

HOOFPRIINTS

VOLUME 59
ISSUE 3

Wooster High School
1331 East Plumb

May 28
2021

Students now eligible for COVID vaccinations

By Danie Seeley

With the increase in vaccinations nationwide, many states including Nevada have included high school students as eligible to receive the COVID-19 inoculation.

Nevada Governor Stephen Sisolak said all Nevadans are eligible to get the vaccine effective April 5. Nevada experienced multiple surges over the recent winter months, resulting in record-high numbers. He said currently, one in four of Nevada's eligible population has received the vaccine.

Moderna uses a 100-microgram dose in adults. It is testing three different doses for children under the age of two who would receive either 25, 50 or 100 micrograms and two doses for children age two and older at 50 and 100 micrograms.

Moderna and Pfizer are looking to vaccinate 5,600 to 6,500 children in age groups from six to 15 years old. Moderna enrolled about 3,000 children in vaccine tests between 12 and 18 in February.

Its likely children under 16 will be able to enjoy an other vaccination process. At this time, it doesn't seem like getting vaccinated for 16 and 17-year-olds would be problematic.



Many states have set up drive-through vaccination sites as show here to speed up the process of getting people vaccinated as quickly and efficiently as possible.

(Photo courtesy Alex Meci/Unsplash)

The lowering of the age restriction have allowed Wooster students to be eligible to receive the vaccine. Seniors Tylee Kareck and Augusta Ward have been vaccinated.

"I wanted to get the vaccine to protect myself, my family, and the people I am around. This is the best way I could help fight the pandemic," said Kareck. "I wanted to get the vaccine because I felt I had to do my part in helping control the spread of

the virus and hopefully ending the pandemic. I also wanted to keep my family, friends, and myself safe from COVID and I felt receiving the vaccine would aid me in doing so," said Ward. Kareck had some concerns about the vaccine, Ward did not.

"I had some concerns about the side effects since I had heard that some people had experienced severe side effects, but these concerns were minimal," Kareck said. "I did not have

any concerns prior to getting the vaccine," said Ward. Neither experienced drastic reaction to being vaccinated as many people did.

"I had a typical reaction, slight itching and soreness of the injection site, but none other than that," said Kareck. "The only negative reaction I experienced was pain at the injection site and my arm was very sore for 24 hours after receiving the vaccine," said Ward.

Both feel positive about receiving the vaccine.

"Being vaccinated dose make me feel safer and like my chance of contracting COVID is lower," said Kareck.

"I feel that being vaccinated helps reduce my likelihood of contracting the virus because it is an added layer of protection. I am continuing to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines and thus I feel like the vaccine will also help protect me

See Vaccine, page 2

Sophomore council continues computer push

By Alycia Buchanan
De Rodriguez

Members of the sophomore student council are continuing their work which they began last October raising funds to purchase new teacher computer stations.

Anish Bayya, Oliva Schreinert, Cassandra Buchanan, and Chantal Ebonia along with the help of Ms. Kellie Pop, a Wooster special education resource teacher, have raised more than \$38,000.

The students created a video to show the school's need to local business which to date have garnered \$23,000 in donations. They also spoke to the Washoe

County School District Board of Trustees in order to get past some red tape.

"They learned a lot in this process and they persevered," said Wooster assistant principal Trina Olsen.

In addition to soliciting local businesses, they wrote a grant proposal to assist the project and were awarded \$15,000 from the E.L. Cord Foundation.

Currently, council members are still working to raise the other \$20,000 for the project.

The school administration has ordered the first 41 workstation. The teacher stations will be distributed through lottery system as they arrive and will



Sophomore student council members from (l to r): Chantal Ebonia, Anish Bayya, Cassandra Buchanan and Olivia Schreinert.

hopefully arrive before the end of the school year, Olsen said.

Power Outage Cancels School

By Ed Murrow

A "Friday the 13th" event hit Wooster a day early on Thursday, May 13, resulting in the cancellation of school.

The power went out at 5:45 p.m. and the school was without power until 5:45 a.m. on the following Saturday.

"The night custodian alerted me that the power had gone out," Wooster site facilities coordinator Jason Folchi said. "The problem was caused by Wooster's old electrical lines."

