powell, an eighth-grade student at Sevier Middle, has recently moved to Kingsport. He previously lived in Jamaica.

Powell had a positive experience moving to Kingsport from Jamaica.

"It's awesome," he said. "I meet new people and can open up to them."

The reason Powell moved was because of his family.

"[I have] a lot of family over here," he said.

There are some big differences between his life in Jamaica and his new life in Kingsport.

"[There are] new places and new people," Powell said.

Unlike some people who make a big move, Powell was ready to move. He and his family were tired of living in Jamaica.

"They loved [moving] very much," he said. "They adjusted. Neither I nor they disliked moving. We had been waiting for a long time."

There are some differences between his old school and Sevier Middle, too.

"[There are] different places in the school," he said.

His experience coming to Se-

vier has been positive. The students and teacher both have been welcoming.

Despite Powell not being able to see his friends, he says that his friends were ok with him moving.

"I keep in contact with some," he said.

Even though Powell has just moved, he says that the curriculum is no different from his old school, with one exception.

"Everything that I learned or the classes are the same, no differences except for American History," he said.

Sevier, compared to Powell's old school, has many more after-school activities.

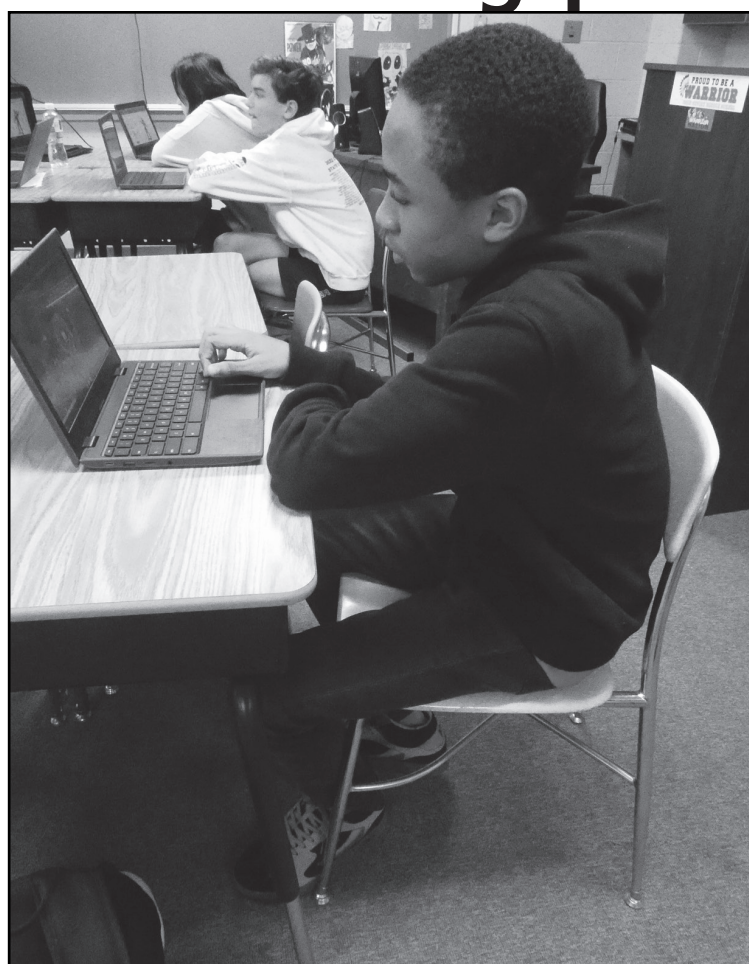
"When I was down there I didn't have after-school programs," he said. "Things are here that I can do now."

Powell believes that the biggest challenge of moving is the new surroundings. Still, there are also some positive things.

"Meeting and opening up to people," he said. "I was very shy in Jamaica, and still a little bit."

Powell shares some advice for other students making a big move.

"Don't be afraid to open up to people," he said. "Don't bully people and respect everyone."



