

# HOOFPRINTS

VOLUME 60  
ISSUE 2

Wooster High School  
1331 East Plumb

February 28  
2022

## On-campus gun incident renews safety concerns

By Haley Ward

On January 29, an incident occurred on the Wooster campus where a student came to school and was extremely intoxicated and in possession of a firearm.

The student was asleep throughout the class period and the teacher took notice and had the individual brought into the office.

Realizing the student was intoxicated, school police did the required search of the student's backpack and found an unloaded firearm.

The incident did occur during school hours, but was not announced as a code red considering the assailant was contained and the staff was aware of the situation. The student was arrested by the police.

The Nevada Revised Statute, NRS 392.467 requires that any student found on a school campus with a weapon must be expelled or suspended for 180 school days. Under NRS 202.265 bringing a gun on a school campus is a gross misdemeanor with the penalty up to 364 days in jail and/or up to a \$2,000 fine.

Wooster principal Leah Keuscher sent a connect ed message to all Wooster stakeholders to inform them about the incident.

She spoke about her concerns and about campus safety.

"I always want everybody to be optimistically cautious. If you see something say something," she said. "We are working really hard to keep everyone safe. We love each and every one of you.



If you ever have any concerns, if you ever need help or are struggling, don't be afraid to reach out. Don't be afraid."

### School policy

Weapons are not allowed on school campuses in the Washoe School District. No drugs are allowed on campus either, whether illegal or prescribed drugs.

If a student has a prescribed drug he or she is required to take, the student must schedule a meeting with their parents and the school nurse/medical aid to have the medication locked in the nurse's office and to be taken on a schedule during school hours. This precaution is to avoid the selling of the drug or overdosing.

Due to the recent school shootings occurring around the country, it's important to know the safety precautions being taken to stop overall violence from occurring in schools.

Wooster has 24/7 school police on campus, contact with detectives, sergeants, and roaming car patrols. The staff and faculty are making sure to take the time to build relationships with students and have many meetings with families and parents of students, training teachers and making sure to have zero sleeping occurring in class for concern of possible drug overdoses.

Fire drills, code red or code yellow drills are staged once a month to keep students and staff aware of procedures to be followed. When a code yellow or code red drill is staged, students and teachers must always wait for the school police to come to the door to clear the code. Doors must stay locked and students remain quiet.

According to statistics from the Government Accountability

Office, eighty percent of school shooters are students who attend the high school they are attacking. Are drills effective if a student school shooter knows exactly the drills and precautions going to be taken?

Drills are very important. They help teach students what to do when an incident happens and it helps take account of the number of students in the class and who could possibly be the school shooter.

A Code Red is called when something school officials do not know is occurring such as an active shooter, active weapon around campus, do not have information, or understanding of a dangerous activity on or near campus. The school is locked down until the situation is cleared by school police.

Developing relationships with students is a key to insuring a school campus can be as safe as possible.

## Governor rescinds mask mandate

By Bill Amhearst

On Feb. 10, Nevada Gov. Stephen Sisolak rescinded the state's mask mandate in public places including all Washoe County schools and schools across the state.

In an e-mail to all WCSD stakeholders, Superintendent Kristen McNeill said that masks will be optional for all student and staff effective on Feb. 11. However, some restrictions will remain in place.

"Please be advised that masks remain federally mandated on all school buses across the nation and mask wearing will be enforced on all of our district buses and charter buses," McNeill said in her e-mail.

The pandemic is still a major focus for the school district despite the relaxations of mandates.

"We will continue to submit our plan on COVID-19 mitigation in coordination with our local health authority, the Washoe County Health District, as discussed at the last Board of Trustees meeting," McNeill said. "That plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the March 8 meeting."

McNeill emphasized the need for all students and staff to feel in the classroom environment.

"Masks are optional, but please remember that all of our employees, students and families must feel safe and secure," she said.

"If students, families, staff members or visitors wish to remain masked, they should be made comfortable and their decision will be respected. Human resources will continue to work with individuals with American with Disabilities Act accommodations.

McNeill said masks will still be available at school sites for those who wish to use them.

In a related event, mandatory testing of Nevada Interscholastic Activity Association athletes will end as of Feb.27.

## Transportation reduced due to bus driver shortage

By Ed Murrow

The Washoe County School District will introduce a rotating bus schedule for students due the bus driver shortage.

