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# RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

November 19, 2021

## Triton's Best Athletes Taking Next Step D1, D2 Athletes Sign on Nat'l Letter of Intent Signing Day

By Madison Hillick  
Staff Writer

A few of our very own students here at Triton will be moving up in their athletic careers to play at the next level. On Wednesday, Triton seniors Jared Leonard (lacrosse), Mia Berardino (volleyball), and Isabella Savino (gymnastics) signed their National Letters of Intent for the schools they will be attending next fall for their chosen sports.

According to NationalLetter.org, signing a letter of intent is basically signing a contract. It is a document stating a student has committed to a division two or higher school, to play a sport for that chosen school. Two of these students will be attending a Division II program, Berardino going to Stonehill and Leonard going to Saint Anselm, while Savino will be attending a Division I program, Long Island University.

Leonard is known at Triton for being a well-rounded, multi-sport athlete, but he is best known for his skills on the lacrosse field.

"I have been playing all my life, and couldn't imagine where I would be without it," said Leonard. While hunting for schools to play for, Leonard knew he wanted to play Division II. "The reasoning behind Division II was that I'd be able to play a lot more, and Saint Anselm is a great school."



Isabella Savino, Jared Leonard, and Mia Berardino signing their letters (left to right). Triton Athletics photo

When asked about signing his letter, Leonard seemed content about it.

"It's a big stress relief not having to worry about applying to numerous colleges my senior year. I am lucky to know where I am going this early," said Leonard. He said he is very excited to sign in front of his peers but is also proud of Berardino and Savino for their accomplishments as well.

"I am very close with both of these girls, I went to elementary school with them. It is very exciting for all of us to be signing together on the same day," said Leonard. He and Berardino will also be competing in the same conference since both schools are a part of the NE-10 conference.

## Triton's Response to Mental Health Issues

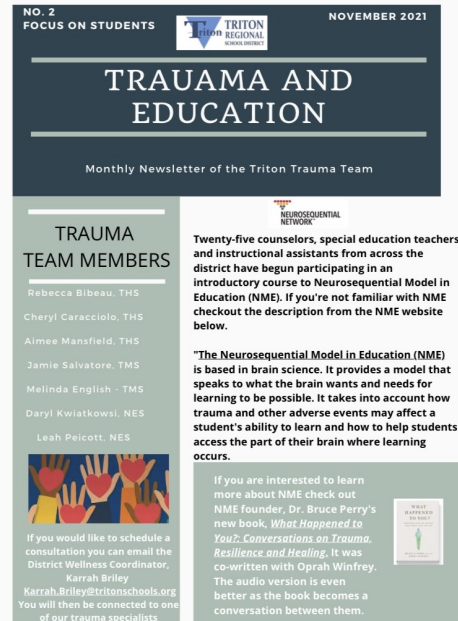
By Olivia Bateman  
Staff Writer

Mrs. Karrah Briley is in a newly created position at Triton, the District Wellness Coordinator, for the purpose of student and staff mental health. Schools across the country are making changes to how they work mental health days into their calendars.

Triton has made many changes in how we are dealing with mental health. There is a Signs of Suicide seminar in place along with allowing kids who need therapy but don't have the resources at home to now get the help they need at school.

Taking off a day from school to just clear one's head and take a breather is something many students do a year. Schools across the country are now implementing scheduled mental health days for students and teachers. The question some students are asking is would allowing everyone to take a day off benefit the school and wellbeing of staff and students? Our District Wellness Coordinator has more to say on the subject.

"Just because we don't look sick, doesn't mean we aren't," said Briley. She states how a few schools across the United States and even as close as Salem are implementing mandatory mental health days or are in the process. Briley said she feels as though having a school-wide day off or allowing students to take off a set number of



An image of Triton's monthly wellness monthly news letter, which is new this year (Briley image).

## Car Chase Chaos

Three-State Pursuit Brings National Attention

By Sam Mollineaux & David Pugh  
Staff Writers

One second Triton junior Colin Pearson was studying in his house. The next second, the loud sounds of a speeding car and blaring sirens filled his ears.

"He was going crazy fast," Pearson recalled. Pearson was not alone in his experience. Many Salisbury residents saw the chase on Monday, November 1, when a suspected robber was being pursued by police.

Brandon Simmons has a history of suspected robberies and threatened the CVS on Pond Street, Newburyport with a bomb. On Monday, he crashed his car while attempting to evade police. He escaped on foot before being arrested in a Peabody motel. Many Triton students saw Simmons in Newburyport and Salisbury.

At approximately 2 p.m. on Saturday October 30, Simmons entered the CVS, located on Pond Street, and went towards the pharmacy in the back end of the store. He handed the pharmacist a note claiming that he had a bomb, and demanded that

they give him prescription drugs. He fled the scene in a pickup truck.