Scribe Photo/MIKAELA PYATTE

A NEW SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. Shavoy Powell, originally from Jamaica, now calls Kingsport his home. According to Powell, his family was very happy to make the move to Tennessee.

5

QUESTIONS FOR Rodney Duncan



BY MADELEINE LOVE

Rodney Duncan is Sevier Middle's head custodian. One of the most challenging parts of his job is dealing with student vandalism of the school building.

Duncan has seen a lot of vandalism during his years at Sevier, but a TikTok challenge caused some of the worst vandalism.

"It's probably trying to move commodes," he said. "When the Tik Tok challenges were so bad, other schools across country were doing it, too."

Last year, students broke off soap dispensers in the restrooms and even tried to steal a toilet.

In fact, most vandalism at Sevier occurs in the restrooms.

"The students know it's hard to prove who did it," Duncan said. "That's where students can help by keeping an eye out."

Social media, especially Tik Tok challenges, often cause additional vandalism.

"I think if the students see it they think they should try it," Duncan said.

Duncan encourages students to fight vandalism of their school.

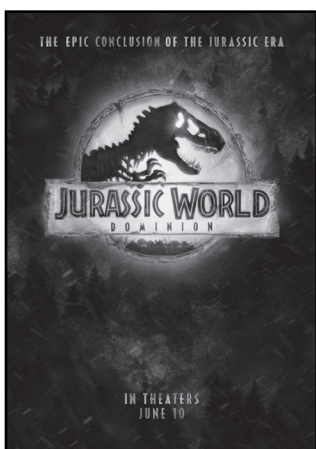
"Report it to someone," Duncan said. "They can ask that person not to do it, or say 'why are you doing that vandalism, breaking something we have to use, like the bathroom or sink,'" Duncan said.

Keeping the school clean is a big part of the custodian's job. Students have an opportunity to help keep their school neat and safe.

"You can help pick up if you see something on the floor or in cafeteria and clean up after yourself," Duncan said. "Custodians really care about Sevier. I want students to appreciate that."



Review by Lily Dawson


**POPCORN
PERSPECTIVE**

**JURASSIC WORLD:
DOMINION**
**DIRECTED BY
Colin Trevorrow**
Rating: 4 out of 10
THE STORY

“Jurassic World: Dominion” is a science-fiction movie directed by Colin Trevorrow. The movie is actually the sixth in the “Jurassic Park” series about cloned dinosaurs.

“Dominion” is about dinosaurs that live and hunt alongside humans all over the world. Owen Grady and Claire Dearing have been raising Maisie Lockwood since the previous movie, “Fallen Kingdom”. Lockwood is the first-ever human clone. She is abducted by the Biosyn company, so Owen and Claire have to save her.

Original “Jurassic Park” characters Alan Grant, Ian Malcom, and Ellie Sattler also go on a mission to uncover the conspiracy at Biosyn and rescue Lockwood from any harm.

THE GOOD

The movie is intriguing, like when the Quetzalcoatlus attacks Owen and Kayla in the plane, or when Maisie Lockwood is abducted by the Biosyn lackeys.

The movie contains a lot of the previous elements that made the other movies in the series so good and kept the audience thrilled, such as dinosaur attacks and chases.

The soundtrack of the movie is adequate; the audience can very much feel the intensity of the scenes because of the soundtrack, whether it’s sad, happy, or frightful.

The costume design is also good. It’s nothing big and doesn’t stick out, which works for the movie.

The three main characters are used pretty well in the movie. The main one is supposed to be Maisie Lockwood, although she’s not really shown that much in the movie. Owen and Claire, who are trying to save her, are used well.

THE BAD

The movie wasn’t exactly captivating. It feels like it is just time to quit the series. So many people waited for the release of “Dominion”, but the movie just felt flat. The series needs to come to an end.

The movie is 2 hours and 26 minutes long, which isn’t necessarily bad, but in this case, it is. There are not many dinosaur interactions in the beginning of the movie, which could’ve been more interesting if they hurried that process up. The movie actually felt too long.

There is so much happening that the movie also is sometimes difficult to follow.