The new schedule started on Feb. 22 with bus services suspended for most general education for one week at a time.

"We continue to struggle to keep enough bus drivers on our staff to cover all our routes," an e-mail on Feb. 14 to district

stakeholders said. "Even with our extensive efforts, the severe shortage of bus drivers continues to worsen and we must make further reductions to our transportation services."

Suspending specific routes on a weekly basis will allow the district to bring drivers from the suspended area to provide full bus services in other areas of the district.

Bus services for Wooster's International Baccalaureate students

will continue uninterrupted.

Students receiving special education services with transportation as a related service in the student's individual education plan including at Picollo and Turning Point schools, newcomer English learners, children in transition and foster students will continue to receive transportation as required by federal law, the district said.

Transportation for after-school

programs and athletics will not be impacted as the time of the events do not conflict with other afternoon transportation routes.

Masks will still be required on all school buses due to federal mandates and the school district will continue to enforce the requirement on all district or contracted buses. A complete list of the areas and the rotating schedule can be found at [www.washoeschools.net/transportation](http://www.washoeschools.net/transportation).

# Snack attacks, taco trucks invade Wooster

By Mark Pailey

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support committee has scheduled “snack attacks and taco trucks to help build climate at the school.

“We hope that it helps build up our school climate and brings some positivity throughout campus,” counselor Erin Danielsen said. “We plan on doing four events called ‘snack attacks’ and two taco truck events with raffle prizes.”

The first snack attack took place on Feb. 9 with upcoming attacks on Feb. 24, April 6 and 22.

Teachers are given three full-sized candy bars and are asked

to hand them out to students who represent a Colt learner profile and tell them which profile word they represent. The choice is up to the individual teacher.

The taco truck events are scheduled to take place on March 10 and May 26. Students have nine tardies or less for the quarter will be invited to the taco truck event and students with three tardies or less will also be entered to win raffle prizes, Danielsen said.

“As of Feb 2., we currently have 1,270 students with nine tardies or less. That’s awesome,” Danielsen said.

# Wooster Players perform well at theater regionals

By Isis Garcia Cruz

The Wooster Players had their Regional Competition on Feb.5

The students competed in a variety of theater performance and technical categories.

A total of seven students competed with four students receiving the top 10 percent superior award: MJ Boga – monologues, playwriting; Bryant Barrera – monologues, short film; Izzy Aucoin – solo musical and Jaxon Volk andXander Hilderbran – duet acting. These students were invited to Showcase Auditions at State and they qualified for international competition.

Five students also received superior marks on monologues including: Jaxon Volk, Avery Kittrell, Izzy Aucoin, Kailani Alarcon and Kai Fernandez. These student also qualified for internationals competition. “These are amazing students who are still surviving doing theater on camera and with masks deserve a great deal of congratulations,” theater teacher Kimberly Gibbons said.

The competition was originally going to be held in person, but at the last minute it was switched to virtual due to pandemic complications.

The state competition will be held in Las Vegas.



Boga



Barrera



Aucoin



Volk



Kittrell



Alarcon



Fernandez

# Custodial shortage impacts Wooster

From staff reports

The Washoe County School District is experiencing an employee shortage in its housekeeping department. This shortage has impacted Wooster.

“Be aware that Wooster is three custodial staff down right now,” said Wooster assistant principal Susan Schraeder. “If staff believes their classrooms/buildings are not getting cleaned to the new quality standards, please let me know, but realize our

custodial staff is working hard to keep up their quality.”

Based on individual site staffing concerns, the district’s housekeeping department may reduce the level of daily cleaning.

“For sites/departments which are experiencing shortages, the priority of cleaning will be: trash removal, wiping of desks, handles drinking fountains and the sanitizing and cleaning of rest rooms,” the housekeeping department said in an e-mail to

school administrators.

“Vacuuming would not be required daily and shifting the vacuuming to a rotation schedule where each classroom is done at least once a week.”

There are over 49 housekeeping vacancies across the district. The e-mail stated that the district is only able to offer sites 50 percent of their overtime needs. If a site is without an eight-hour custodian, housekeeping can only offer four hours of overtime to that site.

# Staffing shortages called a ‘tragedy’

**Editor’s note: This story was originally reported by News 4 and Fox 11 on February 7.**

By Audrey Mayer

The nationwide teacher shortage is worsening as more and more teachers leave the classroom for better opportunities.

