

HOOFPRI

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Wooster High School
1331 East Plumb

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Board drops discussion on bell schedule change

By Syd Massey

The Washoe County School District Board of Trustees has reversed its decision to push back the bell schedules half an hour.

The reversal is a result of parents being unable to send their kids to school at 10 a.m. because of work and extracurricular school activities sending students out at rush hour.

The school board originally voted to push the bell schedule back a half hour as that was the most popular option on the survey the board sent out and it was the least costly and required no extra buses which is problematic due a bus driver shortage.

The school district was considering the change because researchers such as Lisa Meltzer, a pediatric sleep psychologist at the National Jewish health center in Denver, have proven there is a "significant reduction in the

number of students who are sleep deprived, as well as the number of students feeling sad or anxious as well as feeling more alert and able to participate in their first period courses (with more sleep)."

The school board met a second time to discuss the concerns relating to the bell schedule change, one of these concerns was that pushing back the bell schedule

"I think this is not the time to do this. I would like to wait until we are in a better position and we can really have some viable options."

— Angie Taylor

would put athletes in rush hour traffic and limit field trip time.

Other concerns relating to

elementary school were elementary school would start around 10 a.m. and parents who start work around 7 a.m. are already having to rely on before and after school programs and would have to rely on them for an additional 3-4 hours creating additional cost for families.

In addition to the additional cost put on families, Mike Wurm, president of the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows said:

"For the first time since I've been the boys and girls club in my 27 years, we actually have all of our facilities open, but we have a waiting list on about 60 percent of them because we don't have enough staff to handle the kids who want to come to the club."

"Getting a five, six, seven, and eight year old out the door in the morning, they need to be fed, they need to be helped getting dressed. they cannot get out the door and

get to the bus stop on their own," said Megan Baroska a working mom of a first and second grader.

It is worth noting that there was discussion about starting elementary school earlier, but it would cost too much and require additional bus drivers.

The repeal of this decision was most devastating to high school students who were excited to get the extra hour of sleep.

"I'm good either way. If we start school later, cool. I get more sleep. "If not its the same schedule I've had for the past three years," said junior Samantha B.

While this was the first attempt at changing the bell schedule this is certainly not the last.

Angie Taylor, school board president said, "I think this is not the time to do this. I would like to wait until we are in a better position and we can really have some viable options."

Staff shortages cause school closures

By Bill Amhearst

COVID-19 related staff absences have forced two Washoe County School District high schools to temporarily suspend in-school classes and revert to distance learning.

Hug High School went to "Temporary Distance Learning" on Friday, Jan. 14 and North Valleys High School shut its campus on January 19 through 21.

"We continue to embrace an 'all hands on deck' philosophy as employees from all over the district move into critical positions to cover staff members who are absent," said WCSD Superintendent Kristen McNeill.

"Staff members who are certified may be asked to spend their time with students in classrooms, and those who are not certified may be asked to help in other capacities at school sites and offices," she said.

Currently, there have been a number of staff members impacted by the virus with significant outages at Wooster. However, substitutes and staff members have filled in to cover teacher absences.

The district has opted to look at school closures on a case by case basis rather than a district-wide school closure.

"These decisions to move to temporary distance learning are not made lightly and only made after closely examining the amount of staff out for exclusion as well as other requested sick or leave time and considering the availability of guest teachers or other staff to come in and assist," McNeill said.

Testing and exclusions continue through the district with guest teachers and bus driver positions still at a premium,

"This teamwork is crucial to keeping our schools open," McNeill said.

School's irrigation system being upgraded

By Ed Murrow

If students have been wondering about all the digging going on around campus, the school's irrigation system is being replaced with new lines.

"The dig is to replace a problematic composite main irrigation line that has been losing water for many years," said Scott Loring, Wooster's site facilities coordinator. "It is somewhat of a mystery where the leak is located, so the old line is being abandoned and a new PVC line is being run adjacent to it."

Loring said the project was started in November and is slated to be completed in the spring, "if everything goes smoothly and the weather cooperates."

The project is being conducted by The Garden Shop Nursery which has worked on many of the school district's excavating and plumbing projects.

The work is being done Monday through Friday.

"The Garden Shop Nursery has carefully orchestrated (the project) with the school's administration to not interfere with any sports as the scope of the work



Crew members from the Garden Shop Nursery are replacing irrigation lines throughout the Wooster campus to eliminate water waste and improve the school's playing fields. (Photo by Haley Ward)

encompasses many areas of the campus," Loring said. "Any location in close proximity to students is temporary fenced off."

In addition to eliminating the loss of water and the expenses it generates, the new system will produce a more efficient

water delivery to all areas of the school's campus.