The script is poorly written. There could have been more verbal communication between the characters, not only for the characters to better understand each other, but for the audience to better understand how they feel in different situations, as well.

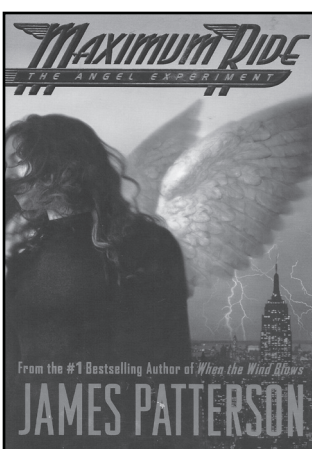
The movie has an interesting plot, but it wasn’t done well. It ended up feeling boring.

THE BOTTOM LINE

In the end, “Jurassic World: Dominion” is a disappointment. The movie series has gone on for too long and it has just become boring.



Review by Anton Barrera


**BOOKWORM
CORNER**

**THE ANGEL
EXPERIMENT**
**WRITTEN BY
James Patterson**
Rating: 7 out of 10
THE STORY

“The Angel Experiment: A Maximum Ride Novel” is part of the award-winning “Maximum Ride” series written by James Patterson. The story is based around Max and her Flock. They are all the subjects of a genetic disaster that left them with giant wings that allow them to fly. Ever since they escaped from the lab where they were born, called the School, they have been on the run from wolf/human hybrids called Erasers who are specifically designed for hunting and capturing escapees.

They are laying low and hiding when Erasers break into their house and kidnap the youngest of the Flock, Angel. After a chase, they take her back to the School. Max, Nudge, and Fang, who are also part of the Flock, go to rescue her. Will they be able to save their friend from the School?

THE GOOD

“The Angel Experiment” is action-packed. There is constant action in the book. This keeps people reading and is very exciting to read.

If the readers are still craving action with Max and the Flock, there are seven more books to read in the series.

The book is also great for people who love to decipher mysteries and question the background of certain things such as, “Where are the Flock’s parents?” or “Why are the School bioengineering mutants?”

This is also a great sci-fi novel for those that always wanted to see what a human with wings or a werewolf would look like in a scientific, realistic world. Patterson does a great job of building a story that is easy to understand and fun to dive into and explore for all its worth.

He is also great at weaving interesting backstories and motivations for the characters.

THE BAD

Despite the constant action and crazy scientists, the plot of “The Angel Experiment” can be a bit hard to follow at times. There are numerous details left out of the story that Patterson deemed unimportant to the book.

“The Angel Experiment” often feels like a summary of a large portion of the Flock’s adventure’s in the world rather than a single story that has an ending. Sadly this trend continues with the other books.

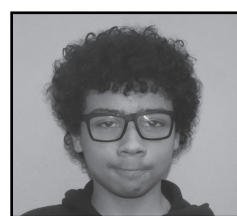
This book and its sequels all get a bit crazy because some tiny details at the start of the book come back at the end and change the whole plot of the book.

THE BOTTOM LINE

“The Angel Experiment” by James Patterson is a whirlwind of a book with constant action and hilarious conversations.

The book and its plot get confusing sometimes, which drags the experience down a bit.

Overall, however, this book gets a B-. It’s a solid start to a popular book series.



Review by Chris Jenkins


**GAMER
GENERATION**

TERRARIA
**DEVELOPED BY
Re-Logic**
Rating: 10 out of 10
THE STORY

“Terraria” is the first game that indie game company Re-logic released. It is similar to “Minecraft”, another popular indie game, but also has its own gameplay and mechanics that make it stand out. It was first released for Microsoft Windows on May 16th 2011, but then released onto other platforms like the Switch, Xbox One, PlayStation 4, 3DS and many more.

The game follows The Terrarian, a customizable player character, in their quest to kill the Moon Lord and stop its evil throughout the world. To do so, they must conquer mighty foes like The Eye of Cthulhu or Plantera. But before all of that, they meet the Guide who guides them in building a base for resting. After that, the fun begins as they fight monsters, go mining to expand the base, and allow new people to move in.

