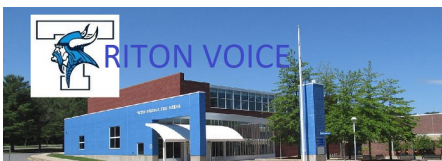


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# TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

January 11, 2019

## Some schools Turning Snow Days into Online Days

E-Learning is an option in some NH districts, though Triton students Give 'Blizzard Bags' Mixed Reviews

**By Maggie Bowen**  
*Staff Writer*

The abundant amount of snow over the past few winters has caused Timberlane Regional Schools in New Hampshire to turn snow days into online school days.

In Timberlane schools, teachers give students assignments that fill up their days when school is cancelled because of bad weather. A few schools across Massachusetts, including Wakefield and Melrose, have also discussed this issue and decided to try out replacing snow days with online assignment days.

This program for snow days is called the E-learning program, also known by the name of Blizzard Bags. Students are required to do the online work at home that teachers assigned when school is cancelled for that day.

Triton students gave mixed reviews to the blizzard bag concept. "I would be upset because I just want to chill on my off days," said junior Tylar Yescalis.

Not every snow day would require students to do school work, however. There would be some traditional snow days. The New Hampshire Department of Education, for instance, gave Timberlane a Blizzard Bag Day plan for a maximum of five days.

To determine if a snow day is going to be a Blizzard Bag day or not, the SAU



(school administrative unit) decides. Students know it's going to be an online working day when the school sends an email or text to parents. All class assignments are on Google classroom or similar pages where students have to turn in their work for that particular day. If a student does not have access to a computer at home, paper copies are distributed to students beforehand. A frequently asked question by parents and students is

whether or not students will have to work on the Blizzard Bags for the same amount of hours they are in school. Students have the whole snow day to complete the assignments listed online, and they can finish according to their schedule as long as it is in a timely manner.

"I'd be okay with it, I think it's a good idea," junior Andrew Valianti said.

Teachers are to be available online for questions, comments, and concerns

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Timberlane. If the work online isn't complete, students will be marked absent for that day. At least 80 percent of students and 80 percent of teachers must complete the Blizzard Bag for that day in order for the snow day to count as a school day.

Comments on social media about the issue are scattered, ranging from people who think it is a great idea to others who think students should be able to enjoy the snow day without any required academic work.

"Let them enjoy sledding and building snowmen like we did back in the day," one person tweeted.

"I think it's a good idea because summer isn't cut short. I'd be okay with doing some online work at home," junior Kiefer Callewaert explained.

Make up snow days cost schools money and time. Cancellations can cost schools money by having to pay for storm clean up, snow removal, and staff overtime. "Costly and unproductive makeup days can be eliminated," according to the *Washington Post* editorial, "Don't rain on the idea of online classes for snow days," that was in favor of the online days.

If the E-learning program or Blizzard Bags aren't an option, students must make up the missed learning time, even when it

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## #VikingGirlPride

Triton Sends Contingent to Massachusetts Conference For Women

**By Mackenna Faucher**  
*Staff Writer*

Ten specially chosen Triton girls headed to the Boston Convention Center Dec. 12 with 10,000 other women for a day of speeches, activities, and inspiring stories.

"You've gotta have motivation for what you fight for," senior Madi Butler said as one of the ten girls to go.

Butler's favorite speaker of the day was Amanda Southworth who, with a tough upbringing, was able to code her own app for issues like anxiety at just 16 years old. After creating her app, she quit high school and launched her own nonprofit software developing company and is a mental health activist.

According to their website, the MA Conference's goal was to market yourself, help a community, stay positive, and manage health. It featured speakers and innovators who often share their personal success stories to motivate and inspire students. Along with speaker, Amanda Southworth, the author of the famous book, *Eat Pray Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert made an appearance. Gilbert's book focuses in on life after divorce as she travels the world.

"She was a comedian so she would be saying a really funny story but then the last sentence would be delivered in a really serious tone with a good message," says senior Olivia Valley about Maysoon Zayid who spoke about her struggle as a disabled, Muslim woman in the United States.

"Not only did we listen to the speakers, there were also informational booths and stuff around there. We



Triton students who attended the Massachusetts Conference for Women included, from left to right, Ainsley Marsh, Grace Poster, Emily Colby, Olivia Valley, Madison Butler, Alice Thornton, Jamie Bell, Amy Clark, Caitie Rooney, and Mia Mace (photo courtesy Mrs. Meghan Ober).

took the bus with Hamilton-Wenham, and I think that went really well. We were all talking to each other before the event."

After picking up Hamilton-Wenham girls, the bus made its way into Boston on December 6 where they came together with 10,000 other women of all ages. Everyone was greeted with gifts such as an all-in-one sewing kit, hairbrush, and mirror.

One of the biggest takeaways for senior Amy Clark was, "Hearing women speak about their struggle and how they are currently thriving in life help me realize that no matter the struggle thrown at me, I'll get through it."