Folchi said the wiring had tripped fuses on the power lines from Wooster all the way to Echo Loader elementary school. Most of the power was restored within an hour for the rest of the affected area.

The outage was fixed by NV Energy replacing the old power lines from the Plumb Lane junction to the transformers in B building through the old conduit.

The long term impact on the school has yet to be determined.

"We will not know the full impact on things such as computers and phones until the school is full and everything is being used," Folchi said. "The kitchen staff was in Friday morning and had to throw away all perishable food because the refrigeration had reached an unsafe temperature."

In the past, the school has experienced temporary power outages due to high winds or other storm-related incidents, but those have been quickly remedied. This is the first time school was cancelled for the entire day.

As of the publication deadline, it has not been determined if the missed school day will have to be made up at the end of the school year which has already been extended two days as a result of fire cancellations during the first semester. By law, students must attend class for 180 days each year.

Colts clean up at Rotary photo contest

By Mark Pailey
Seven Wooster students were recognized for their skills in photography at the first annual Rotary Club of Reno Central’s virtual photo contest.

Freshman Jaz’Mine Cuarda took first place along with a \$100 cash prize. Sophomore Nia Young took second and \$75 with junior Christian Garcia placing third and winning \$50.

Four students earned honorable mention and won \$25: Junior Joycelyn DeLa Torre, sophomore Miguel Paz Santana and freshmen Victoria Nguyen and Savanah Olivas. “The students had to submit a photo that was related to the theme of the contest ‘Reno my Home,’” said Wooster Visual Arts teacher Tonya Howard. “The contest was open to all high school aged students.”

Howard said she and her students would brainstorm ideas for the photos in class.

“At the beginning of class I would announce the contest and show them the (entry) form as well as posting it on my TEAMS classes. Students would complete the registration form and attach their photo in a jPeg format.”

Howard, who took over the program this year from retired photography teacher Wendy Felling, said the program will change into a multimedia format.

“The photography program at Wooster is trying to advance with our changing world,” she said. “We are moving to full

Swigart honored by society of engineers

By Mark Pailey
Wooster science teacher and science department leader, Ray Swigart, was presented with the 2021 Outstanding STEM Educator Award by the Society of Women Engineers.

The award recognizes Swigart for his contributions to both teaching in the fields of STEM and science and promoting the field of engineering.

“Receiving this award was an honor,” Swigart said. “It is particularly significant because I was nominated by former students. Teaching IB has allowed me to teach some of the most amazing students to attend the Washoe County School District school.

“The number of my former students who have passed through the IB program and went on to STEM careers as astounding M.D.s, PhDs, university profes-



Jaz’Mine Cuarda winning photograph.



Cuarda

Young

Garcia

DeLa Torre



Paz Santana



Olivas



Nguyen

digital. Even though technology has changed, the elements and principals of design remain the same. Photography students learn the principals of design and this

will carry over to multimedia and they will be able to use the elements and principles not just for photography, but in multimedia and computer graphics as well.”



Wooster science teacher Ray Swigart poses with his award.

sors, research scientists, engineers and many other endeavors.

“I have realized over the years that my students arrive as diamonds and I help them shine

brighter. It is especially gratifying that those diamonds appreciate my efforts on their behalf,” Swigart said.

Swigart has spent his entire 23-year teaching career at Wooster and he has taught IB biology both at the standard and higher level, design technology standard level, Advance Placement biology, environmental science and AP seminar which is part of the AP Capstone program that he help start at Wooster.

Swigart also coaches the Colts academic Olympic, has served as a student government advisor and is the stadium voice of the Colts football program.

“Mr. Swigart has a legacy of Wooster graduates who have aspired to some amazing STEM degrees and professions,” said Wooster principal Leah Keuscher.

Harmon honored by Elks

From staff reports
Wooster senior c/Maj. Ryan Harmon was honored by the Reno Elks Club and presented with its Elks Lodge Americanism Award.

The award recognizes Harmon for his four years of leadership and his outstanding performance as a cadet in the Wooster JROTC program. The award was presented to Harmon on April 14.

“I feel homored that I was chosen over all the other great cadets in the JROTC program,” Harmon said. “I was proud to represent Earl Wooster High School at the Elks Club and stant among the brightest JROTC cadets in Reno.”