THE GOOD

The size of “Terraria” can be chosen by the player to be large, medium or small. This allows the player to choose if they want a lot of territory to explore or just a little. The world features many biomes such as the forest, the desert, crimson, corruption and the underworld. Players can go pretty much anywhere at any time, from the highest clouds to lowest depths. All of these areas are fun to explore.

Combat is exciting, with many fun weapons to use, like a bee gun or bomb fish. The player can also obtain many different kinds of armor and accessories that help during combat. The enemies in the game range from pretty pink unicorns to powerful demons. The bosses provide challenge and great rewards for defeating them. They can even be fought multiple times after defeat.

The NPCs that live in your base all have different personalities and interests. For example, the Arms Dealer isn’t a big fan of the Demolitionist, but the Mechanic likes him.

“Terraria” is full of cool items, like the portal gun from “Portal” or a shield resembling Captain America’s. Overall, the gameplay has a lot of fun features.

THE BAD

While a lot of things are good about the game, there are some things that aren’t so good. For example, some events like a pirate attack can come at random times. If the player is unprepared, things won’t end so well.

Events like a pirate attack must be fully completed before they end. The same goes for some bosses, because some can spawn with a random chance at night. If the player dies during the battle, the bosses will despawn. Some bosses, like the Queen Slime and Empress of Light, can be pains to spawn.

Another issue is that sometimes the game doesn’t provide a clear way to go, even with the guide.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Overall “Terraria” is a fun game and is definitely recommended. The exploration is fun, combat is exciting and graphics are good.

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Cartoon Network layoffs worry students

BY AUBRYN MARKL

Warner Bros. has merged with Discovery. During the process of these two companies joining forces, the new “Warner Bros. Discover” company downsized HBO Max and canceled the “Batgirl” movie. Now, 82 Cartoon Network Studios’ employees were fired and 43 open positions were eliminated, causing cartoon fans to worry that the channel may be canceled.

Many middle school students still enjoy cartoons.

“Looney Toons’ and ‘Teen Titans Go’ [are my favorites],” Alexandria Hillyer, a seventh grade student, said.

Mason Slate, another seventh grade student, also enjoys Cartoon Network’s programs.

“[I like] ‘The Amazing World of Gumball’, ‘King of The Hill’, ‘Adventure Time’, and ‘We Bare Bears,’” he said.

Fans of Cartoon Network are worried about what the merger could mean for the channel.

“It’s just dumb and I’m mind-blown,” Jakeb Doescher said.

Doescher, a seventh grade student, enjoys spending time watching Cartoon Network.

Fans are upset about the turn-out of Cartoon Network’s layoffs. Since these people were directly

involved with making Cartoon Network’s original cartoons, the layoffs could mean that they will now make fewer new cartoons.

“At least they are still making cartoons,” Slate said.

Students have similar opinions on this topic

continuing.

“I think Cartoon Network should continue,” Hillyer said. “They make good cartoons for kids and cartoons to annoy your parents with.”

In the midst of all this chaos, HBO Max has started to

HBO Max are losing money because the shows were removed.”

During this hard-to-follow process of two companies unifying, the company is no doubt trying to decide if Cartoon Network is even relevant anymore.

Sevier students have a clear answer to that question.

“Cartoons have for me, at least, been comforting in this crazy world we live in,” Slate said.

After the uproar about the layoffs, Cartoon Network tweeted out an official statement to let fans know they’re not done yet.

“Y’all, we’re not dead,” the Tweet stated. “We’re just turning 30. To our fans: We’re not going anywhere. We have been and will always be your home for beloved, innovative cartoons. More to come soon.”

Many fans hope that Cartoon Network will continue despite these

Photo/CARTOON NETWORK

ON ITS WAY OUT? After Warner Bros. and Discovery merged, a number of Cartoon Network employees were laid off. Many fans of the network are worried that it may be canceled soon.

of Warner Bros. and Discovery coming together.