"When completed, the main irrigation lines will supply efficient hydration to all sports fields and common areas," Loring said.

According to Loring, the project has developed over time.

"It is my understanding that this project has been the works for many years. The Garden Shop Nursery has made the project seamless and smooth, keeping in mind that their work site is a functional school with students

See Water, page 3

Debate team scores at virtual tournament

From staff reports

The Wooster debate team competed in a virtual debate over the weekend of January 14. More than 259 student from 10 local high schools participated in the event. Freshman Nicole Lin took fifth place in the original oratory open division and third place in congressional debate house 1.

Sophomore Daniel Goldenberg took third place in congressional debate house 2. Freshman Ari Langer also participated and all three debaters earned enough points to become members of the National Speech and Debate Association and participate in district tournaments which are qualifying tournaments to get invited to



Lin



Goldenberg



Langer

the National Tournament, debate coach Don Speth said.

New teachers fill science and P.E. slots

Ed. Note: This is an ongoing series introducing new teachers/staff at Wooster.

By Veronica Whitt

Victor Dejong is Wooster’s new health and physical education teacher. He taught for 11 years because he wanted to make a positive impact in students’ lives. He is also a first generation American and enjoys the outdoors. “I chose Wooster over all other schools. because of the diversity,” he said. Savanna Wellborn is a new environmental and honors biology teacher.



Dejong



Wellborn

She has been teaching for two years and said she wanted to work as a teacher because, “I love sharing information about the earth and how humans interact with it.” She chose Wooster because it offered environmental science classes. Mark Nelson is a comprehensive life skills teacher. He used to coach P.E. and chose Wooster because he already knew students and staff here. “My favorite school experience so far is seeing my students grow academically and as human beings,” Nelson said.

The yearbook fire sale is still on!! All OLD yearbooks \$25. See Mr. Baer in Room C7.

Upsurge in COVID-19 exclusions complicate school attendance

By Syd Massey

COVID-19 exclusions have gotten out of hand in the Washoe County School District as student cases reach more than 1,525 exclusions with staff cases reaching more than 303.

The WCSD website states, “Regular attendance is critical for the academic success of our students...”, but COVID-19, and especially so with the it’s omicron variant, has made it difficult for students to attend and it has made it more important than ever to stay home and recover.

In light of COVID-19, the school district has followed the Center for Disease Control’s guidelines and has excluded anyone who has COVID-19 as well as anyone who has come in close contact with someone who has the virus from school.

The original exclusion period was 10 days, but recently has been reduced to five days as the CDC has updated its guidelines.

The district website stresses, “Exclusion of all ill individuals from school premises is necessary for to ensure safety and to protect the wellness of the community.”

Wooster administrators estimate more than 300 students have been excluded since the start of the semester after self screening for symptoms.

Students who exhibit two minor symptoms or one major symptom are excluded for five days and don not have to show negative test results before returning to school.

However, students must show improvement with no fever, vomiting or diarrhea without medication.

While attendance is important for education, it has become clear that at least before COVID-19 there was a certain culture behind having perfect attendance and coming to school when sick because bosses and teachers stress about NOT missing school or shifts.

This not only affects students health in general, but especially those who have health problems and are prone to illness.

Laura Summers, a mother from the United Kingdom, said on her blog, “I received a letter about (my daughter’s) attendance ...” although I realize there may have been good reasons for (your daughter’s absences in this period, (your daughters) attendance will be over the next term during which a significant improvement

will be expected. I am sure this will be the case.”

This mentality that students need to get back to school as soon as possible is problematic because it does not encourages full recovery.

“Encouraging children to return to school as soon as possible encouragers the spread of illness,” Sommers said.

This mentality follows us into our adult years when we get jobs which further encourages the spread of illness which is something that affects us greatly, she said.

The CDC is trying to stop the spread of the virus and its variant by urging people to get fully vaccinated.

CDC.gov says the vaccines are effective. They help people from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

While vaccination is important, it is just as important for individuals to quarantine themselves until they are well and no longer contagious.

To get a student perspective on how COVID-19 affected students, I interviewed Triniti Henslee, a senior at Edward C Reed High School who had the virus the previous year while they were out of school. whether she could have “toughed it out.”

“No, it made me exhausted and since it was new to my body it drained my energy and made me have strong symptoms like a headache and loss of taste.

“I needed that rest. It would have been too hard to worry about school or work and to get up and move my body around.”

She said a full recovery is very important.

“Unless what you have are light symptoms and tolerant and not contagious, I think it is more important to recover, because you’re sick. You have a new virus in your body, and you need to take precautions to stay away from people, fight it off and get better.