Around 10 am Monday morning, he robbed the Bangor Savings Bank in York, Maine. He showed a weapon before leaving with an unknown amount of money. He proceeded to head back to the Newburyport area.



Salisbury and Massachusetts state police were engaged in a high-speed pursuit on Monday, November 1st. (courtesy WBZ-TV)

A Salisbury police officer identified Brandon Simmons and the white van that he was driving at about 4:50 pm, Monday, November 1. Simmons punched the officer before driving off. Salisbury Police then began to pursue him. Salisbury Police were only involved in the chase for 20 minutes before being ordered to terminate it for public safety reasons.

Many Salisbury residents reported

## Sports Preview

Looking Ahead to 2021-22 Winter Season

By Kyle Bouley  
Staff Writer

With all the Fall sports coming to an end, some of the teams are trying to make a run in the state tournament, and there's a lot to look forward to. Here is a little preview of the upcoming winter sports season.

Not all the winter sports last year were able to have a state tournament and those that were only were allowed to play inter-conference games.

Girl's basketball has had a tough past couple of seasons with not making the tournament and now having their coach step down and interim coach Ms. Anderson step in. Last year during COVID season they ended up with a record of 2-8 with only inter-conference games. The season before COVID they ended with a record of 2-13. The last time they made the state tournament was the 2016-2017 season.

"We hope to be better this year and make the tournament," said Co-senior captain Maeve Heffernan. "With Pentucket losing so many seniors I think Newburyport will be our biggest competitor this season."

On the other hand, the boy's basketball team looks a lot better with a really strong senior class.



Senior Eliot Lent Throws Javelin during a meet (Lent Photo)

"Newburyport will be our biggest game this season," said Co-senior captain Dylan Wilkinson who has high hopes for this season. He said their biggest goal is "to make the tournament". Last year during the COVID season they were 3-7. They also only played inter-conference games to make the tournament in 2019. The girl's and boy's indoor track teams have a lot to look forward to this season. The past couple of seasons have been nothing but winning for the boys track team while the girls team has a season to look forward to. Last year for the boy's indoor track team, they went 3-0-1 while the girl's indoor track team went 2-2 in their COVID seasons. "I've done

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# Post-Summer Pastimes

## Triton Faculty's Favorite Fall Activities

By Dylan Merrill,  
Staff Writer

Every year, as the middle months come to an end, the summer air turns into a colder breeze as the green leaves turn different shades of orange, yellow, and red before they fall to the ground. This is the scene during a New England fall.

The fall months are thought of by most people as some of the best times of the year. After the summertime, we look forward to Halloween and Thanksgiving, as well as all the fall activities that come with the season. Triton students and teachers love to enjoy these activities, from sports, to fall traditions, to hobbies that are simply more enjoyable in the cooler months, everyone has their own favorite fall activity. In light of the fall, Triton's teachers shared some of their favorite things to do in autumn.

Dr. Ellen Moore and Mrs. Marissa Galante both shared that they enjoy hiking in New England to see the leaves as they change colors. This is an activity that people from all over the US come to New England to enjoy, because the area is known for its beautiful foliage during the fall months. New England locals might call these tourists "leaf peepers".

The beauty that leaf peepers are after is highlighted in areas of northern Maine, which is where Mrs. Galante likes to hike. Other New England spots known for their beautiful foliage include New Hampshire's Kancamagus Highway, and the lake Winnepesaukee Loop, as well as Maine's coastal Route One, and Acadia National Park.

Others on the Triton staff enjoy apple picking and corn mazes at farms and orchards.

"For me it's a tossup between Halloween and apple picking," Dr. Adam Lothrop said, regarding his favorite fall activity

Some of Massachusetts' best apple orchards include Honey Pot Hill in Stow, and Carlson Orchards in Harvard. Mrs. Erin Dempsey, who is a fan of getting cider doughnuts at the orchards, also enjoys corn mazes.

Ipswich's Marini Farm is known for its corn maze during the fall, much like Connors Farm in Danvers, which usually features a design made from the corn paths. While their corn maze is impressive, it's the haunted attraction known as Hysteria that put Connors Farm on the map. Hysteria features many creepy scenes of abandoned houses, hospitals, and school buses, as well as a corn field, accompanied by actors who will talk to, yell at, and chase the guests through the haunted farm.

"I really like doing the corn mazes, but I don't really love the haunted houses," said Mrs. Dempsey.

Triton teachers like Mr. Galante look forward to all the sports that come with the fall. "I enjoy playing soccer and flag football,"



he said.

Triton has a range of fall sports, including football, soccer, cheer, field hockey, golf, and volleyball. Mrs. Dempsey enjoys the farms, but she also looks forward to football season.