“I think merging the two could lead to better Warner Bros. shows, or even worse ones,” Hillyer said.

Due to Warner Bros. and Discovery’s merger, there are concerns about Cartoon Network

move Cartoon Network shows.

“I think it’s okay, because it’s an adult platform,” Doescher said.

Hillyer disagreed.

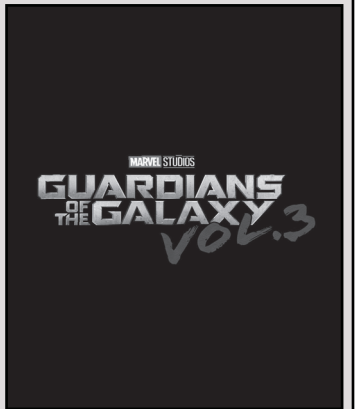
“I think it was a pretty dumb move,” she said. “That is a lose-lose because Warner Bros. and

changes. Even in the age of TikTok and YouTube, the channel is needed.

“I think for younger kids especially Cartoon Network is still relevant,” Doescher said. “There are much worse things on those apps than cartoons.”

UPCOMING RELEASES

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL 3



The third and final movie in the “Guardians of the Galaxy” series from Marvel Studios. Star Lord and his crew go in search of their friend, Gamorra. Directed by James Gunn.

RELEASE DATE: MAY 5, 2023

MARIO + RABBIDS: SPARKS OF HOPE



This turn-based sequel to “Mario + Rabbids: Kingdom Battle” sees Nintendo’s Mario crew joining forces with Ubisoft’s Rabbids.

RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2022

FINAL FANTASY XVI



This is an action role-playing video game published by Square Enix. It is the 16th game in its franchise and will be released exclusively on PS5.

RELEASE DATE: 2023

BY WILL JOHNSON

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Sudoku

9		5		4	7		6	1
4		2	3				9	
		3	5		8	2	4	7
			6		2		1	3
7			9	1	3	4	8	5
1			4		5	6		2
	6			3		7		
3	9		7		4	1		6
			1				3	9

Fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

Local drive-in theater remains despite streaming competition

BY SYDNEY GENTRY

Like a relic from a bygone era, most middle school students don't know much about drive-in theaters. They may soon never have the chance to visit a drive-in due to housing developments, smaller families, and different ways of watching movies. Many drive-in theaters have closed forever.

Julie Potts is an intervention teacher at Sevier Middle School. She has fond memories of drive-ins.

"I went with my family," she said. "It was a neat experience eating popcorn in the car and watching a movie outside."

Drive-in theaters are built around cars. Families can drive into the outdoor theater and park their car. The theater shows a movie on a large outdoor screen so families can sit in their car and watch the movie.

Although most middle school students haven't visited a drive-in theater, there are a few who have. Chloe Arnold is a seventh grade student at Sevier.

"I have visited a drive-in," she said. "I enjoyed it. It was very fun."

Drive-in theaters brought people together, kept traditions alive, and let families have a cheap, yet enjoyable time at the movies.

Danny Warden knows all about drive-in theaters. Together with his wife, he owns Twin City Drive-In in Bristol, Tennessee.

"There's much more to it than just what it looks like on the surface," he said. "When you come to the drive-in theater at night, there's a lot of day work that goes with it: making sure the snack bar is stocked [for example]. It's something that's got to be done. It's time consuming."

Drive-ins also have to keep the grass mowed and the speakers checked. There's all kinds of maintenance.

"The most enjoyable part, though, is the theater at night when customers are coming in," Warden said.

Due to the loss of business, many drive-in theater owners have decided to close their theaters and sell them to make space for malls and buildings like hotels, apartments, and restaurants. Only three hundred are left in the entire US; seventeen of them are in Tennessee.

"My granddad had a skating rink in West Virginia," Warden said. "They opened in around 1947 or 1948."

From there, his grandfather opened a drive-in theater in 1950.

"They did really well when they opened," Warden said. "And so dad, he moved down here and then ran the snack bar. I've been in a drive-in all my life, practically."