“It can be hard focusing on school and work when you are sick. And honestly, I would pretty much have the same answer, even before COVID. I also think schools and jobs should be more understanding of that,” she said.

A CNN article published on New Years Eve said, “Many experts believe that the spread of COVID-19 will look and feel more like that of seasonal influenza.”

The director of the Precisions Vaccine at Boston Children’s



COVID-19 exclusion paperwork continues to grow at an alarming rate as variant levels spike.

Hospital told CNN, “I think it’s likely we will see this thing come and go and the spring and summer will look a lot better than right now looks to us.”

Dr. Arnold Monto told CNN that, “We have no idea whether we are going to see that seasonal pattern with SARS-COV2, but it does remind us that most of our respiratory viruses start behaving as seasonal events.”

Dr. Phillip Landrigan, a Pediatrician and Epidemiologist told CNN in November that, “To transition from a pandemic to and epidemic, the nation has to build an immunity to the corona virus which means many more people need to get vaccinated.”

This is why it is so important to get vaccinated. If people choose to listen to conspiracy theorists, the country can’t build a national immunity and COVID has more time to make yet another variant.

Dr. Stephen Parodi told CNN that, “We have a lot more work to get where we want to be and I think we are going to see a transition over 2022, but for some locals where there is less immunity, its going to be a longer run.

Wooster school nurse, Chau Thai, said there appears to be a definite drop in cases since the spike at the start of the semester.

The biggest take-away I hope people get from the past two years with COVID-19 is that people need to stop spreading this idea that our jobs and school is priority number one, because as long as we keep spreading illness because we are afraid of falling behind, the illness doesn’t go away.

Stay safe wear your mask and please stay home if you are sick.



Hoofprints



“A public forum for the free expression of students, faculty, administration, and staff of Wooster High School.”

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Interact Club focuses on community service

By Isis Garcia Cruz

Interact Club is an international club that provides service for school, local, and international communities. With the support of mentors from Rotary, interceptors learn the importance of "Service Above Self."

There are about 16 Interact Club members in Wooster's club, with there being over 300,000 globally across 145 countries.

While Interact club is a fun way to earn service hours and also look good on a scholarship application, the main purpose of the club is to provide service to

others and learn key life skills such as collaboration, creativity, communication and empathy.

Events the club has sponsored this year include a clothing drive, book drive, and many fund-raisers to help organizations around the globe.

They will be raising money to help Zawadisha, an organization that provides Kenyan women with better job opportunities in order to support their families.

If are interested in joining Interact club, meeting days are Tuesdays at lunch in room IA3.

Saturday School offers students success

By Makayla Ondelacy

Many Wooster students have been attending Saturday School to improve their grade in classes they have incompletes, credit recovery and for additional tutoring.

Saturday School is planned with the department of leaders to collaborate on students to come in.

"If kids come on the weekend for English, they will have an English teacher in the room for the department. If they come for math, they will have a math teacher," said assistant principal Trina Olsen who is in charge of Saturday School.

The school does not hold Saturday school unless a department needs it for that specific weekend.

One of our most successful subjects is math, especially Algebra 1, where students have improved the most.

"Saturday school is particularly successful in math, as students get roughly two hours of tutoring and then end the morning by taking a missing assessment,"

Olsen. said.

The following Monday the students' teacher will get the assessments that they did so they are able to get quick feedback.

"That speedy feedback is key," said Olsen, "and this is because the students can see the benefits of Saturday school."

"During our first semester, many students hadn't attended Saturday School until the last three weeks because that's when they were worried about not passing that class."

"In the last three Saturdays of Semester 1, we averaged about 75 students each Saturday," Olsen said.

The Saturday School program is focusing more on tutoring this semester and trying to find other options for students.

"Saturdays are not always easy for our students, so we'll try to develop some new ways to get kids support," Olsen said. "We want to do everything we can to help kids be successful."

Disc golf offers students a challenge

By Isis Garcia

Looking for a good club sport to test your skill and athletic ability? Disc Golf may be the activity for students.

Disc golf club is all about trying to introduce the wonderful sport to Wooster students.

It's an individually played sport that is easy to understand but hard to master. The rules of the game are similar to golf as competitors are trying to get their discs into the targets in fewest throws as possible from the tee pad.

A disc golf course will have multiple hole of different length and there are multiple courses around town. Some have nine holes, some 18 and some 27, club adviser Derek Vaughan said.

Depending on the club members schedules, the club tries to go out to a local course on the weekend to practice.

"We do play when the weather is cold, if people are willing," Vaughan said.

During the week club members meet on Tuesdays in B-3 during

Pandemic impacts SkillsUSA program

By Isis Garcia

SkillsUSA is an organization that revolves around and supplements the Career and Technical Education program offered by the Washoe County School District.