Farrell Vaughn said he “quit-tired” from the Washoe County School District after 20 years, six years teaching at Clayton Middle School and 14 years teaching at McQueen High School.

He said larger class sizes, loss of prep time and lack of support from administration are jus a few things he struggled with over the years.

“Students are suffering because of the lack of resources, because of the lack of funding, because of the lack of experience,” Vaughn said. “I mean they’re talking now about pulling substitute teachers who only have a high school degree.”

On average, WCSD has a teach-

ing workforce of 3,500 teachers. Last school year, about 9.5 percent of teachers left. That’s still better than the national turnover rate of 16 percent, but Vaughn said the district should still do more to support its teachers.

“Teachers will accept lower pay because they have a passion for the job and I think that’s been taken advantage of quite often by administrators and districts and the state department of education,” Vaughn said.

# COVID exclusions are high as students begin second semester

By Alycia Buchanan de Rodriguez

With the spike of the Omicron COVID-19 variant and with the new semester starting, there has been approximately 400 students excluded from school since the start of the second semester.

The exclusion period can vary due to the circumstance surround the exclusion.

“Depending on whether a student is being excluded for symptoms, a positive test or close contact, the amount of time the student varies,” said Wooster nurse Chau Thai.

For students with symptoms, they are excluded for five days from the onset of the symptoms. Students can returned to school on the sixth day if the symptoms are improving and there is no fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for the 24 prior to return without the use of medications.

“If the student has bee excluded for close contact and the student is NOT fully vaccinated, the exclusion if five days from the last date of close contact as long

as the student does not develop any symptoms during the exclusion period,” Thai said.

The procedures for a student who has tested positive for COVID-19 is again five days exclusion from the onset of symptoms if the student had symptoms or five days from the test date if the students was asymptomatic. Again the students can return to school on the sixth day if the symptoms are improving and there is no fever or any symptoms without the use of medications.

Thai said that regardless of what the student was excluded for, students who return to school must wear a tight fitting mask for an additional five days only. After that, the mask is optional.

Students do not have to be re-tested or vaccinated to return to school after being excluded.

“Vaccinations are encouraged, but not a requirement,” Thai said. “I always encourage parents to get their student tested because it is beneficial to know whether the student has COVID or not,”

Thai said.

Will the lifting of mask requirements increase COVID cases in schools?

“There has definitely been a decline in reported cases of COVID and symptoms in the last two weeks in our student population,” Thai said. “Cases reported by the Washoe County Health Department have been on a precipitous decline as well.”

An individual who has been infected by the COVID virus can continue to test positive for up to 90 days after infection. However, if there are no symptoms present, then students are allowed to return to school.

“Individuals can continue to test positive up to 90 days which is why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends against testing again for 90 days and which is why the WCSD does not require a negative test to return to school after testing positive,” Thai said. “The criteria to return to school remains the same.”

## Excluded students face challenges

**By Nathali Villanueva**

Throughout this new semester many students have been excluded. With being excluded from school, students are missing lessons. How could they try to catch up with these classes?

“Digital notebooks, like TEAMS, have changed the way students access make-up work, but paper copies are still needed,” said Trina Olsen, Wooster assistant principal.

Although students may be falling behind, there are ways to

keep up and catch with assignments and homework.

“I’ve been excluded twice this semester. My grades weren’t affected as much, but I still need to catch up,” said sophomore Hunter Bertone.

“I’ve been excluded once this semester. It affected my grades in two classes and I’m still trying to catch up,” said sophomore Jerry Hidalgo.

There are different affects on different students when being excluded. But with them being excluded, they still need to catch

up with some of their work.

But it’s not just the students being affected by COVID-19, teachers have been affected as well.

When a teacher calls in sick, another teacher must cover their class because the school district is short on substitutes.

“I do believe it is getting better after the recent COVID spike and things seem to be getting better again with fewer teacher and students absent due to the pandemic,” Olsen said.

## Distance learning: Is it really over?

**By Makayla Ondelacy**

COVID-19 has been in effect since 2020 which sent students into distance learning for a good amount of time.

With the pandemic currently in decline, how bad would a resurgence of COVID have to be to go back to distance learning.

“There is no actual set number. We would get guidance from the district with relation to our school going through an out-

break,” said Wooster assistant Principal Freeman Holbrook.