“The award is presented for devotion to the Wooster JROTC program, outstanding citizenship and a deep understanding and adherence of the American way of life,” said Wooster JROTC instructor Col. Kenneth Stylen. Harmon said the Wooster



Ryan Harmon with his award.

JROTC program has been very beneficial to him.

“I have been able to learn valuable skills such as leadership and self discipline as well as making some of my best friends throughout high school,” he said.

Branch an All American

By Saydee Simonson
Wooster senior Hannah Branch has qualified as an Academic All American in speech and debate.

The Academic All American is a designation student member of the National Speech and Debate Association receive for achieving accumulative GPA of at least 3.75 and 1,750 competition merit points, plus a coach recommendation regarding character and competition success.

Nationally, only around two percent of all students who compete in speech and debate qualify for the designation.

“I have always aimed to be the best and most active debater I can be,” Branch said. “This scholarship is something I hoped to achieve as a result of that work, though it was never my big goal for debate.”

Branch will attend the



Branch

University of Nevada, Reno, so this award will more than help her pay for her college tuition Branch has worked hard to get to this point and it shows with

all of the debates she has won.

She is the third Wooster student to qualify for the designation. The others were Daniel Enriquez and Nick Chapman.

Branch has competed for four years as a member of Wooster’s speech and debate team.

“If you have read the other speech and debate stories through the years, you could tell easily why she would qualify for such an outstanding award,” said Don Speth, Wooster’s speech and debate adviser.

Vaccine

Continued from page 1
on top of the other precautions,” Ward said.

South Carolina had opened its vaccine eligibility to anyone 16 and older. Pfizer and BioNTech had announced their jointly developed vaccine are 100 percent effective. Pfizer isn’t the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Results also are expected soon from a U.S. study of Moderna’s

vaccine in 12- to 17-year-olds. They said teenagers 12 and up can use it. Although there are proven side effects. The side effects are fever, fatigue, chills, and injection site pain. Pfizer had started to test the vaccine on children from six months to

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Plans for next school year still undecided

By Carolina Guerrero Rubio
As the COVID-19 ravaged 20-21 school year draws to a close, plans for the opening of school for 21-22 are still undecided.

The pandemic divided students in the Washoe County School District into either a hybrid or distance learning scenario with the vast number of Wooster students, especially seniors, opting for distance learning.

Curtailement of all typical social events at school, a rearrangement, cancellation and shortening of sports seasons were just some of the impacts brought on by the pandemic.

COVID-19 made athletics, sports, activities and school life hard on both staff and students this year. The major question in everyone's mind is, "What will next school year look like?"

"I really have no idea what things will look like next year," said Wooster principal Leah Keuscher.

The hope that next school year will return to "pre-pandemic normal will depend on the status of the pandemic. According to

sources, many restrictions that have been in place for more than a year may be eased beginning in June.

However, health officials are saying even while vaccinations continue to increase, the relaxed restrictions could cause a spike in new COVID-19 cases.

One definite change for the WCSD for next year is that any student who wants to continue on distance learning must do it through Northstar Online School. Enrollment is not automatic and traditional high schools will not offer distance learning.

Student must apply and be accepted into the online school, Applications opened on March 29 and will close on May 28.

Another possibility that is currently under discussion is that Wooster will continue as a closed campus next school year. This is due that the free lunch program for all students has been extended for the 21-22 school year.

Keuscher said a stable plan will be in place for the upcoming school year by summer break.

IB/AP testing resumes after one-year hiatus

By Alycia Buchanan De Rodriguez

Testing for IB and AP students resumed in the beginning of May after tests were cancelled last spring due to the pandemic. However, this year's testing has undergone changes.

"All IB students will take IB exams in person on campus. The majority of Advance Placement exams will be administered digitally at home by the College Board, with the exception of World Language/Literature and math, which will be held in person on campus," said IB coordinator Jennifer Lienau.

Students who will be taking the exams on campus will be required to maintain pandemic protocols.

"Exam protocols require

that students sit six feet apart with students required to wear masks," she said.

IB program administrators world wide have reduced the number of required exams this year in certain academic subjects due to the pandemic.

Program administrators felt that student would not be able to cover the same amount of material this school year, so they reduced the number of exams in certain subjects, but increased the value of internal and external assessments and existing exam to compensate for dropping exams, Lienau said.