The program offers career readiness courses for high school students where they can explore and learn viable skills.

There are also competitions and networking opportunities for students to test their skills and prepare for life after high school. There are also competitions that can help students earn scholarships.

While students are still involved in classroom activities, the pandemic has closed down local, state and national conferences and competitions over the past two years. Students and teachers are hoping this year will prove different.

Wooster multimedia teacher Tonya Howard was able to send two students to this year's northern conference in November.

"I am so proud of my SkillsUSA team captain, Jocelyn De La Torre, and co-captain Hiyab Kidane, Howard said. "I got compliments from the head of the CTE program for the Washoe County School District. He said they were very professional."

The program takes place in the classroom and as an after school activity.

"I believe the skills program is useful in the classroom even if the students are not enrolled



Seniors Hiyab Kidane, left, and Jocelyn De La Torre, right, attended the recent Northern Conference in November

in the SkillsUSA program," Howard said.

In addition to Howard, CTE teachers Shawn McMurtry in cyber security and Bo Sellers in metals are involved in the SkillsUSA program.

"We have not competed in SkillsUSA for two years (due to the pandemic)," Sellers said. "Usually I see some guys compete in welding and sheet metal, but nothing has happened since 2019. We were hoping they are doing it (this year), but nothing has been said yet."

"I am hoping we can make it

happen next year when I have more students in level 2 Cyber Security, McMurtry said. "It's heartbreaking to prepare for it and not to be able to go and compete."

McMurtry's teams won a state competition in 2005 and continued on to nationals where they competed in building a bathroom.

"We competed against trade schools with what my four students described as 'men' as their adversaries," McMurtry said. "They placed 16th out of 36 teams but against other state champs who were mostly representing against community colleges and trade schools. I am still proud of those guys and it was literally 17 years ago."

The skills that students develop in this program are based on whatever program they are enrolled in. Students are expected to practice said skills in real-world scenarios and to create a work resume or portfolio.

The program is meant to be both in class or after school, with the skills program being useful in the classroom even if students aren't enrolled.

In order to join the program the student must approach an advisor that is registered with the organization and pay a \$16 fee for the advisor to register them.

Correspondent Ed Murrow contributed to this article.

Water

Continued from page 1 and staff's safety a priority.

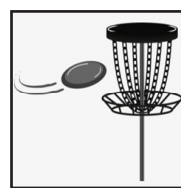
This is one of many projects that are scheduled to improve the campus and its buildings and fields.

"Future projects include roof improvements throughout the campus and the constant abatement of lead and asbestos," Loring said.

lunch, but can often be found between B and C hall practicing their game.

To join the club, just find them in B-3 during lunch or outside throwing frisbees at a metal basket or contact Mr. Vaughan.

There are currently 10 active members, but anyone with interest in the sport is welcome to join.



A disc golf target

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At the Flicks

By Alyica Buchanan de Rodriguez

At the Flicks reviews some of the newest movies coming to theaters for February.

Nine new movies open on February fourth. In "Moonfall" (no rating yet) a mysterious force knocks the moon from its orbit around earth and sends it hurtling on a collision course with life as we know it. A last ditch effort is launched to save the planet, but discovers the moon is not what it appears to be. Stars Hale Berry, Patrick Wilson and John Bradley. "The Long Night" also opens on the fourth. While searching for the parents she's never known, New York transplant Grace (Scout Taylor-Compton) returns to her childhood southern stomping grounds with her boyfriend (Nolan Gerard Funk) to investigate a promising lead on her family's whereabouts. This film is rated "R."

"Jackass Forever" is a comedy celebrating the joy of being back together with your best friends and a perfectly executed shot to the dingdong. The original jackass crew return for another round of hilarious, wildly absurd, and often dangerous displays of comedy with a little help from some exciting new cast. Definitely rated "R."

The last movie being released on February fourth is "Through My Window." This is a romantic teen movie that talks about a love story between two kids. Stars Clara Galle and Marcel Flores. It's rated "R."

On February 11 there are 11 new and exciting movies being released into theaters. "Conundrum: Secrets Among Friends" features a group of seven friends who have known each other for several years takes a twisted turn for the worst when their secrets are revealed. This movie has not been rated.

"I Want You Back" is a comedy and romance mix. It's about a couple who's names Emma (Jenny Slate) and Peter (Charlie Day) thought they were on the precipice of life's biggest moments – marriage, kids, and houses in the suburbs – until their respective partners dumped them. In their thirties and terrified that they have missed their shot at happily ever after, Emma and Peter are horrified to learn that their partners have already moved on.

Question of the Month

By Makayla Ondelacy

What would you like to see improve on in the second semester?