“If we did go back, we would have the same protocol in which we would follow the guidance of the Washoe County Health Department and they would determine if further precautions needed to be put into place.”

If the health department determined schools would need go back, it would depend on the size of the outbreak and how

long it would take to get it under control, Holbrook said.

“I hope that numbers continue to drop and we will be able to keep masks as a choice,” he said.

Distance learning would only be an option if it got really bad and if there were to be a big outbreak.

“I am glad we have distance learning as an option for students if something like that were to happen,” Holbrook said.

## Vaccines best shot against COVID

**By Alycia Buchanan De Rodriguez**

Ever since the vaccine and booster have been available to the general public, many people have questioned of how effective is the booster and vaccine.

“The third dose actually decreased COVID-19-associated hospitalizations significantly more than the two doses alone,” said Rochelle Walensky, director for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since the booster shot has been released for the general public, the hospitalization because of COVID has gone down dramatically. The vaccine and booster shot are not a cure for the virus. Individuals can still contract COVID with the booster and vaccine, but the side effects won’t be as bad as if the person was not vaccinated and boosted.

“The research also indicates that the booster offers greater protection against the delta and omicron variants than being fully vaccinated or not vaccinated at all,” Walensky said.

According to studies by the CDC, the booster shot was most effective in stopping hospitalization because of omicron variant. There was less people going to the hospital after receiving the booster

vaccination.

Many COVID cases before the vaccine and booster ended in hospitalization and death due

to respiratory complications produced by the virus.

Recently, the CDC released  
**See vaccines, page 4**



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The image shows a group of students and staff in a classroom setting, with one student working on a laptop while others look on.

## Club Corner

**Switch Club**

**By Isis Garcia Cruz**

The Switch Club is a club for students to hang out, meet new people, and play a variety of games. There are board games, card games and switch games.

Members are currently playing Smash Bros. Ultimate during lunch and occasionally after school. There are currently 12 plus members, with the numbers changing everyday due to students hearing about the club.

Meeting are held everyday during lunch and most days after school, with meetings not being mandatory. If interested

**Dungeons and Dragons**

**By Syd Massey**

Do you like dragons and spells? Do you like creating stories and even worlds? Or do you just want a group of people to sit chill and play Dungeons and Dragons with?

If any of these things apply to you, come join students in C9, Mr., Peralta’s room for the new and improved DnD Club.

DnD is a table top roll playing game where you create your own world and characters to go along with it.

This club was put together last year, but was canceled due to pandemic. The club was reestablished in early February.

This club meets after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

This club is hoping to expand and is looking for both new and experienced players. There has been a lot of people discovering Dungeons of Dragons partially

in joining, just walk in and start playing games.

There is currently a Smash Bros. tournament being played in 1 vs. 1 matches in order to decide the victor with brackets deciding the matches.

In order to play in the tournament students must to pay \$5 with the money going towards a donation to the RAVE Foundation.

The RAVE Foundation’s mission is to build small fields for free play and to invest in programs that use soccer as a vehicle to inspire youth and strengthen communities.

due to it being featured in shows like Stranger Things, and also hash tags on apps like Tiktok devoted to the game.

This game was popularized in 1974 and still has a following to this day.

Players get a group of at least three, one being the dungeon master, the other two playing their characters they created using information from the Players Manual and a special set of seven dice to create statistics about the character.

Once characters are created, the DM will begin taking the character on the campaign they created.

The DM has the players roll dice to decide the outcome of the player’s actions as they roll play their characters.

The Beauty of this game is players can use any created universe or create their own world.

Club presidents are Nick Gursh and Samantha B.

## After school tutoring program reopens

**By Alycia Buchanan de Rodriguez**

Wooster has started tutoring after school again and many students wanted to know how it was going to work this year with COVID and all the new variants going around.

“Tuesdays, ongoing, in the Career Center. Tutoring is for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 only,” said assistant principal Trina Olsen. “There will be a math tutor there every Tuesday from 2:30 - 3:30.”

Olsen said there is another new program designed to help students in Career Center’s knowledge center that is open five days a week until 4 p.m. It is designed for students to have their own study groups, a quiet spot to wait for their ride and complete homework or a place to use technology.

There is no sign up for Tuesday tutoring and for the knowledge center’s program, students simply have to show up.

