



Play production canceled - P6



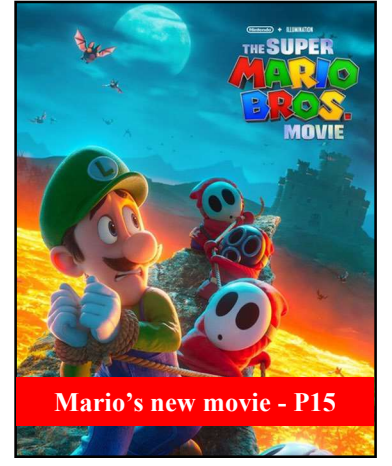
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# The Sequoyah SCRIBE

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



## Freezer malfunction causes food waste

BY JAYDEN HARVEY

During winter break, there were multiple power outages in the Kingsport area. When Sevier Middle had a power outage, the school freezer lost all power and all of the food spoiled. Teachers and students had to deal with a bad smell and a lack of food when they returned in January.

"With all the power outages, a fuse went out and we weren't alerted like we usually would be," cafeteria manager Shanda Brooks said. "It was devastating. We don't like wasted food and there was a lot."

Spoiled foods included meats, pizza, vegetables, and even juice.

"I don't think it could have been prevented," Carole Long, a 6th grade science teacher, said.

Teachers returned first from break for an in-service day and had to deal with the strong smell of spoiled food.

"The smell even managed to get into my classroom, and I am on the top floor of the building," Chris Carr, a 7th grade teacher, said. "I can't imagine what it was like on the lower two floors. Our custodial staff did a remarkable job in cleaning out the freezers. I'm not sure how they managed to get rid of the smell, but it only

lasted a couple of days. Without them, I would hate to imagine what our school would have been like."

The clean-up was a rough experience for the cafeteria staff.

"It took all day and the smell was horrible," Brooks said. "We had lots of help from some of our cafeteria staff, custodians, and administrators from Sevier and Central Office."

Despite the clean-up, at least some of the smell stuck around for students to notice the following day.

"It stunk very badly," 7th grade student Lyric Wolfe said. "It smelled like garbage."

Another 7th grade student, Braylant Minnick, agreed.

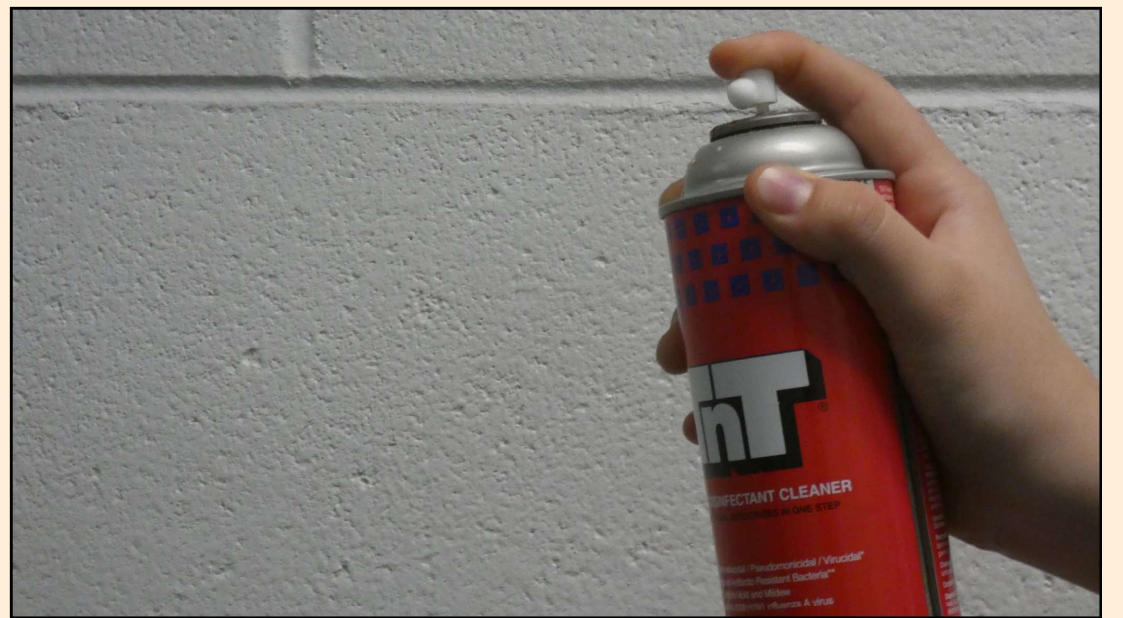
"It smelled like poo poo," he said.

It took two days to replace the lost food, but the price was steep. Sevier lost just under \$9,000 in groceries.

"An alarm usually alerts us, but when the fuse blew it didn't work," Brooks said.

While more food was on the way, Sevier borrowed food from fellow Kingsport middle school Ross N. Robinson.

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Scribe Photo/JACK WEAKLEY

**PLEASANT SMELL OR HEALTH HAZARD?** Although some students enjoy air fresheners and wax burners at school, many report headaches and allergies from the smells.

## Fragrances cause health issues

BY ADELINE LYTTLE

School can be a smelly place. The scent of sweat after gym class and the smell of all those students crammed into small classrooms can be overwhelming. It's no surprise that teachers and students want to cover up the stench with something that smells good. In some cases, those good smells cause a lot of harm, and they might not work well, either.

According to the Asthma and

Allergy Foundation of America, around 4.8 million children under 18 have asthma. Asthma can have a range of triggers including smoke, pollen and pets. Other triggers include perfume and air fresheners.

Brittany Davis is an 8th-grade math and Algebra teacher. According to her, "air fresheners and fragrances aren't allowed" at Sevier Middle

Library and media specialist Kristy Williamson-Jackson agreed.

"I believe there is a system-wide rule about this topic," she said.

Migraines also affect many adults and students, causing many missed work and school days. Migraines, too, can be triggered by perfume and air fresheners.

"Quite a few scents give me a headache," Williamson-Jackson said.

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## School nurses follow many state guidelines to treat students

BY CHRISTOPHER JENKINS

School nurses are an important part of school life, giving care to students that need medical attention. This is why school nurses also have strict guidelines to follow. Those guidelines, however, often leave students feeling like they're not getting the care they need.

Vicky Johnston is a Registered Nurse and the nursing supervisor for Kingsport City Schools. It is her responsibility to make sure nursing in KCS goes smoothly, ensuring everything is done the correct way.

"Nursing practice is directed by Tennessee State Laws and the Tennessee Nurse Practice Act," she said. "In addition, schools in Tennessee have specific laws and guidelines that nurses must follow, as well as district policies."

School nurses can help with a wide variety of issues. They can help students with required medications such as asthma inhalers, headache medicine, epi pens and insulin. They can also assist with healthcare procedures, such as tube feedings, with physician orders and written parent consent.

Nursing is taken very seriously in schools, and for good

reason. Without proper policies, there would be many issues with student care. Part of this includes having proper certification.

"In order to become a nurse in the state of Tennessee, you must complete a nursing degree program and pass the state licensing examination," Johnston said. "Once you become a nurse, you must continually complete the requirements set forth by the state of Tennessee and Tennessee Board of Nursing in order to keep your license active to practice nursing."

See **NURSES** page 04



Scribe Photo/MIKAELA PYATTE

**HERE TO HELP.** Nurse Brandy Collins works in the school clinic. Collins treats several health conditions for students, but she also has to follow strict state guidelines.