Staff:

"I would like to see students show up to school more and not as many absences."

–Jane Pond



"Better technical stuff around campus."

– Griffin Perelta

Seniors:

"I just want to pass."

– Genesis Reyes Quezada



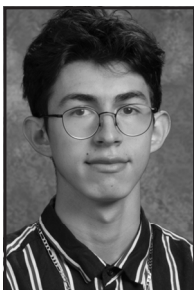
"Getting work done on time."

–Andrew King

Juniors:

"I want to improve on my time management with my work and assignments and would like to participate in new things at school."

– Anielyn Toledo-Unciano



"I would want to improve my time management and avoid distractions. Also attendance (hopefully)."

– Esdras Mora Navarro

Sophomores:

"Turning in my assignments on time."

– Chesney Sampson



"Getting to class on time and get my grades up."

– Jose Hernandez Ayala

Freshman:

"I want to get better at procrastinating less and keeping up with my school work."

– Charmyn Michaela Ebonia



"Getting English grades up."

– Ian Christian Fernandez

If viewers are looking for a thriller, "Here Before" will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Andrea Riseborough is spellbinding as the distraught mother, haunted by the death of her young daughter, who develops an all-consuming obsession over the neighbor's girl who she believes is the reincarnation of her child. It's rated "R."

"Blacklight" stars Liam Neeson as a freelance government operative who tries to break up a plot that targets U.S. citizens. He must deal with the FBI and

his shadowy past while trying to protect his daughter and granddaughter. It's rated PG-13.

Opening on Feb. 25 is "Desperate Riders." This western stars Tom Berenger and Trace Adkins. Family conflict, blazing guns and western-style action and surround a wedding that needs to be stopped. It's rated PG-13.

Looks like February is going to be a great month for big-screen movies. Grab your popcorn, drinks and wallet and we'll see you *At the Flicks*.

February Calendar

From staff reports

- 2 Ski race - 11 a. m., Mt. Rose
Girls basketball @ S. Tahoe: Frosh 3 p.m.; JV 4:45; Varsity 4:45
Boys Basketball: @ S. Tahoe: Frosh 3 p.m.; JV 6:30; Varsity 6:30
Parent Information Night, 5 - 7 p.m., Career Center
Theater State Showcase, 7 - 9 p.m., Hart Theater
- 3 Parent Information Night, 5 - 7 p.m., Career Center
- 4 Wrestling meet, 3 - 9 p.m. @ North Valleys High School
Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
- 5 Girls basketball vs. Hug: JV 10 a.m.; Varsity 1 p.m.
Boys Basketball vs. Hug: Frosh 10 a.m.; JV 11:30; Varsity 2:30
- 7 Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12
IB Council meeting, lunch, Career Center
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 8 Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Career Center
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 9 Booster meeting, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Career Center
- 10 Ski race - 11 a. m., Mt. Rose
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 11 Speech and Debate tournament, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Spring Creek
Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
Girls basketball @ Hug: Varsity 6 p.m.
Boys Basketball: @ Hug: Varsity 6 p.m.
- 12 Wrestling 3A northern regionals, 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. @ Spring Creek High School
Speech and Debate tournament, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Elko High School
Girls basketball @ Truckee: Frosh: 11:30 a.m. JV 1 p.m.; Varsity 1 p.m.
Boys Basketball @ Truckee: Frosh 10 a.m.; JV 11:30; Varsity 2:30
- 14 Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12
IB Council meeting, lunch, Career Center
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
Girls basketball vs. South Tahoe: Varsity 6 p.m.
Boys Basketball: vs. South Tahoe: Varsity 7 p.m.
- 15 Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. JROTC inspection, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Ski race - 11 a. m., Mt. Rose
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 16 JROTC inspection, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Ski race - 11 a. m., Mt. Rose
ASVAB Testing, 8 a.m. - 12 noon
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 17 Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 18 Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
3A State Wrestling tournament, 3 - 9 p.m., Boulder High School
- 19 Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 21 President's Day Holiday
- 22 Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Career Center
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 23 Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 24 Spring sports parent meeting, 5 - 6 p.m., big gym
- 25 Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater
- 26 Softball vs. Galena High, 10 a.m.
Military Ball, 7 - 10 p.m., Small gym
- 28 Korean Club meeting, lunch, C13
Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12
IB Council meeting, lunch, Career Center
Theater spring production, 2:45 - 5:45, Hart Theater

Boys Basketball

Colts battle to regain on-court culture

By Mark Pailey

The 2020-21 basketball season was a total loss for all Washoe County School District basketball including the Wooster Colts. "There are a number of challenges we have faced due to not having a season last year," Wooster head basketball coach Jose Parra said. "Some of our lower level kids have not played a game since middle school, so that put us behind experience and IQ wise."