**Don’t forget the YEARBOOK FIRE SALE.**

**It’s still on !!!!! Old yearbooks on sale for only \$25 each!! See Mr. Baer in room C7.**

# At the Flicks

By Zayden Tittensor

"The Batman" is set to release on March 4 after being delayed from June 2021, to October 2021 and now finally coming to theaters this March.

The many delays was due to the COVID pandemic and problems on set as well. The film's shooting location was in the United Kingdom by Liverpool and London.

The main character of Bruce Wayne, also know as Batman, is played by Robert Pattinson who is know for his many roles in cinema.

His most notable roles over the years are Edward Cullen – "Twilight" series and Cedric Diggory – "Harry Potter Goblet of Fire".

The other character is Selina Kyle, known as Cat women, played by Zoe Kravitz who is know for her roles as Angel Salvadore – "X-men First Class" and for her role as Christina in "Divergent."

The main plot of the movie is Batman ventures into Gotham city's underworld when a sadistic killer leaves behind a trail of cryptic clues.

The killer is also know as the Riddler is played by Paul Dano who is known for his roles as Alex Jones in "Prisoners" and Hank in "Swiss Army Man."

"The Hyperions" opens on March 10 and takes a different spin on superheroes.

In 1960, Professor Ruckus Mandelbaum (Cary Elwes) invents a device, the Titan badge, that offers humans superpowers and creates an unusual family of superheroes who rise to fame and prestige.

But over time, the family fractures and things fast-forward to 1979 when two original superheroes go to extraordinary lengths to get their Titan badges back.

The film is rated R.

The next movie in line for march is "The lost City" set to release on March 25.

The story is about a reclusive author Loretta Sage, played by Sandra Bullock who is know for roles as Annie Porter in "Speed" and Malorie Hayes in "Bird Box." Also in the cast is Channing Tatum who plays Alan a handsome adventurer going to exotic places in the novels written by Sandra Bullock's character.

He is kidnapped by an eccentric billionaire who is played by Daniel Radcliffe who is known for his roles as Harry Potter in the "Harry Potter" series and also for his role in "Swiss Army Man."

# Question of the Month

By Makayla Ondelacy

What are your thoughts about the protocols of COVID mandates being dropped?

Staff:

"It was too soon and we transitioned out of the mandate too early."

– Kristin Arrowood



"It's fine, as long as you are vaccinated and you aren't around people who may be exposed and are at a high risk of being ill."

– Raymond Swigart

Seniors:

"I don't think they should have been dropped in schools."

– Madeline Hunden



"It's really irresponsible. It's unfair that people continue to be selfish and not care about the well-being of

other people."

– Moises Aguilar Becerra

Juniors:

"I don't agree with the mask mandate being lifted, but I understand students wanting things to be normal again."

– Raveena Cheema



"I don't really care too much about it."

– Ivan Strunk

Sophomores:

"I don't believe it was a smart idea. COVID is still real and we should all be safe, especially with people at higher risk and school being a big zone for covid to spread."

– Natalia Mendoza



"At first, I thought it was irrational for whoever dropped the protocols due to the fact that a pandemic is still ongoing."

I definitely don't think lowering restrictions would decrease infections further."

– Jairo Santos

Freshman:

"My thoughts are that everyone should still be cautious since COVID is still a thing, that being said I think that it's not a very smart to drop covid mandates."

– Khloe Glover



"I think that it was a little too early to drop mask mandates when COVID is still around."

– Ian Cristian Fernandez

The billionaire kidnaps Loretta so he can find a lost city of ancient treasure.

Alan seeks to find her and rescue her from the evil billionaire.

These are just three of the movies opening in theaters in March. Check on-line for others and there are a bunch. See you At the Flicks.