"I think I would say watching football live and on TV," she said when asked about her favorite fall activities. Many students at Triton enjoy watching football and post-season baseball, and many friend groups participate in fantasy leagues. During this time, students also enjoy going to high school football games to cheer on the team and see their friends. Mr. Matthew Haley even said that his favorite part of the fall is getting to supervise the student section at football games. "I like getting to see students



### CHASE from page 1

spotting a white van flying down the road. Junior Colin Webber mentioned getting cut off by him on his way home from Hampton Beach, "As soon as I saw the text (from his friend about Simmons), a van going 80 in a 25 flew in front of incoming traffic... probably like 15 feet in front of me."

Eventually, the white van crashed into another vehicle at the intersection of Elm Street and Gardner Street in Salisbury. The man proceeded to run away on foot.

That night, State Police searched for him using K-9s and helicopters. Even in Rowley, Junior Emma Morland reported seeing two helicopters flying over her house. Junior Caitlin Frary shared that her street got shut down during the search.

Many people in Salisbury spent the night in fear of a run-in with the criminal. Senior Garret Lee said, "that whole night everyone was antsy."

Simmons wasn't found in Salisbury, but in Peabody. On Wednesday, November 2, he was caught in the lobby of a hotel. He was arraigned at the Newburyport District Court on a very long list of charges related to the two robberies, the police chase, and the assaults on police officers.

### SPORTS from page 1

spring track for a while now but this is my first indoor track season," said senior leader Eliot Lent, "I'm excited about this season and think that we will continue to do good and succeed."

The Boys and Girls swim and dive team also has had some great seasons in the past and hopes to continue that streak with this upcoming season. Despite last year having to deal with COVID, they had one of their best seasons.

"We had two swimmers break three different school records, two others swimmers qualify individually for States (had they been held), along with all of the Girls' relay teams," said Swim coach Rebecca Burrell reflecting on their season last year, "We're looking forward to the return of more regular meets, that's for certain!" With a lot of new returning faces on the swim team this year, they could make a huge impact on the season winnings.



# Big Skates to Fill

## Hockey Looks to Rebuild in 21-22



The Triton hockey team huddles up after a hard practice. (Pearson Photo).

By Colin Pearson  
Staff Writer

The 2021-2022 Triton Varsity Hockey team for the upcoming season is going to have a lot of new faces.

Captain Cole Daniels said that he has been working hard to get the team ready for the upcoming season. The 2020-2021 Team was a strong team that won the CAL championship with an 8-1-1 record.

However, after losing 12 seniors, this year's team has a lot of rebuilding to do.

As this year's captain, Daniels has been working to get the team ready for the upcoming season. Over the summer he set up team workouts at the beach, as well as renting out time at various hockey rinks for the team to have captain's practices to prepare for the season.

While most players on the team have been at the captain's practices, many have also been working out on their own to get ready.

"I have been working out five days a week and running almost every day to prepare for the season," said Conner Houlihan.

Although the team has been working hard, many players said they believe that the offense is going to be the main thing that the team will have to rebuild this year.

"We really only have one strong returning offensive line," said Braeden McDonald. Losing most of their offense and their first line of defense, this year's team will be full of new faces especially on offense.

"We lost a majority of our offense last year so that's going to be a big obstacle that we are going to have to overcome if we want to go anywhere this season," said Daniels.

However, most of the players also said that they believe in their strong defense.

"The defense is the only good part of our team," said the team manager Kyle Bouley.

"We are lucky we have good defense because our offense stinks," said Gavin Colby.

Even with the odds against them, the players also said that they hope to get to the state tournament this year. Last year unfortunately because of COVID the state tournament was canceled and the team did not get to compete. It will be an uphill battle on skates but hopefully, these vikings can maintain the CAL title and make it to the State Tournament.

### HEALTH from page 1

days a year could have a really positive impact.

According to NBC Channel 12, "schools around central Virginia will have additional days off around Thanksgiving." In one district the school board approved wellness days around Thanksgiving, "which will give everyone a nine-day break."

"We are looking right now at what's called universal mental health screenings, so at some point, we can build up to the point of giving it to everyone in the district so we can identify kids that need support," said Briley. Triton sophomores Faye Hughes and Reese Renda say the signs of suicide seminar was a good topic to bring up and felt in the next few years the presentation will only get stronger. They said that the seminar focused on asking for help and looking for red flags in other people. Briley said she plans on continuing to think of new and creative ways to fill in any gaps in mental health services that could be improved for students and staff at Triton.

Assistant Principal Scott Brennan said he feels like we have made a good step in the right direction with mental health awareness at Triton but that there is much more he would change.

"Personal days are great, I said we go to a four day week anyways, I say we start school at 8:30 and go till 3, there's a lot of things I think we could be doing," said Brennan. Brennan said he would love these changes for students but also for teachers to help with burnout. He said that he feels like this is a subject that needs to be handled and Mrs. Briley is doing a great job.

Triton student Channing Marengi gave her opinion on the rising need of help towards mental health and the idea of having days off for it. "I would love mental health days, once in a while, you really do need them," said Marengi. Marengi said that some kids need it more than others but it could be so beneficial to everyone.