Testing started on April 29 and is scheduled to go through June 9, if needed due to conflicts.

Horticulture class grows on Wooster

By Saydee Simonson

Wooster's horticulture class has been growing vegetables from seeds since February. This is the class's first year and they did it without a greenhouse.

The class started the vegetable and flowers seeds under grow lights and transplanted them to red solo cups.

Even though labeling with sharpies didn't work this time, there will be a better labeling system in place for the future.

The project produced a lot of lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, spinach, cucumbers, and other random veggies that were made available to Wooster's staff to transplant into their individual gardens.

Last year's growing projects and outside school gardens were suspended due to the pandemic.

The class is asking for donations to help offset the costs to get the class up and running.



A variety of flowers and vegetables have been grown the horticulture class for distribution around the campus and for staff to supplement their home gardens.



Walsh says 'no bueno' to next year

By Ed Murrow

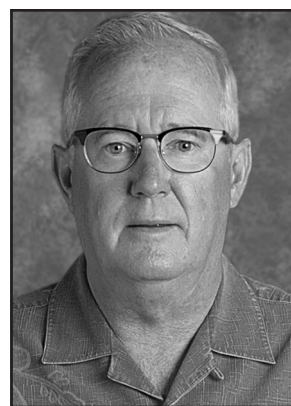
After teaching and administering for 35 years, Wooster assistant principal Charlie Walsh has decided it's time to call it a career.

Walsh, who has spent the past 10 years overseeing the building and grounds and athletics for Wooster has spent his time working in a variety of high schools in both Las Vegas and Northern Nevada.

"I started at Bishop Gorman for five years, one year at Chaparral High School, five years at Cimarron Memorial and four years at Palo Verde High School," he said.

He moved to Northern Nevada to reconnect with the University of Nevada, Reno.

"I graduated from UNR and I was very involved in the alumni



Walsh

association and I wanted to live in Reno," he said.

He landed at Sparks High School for 10 years and eventually made his way to Wooster.

In his usual succinct responses, he summed up his time at Wooster. "I was here for 10 years and met good people here. After 35 years, it was just time," he said.

Walsh said he has no future plans. He said the move to digital

education is the most dramatic change he's seen during his career.

"I started teaching when there were no computers. Wrote everything down on paper."

He said that teachers are doing a great job in preparing high school students for the real world.

When asked about educational policy and what he would change if he were in charge, his response was, "I won't get into the politics of education."

"He has built an incredible legacy in his 30 years and was involved in every aspect of education from the classroom to coaching," said former Wooster athletic director Michael Anderson. "I honestly believe that Charlie Walsh has helped build one of the best athletic departments in the State of Nevada at Wooster High School."

Walsh said he will miss the kids and the staff the most when he's done.

Summer Weights at Wooster

From staff reports

Wooster's athletic department will be offering a summer weights class starting July 5 through July 30.

There will be two classes, one for football players that will run Monday through Thursday from 8 to 10 a.m. and one for female athletes that will run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$25.

Contact Bo Sellers, (775) 224-8413 or Rene Flores (775) 354-9940.



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

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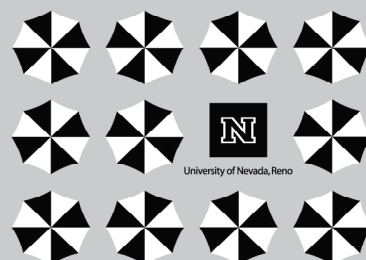
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SUMMER FRESHMAN START



In the Stream

By Danie Seeley

There are new offerings from many of the main streaming services. However, this may not be the case in the future due to the pandemic.

Netflix is featuring “Back to the future”, “Love, Death, and Robots: Volume 2”, and “A Yeti Adventure.”

Hulu is promoting “Resident Evil: After Life,” “The Legend of Baron To’a,” and “Shadow in the Clouds.” These are the new movies being uploaded.

“Back to the Future” is a 1985 big screen release and follows a 17-year-old high school student and is accidentally sent 30 years into the future. It stars Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd.

“Love, Death, and Robots: Volume 2” is a collection of animated shorts with a span of various genres. It stars Scott Whyte and Noah North.

“A Yeti Adventure” is about two explorers going on an adventure to prove the existence of the Abominable Snowman. It stars Arthur Holden and Noel Fisher.