# March Calendar

- 1 ACT Testing, 7:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Upward Bound Math and Science Advising, 7:45 - 2:15 p.m.  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 2 Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
- 3 Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
- 4 Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Ice Skating, 8 - 10 p.m.
- 7 Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Programing Club meeting, lunch, A12  
IB Council meeting, lunch, Knowledge Center
- 8 Baseball vs. Incline, 3 p.m.  
Upward Bound Math and Science Advising, 7:45 - 2:15 p.m.  
Math Tutoring, 2:30- 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 9 Senior Panoramic photograph, 12 noon  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 10 Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 11 Baseball vs. Lowry, 3 p.m.  
Softball vs. Incline, 3 p.m.  
Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.  
**Spring break begins**
- 12 Baseball vs. Churchill County, 11 a.m.  
Softball vs. Churchill County, 11 a.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 18 Baseball vs. Fernley, 3 p.m.  
Softball vs. Fernely, 3 p.m.
- 19 Track, Smitty Classic, 9:30 a.m.  
Baseball vs. Dayton, 11 a.m.  
Softball vs. Dayton, 11 a.m.
- 22 Baseball vs. Lassen, 3 p.m.
- 26 **Spring break ends**
- 27 Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 28 Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Programing Club meeting, lunch, A12  
IB Council meeting, lunch, Knowledge Center  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 29 Upward Bound Math and Science Advising, 7:45 - 2:15 p.m.  
Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Math Tutoring, 2:30- 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 30 Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.
- 31 Study Hall, Knowledge Center, 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
Spring theater production rehearsal, 2:45 - 5:45 p.m.

# Vaccines

**Continued from page 3**

statistics that indicated out of every 81 people, 5 percent are vaccinated and that five percent are most likely to not end up in the hospital due to COVID-19. Since the beginning of the year, the number of infections and

deaths have dropped significantly and most states have relaxed mask requirements and social distancing.

Schools have also experienced the drop in COVID protocols with the return of classroom instruction, a drop in distance learning and mask wearing and the resuming of social and athletic events.



**Hoofprints**



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

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# Wrestlers wrap up a superior season

By Mark Pailey

The Colts wrestling program has completed the first step in putting itself back on the wrestling map. They have shown everyone that the toughness is back at all levels.

There are many factors contributing to the Colts successful season. “We really did a good job of bringing in football players this year,” said head coach Joshua Newman. “Coach Sellers did a good job talking up the sport. That really helped our numbers this year. We also have our own wrestling room, so it really means something to the kids.”

Newman said have a good number of wrestlers allowed the team to almost fill up every weight class.

“We have not been able to do that for quite some time now,” he said. “It has been nice to have a kid in nearly every weight bracket at the tournaments we go to. It definitely keeps the coaches on their toes on knowing where everyone is going to be wrestling on tournament days.”

The Colts qualified a large number of wrestlers to regionals.

“We took everyone who was able to regionals,” Newman said. “Esteban Jacinto Penuelas, Xavier Elhifny and Matt O’Brien finished sixth while Gavin Halman, Cesar Benavides Monroy and Luc Koch finished fifth.

None of the Colts qualified for a state berth.

The Colts will be losing two wrestlers to graduation - Gavin Halman and Ian Harshbarger. But the coaches are looking to the upcoming season.

“As coaches, we are really excited about only losing two wrestlers,” Newman said. “With the core we have now, we hope the next two seasons will be where we really start to see some huge strides take place. The kids know we are young and eager to see what the future hold for the



Cesar Benavides Monroy has his opponent locked up in tournament action from earlier in the season. (Photo courtesy Pegasus.)

wrestling program.”

The Colts top wrestlers were Ian Harshbarger, Luc Koch, Carlos Lopez Garibaldo, Cesar Benavides Monroy, Esteban Jacinto Penuelas and Matt O’Brien.

“Luckily for us we are losing only one of them heading into next season, so we should have a pretty core to start of with,” Newman said.

Also returning to make their mark with the Colts are Yash Sharma, Daniel Gallegos-Mendez, Aidan McElveny, John Lucchesi Eli Baker, Isieli Masi, Xavian Velazquez Villa, Xavier Elhifny, Rogelio Anguiano and Austin Smith who was unable to compete due to a fractures collarbone.

“All these wrestlers made vast improvements throughout the season and we look forward to seeing them grow next season,” Newman said.

The Colts will used the “Sellers connection to bring new recruits into the program.

“Jake Sellers is the head wrestling coach at Vaughn Middle School, so he will be the key in bring in freshmen for next season,” Newman said. “Also, a lot of the wrestlers we already have are talking with their friends on campus to get them to come out.”

The new South Reno Wrestling

program will also be a pipeline for the Colts.

“Our South Reno program is going to be great to get youth interested in wrestling, especially if they are going to be future Wooster students, Our hope is that the program helps grow our numbers once these kids get to the high school level,” Newman said.

