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# HOOFPINTS

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Wooster High School  
1331 East Plumb

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## Students celebrate the return of Winterfest



Students waiting for the announcement of the Winterfest royalty at the Reno Ice Community Ice Arena as part of the Winterfest week's activities.

**By Haley Ward**

The tradition of Winterfest returned to the Wooster campus on Feb. 28 through March 4 after a year's hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The week-long celebration featured spirit dress up days and concluded with ice skating at the Reno Ice Community Ice Arena on March 4.

Instead of having the usual Winterfest dance, leadership decided to switch things up and go ice skating. Spirit week included Monday as Red Out day; Tuesday as Cowboy Day; Wednesday is Olympics Day; Thursday as bring anything but a backpack day, while Friday was sorority day.

Two additional events were added to the festivities including a movie night on March 1 in the gym showing the movie "Encanto."

There was also Art Gallery presentation in the gym foyer where students displayed their works of art.

The chilly weather was perfect for Winterfest and for the different spirit day themes. Bring Anything But a Backpack Day was the best spirit day of the week, with students showing

up with items like Microwaves, Shopping Carts, Bunnies, and Car Bumpers instead of their backpacks.

Sorority day came in second place with many girls showing up as frat boys.

The ice skating event was successful with a large number of students skating the night away to their favorite songs and with friends. Most students who attended the event said it was fun and much different from the traditional dance.

"At the time we planned the event, the pandemic was taking place, so we thought a confined dance floor would not work," said student body vice president Victoria Gomez Meza. "There was a lot of push back at first, but when they experienced it, they liked it."

The winners of the Winterfest royalty were announced at the ice skating. The nominees freshman Jester and Jestress were Silvestre Mellin, Jason Acosta, Dylan Ledesma, Saraya De Jesus Sanchez, and Lily Sanchez. Ledesma and De Jesus Sanchez took the honors.

Nominees for sophomore Duke and Duchess were Justin Lopez, Marquise Franklin, Jonathan Lee,

Belatz Irujo, Walter Garcia, Gilberto Lopez, Alondra de la Riva Salgado, Taimare Talamoni, Sydney Davidson, Natalia Mendoza, and Amy Trujillo. Garcia and de la Riva Salgado won the crowns.

Students who ran for Junior Prince and Princess were Ivan Strunk, Jose Vasquez, Monserrath Ramirez, Dania Mayorquin, Kylee Vega and Nia Young. Strunk and Ramirez Ramirez were selected. The nominees for senior Queen and King were Zane Jacome, Quinton Rounds, Ladontrea Lendon, Reese Viquez, Avery Kittrell, Erica Long and Hiyab Kidane with Rounds and Kidane taking the senior honors.

There was no Winterfest Assembly this year as there was not enough time to plan and coordinate the event.



Winterfest King Quinton Rounds and Queen Hiyab Kidane.

**See more Winterfest pictures on page 6.**

## Art show adds to Winterfest atmosphere

**By Isis Garcia Cruz**

As part of the events scheduled for Winterfest week, an art show was held in the gym foyer as a way to allow students to show off their art to others.

The purpose of the show was to bring attention to the creativity and achievements of Wooster students, especially when events that have been cancelled or put off due to the pandemic.

"It was a way to bring people together to celebrate the many artistic talents of the students at Wooster" said Wooster senior vice president Victoria Gomez Meza."

It's important for students to understand that it is known that they have various hidden talents.

"The art show gave them an opportunity to showcase their talents to their fellow peers and teachers in order to build a stronger community.

With the focus being directed more towards those who are talented in sports or academics, the school's leadership team felt it was important to showcase the lesser-recognized talents of students.

The show was open to all student-artists and the kind of art that was showcased was traditional art, sketches, paintings, and poetry.

The art show was also an outlet for students to sell their art to others.

"We wanted to allow the IB art students who had a show at the Holland Project an opportunity to show their art to the school by scheduling a show on campus," said Gomez. "Next year we hope to do it during school hours because a lot of kinds can't stay after school to see the event."

At least 15 students signed up to display their work and a total of 10 participated in the show. A large number of students and teachers dropped by to view the various works.

# 2 News

## NSEA pushes higher educator, staff pay in the upcoming legislature

By Bill Amhearth

The Nevada State Education Association is calling for an increase in teachers and support staff pay in the Time for 20 Invest in Educators initiative.

The Association claims there is a crisis in Nevada public schools due to underpaying teachers and staff and increasing class sizes.

The initiative calls for an increase of 20 percent in educator pay and a minimum of \$20 per hour for school support staff.