Hulu has “Resident Evil: After Life” which is about Alice trying to destroy a corporation and joins a group of survivors. Is starring Milla Jovovich and Ali Larter. This film was released in theaters in 2010. “The Legend of Baron To’a” is about a young Tongan man grappling with his wrestling superstar father Baron To’a’s legacy, both metaphorically and literally following in his deceased father’s footsteps. The movie is starring Uli Latukefu, and Nathaniel Lees. It is a 2020 release.

“Shadow in the Clouds” was released in January and chronicles the actions of a female WWII pilot traveling with top secret documents on a B17 flying fortress and encounters an evil presence on board the fight. The movie stars Chole Grace Moretz, and Nick Robinson.

For all streaming services, the pandemic curtailed production on series and on new shows.

In many cases the streaming services such as Netflix which banks new shows for specific release dates, has no new shows or continuing services currently in production.

The number of originals Netflix has dropped 12 percent from a year ago. While Netflix is in the strongest position. Hulu hasn’t release much new content since last year and other services are

Senior Edition

Question of the Month

From staff reports

Do you think distance learning provided you with the type/kind of learning you needed? Why or why not?

“Absolutely not. Ever since I began full distance learning, all my motivation has gone down the drain along with the good grades streak I’ve held throughout my high school career. Definitely 0/10 would not recommend. I like learning, but not this way.”

– Catherine Acedillo

Yes. I think that since I know the type of learning that works best for me, distance learning gave me the opportunity to implement that, rather than what a teacher would think is best.”

– Jesamyn Velasco

“I do not think distance learning provided me with the kind of learning I needed. Not only is it more difficult for me to stay motivated and productive at home, but I feel the learning curve for navigating both learning and teaching in vastly different environments slowed the whole process.”

– Tylee Kareck

“I feel it provided us with a new experience with school. Whether it benefitted me depended on the subject I had.”

– Saydee Simonson



“I do not think distance learning provided me with the kind of learning I needed, especially for IB examinations. Even with the

amendments, I genuinely believe it was unfair to opt us in for testing given the circumstances faced during the end of our junior year and the entirety of our senior year.”

– Terrell Calinog



“Distance learning didn’t provide the learning I need as in-person learning gives the incentive for me to work more while distance learn-

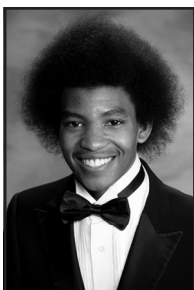
ing provides the falsehood of comfort through lack of confrontation.”

– Adam McKown



“I think, yes. It just depends on what kind of teacher you have. With the circumstances we are in, they were able to come through with as much learning as a normal year.”

– Jaden Ramiro



“I personally do not think so. There is a lot of opportunities to get distracted while you’re at home doing distance learning. But I do

think it’s an opportunity to prove that we can be held accountable for ourselves. Not everyone has done that this year, sadly.”

– Gabriel King



Fentanyl crisis impacts school district, Wooster

By Nadia Lopez

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. Only a few milligrams of this chemical compound, equivalent to a few grains of table salt, are enough to cause a fatal overdose.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 70 percent of the nearly 71,000 drug overdoses in 2019 involved an opioid.

This drug has impacted students in the Washoe County School District.

“Sadly, drug addiction and overdose deaths have accelerated during the pandemic. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50-100 times stronger than morphine, appears to be the driver of the increase in accidental overdoses,” according to information provided by WCSD.

The overdoses that have happened in Washoe County have been accidental, but it has been caused by a opioid that is considerably very strong compared to others.

These drugs are anywhere. They could be sold on the street, actually prescribed, or even someone making them out of toxins.

“Those drugs may be sold under the brand names Xanax or Percocet, but are manufactured in illegal labs, and some are

laced with fentanyl. Since the drugs look like the real thing, the purchaser may not know he or she has ingested fentanyl,” information provided by WCSD.

“Five years ago, Fentanyl-related deaths in Washoe County were nearly unheard of. But between 2019 and 2020, the number of deaths due to Fentanyl overdoses has risen from 25 to 55,” according to information provided by KUNR.

This has caused a increasing deaths among high school students because the drug is becoming a heavily used, popular drug.