The Colts biggest challenge this season was the COVID pandemic as the team only was hurt once by the virus and managed to dodge those bullets when the team tested each week.

Progress of the team and its individual wrestlers was Newman’s biggest surprise.

“I feel the growth we made with our first-year wrestlers was a big surprise,” he said. “We basically started from scratch with them and they made huge improvements from November to the end of the season.”

During the season have no home matches.

“We basically had tournaments every weekend leading up to regionals,” Newman said. “Next season, we would like to try to get some home duals scheduled so the Wooster fans can come out and cheer on our hard-working group of kids.”

cess to a number of factors.

“The key to our success was the team’s camaraderie on and off the court; have solids players at each position and for the most part our pressing defense,” Hicks said. “The majority of our points came off of defensive plays whether we were full-court pressing or half-court trapping.”

The Colts were led by seniors Madeline Hunden, Isabella

## Basketball

# Boys take 3A West crown

By Bill Amhearst

The Wooster boys basketball team captured the 3A West title and returned to regional playoffs for the first time in 17 years.

The Colts had not won a league title since 1992.

“The key to our success this year was how resilient our guys were,” said coach Jose Parra who was named 3A West Coach of the Year. “They always bounced back after facing some type of adversity.”

Wooster finished the season with an overall record of 13-8 and a league record of 9-1. The Colts were eliminated by Fernley in the semi-final round of the regional tournament.

The Colts were led by senior Christien Smith and junior Jose Vazquez Silva.

“Christien played really well for us on both ends of the court,” Parra said. “He also brought a lot of energy to every practice and game. Jose played a huge role for us. He led the team in rebounding and was the only player averaging a double-double in the state for the 3A.”

Parra said that COVID was the team’s biggest challenge not only on the varsity level but through the entire program. The season’s biggest surprise was how well the team gelled with different players coming into the program.

“This year’s team had a lot of depth,” Parra said. “We have never had this much talent assembled together on one team. It was a really special group.”

The Colts will lose 10 seniors including Smith, Kayden Quartz, Sean Ratfield, Will Kneibler, Andre Caldwell, Andolis Lartigue, Trey Lendon, Garrett Heponia, Aveon Black and Andrew King.



Jose Vazquez Silva battles for a rebound in a game from earlier in the season. He was named to the 3A West First Team.

“We are returning two of our top guys in Jose Vazquez Silva and JC Marquicias,” Parra said. “JC was injured most of the season, but he is someone to look out for. JC and Jose will be our leaders for the next few seasons.”

Parra said the Colts matched up well with the teams in the 3A. The one big difference was the environments. “Everywhere we played, the gyms were packed.”

“A special shout to all of our Wooster students and families for their support,” Parra said. “They packed the gym every home game and made it a tough environment for our opponents.”

The Colts landed six players on the 3A West teams:

### 3A West First Team

Christien Smith

Jose Vazquez Silva

### 3A West Second Team

Sean Ratfield

Andre Caldwell

Kayden Quartz

### 3A West Honorable Mention

JC Marquicias



Isabella Caviglia hitting a jumper over her opponent.

Caviglia, Viridiana Carmona Palomino and freshman Khloe Glover.

“Bella was our ball handler and really the ‘engine’ of our team; Maddy was our ‘inside presence’; Viri was our vocal leader as well as one of our defensive stoppers; Khloe brought energy and aggressiveness on both defense and offense,” Hicks said.

The Colts will lose four seniors off this squad including Hunden, Caviglia, Carmona Palomino and Taelor Stutzman.

Next season will be another challenge for the Colts.

“If the returners make a commitment to the off-season, we should be right there again next year,” Hicks said.

## Basketball

# Girls lose 3A West title to a tiebreaker

By Ed Murrow

The Wooster girls basketball team may be feeling a little “snake bit” regarding its pursuit of the 3A West league crown, losing it to South Tahoe in a tiebreaker.

The Colts finished with an 8-2 league record and tied with the Vikings for the title. The tiebreaker put the Colts in second place in the league standings and matched up with the No.

3 seed Elko Indians in the 3A regional tournament.

“We played a strong first half and were only down by four points, but the second half was a different story as we could not find consistency to match Elko and ended up losing by a score of 48-24,” coach Sheryl Hicks said.

The Colts finished the regular season with a 12-12 record.