## Issues at the Southern Border Examining Immigration Beyond the 'Wall' Debate

**By Madison Butler**  
*Staff Writer*

A caravan of immigrants reached the United States-Mexico border at the end of November where they were greeted by the National Guard and tear gas.

For the past three weeks, President Donald Trump has been pressuring congress for the funding to build the wall along the border. But the democratic party does not want to give President Trump funding. As a result, the country is in a partial government shutdown that has continued for 20 days.

"We need to have the wall. We need border security. Whatever it takes to get border security, I will do it," Trump said," according to the *Washington Post*.

The group included 5,000 Central American and Mexican immigrants, men and women, adults and children. They ranged from elderly people to small babies who were fleeing their countries because their governments are abusing their power. They sometimes conduct public executions and other violent punishments to stop people from disobeying their rules, and the migrants wanted to claim asylum in the United States for safety.

The United States, is a country founded on immigrants, and migrant workers. Many say that most of these immigrants will take the jobs that most American don't think about doing.

"There are a bunch of pros and cons," says senior Liv Mosher about the issue. "They take up a lot of our small jobs, but they also keep those company's going. Although they do take those jobs from us as well." They take these jobs and they are taking them with cheaper pay and a work visa.

A work visa gets you a green card. You need to have a green card for five years to become a citizen of the United States. They can also be received if you are getting married or already married to a citizen of the US. You can also get a green card if you have claimed asylum or refugee status. Along with a green card there is a citizenship test and lots of paperwork to go with it. According to a study done by Vox, only 65 percent of our country passes the citizen test. These are the regulations to become a citizen the legal way.

However some immigrants don't have time to wait for 5 years to become a citizen because they are running from the violence that is happening right then. So they end up going around our system and come into the country illegally. The United States, as

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# Student Cars

## Foreign or domestic, students share their opinions

By Joseph Luciano  
Staff Writer

Some drivers may live by their German automobiles, while others love their all-American cars for affordability and reliability; but which is the better value?

German cars have been known for years to be great driving cars in smoothness and luxury. American cars have been known for muscle, affordability, and ease of repairs. Now that both have come a

long way in quality and affordability, the decision has gotten a lot tougher than a simple trade off.

Tirth Patel, a senior at Triton, says, “The differences in domestic and foreign cars depends on the brand I would say, but most foreign cars from European countries often feel more reliable when using.”

When it comes to efficiency, Patel stated that both foreign and domestic options have a wide variety of cars from highly inefficient to very efficient such as electric options.

Generally speaking, foreign cars have a wider selection of luxury options, i.e. BMW, Mercedes, Audi, and others. With these options, not only are they more expensive to begin with, most of them require premium gasoline, which would be an added expense that adds up over time. Just about all American cars run on regular grade gasoline, so as long as it runs on gas and isn’t electric, American cars will be cheaper to fuel.

Besides gas prices, repair costs are a factor to think about. Repairs will just about always be cheaper for domestic cars because the parts are easily sourced. This is something to especially consider if one is buying used. There might be a used BMW at a reasonable price but if it needs any repairs, expect to pay a premium compared to other cars.

For several years, the most notable difference between foreign and domestic cars has been the standard options and

luxury feel with European cars dominating. “Now, however many domestic cars are also incorporating amazing luxury features, including sensors, enormous screens, and even heated leather seats,” says Patel. Domestic brands such as Lincoln and Cadillac have come out with luxury cars to rival the European models.

Aside from costs and features, there is the consideration of driving feel.



An American-made Ford SUV parks beside a German-made Mercedes-Benz. Students discussed the pros and cons of buying and maintaining a foreign vehicle versus a domestic (Luciano photo).

Foreign cars have been winning that category for many years. Generally speaking, European cars are smoother and more comfortable in terms of quality and transmission and the American cars are clunkier.

Reliability has always been a concern when buying a new car, especially for new drivers. It has always been rumored that American cars are less reliable than the Japanese make like Toyota or Honda, but according to *Autotrader*, “the result is that many American vehicles are now just as reliable as their foreign counterparts -- and in many cases, they’re even more reliable.”

While U.S. cars have been looked at as less reliable and fuel efficient than their foreign counterparts, American car companies have stepped up their game and with the addition of companies like Tesla, the American auto market is moving in a new direction.

bad reputations they get from the other people in their country.

“The assault on our country at our Southern Border, including the Criminal elements and DRUGS pouring in, is far more important to me, as President, than Trade or the USMCA,” said Donald Trump in a Twitter post. ‘Hopefully Mexico will stop this onslaught at their Northern Border.’”

At the border, the United States government is issuing a different order than the usual procedures. He is not closing it down. Instead the US government is telling the military officers at the US-Mexican border to use tear gas as force to keep the immigrants from entering the country. They don’t want the immigrants to be able to claim asylum in the United States.

Currently, the government is separating families at the border. Agents there say, according to Vox, that adults who cross the border illegally need to be charged criminally in a court of law. Meanwhile, they put the immigrant children in the foster care, and that means that the families get separated.