Wooster has been impacted by the use of this drug by students not being aware of the consequences.

“Fentanyl has had a big, negative impact on Wooster’s staff and students,” said Susan Schraeder, Wooster dean of students. “The biggest impact has been loss of life. Three of our students have died from overdose from Fentanyl and many more have overdosed and survived, some have overdosed multiple times.

“This drug is deadly and super addictive, and our students may not know what they are taking to begin with. It is important that our students, staff, and families begin to understand this drug,” Schraeder said.

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turning to older television series or re-releasing older movies movie which have already made their big-screen debuts.

Studios and streaming

executives claim once the pandemic is under control and restrictions are lifted for good, full-scale production should resume at a break-neck pace.

Sports Digest

Editor's Note: In order to cover the unusual sports season this year, *Hoofprints* has asked varsity coaches from the fall season to answer questions about their seasons and athletes.

Girls Golf

The Colts girls golf team finished second in points with one tournament win. They finished second at regionals.

Wooster was lead by senior Lily Landt who finished second in cup points, second in the 5A regional championships, was named to the first team All-Region and All-League.

Landt will continue her golf career in college playing for Hawaii Pacific this fall.

Freshman Rya Montoya finished the season fourth in cup points, fourth in the 5A regional championships and was named to the first team All-Region and All-League teams.

Sophomore Kyla Vass finished 12th in cup points and was named to All-Region and All-League second team.

Junior Maddy Hunden finished 30th in cup points and was named to the All-League honorable mention squad.

"Wooster's girls golf team competed with only four athletes. Every varsity match takes the four top scores of the six athletes competing, and since we had only four, every shot counted," said golf coach Michael McKemy. Our girls performed outstanding on the course and improved all year long.

"We are looking forward to the 2021-22 season in August and are hoping more Wooster girls come out to help us continue our success," McKemy said.

Boys Tennis

The Wooster boys tennis team took the 3A title beating every team in the Northern 3A League, taking the league crown for the first time in Wooster history.

The Colts were lead by seniors Danny O'Brien and Jack Aucoin. O'Brien was undefeated in all his single matches going 15-0 for the season and was named the team's most valuable player.

"Aucoin's consistency as a singles player from the baseline was consistent and pretty unmatched with every other player he faced," varsity coach Morgan Bishop said. "This is the reason he won the majority of his matches as our No. 3 singles player.

Bishop said Chris Jules is the

most promising freshman with powerful ground strokes that keep improving every day.

The biggest impact of the pandemic-shortened season was not being able to compete at regionals or state, especially for the team's two seniors, Bishop said.

In addition, the hybrid school schedule made it difficult for the team to have consistent practices as many of the players has transportation conflicts.

Despite these challenges, Bishop is looking forward to the upcoming season.

"Things look very promising for the boy to continue to do well next year," he said. "We are already working with a few of them after school on the courts and will be getting them into tournaments and matches in May."

Girls Soccer

Similar to other sports, the Wooster girls soccer team faced the same type of challenges of a reduced and out-of-season schedule.

"Two huge challenges were getting in soccer shape in a short pre-season and losing players due to family trips or head injuries during spring break," said varsity coach Rene Flores. "Our core group did a fantastic job of playing with different line ups and staying healthy and fit."

The Colts finished the season with a 3-5-1 mark. The pandemic did not directly impact the Colts.

"We followed all COVID guidelines as best we could and thankfully we had no implications immediate to our team or any team we played against," Fores said.

Season most valuable player senior Allyson Mora Vazquez and sophomore Avery Puccinelli were leading scorers for the Colts with six goals apiece.

Senior goalkeeper Isabella Ocava and junior goalkeeper Blanka Gutierrez Salas combined for five shutout halves.

Senior Itzel Arambula Castillo was named defensive player of the year and sophomore Kanela Furuta was named offensive player of the year.

"They didn't have packed stat sheets, but both were key pieces to our success this year," Flores said.

Football

The football season was the most severely impacted by pandemic restrictions. Players and coaches were subject to daily temperature checks and weekly COVID-19 tests.

Boys golfers competed despite the challenge of low team numbers

From staff reports

The Wooster boy's golf team took on the challenge of a pandemic-shortened season and low team numbers to battle through a difficult season.