Hicks attribute the season’s suc-

## Gibbons on stage at Bruka Theater

By Bill Amhearst

Wooster theater teacher Kimberly Gibbons has returned to the stage playing the role of Nora in the Bruka Theater production of "A Dolls House - Part Two."

"It's the first time (acting) since I started teaching," she said. "It's a little scary."

The play takes place 15 years later and the script is written with very modern language/dialogue, she said.

She said she was "ganged up on" to audition.

"I was having dinner with my husband and Rod Hearn, the play's director, late summer and they ganged up on me, putting on the pressure to audition," Gibbons said. "I had always said I would bet back out there once my kids were out of the house. Once got the script, loved it and did a self-tape audition."

Gibbons got a call back and the role as Nora and began her four-month commitment.

Gibbons worked in several pieces in Reno Community Theater before teaching, her last role as Elvira in "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward.

"I've directed and performed at the college and regional levels over the years."

She said acting in a role is extremely different from directing.

"It's really interesting to be back in a performing role," she said. "It has given me new perspective on my expectations for Wooster students."

Taking on the lead role was a very demanding, time-consuming challenge.

"We actually started rehearsals after Wooster's fall show. I spent my entire winter break memoriz-

ing lines. My character is always on stage and always speaking," she said.

"It is also difficult recently as we are currently in rehearsals for the spring production while I'm performing. There are days where I am non-stop from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.," Gibbons said.

Her theater students have really enjoyed seeing their teacher perform. "They have really enjoyed it," she said. "They love the intimate Bruka space and several have told me they will never complain about learning lines again. They enjoy seeing a piece staged in a different type of space and with basically no props and very minimal furniture. The piece is heavily dependent on the character relationships."

Gibbons said her family were her toughest critics. "They loved (the performance). Both my boys, Josh and Parker, were too young to remember what I had done before and are use to having me as a director/teacher, Gibbons said. "They were very critical as was my family as they



Kimberly Gibbons as Nora, left, and Piper Roe, right, as Emmy in "A Doll's House - Part Two at the Bruka Theater. (Photo by Bill Quinby)

have seen so much of what I do. I have taught them to have very high expectations when they go to see a piece of theater."

The role of actor as opposed to director has it pros and cons. "This is a different kind of creativity," she said. "Both are easier and more difficult at the same time. Overall I have less responsibility for the production as a whole. I wear the hat of an actor only, where at Wooster I do just about everything but the role."

Is she planning to take on this type of acting role again? "I'm sure I will do this again, but I will probably make sure there is no crossover with Wooster productions and maybe something a little smaller, she said. "This really wiped me out."

It was worth it despite being "wiped out." "I am really proud of the production as a whole and was extremely luck to work with such a talented and dedicated cast and crew. That makes all the difference," Gibbons said.

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## The Holland Project hosts IB student work

By Syd Massey

During the week of Jan.24-28, senior IB visual art student displayed their creative works at the Holland Project in Reno.

This was a requirement of the IB visual arts program.

Students were required to submit eight to 11 pieces with exhibition text for each work along with a 700-word cultural rationale which explained the student's purpose for creating the art.

"This year's visual art exhibition was a big success," said Rebecca Rosenberg who teaches the class. "We had 13 IB seniors who exhibited their work at the Holland Project. Friday evening's exhibition was visited by lots of friends and families and concluded the event for this year."

Rosenberg said documentation

### IB Art and Artists



Jose De Jesus Soto



Erica Long



Otsoa Irujo Uediroz

## Professional development for staff

By Veronica Whitt

On Feb. 7, teachers participated in a professional and staff learning community day called School Culture and Design. It was put on by Learning for Living.

"Our staff learned the why and how of creating and sustaining a thriving culture," said Wooster lead counselor Erin Danielsen.

It was a Washoe County School District professional development day for all staff and schools. It started at 8 a.m. and ended at noon. All teachers, administrators, counselors, nurses, school psychologists and classified staff had to attend this mandatory meeting.

There were over one hundred



Staff members in professional development in the large gym.

staff members who attended the presentation by guest speaker Phil Boyt. He talked to the staff about building community and engagement, collaboration and transforming student culture.

"We talked about building strong connections with students and how to build trust with one

another. We discussed teamwork and practiced skills for courageous conversations. He empowered us to build a supportive team and a thriving culture," Danielsen said.

Each school in the district had a professional development day, but each school chose its own agenda.