"We also have a very specific culture and missing a year I felt like the kids forgot what the expectations are on and off the court."

For the 2021-2022 season, the Colts will field all three levels and compete in the 3A league. As this writing, the Colts are 5-2 in league action.

"There are some solid teams in the 3A," Parra said. "Some of these teams have been playing together for years. Elko is a really good team. They are probably the favorite to win the state title."

The start of the season started quick to the Colts.

"At the beginning of the season,



Christien Smith goes in for a reverse layup. (Pegasus file photo)

we had to do a lot of skill work and also building our culture back up," Parra said. "We didn't have as much time to spend game planning against our next opponent."

The Colts return seniors Sean Ratfield, Christien Smith, Andrew King and Kayden Quartz to the lineup.

Varsity newcomers include junior Jose Vazquez Silva, sophomore J.C. Marquicias and senior Andre Caldwell with seniors

Andolis Lartigue and Ladontrea Lendon moving up the JV team.

"The players have made a huge impact on our team and are now key pieces to our success," Parra said. "We are getting better every day and continuously trying to create chemistry."

After the team's early performance in the season, Parra is positive about the outcome of the season.

"I really like our team," he said. "I think talent wise this team is the best team I've ever had the privilege of coaching. They're a fun group of kids to be around and if you haven't been to a game yet, it's quite a show when they are playing at a high level."

The team's aim is to qualify for the post season.

"I honestly think we have a chance to make the post season. We haven't had the opportunity to put our whole team on the floor yet," Parra said.

"I think if and when that opportunity comes, we will be able to see what we're capable of. It will take us getting better every day and being disciplined on the defensive side of the ball."

Wrestling experiences a renaissance

By Ed Murrow

While many sports are suffering through tough times, not so with the Colts wrestling program. The turnaround has been nothing short of amazing.

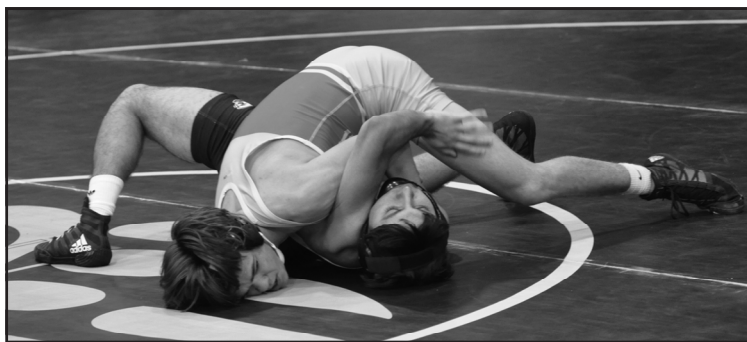
"There are three factors leading to this: Coach Sellers has done a nice job of feeding us kids from the football program," said head coach Josh Newman.

"Another factor is that we had a whole season taken away from us due to COVID and I think a lot of kids are looking to get out and compete in sports since they did not get that opportunity last season."

"Finally having our own wrestling room is a huge help," Newman said. "The kids have something they can call their own and that really means a lot to them. It shows that we care and want what is best for them and the school as a whole."

The lost of last season created challenges for the program.

"a lot of the kids never wrestled before or their only experience was at the middle school level, so we did struggle on the mat a bit to start the season," Newman said. "The kids have bought in and have worked hard every day and everything is seeming to click now for them."



Senior Ian Harshbarger pins one of his opponents at the Sparks Invitational tournament.

Newman said patience is a key to wrestling success.

"We really want our kid to work hard and get better every day," he said. "The main thing we stress is that wrestling takes time and patience and not to get frustrated with things."

With the increase in numbers, the Colts have a chance to compete on a team level.

"We have great number in the program and only hope to grow those numbers in the future. It has been fun going to tournaments and seeing the team be in the top 10 each week," Newman said. "A couple of week ago we were pretty close as we finished seventh at the Sparks Invitational, so things are looking up."

Many of the Colt wrestlers are having great seasons, Newman said.

"Ian Harshbarger is our most experienced wrestler on the team and is having a great senior year at 8-2 and won the Sparks Invitational (in his weight class)," Newman said.

Esteban Jacinto Penuelas is 4-1, Carlos Lopez Garibaldo is 8-5, Isaiah White is 3-1 and Cesar Benavides Monroy is 4-2.

"Luch Koch is 2-2, but has missed some time with an injury. He will be back in time for regionals and could be a problem for opponents," Newman said.

COVID-19 has impacted the north's wrestling community, but Newman said the Colts have been lucky.

