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TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

November 1, 2024

What's Cooking up in the Viking Store?

TLC and DECA Students Turn the School Store into a Café

By Gennes Packer & Cassidy Beebe
Staff Writers

Soon enough the small glass room at the entrance of Triton High will be filled with hard-working DECA students, and all of the TLC programs' future bakers.

Years ago, Triton had a TLC Café that was open throughout the week for staff members, but it went away due to the COVID pandemic. When one of Triton's business teachers Mr. Frank Torres began working at Triton he had the idea to bring it back. His involvement with DECA has pushed his idea further with wanting to build up the store again in support of the program but also give students of TLC (Transitional Learning Center, a self contained classroom for students with special needs) experience in a work environment.

"I want to make sure all students are receiving employment skills so they can transition from high school to a part-time or full-time job," said Torres.



TLC students (left to right) Yanni, Jessica, and Pedro practice their baking skills. (Packer Photo)

Torres has been teaching at Triton for three years and teaches five business courses. He loves to be involved in the school community and is always making sure his students are as well. At the two previous schools he has worked at, Madison Park High School and Greater Lawrence High School, he has started a

[See TLC on page 2](#)

Your Civic Duty

Students Take on First-Time Voting Next Week

By Bradyn Lopes
Staff Writer

Senior, William Hight recently turned 18 and is going to vote in the 2024 November 5th Presidential Election. He says that he is voting because it gives him a voice in this country.

"I think it's a great new experience, and I'd like to get my voice out and be heard, and I think that's a great way to do it, especially in state voting and local voting," said Hight.

In this country when you turn 18, you are allowed to vote as long as you are a U.S. citizen. Before you vote, it is very important that you are educated about what is going to be on the ballot and who each candidate is.

Morrison plays her own role in the election in her position as the 'Chief Election Officer' for the town.

"I have a 'know before you go' campaign," said Melinda Morrison, the town clerk of Salisbury. "Know if you are registered to vote, know what's on the ballot, because it's not just the presidential election. There is the state seats along with the five ballot questions."

"We are responsible for running the entire election from set up to counting the ballots to post-election recording to the Secretary of State's office," said Morrison.

Without a town clerk, there would be no election, plain and simple. The town clerk plays a vital role in the election process and is trusted by the country to count votes.

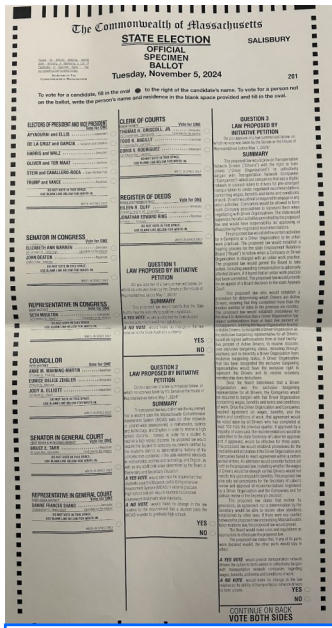
The 'know before you go' campaign is all about knowing what and who you are going to vote for before you enter your polling place. In order to do this citizens need to know everything that is on the ballot and where they stand on each topic.

The ballot is a lot more complicated than what you first think. There is the main presidential election part where there are five candidates and a write in spot. Then there are multiple positions for state representatives. These include: Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Councilor, Senator in General Court, Representative of General, Register of Deeds and Clerk of Courts. The final items on the ballot are the five referendum questions.

Question 1: Should the State Auditor be able to have authority to audit the State Legislature?

Question 2: Should MCAS be eliminated as a graduation

[See VOTE on page 2](#)



Sample 2024 Ballot, courtesy Salisbury Town Hall.

Haunting the Hallways

Scenes from the Annual Senior Halloween Parade



The Topsfield Connection

Topsfield Police Investigate Fraudulent Ticket Sales to Town's Famous Fair

By Matthew Mollica
Staff Writer

TOPSFIELD — Fraudulent tickets don't come as a surprise to the Topsfield Police Department, during the famous Topsfield Fair season. Often, people will try to sell fake tickets in the area, along with ride passes.

"We've had fake tickets before," said Topsfield Police Sgt. Brendan Gahagan. "Usually during the fair, there'll be somebody lined up on the street and they'll try to sell fake tickets or their ride passes. That's been a common thing over the years."