Washington is still in process of trying to figure out a solution to the problems at our southern border. They’re trying to protect our country and help others when they’re in a time of need. They are hoping to find a solution to the problem soon, but if they do not do so by Sunday, the government shutdown will be the longest in U.S. history.

# A Closer Look Into ‘Our Town’

How Triton Theater pulled off a classic with its recent performances of Thornton Wilder’s popular play

By Glory Trelfa  
Staff Writer

As Madi Butler walked onto the stage, the audience felt tears welling up in their eyes. Many began to understand the message of the play as Butler looked back in time, disappointed at what she discovered.

The 29th of November to the first of December was said to have been the busiest three days Triton’s drama students have had yet this school year.

The play they put on was a take on Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*, a very popular series of acts from 1938 that tell of a small town named Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire. *Our Town* is known as the most produced play in America. Director and drama teacher Sharon Riordan said this was her fourth time producing this play.

“I think what I like most about it is its simplicity and its reality,” said Riordan. “It’s about real people and while it takes place from 1901 to 1914 in Grover’s Corners, it could be taking place anytime, anywhere.”

The three-act play lets the audience take a closer look at the three main stages of life: Daily Life, Love and Marriage, and Death and Eternity. Emily Webb, portrayed by Madi Butler, and George Gibbs, played by Jonathan O’Reilly, unite the two main families with their wedding.

Nine years pass and Emily dies while giving birth to her second child. Emily is then shown as a spirit for the remainder of the play. She joins past family members and townsfolk in the graveyard. Emily insists that she will not rest until she has one final glimpse at the life she lived despite other spirits’ warnings. Her mother-in-law urges her to pick a fairly unimportant day so she isn’t too overcome with emotions. Emily chooses to have a second look at her twelfth birthday. She is distraught when she realises how fast time moves and how no one stops to appreciate the little things around them. She then joins the rest of the spirits at their graves and watches impassively as George weeps over his lost wife.

*Best of SNO*

This article has been selected by School Newspapers Online as one of the best in the country for this week.

In late October, Riordan brought her cast to Peterborough, New Hampshire; the place that *Our Town*’s own Grover’s Corners takes place. Each person got to pick a house they thought their character from the play may have resided in. Riordan said that all of the students found the trip to be very helpful geologically.

Jonathan Woodbury said he wouldn’t have wanted to act as any other role in any other play. He portrayed the narrator of the play, referred to simply as Stage Manager. Woodbury said it was his first major role in a production.

“Some people might think that learning the lines is the hardest part but that wasn’t the case for me,” said Woodbury, “The hardest part for me was getting into character and being able to portray my character well.”

*Our Town* consisted a few scenes, such as the wedding and the funeral, where choral member sang three different hymns. These pieces were all put together with the help of Evelyn Densmore. She helped coordinate each peace with what was described as perfection by Riordan.

Sophia Mailhoit was part of a comic relief duo, the other character of which was played by Bridget Tucker. The two girl played old sisters: Edna and Agatha Somes respectively. Mailhoit said she loved it when she and Tucker made the audience laugh. She also said that she loved it when the plot of the play began to click into place for the audience; the moment where everyone realizes what the play is really about.

“If anything at all, I would want people to walk away with the true message of the play: appreciate life while you have it. I also love Bridget’s line during the wedding, ‘Happiness is the most important thing,’” said Mailhoit.



The cast and crew of ‘Our Town’ while on their trip to Peterborough, NH (photo courtesy Ms. Sharon Riordan).

## Coming Next Week

The *Triton Voice* introduces *Viking Voices*, a new series of student-made podcasts available through our web site, [tritonvoice.co!](http://tritonvoice.co!)



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cuts into summer. “Some schools are eliminating holiday breaks and professional development plans, adding minutes and days to the school clock or even cutting recess and opening school on Saturdays,” according to the *CNN* article by Jamie Gumbrecht titled “Students, say goodbye to snow days and say hello to school at home. If virtual learning isn’t an option these are the standards that will take place.”

“I don’t like the idea of going on a Saturday. If they added minutes to make up for it, just minutes not hours I would be okay with it,” Yescalis said.

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of 2016, had an estimated 10.7 million illegal immigrants in the country, and the peak of illegal immigrants the United States had was in 2007, with 12.2 million according to Pew research center. Also there are an estimated 7.8 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. workforce, that is also a decline from 2007. “We need to have the wall. We need border security. Whatever it takes to get border security, I will do it,” Trump said,” according to the *Washington Post*.

When talking to drama teacher Mrs. Riordan she said that she doesn’t believe we could close our borders. She said we need a different plan then what were are doing, but we can’t close out all of the people who want to come and live in our country. Most people who move here from Mexico and move to California end up being farmers or take the labor oriented jobs.

While some people believe that most immigrants are coming here the right way, there are some people who think otherwise and that they are trying to get the benefits of America.

“Everybody I work with is an immigrant though. I walk into tender crop and no one speaks English. They all have like fake IDs or something,” said junior Jack Crocker.

The immigrants who are trying to keep their families safe and trying to make a new life in America have to fight off a lot of stereotypes that people put on their shoulders. They also have to deal with the