"It has only impacted us once where we had to shutdown for a week," he said. "With wrestling being such a close contact sport,

Girls resilient in quest to qualify for regionals

By Makayla Ondelacy

The girls' basketball season is back after last season got canceled due to the covid-19 restrictions.

All three teams test weekly to help keep respective teams, players and coaches all safe as possible.

"All three girls' teams have had exclusions, and we have had to cancel games because of low numbers," said varsity coach Sheryl Hicks.

Officials are working to reschedule the league games with the athletic administration because those games count towards their standing in playoffs.

All three teams have improved and are playing competitive basketball, Hicks said.

"We have had some close games and won; and we have had some close games where we have lost," Hicks said. "Our goal is to be improving each day and we're doing that."

Seniors on the team are happy to return to the court.

"We are extremely grateful to be able to have a basketball season this year after not being able to play due to COVID-19," Mariana Leon-Cabrera, Maddy Hunden and Taelor Stutzman agreed. "Our team has great chemistry that will hopefully lead us to regionals."

Girls varsity's goal is to get to regionals.



Senior Maddy Hunden drives hard to the hoop against a South Tahoe defender.

"The varsity girls are a resilient group, and as long as we stay together as a team and continue to support and encourage each other, we will do well this season," Hicks said.

JV girls are an early group who had some early adversity, but are now coming together and starting to play together, Hicks added.

"They are our most spirited group with their varying personalities and we can see the improvement from their first game played to now," Hicks said.

Freshman girls have also been improving with their fundamentals and play.

"And now, it is a task of incorporating what they learn in practice to their games," Hicks said.

Rifle team wraps season

By Bill Amhearst

The Colts rifle team will wrap up the season falling short of qualifying for the varsity and JV championships.

Wooster competed in four of the eight virtual matches this season. Wooster did not compete in the two in-person matches.

Wooster wrapped up the season with a match on January 22. Senior Genevieve Dierenga was the Colts top shooter and only returner. Her average is in the 250 out of 300 range, said coach Col. Kenneth Stynen.

"The rest of the team are all new shooters, but a couple of standouts on the team are junior Zachery Kuhns, freshman Axel Bernabe Ibarra and sophomore Samantha Blake," Stynen said.

Stynen said the pandemic really didn't impact the Colts season.

"The only impact was how quickly we were able to start the season. The only difference was shooting with masks," he said.

Peralta opens Reno's "Insomnia" show

By Nathali Villanueva

On December 7, Griffin Peralta, English teacher at Wooster, was asked to open for Brandon Leake's spoken word "Insomnia" show held at the Nevada Museum of Art.

Leake, America's Got Talent Season 15 winner contacted Peralta about booking an event due to them working together two years prior of Leake's winning the show competition.

"He (Leake) is the biggest name in Spoken Word poetry right now," Peralta said.

Peralta is the Reno and Tahoe Spoken Word Poetry Slam Champion.

With the connection that Leake has with Peralta, he was able to book the event.

Peralta was the opener starting off with a spoken word performance of his original work.

His work is based on growing up in Reno and his family.

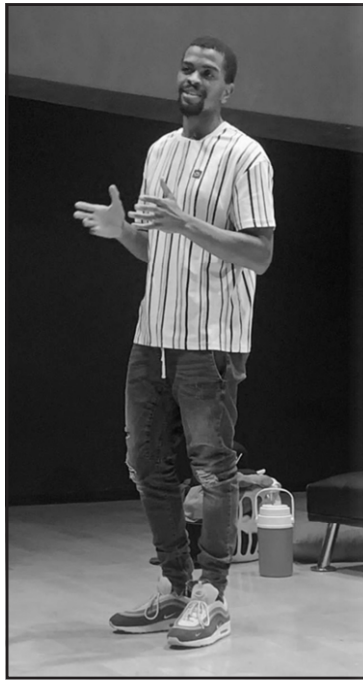
Afterwards he was followed by Leake who headlined the show.

"The event was a great success," Peralta said. "We were able to nearly sell every seat in the house."

Peralta said Leake was congenial.



Wooster English teacher Griffin Peralta, left, was the opening act for Brandon Leake's "Insomnia" (right) show at the Nevada Museum of Art of December 7.



He took Peralta and some other local poets to dinner after the event and was interested in discussing the various artistic practices.

Peralta offered some tips if anyone is interested in being involved with spoken word poetry: "Look into all-ages open mic at

The Holland Project every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

"If students are already writing their own poetry, get a separate notebook dedicated for that purpose."

Students may go talk with him in room, C9, about how to get involved in local spoken word events.

Wooster hosts multi-school rifle match

From staff reports

The Wooster Colts JROTC battalion hosted a large-scale rifle match in the small gym on January 22.