However, this past fair season, which ended two weeks ago, was the first time the TPD had received reports of a full blown, sophisticated, scam website. One offering tickets to events at the fair that were not happening, such as popular bands.

"Someone that doesn't have knowledge of the fair or how the fair operates would definitely fall for it," said Gahagan. "You

know, for eighty bucks to see .38 Special or these other bands that they wanted to see."

After receiving the reports of fraud tickets from Fair General Manager James O'Brien, Topsfield Police Chief Neal Hovey passed on the case to Gahagan.

Soon after, the department issued a warning to the public.

"We never received one report here, so there was nothing for us to really investigate because we never got it," said Gahagan. "There was no victim reported to us." He took it upon himself to dig deeper into the issue.

The website, *Ticketscenter.com*, sells fraudulent "tickets" to events in the Boston area "You could buy tickets for any concert really any event in the Boston area and Massachusetts," said Gahagan. "There was literally tickets for everything."

After discovering the website, Gahagan attempted to contact the owners of the "company."

"I reached out to the company and I heard nothing back, of course," said Gahagan.

Higher Profile Cases

Besides the fair, Gahagan has worked on much more high profile cases. Back in November, Gahagan played a key role in an investigation with the state police on "ghost guns" (Firearms produced without serial numbers, commonly with 3D printed lower receivers, which is the frame of a firearm)

"Last November, I was working with the state police," said Gahagan. "They intercepted an E-bay package from China. It was the upper unit of a firearm."

"They had the address in town," said Gahagan. "There were some other statements and reports that were unrelated that caused us to think we should really look into this, then we did a knock-and-talk."

Gahagan's K-9, Aster, played a role in the investigation as well.

"Aster did a protective sweep of the area, and she sat, which is an alert on an



Detective Sgt. Brendan Gahagan in his office (Mollica photo).

explosive device, which led us to into the pool house they were all staying at, which (was where) we found all the ghost guns inside on a search warrant," said Gahagan.

"You don't expect that kind of stuff, but it happens everywhere," he said.

[See FRAUD on page 2](#)

Triton Regional School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, or any other factor as defined and required by state and federal laws.

Drop the Gloves

Fists & Questions Fly Over Handling of Hockey Game

By Luke Sullivan
Staff Writer

A 40-minute drive down Interstate 95 will lead you to O'Brien Ice Rink in Woburn, MA, where the Junior Maples and the Dorchester Crusaders hockey teams cleared the benches on October 12.

It began when a big hit from Number 17 on Dorchester sent Triton junior Greg Muse flying to the ice just ten minutes into the game. The Junior Maples, a team that consists of 18 members of the Triton Vikings hockey team, came to the defense of their teammate, and got into the face of the Crusaders.

"Greg got a little angry after getting a dirty hit," said Triton senior Lucas Tinkham. "Greg started shoving him and then the Dorchester kid started hitting Greg and the boys didn't like that."

The altercation eventually led to suspensions of players and coaches, but it also left questions about how fights at local games are handled, whether hockey fights have become normalized, and what appropriate supervision and punishment should be when they happen.

The Junior Maples came into the game with a winning record of 3-1-1, facing Dorchester who was 4-1-1. However, when both teams left the rink, their records stayed the same as the ref shouted at both teams to get off the ice ten minutes into the first period, as the game got out of control. Both teams left with nothing but built up anger, and black and blue bruises.

After the puck dropped at 8 p.m., each team seemed to have gotten their fair share of chances but neither team could finish.

As the game went on, it seemed to be getting more physical as the hits and shoving progressed, even after the whistle. However, the scoreboard still read 0-0.

Then, 10 minutes into the game there was a gruesome hit by the biggest kid on Dorchester, laying his shoulder into the chest of the smallest kid on the Maples. After being stunned on the ground for a few seconds, Muse got up and went over to Number 17 where the two exchanged some words.

As this was happening, senior Lucas Tinkham went up to the offending Crusader player and got in his face. Backing him up were the rest of the Maples on the ice. As the tensions grew between both teams, another Dorchester player came over to the altercation and swung his fist, connecting with Tinkham's temple. Bodies started flooding the ice, and as one examined the benches, there was not a soul in sight.