According to Warden, drive-in theaters are very different from indoor theaters.

"You can come as you are," he said. "People will bring their dogs but they've got to be on a leash. They've got much more freedom here. The kids can get out and kind of run around and stuff and we still have people who smoke."

Most drive-in theaters also show double-features and are much cheaper than indoor theaters.

Despite these advantages, many drive-ins struggle to stay open.

"I think less and less people visit drive-ins because they tend to forget that they are a thing," Arnold said.

The experience also isn't always flawless.

"Sometimes it is hard to hear the movie if the sound system isn't good," Potts said.

The drive-in theaters that have survived had to get some serious upgrades.

"Going digital was challenging," Warden said. "I wasn't really computer friend-



Scribe Photo Illustration/MIKAELA PYATTE

DRIVE-IN ENTERTAINMENT. A drive-in theater is all about sitting back in a car with friends and family and watching a movie on a big screen. Although drive-ins are on the decline, the COVID-19 pandemic brought many customers back.

ly and it was a challenge for me."

Movies used to be stored on 35 mm film. Now, Warden receives movies on hard drives and he has to download the hard drives.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on drive-in theaters, too.

"When COVID hit here, we had a big advantage," Warden said. "We didn't have to close down. We closed down one month, they made us, and then after that we got to reopen. So that was a big advantage for us."

Of course, drive-ins are not out of the woods. Streaming platforms like Netflix and HBO Max make it easier and more convenient to watch movies. Warden is not worried about the competition.

"People just like to come to the drive-in movies; it doesn't matter," he said. "They get away from home, and they just get to

get out and they get to entertain their kids. Usually the two features last at least four hours. So, it's four hours of entertainment for a cheap price."

The future of drive-in theaters is unclear.

Sevier student Josh Burton has enjoyed the drive-in experience but worries that they may not be around for long.

"I don't [think they have a future] because too many people don't go," he said.

Arnold is more optimistic.

"I feel they will be very successful if they promote more and have better audio," she said.

Warden agreed.

"I still see a future for drama and theater, unless something really drastic changes," he said. "It's like any other business. If you take care of it, it will take care of you."

“ I have visited a drive-in. I enjoyed it. It was very fun. - Chloe Arnold ”

“ When COVID hit here, we had a big advantage. We didn't have to close down. - Danny Warden ”

STUDENT VIEWS ON NEWS

LOCAL

Structural issues close Buck Van Huss Dome at DB

The Kingsport Board of Education recently decided to close the Buck Van Huss Dome at Doby-Bennett High School due to structural integrity problems. The activities that are usually held in the Dome were moved elsewhere. An inspection found that there is too much moisture in the wood, making it unsafe.



"I feel like it should be open because I don't like all the events [taking place] at Sevier."

Ava Stevens, 6th Grade

STATE

Tennessee airdrops vaccine to combat rabies in raccoons

Tennessee's Department of Agriculture, Wildlife, and Health Services are air-dropping rabies vaccines. There has been an increase in rabies in raccoons, so they have created a vaccine for the raccoons. They airdrop the vaccines around the state in hopes that most raccoons take a bite of the fishmeal coated vaccine.



"I feel like that's sick [in a good way], because it will eradicate rabies in certain species."

Ben Pitman, 8th Grade

NATION

U.S. government announces \$3.5 billion "Afghan Fund"

The United States recently announced "The Afghan Fund" to help the people of Afghanistan. They will send economic aid to combat the ongoing economic and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The US has sent \$3.5 billion to the Afghan bank reserves to be used to help the people and stay out of the hands of the Taliban.



"I feel it is really good that America is helping the people of Afghanistan."

Jonah Johnson, 8th Grade

WORLD

Wildfires destroy forests, cause evacuations in France

A big wildfire marched into southwest France. In August was the first reported scene of France's wildfires. Over ten thousand people had to be evacuated from their homes and over two thousand buildings were destroyed. Rainfall helped firefighters get the fires under control.



"The fires could spread into other countries causing everything to go to chaos."

Melissa Brown, 7th Grade