The match hosted 117 marksmen from 12 different regional high schools that participate in a JROTC program. Teams from Douglas, Carson, Incline, Galena, Damonte Ranch, Reed, Reno, Spanish Springs McQueen Hug and Sparks participated in the two-day event.

"This is a more efficient way to handle that many participants versus our normal range that can only shoot nine at a time," said Wooster's rifle coach Col. Kenneth Stynen.

Wooster's shooters performed well at the match.

"Wooster's team did very well considering our team is in a rebuilding mode," Stynen said. "Three of our top four shooters



Wooster's small gym was converted into a rifle range on January 22.

are new this season. We did not place in the top three."

The top three teams on Friday in the JV/postal competition were Reed, Spanish Springs and Damonte Ranch. The top three on Saturday in the varsity competition were Spanish Springs Reno and Damonte Ranch. The

team championship held on Saturday was Reed first, Spanish Springs second and Carson third.

Shooters fired from all three positions including prone, kneeling and standing.

"Overall it was a busy two days," Stynen said. "All schools helped it run well."

Administrators, teachers battle tardies

By Haley Ward

During the first semester, students have been tardy to their classes and spending their time in class actually wandering about the school doing miscellaneous actions.

"Over 20 students a day are tardy to their classes," said Wooster assistant principal Trina Olsen.

School administrators understand many kids will be tardy, but recently the tardies have gotten out of control with kids being anywhere from 20-40 minutes late to class everyday.

The school is trying to stop tardies from increasing with the hopes of having school start

later next year. They are also mandating that if students have more than 10 tardies a semester, they will not be able to attend school activities like dances.

"It's really hard to stop tardies from happening because there are things going on outside of school that make the students

New bathroom protocols enforced by some staff

By Zayden Tittensor

Since the start of the semester, some teachers have presented students with some new rules for using the bathrooms or for over- all leaving the classroom.

Students have at least one teacher who have presented these new bathroom rules.

They include students required to leave their phone in classroom on their desks for bathroom trips, sign out and sign back in when returning to class.

In addition, some teacher also require the student to leave their backpacks in the classroom.

Overall, these aren't set rules for the entire school, but quite a few teachers are going following these protocols.

"Each of our teachers establish their own rules and expectations in their classroom," said Wooster

dean of students Tina Rosa.

As of right now, there are no further new rules, but if there are new rules to address any change or update, those rules would be communicated with the staff as well the students so everyone is meeting expectations for the new expectations.

Leaving campus is another area of concern for the school's administrators.

"Being out of class for an extended period of time is an issue because of missed leaving time, but students aren't always leaving from campus," Rosa said.

"For example, a student may have gone to the rest room and fallen ill, or they go into the clinic. That information can take a while to reach to the teacher," she said. "But overall, the best intentions are assumed for all students."

IB honors graduates

By Mark Pailey

The Wooster IB program honored its Class of 2020 and 2021 graduates in a ceremony held in the large gym on December 18.

More than 40 graduates attended the ceremony with an estimated total of over 100 including families, guests and faculty.

Twenty-four student from the Class of 2020 passed all exams, fully met all additional requirements as set forth by IB and have been awarded their International Baccalaureate diploma, IBDP coordinator Jennifer Lienau said.

Fifteen students from the Class of 2021 also received diplomas.

Seven students from the Class of 2020 earned their Career-Related Certificates along with four students from the Class of 2021.

"They too passed all of their exams and fully met all additional requirements set forth by the IB," Lienau said.

Additionally, more than 110 students combined from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 received certificates for the exam passed.

Two students, one from the Class of 2020 and one from 2021, earned a total of 40 points

in their diploma program breaking the old record of 38.

Lienau said it is extremely difficult for students to earn a score of "6 or 7" on an exam. While exam percentages vary from subject, less than 10 percent world wide score a "7" and fewer than 18 percent score a "6," Lienau said.

Wooster students scored the following:

Class of 2020

- 41 students earned at least one exam score of 6 or 7
- four students earned 6s or 7s on three exams
- three students earned 6s or 7s on all six exams

Class of 2021

- 17 students earned at least one exam score of 6 or 7
- two students earned 6s or 7s on three exams
- one students earned 6s or 7s on all six exams

Wooster's average diploma score total of 30 for both years was also the world average.

"The graduates are all doing well in their post-graduate studies," Lienau said. "They said they find university pretty easy."

late. It's sometimes out of our control," Olsen said.

School officials are trying to prevent tardiness and students wandering about the school by having faculty around the school during passing to stop students from ditching and being late to their classes.

If a student is caught wandering about the school, they will be told to return to class or report to the office if they don't want to comply.

"We just want to see students make an effort to get to their classes and on time for them to receive a proper education," Olsen said.