Due to only three players on the team, the Colts were not able to complete for a 3A Western League team score. However, juniors Jordan Sanchez and Alex Boga and sophomore M.J. Boga were able to compete on an individual basis.

"All three team members are gradually improving," said varsity golf coach Mike McKemy. "We look forward to all their practice to pay off next season when we are able to compete in a non-COVID schedule."

McKemy said the pandemic caused many challenges for the Colts.

"We need more athletes to help us compete in all the matches," he said. "If any students are reading this, please come join our team in the 2021-22 season. Free golf lessons and fun



Colt golfers from left to right: Jordan Sanchez, Alex Boga and M.J. Boga.

in the sun at Hidden Valley Golf Course."

Colt swimmers set to compete at regionals

By Mark Pailey

Colt swimmers Amelia Seibert, Sean Ratfield, Ryan Reyna and Jacque Peuchaud represented Wooster at the regional championships held during the week of May 17. There was no state competition due to the pandemic.

The pandemic caused many changes to the swim season including not timing meet events which is usually a determining factor for individual swimmers and teams to qualify for regionals. This was only one of the mandated changes.

"We had to have tryouts because each teams was only allowed 22 athletes," said swim coach Charlene Skelton. "A lot of kids didn't come out because of being on-line students, transportation issues and parent worries and fears about the virus.

"This is a huge detriment to the athletes in a sport where essentially rimes are the most important thing," she said. "The NIAA decided we couldn't have spectators or timers."

The lack of scorers was a problem. "Without scorers, we were not allowed to make changes to our lineup once we got there (to a meet). Kids get sick, get quarantined, so we missed that ability to make changes on deck."

While swimming was one of the first sports to get cleared by the state, it was one of the sports with the harshest restrictions.



Senior captain Amelia Seibert leads the Colts swim team.

"We could only have four swimmers per lane at practice. We lost our pools space at UNR and Evelyn Mount, so all seven high schools in the Reno area had one pool to share," Skelton said. "Luckily we had a record number of club swimmers this year, so we were able to secure an extra lane and got lucky it worked out."

Despite the restrictions, the Colts did have many bright spots.

"Our freshmen, Merryn Anderson, Sara Westmont and Jacque Peuchaud have really stepped up into a team that is one-fourth of the size it normally is and have been enthusiastic and open minded," Skelton said.

Skelton also said sophomores Bansari Patel, Peyton Wilson, Sydney Stokes and Caroline Perry were solid contributors for the Colts along with juniors Nik Bruk, Sean Ratfield Ryan Reyna, Caitlin Ibarra and Avery Redmon.

The Colts will lose seniors Seibert, Araceli Schreinert and Catherine Acedillo to graduation.

Track team wraps up successful season

By Bill Amhearst

The Wooster track teams ended a successful season at the 3A regional championships held in Fallon on May 21,

Despite some inclement weather, the Colts boys team finished the meet tied for seventh place. Wooster seniors performed well at the meet with Gavin Voskamp taking first place in the discus with a throw of 165' 4" which broke the existing school record. He also took third in the shot put with a throw of 43' 2.5".

Caleb Conway placed second in the 100m with a time 11.50 and second in the 200m with a time of 23.72, a new personal record.

The pandemic-shortened season was a challenge for the Colts as the overall team numbers were down from previous years and the spring weather was unpredictable during practice.

Head track coach Anthony Davis was complimentary to all track and field athletes.



Senior Gavin Voskamp, left, set a new school record in the discus while taking first place in the event and third in the shot put. Senior Caleb Conway, right, took second the 100m and second in the 200m, setting a personal record at the 3A track and field championships held in Fallon on May 21.



"Good job to everyone for working hard and committing to the 2021 track and field season," he said. "We'll always remember Fallon weather of snow, wind, rain and sunshine. It has been a

pleasure coaching you."

The coaching staff is looking forward to next season and a return to a "normal" school year.

"The next season will begin in November 2021," Davis said.

Wooster softball: 3A champions

By Danie Seeley

It's been a long drought for Wooster's varsity softball team, but the drought is finally over.

The Colts took the Northern Nevada 3A regional softball championship on May 22 in the pandemic-shortened season and they did it in a convincing fashion pounding the North Valley Panthers 14-3 in the championship final.