The Association make the following claims on its website:

- The Economic Policy Institute reports public school teachers are paid 19.2 percent less than similar workers in other occupations.
- According to the National Education Association ranking of states, Nevada public school teachers make nearly \$7,500 below the national average and \$27,000 less than teachers in neighboring California.
- Nevada ranks near the bottom of states in per-pupil funding while having some of the largest class sizes.
- NEA ranking of states show the number of Nevada teachers decreased by six percent from 2011-12 to 2020-21 while their inflation adjusted pay decreased by over seven percent.
- While the education shortage is nationwide, it is especially bad in Nevada and Clark County.
- Data from Insight Partners reports from August through January of the current school year, there have been 67 percent more licensed staff separations than a typical year over the same period including 300 more than last year.
- On 2/11/22 the Washoe County School District website posted 494 vacant positions, including 184 certified and 310 classified positions.
- A substitute teacher shortage has forced remaining staff to cover additional classes.
- Thousands of educational sup-

port professionals across the state earn significantly below a living wage, with starting salaries as low as \$10-\$11 per hour.

- The is a chronic shortage of bus drivers and custodial staff throughout the state.
- The Consumer Price Index is at 7.5 percent and inflation is rising. Educator and staff's salaries have not kept pace.

The big question that is always raised is where does the money come from to fund these increased education expenditures?

Washoe Education Association spokesperson Selena La Rue Hatch addressed this issue.

"We are not calling for higher taxes on ordinary Nevadans," La Rue Hatch said. "We are asking our leaders to have hard conversations about revenue in Nevada and come up with innovative solutions to properly fund our schools."

The focus would be on industry and business which includes gaming and mining, La Rue Hatch said.

"The gaming 'win' has been well over \$1 billion per month for almost a year," she said. "There are industries that are doing extremely well right now and it make sense that they can use some of their record-breaking profits to help support the schools and communities that make these profits possible."

"The mining tax was a great start and we want to continue that conversation. It is always difficult to raise taxes in Nevada as it requires a two-thirds vote of both the assembly and senate, but the key question is whether education will be a priority or not."

Another question that need to be addressed is the lack of funds in the WCSD where budgets have been cut over the years and services reduced.

"We are not facing budget cuts and in fact the WCSD has greater than expected revenue due to

property taxes collected on rising property values," La Rue Hatch said. "The state is flush with cash due to the influx of federal spending from the American Rescue Plan and stimulus bills."

According to figures posted by the WEA, Nevada is last in the nation for school financing which "absolutely explains why we are so low on all the other rankings of education quality."

Nevada spends \$9,400 per student while the national average is \$13,600, La Rue Hatch said.

La Rue Hatch said in order to retain quality educators and support personnel and not lose them to neighboring states who "pay significantly more, legislators must salaries and benefits comparable to other states."

La Rue Hatch put the funding responsibility directly on the back of Nevada's legislators.

"If a politician wants the vote of educators, they need to prove that they will actually make real and meaningful changes in education and not just give us lip service during the campaign and then ignore the needs of our students during the session."

This will also be our major push during the legislative session, which is why we are intent on electing true education champions to the legislature," she said.

Finally, the big argument is to convince legislators, businesses and Nevada taxpayers that more money given to education and a reduction in classroom size will equal a better educated Nevada student who is prepared to deal with the challenges of the real world, whether in a skill-based or college-based career.

In this post-COVID world where inflation is the highest since 1982, with food and fuel prices hitting record highs, one can only speculate about the priority of education spending.

Another factor that contributed to zero "hands on" was safety and health concerns, with some labs being on the riskier side.

With covid interfering with classes, coming back to school and performing labs and "hands on" has been strange for students after not doing such things for more than a year.

Teachers are trying their best

to bring back these "hands on" activities. Teachers such as Mr. Swigart are having students planting in the greenhouse as a hands on activity.

"Hands-on activities provide a practical reinforcement for concepts learned theoretically," said science teacher Ray Swigart. "As such they are essential to improving student understanding of ideas."

## Optimists donate to Wooster CTE program

By Haley Ward

The Optimist Club of Reno donated \$700 to help Wooster's growing Career and Technical Education program.

Metal shop teacher Bo Sellers has been working to rebuild and expand the Wooster CTE program. The donation from the Optimist Club is a step in the right direction.

"Our track coach, Anthony Davis has seen all the hard work we have done to the classrooms and CTE programs in the back of IA building," Sellers said. "He is a proud member of the Optimist Club and recommended I come to a luncheon and speak to them about what we are doing which is bringing back the old CTE classes and upgrading the shop rooms with new equipment."

Sellers said he was invited back to speak at their annual dinner and was presented with the check to help the CTE program.