Exactly 11 minutes and 48 seconds



Triton senior Connor Rumph sends an elbow into the chin of a Dorchester player (Kaiden Fowler photo).

into the game, mayhem broke out beginning at center ice, fists were flying, bodies were falling, and screams of colorful language echoed through the rink. Punch after punch, it seemed like it would never end as the fight lasted about one minute and 30 seconds. The lone referee stood at the other end of the ice, and watched as he was outnumbered by the 35 infuriated players.

As the chaos seemed to just keep growing, Maples coach Paul Kohan and the Crusaders coach ran onto the ice, grabbing kids off each other one by one. As each player went back to the bench, nothing remained but sticks and gloves scattered across the ice.

"Everyone in the stands was very shocked," said Triton junior Ava Johnson, who was at the game. "No one was really expecting that. There were people walking into the game as the fight was happening, so people were just very confused."

After the coaches settled things down, the referee ordered both teams off the ice and the game to be discontinued. While each team walked in the rink with only one loss, nothing changed as they left. Instead of the Maples and Crusaders gaining points, they gained a new rival.

Feelings during and after the fight were different among some of the players.

"Well I was pumped up, loving it," said Tinkham. "Even after I was still pumped up. My adrenaline was through the roof." Triton senior Alex Pasquini's feelings were a little different.

"It felt good in the moment, but after I felt really guilty because now I can't play."

It didn't just stop there. The Valley Hockey League heard about the event and scheduled a meeting with the coaches a few days after the fight. The weight on the Maples shoulders was heavy, not knowing what was going to happen. That is, until after their next practice which occurred on Thursday Oct. 17th, when their coach and former Triton hockey player, Paul Kohan, announced that he would inform everyone on the decision after practice. The players got back to the locker room and sat in silence as their coach walked in. He wasn't the coach at that moment, he was the bearer of bad news as suspensions were tossed through the room. Three players were suspended for six games, and six players were suspended for three games. The Maples coach was even suspended for two games. Although it was not publicized, it is said that Dorchester received similar suspensions throughout their team as well.

Talks about how the VHL and the ref handled the situation sparked around the team. When asked if they thought the situation was handled correctly.

"Yeah, I think they did, they maybe could've given us a little less of a suspension than 3 games for protecting our teammate. But other than that yeah," said Tinkham.

A fellow teammate seemed to have a contrasting opinion. "I don't think they handled it correctly," said Muse. "The ref just kinda stood there and watched."

Parking Battle

Drivers Frustrated by Spot Theft

By Jackson Mace & Anthony Navaroli
Staff Writers

Nick Serino pulled into the Triton parking lot, only to find his spot again stolen. Across campus, students and staff are wondering whether stricter rules should solve the growing epidemic of students' spaces taken.

This isn't the first time Serino has encountered this issue. Over the first few weeks of school, students and staff members have reported similar frustrations with parking spot theft. Members of the Triton community are calling for stricter enforcement of the parking lot to ensure they have a spot to park every day.

"There should be more consequences to those who steal someone's spot, because it causes additional problems for the rest of us," said Serino.

The ongoing parking lot controversy at Triton High School has become a festering source of frustration for many students, making parking thefts increasingly common. Students such as Serino and Brad Lopes report recurring incidents of their assigned spots being stolen, making them late for class and leaving them searching for an open spot. Ms. Julie Scarfo, high school administrative clerk, is employed to enforce the rules and issue tickets to repeat offenders. Eyewitness students such as Ava Kiricoples can recall often observing reckless student driving, she as well as many others, suggests paying attention when driving in the parking lot could greatly reduce the number of accidents on campus.

For Lopes, the problem is a typical occurrence: "At least four times a week my spot gets taken." Reckless driving in the cramped parking lot has also ramped up among students who seem to think they are invincible.

Senior Jayden Torres recalled his own experience when a student, junior Carl Lucy, wasn't paying attention and severely damaged Torres' car: "He ripped my back bumper off with his car, but at least I got compensation that was worth more than my car."

Scarfo enforces the parking rules and issues tickets to repeat offenders. When asked about the true impact of these extra measures, Ms. Scarfo stated, "They could lose their driving privileges to school," and added, "I think so, by giving them all tickets," when prompted whether ticketing has affected students and their willingness to steal spots.