"Abigael Marines hit four home runs on Saturday, two in the semi-final game and two in the championship game," said Wooster head coach R.A. Hanson. "The last one was a grand slam walk off season ender. Sarah Bingham pitched a gem shutting them down (their offense)."

The Colts finished the season 16-1.

Hanson was obviously thrilled by his team's performance throughout the shortened season.

"Great, we finished the season with a record of record of 14-1," Hanson said. "The only thing that could have improved this season was if there was a chance for our softball team to compete for a regional or state 3A title."

Wooster senior Madison Goedert has seen the ongoing team improvement over the past four years.

"The softball program has really been built up from the bottom," she said. "From being 'run-ruled' to reigning champions. We've come a long



Wooster softball team and coaches signifying they are No. 1 by winning the Northern Nevada regional championship on May 22.

way and I'm happy to have been part of the experience."

Hanson returned to his Alma mater to take on Wooster's softball program.

"I attended high school here at Wooster (Class of 2000) and I played baseball here as well. I have always had an interest in the game," Hanson said. "This is my fourth season as head softball coach."

Hanson is also a varsity assistant football coach for the

Colts and teaches in the school's physical education department.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no official regional or state tournament. However, Wooster was the No. 1 seed heading into the post season Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association 3A West Tournament, Hanson said.

The Colts proved they were worthy of that ranking by taking the championship crown.

Schraeder appointed assistant principal

By Mark Pailey

Wooster dean of students Susan Schraeder has been named Wooster's assistant principal in charge of building and grounds and athletics filling the position of Charlie Walsh who retires at the end of the school year.

Schraeder has spent three years as Wooster's dean of students and after a varied career in education.

"I began my education career at Swope Middle School in 1998 as a science, English and social studies teacher and continued as an English/reading teacher until I took time out of the district to raise my boys and become a full-time swim coach and run a club team for eight years," she said.

Schraeder returned to teaching in 2011 as an SIP teacher at Traner Middle School a position she held for two years. She then served as intervention specialist and alternative education at Traner until 2018.

Expanding her role in a leadership position led her to pursue opportunities in school administration.

"My teaching position at Traner led me to taking many different leadership position within Traner," she said. "It was through these leadership positions that I wanted to continue with the bigger leadership positions and take on more responsibility."

Schraeder understands the new challenges she will take on as an assistant principal.

"It is a constant learning curve to take on a different position, I will need to know and understand the campus inside and out to make effective decisions regarding our buildings and grounds," she said. "As for athletics, I know swimming well, but I have a lot to learn about each of our other sports and their intricacies."



Schraeder

Schraeder was not a stranger to Wooster prior to arriving at the school.

"I was the head coach for Wooster swimming from 1999 to 2016 and stayed so long because the Wooster student/athletes were the most hard-working, level-headed and spirited group I experienced. I fully endorse that statement after being the dean for three years. I feel I belong here and love our climate and culture," Schraeder said.

She said the pandemic and the unusual school year has had a definite impact on education.

"I believe that we must have all our students on campus every day. It's won't take long before students and staff get back to speed regarding teaching and learning, but we will have to fill in the gaps left from hybrid/distance learning and that may take some time.

"Intervention will be the big ticket item in order to fill in those gaps. Saturday school, after-school tutoring, fall, winter and spring break are all examples of interventions," she said.

Schraeder will begin tackling the challenges of her new position this summer.

Graduation June 18 at Damonte Ranch

By Nadia Lopez Guerra

Wooster graduation will be held on Friday, June 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Damonte Ranch High School. Graduates are asked to report by 8 a.m. and the commencement is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Each student will be allowed five guests.

The stage will be on the south end of the football field with students seated on the field. Parents will be seated in the football bleachers.

On June 2, the students will receive their cap and gowns,

yearbooks and have a walk through practice of graduation and they will be walking at Roger Corbett Elementary School.

On May 25, teachers and staff had a walk through for graduation at Damonte Ranch High School to familiarize them with the site and to help them plan the ceremony.

The Damonte Ranch site was the overwhelming choice by survey respondents for graduation site options.

Congratulations Wooster Class of 2021

It has been a most difficult and challenging year. Throughout it, you have risen to the occasion, battled through adversity and have come out on the other side as true warriors. "Once a Colt, always a Colt." We salute you, the warriors, Class of 2021!