The Optimist Club of Reno is the local chapter of a worldwide volunteer organization with



Wooster's metal shop teacher Bo Sellers, center, receives a \$700 donation from Anthony Davis, left, and Dee Frewert, right, president of the Optimist Club of Reno.

more than 2,500 local clubs, with members in the organization working to better the youth within the community.

Sellers was first introduced to the program by Anthony Davis the Wooster's track coach.

## 'Multi-COLTural Market' planned for May

By Mark Pailey

Wooster's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support committee is planning the upcoming "Mutli-COLTural on May 21.

The event is a community/family-based opportunity where local businesses can promote art, food and music in the Wooster west parking lot.

This is a school-wide fundraiser where programs/clubs who sell items and tickets can use this as a direct fund-raiser with a portion of proceeds going into the Wooster scholarship fund.

"We want to really promote the differing cultures and backgrounds in our community, our

staff and our students," said Wooster assistant principal Freeman Holbrook.

A fee of \$50 will get vendors a parking spot where they can display and sell their products or services.

Holbrook said the administration is creating a seminar lesson that can be presented to all classes when school returns from spring break to help market the event as well as post on our social media, TEAMS and website.

"This will be a fun and exciting event to really welcome spring and enjoy some time with our community and students outside of the classroom," Holbrook said.

## Science classes returning to 'hands on'

By Isis Garcia Cruz

During the COVID-19 pandemic, science classes at schools nationwide weren't as hands on due to covid restrictions, and distance learning.

Wooster was no exception. Students weren't able to work "hands on" labs as much so most of the learning was theoretic as opposed to practical application.

Another factor that contributed to zero "hands on" was safety and health concerns, with some labs being on the riskier side.

With covid interfering with classes, coming back to school and performing labs and "hands on" has been strange for students after not doing such things for more than a year.

Teachers are trying their best

to bring back these "hands on" activities. Teachers such as Mr. Swigart are having students planting in the greenhouse as a hands on activity.

"Hands-on activities provide a practical reinforcement for concepts learned theoretically," said science teacher Ray Swigart. "As such they are essential to improving student understanding of ideas."

**Hoofprints**

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

### Editorial Staff

Isis Garcia Cruz  
Sydney Massey  
Makayla Ondelacy  
Zayden Tintor  
Nathali Villanueva  
Haley Ward  
Veronica Whitt

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Alycia Buchanan de Rodriguez  
**Correspondents**  
Bill Amhearth  
Ed Murrow  
Mark Pailey  
**Adviser**  
Gary Baer

# Student Life

## Taco truck rewards students for attendance

**By Mark Pailey**

On March 10, students with solid attendance were rewarded with a taco truck on the Wooster campus to serve them.

"We celebrated 139 students with amazing attendance," said Wooster lead counselor Erin Danielsen said. "Of those 139 students, 67 have perfect attendance and were entered into a drawing for a door dash gift card."

In addition to the students who were recognized for outstanding attendance, staff members could also take advantage of the truck's appearance.

The idea was generated by the school's administration and the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support committee. They wanted to reward kids and they set up the first taco truck event last semester, Danielsen said.

Danielsen views the event as a positive for the school.

"Anytime we can celebrate kids who do the right thing, it can change the culture on campus," she said. "Even if we changed the mind set of one student, it was worth it."

## Gas prices hitting student's wallets hard

**By Haley Ward**

Gas prices are increasing drastically and it has taken a major hit to student drivers at Wooster.

Due to economical and political disadvantages gas prices have risen almost 40 cents in just the past month, with gas prices at \$4.89 to \$5.25 a gallon depending the brand and location of the gas.

Many students do in fact own a vehicle and drive themselves to and from school, leaving them to wonder how they're going to afford gas.

Senior Erica Long said that with gas prices being so high it has affected her free time and she hasn't been able to use her money towards the things she enjoys.

"It has made driving difficult because I work a part time job that doesn't pay enough to fill my gas tank once a week," Long said. "It takes about \$90 to fill my truck and I try to put gas in about once or twice a week."

"On days I can't afford it, my

Danielsen said the response to the event was positive.

"The kids loved the event. The food is amazing and they felt rewarded. They all commented on how delicious it tasted and how happy it made them feel to be recognized."

Approximated 140 students were invited to the event and more than one half attended.

The food was paid for by the PBIS committee.

"We have a small budget for events and this is the one we decided to spend our money on," Danielsen said.

"Our goal is to make students better connected to the school and their attitudes about being here," she added. "We want to keep pushing the positive things we see and hear versus the negatives. The next taco truck event will be on May 26 and we have plans to make it more fun out on the field."

Danielsen said the list for the next event starts over after Spring break, so "everyone gets a second chance."

parents help me, but with me paying so much for gas, I definitely am not able to financially enjoy myself," Long said.