However, some students feel more needs to be done.

"Yeah, I feel like there wasn't a lot done to the person repeatedly taking my spot." Said Serino, This feeling is common among the students we interviewed, who want stricter rules put into place, not caring if through heavier penalties or better lot monitoring by staff or authorities.

Beyond parking theft, safety within the lot has quickly become a major concern for students. Triton High student Ava Kiricoples, while fortunate to not have had her spot stolen, has witnessed many reckless driving incidents. She recalled one by saying, "The driver [Connor Rumph] was being so stupid and wasn't looking in their mirrors as they backed up out of their spot," adding that we need more responsible behavior within the parking lot.

Kiricoples suggests, "The simple fix is just that drivers must pay attention and use common sense." She points out common driving rules, "People are walking, and cars are passing - you need to check your mirrors and look around to avoid collisions." Her words resonate with the broader issue of driver awareness, which could help mitigate both theft and accidents.

The ongoing parking issues in the Triton parking lot have escalated from a minor inconvenience to a persistent issue as the school year continues. At the same time, there have been recent efforts to enforce parking regulations such as people getting warning tickets, and the loss of driving privileges to school, Said Scarfo. Many students feel that these actions just aren't enough to get students to stop. The dilemma of theft of parking spots and reckless driving has recently made the lot a hazardous environment.



A student car in the side parking lot takes up two spaces (Orpin photo).

VOTE from page 1 requirement?

Question 3: Should Transportation Network Drivers be allowed to unionize?

Question 4: Should the state limit the legalization of Natural Psychedelics?

Question 5: Should tipped workers earn the minimum wage?

"Voting is important because it is part of the basis why we are a country," said political science teacher Mr. Shawn McElligott.

"Your vote matters," said Morrison "In 2019, [Salisbury] had the Triton override on the ballot to pay for the Triton Budget. The vote only passed by 2 votes in favor of it."



Triton Voice reporter Brad Lopes traveled to Salisbury Town Hall to learn more about the voting process (Lopes Photo).

FRAUD from page 1

The TPD doesn't deal with much violent crime. Larceny and fraud are more common

"We get a lot of fraud cases, larceny. I have a trial next week for a larceny check."

Gahagan's case on this specific larceny check came from mailbox fishing, which is when someone uses string and an adhesive to "fish" mail out of a public mail drop-off, such as a USPS or FedEx Box.

"This particular one was for mailbox fishing," said Gahagan. "They literally fish mail out of the blue boxes... what they would do is get string with rat trap glue and a water bottle, fish out mail, rip through it looking for checks, then wash the check and reprint them. This particular case happened to a Topsfield resident."

TLC from page 1

school store, school café, and a school bank. All of these were run by the students and the experience taught them many valuable skills. Torres believes students can create a successful café.

The DECA and TLC students will be working alongside each other during the day, taking shifts running the register and serving customers.

A portion of the Viking Café profits will support the DECA program with funding for its events and conferences. The other portion of the revenue will go towards the TLC program for any materials they need. The program is a great opportunity for the students to create a work history and gain life skills, Torres said. It will allow them to collaborate with the gen-ed students and help them prepare for the future.

The TLC students are given tasks that they are intrinsically motivated to do. They are all given resources and guidance for what they are interested in. Many of them enjoy serving the goods and interacting with the public, while others prefer packaging and putting the

goods together, and then there are those who love working behind the scenes and baking the items.

Mrs. Rebecca Takesian is a special education teacher and transition specialist at Triton who works with the 18 to 22 year old TLC students and provides them with life and employability skills. Takesian is passionate about her job and loves making the students' dreams a reality by giving them the experience to pursue their career passions.

"We want to give them the ability to choose what they want to do in the community," she said.

During the school day, the Viking Café will only be open to staff members. However, when the school day is over it will open up to students. In the café there will be many different options. They will have drinks like tea and coffee, with additives like sugar, creams, and milk. There will also be baked goods made by the TLC students such as muffins, cookies, cakes, seasonal items, as well as cultural foods. There will also be sandwiches, chips, fruits, and vegetables available. There will be allergy friendly options too.