Many students said they are putting in extra hours at work that go into their gas tanks instead of their education to pay their financial fees connected to their vehicles.

"I work as much as I can on weekdays and weekends to afford car payments, insurance and gas," said senior Zane Jacome. "It's complicated as a student because of homework or school activities."

Junior Erin Morris said that she is currently surviving on what her friends are giving her for rides when it comes to putting money into their car.

At the end of the day, it's not just adults getting hit by the massive increase of gas prices, but students as well who may not have the resources available to deal with the situation.

## ACT is a requirement for graduation

**By Alycia Buchanan De Rodriguez**

The ACT test is a state-mandated examination that every junior in the Washoe County School District and the state of Nevada is required to take as part of process to graduate from high school.

The ACT's are designed to help colleges recognize students who are prepared for college and decide which students can qualify for a scholarship based on their test scores.

Students are not required to "pass" the examination, but simply take it. The State of Nevada pays for the costs

associated with the exam.

"The state is presented with a request for proposal (RFP) to purchase the College and Career Readiness Exam from different vendors based on the student population," said Wooster assistant principal Freeman Holbrook. "For the past decade they have chose to use ACT and cover the cost for all eleventh grade students."

Even though there is no requirement for students to pass the test, there is a point regarding the exam to consider.

"It can be used as a college placement exam along with assessing current academic level

in high school in comparison to peers," Holbrook said.

Students can retake the test if they would like, but the state only pays for the first time so if eleventh graders would like to take the test again unfortunately they do have to pay, Holbrook said. The only way the state would pay for a retake is if the test was missed for something such as COVID-19.

The high school proficiency exams were replaced by the End of Course Exams and the ACT. However, the End of Course Exams were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Social studies teachers comment on the Ukraine crisis, gas prices

**By Zayden Tittensor**

As with any other group, Wooster's social studies teachers have a variety of feeling and thoughts regarding the Russian invasion of the Ukraine.

Overall, most of the teachers have the same thoughts to a degree, but still offer their own opinions.

The first question posed was, "If this conflict continues will there be a military draft?"

Most agreed that if this leads to war it would be nuclear.

"Short and devastating," said

David Mills.

Another question they agreed upon was, "Is the Ukraine doing a good job of defending themselves?" All agreed the Ukraine is doing their best to defend their homeland. "They are brave and admirable," said Stacy Smith.

Most of the teachers think this will not turn into a global issue and that the United States and other country's will not turn it into a global issue.

"If NATO chooses a no fly zone tactic, it will not present much of a global issue for our troops to be

sent over to help," said Smith.

Other examples provide disagreement. Not many see there is no alternative to solve our rising gas prices.

"If someone wants/needs something bad enough they will pay the higher price," said Sylvia Averill. "Oil in America is a need. It makes our economy work, so more the government pays to buy oil the higher the prices will go."

Overall most the teachers had the same perspective with little differences in between.

## School vaccination numbers uncertain

**By Veronica Whitt**

The percentage of students at Wooster who are vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus is unknown because it is not required information, said Wooster nurse Chau Thai.

The reason some students get vaccinated is because they feel safer having it or that their parents want them to get it.

Whereas, some students don't get vaccinated because they feel uncomfortable getting it or their families do not want them to get it because they think it is going to be bad for their health.

Kids can get vaccinated at any location where there is medical care provided along with pharmacies and grocery stores.

Some parents do not want their

kids getting the vaccination because it is something they are not entirely sure they can trust. Since the shot is not required, many people do not get it and with the drop in COVID-19 cases and the relaxation of mask and social distancing restrictions, individuals who are not vaccinated are less likely to get vaccinated.

## Wooster Players present a classic

**By Syd Massey**

The Wooster Players Spring production of "You Can't Take It with You" will run April 7-9 at 7 p.m. and April 10 at 2 p.m. in the Hart Theater.

The play which is a staple of high school theater production premiered on Broadway in 1936 and returned to Broadway five more times, most recently in 2014.

The production features a cast and crew of 23 students and according to cast member Haley Ward, "It's a 2.0 off version of

Romeo and Juliet."

Wooster Players website describes the play, "At first the Sycamores seem mad, but its not long before we realize that if they are mad the rest of the world is madder."

"In contrast to these delightful people are the unhappy Kirbys. The plot shows how Tony attractive young son of the Kirbys, falls in love with Alice Sycamore and brings his parents to dine at the Sycamore home on the wrong evening."

"Tony will not give Alice up. No mention has as yet been made of the strange activities of certain members of the household."

"I am most excited about having my family come see me in a play for the first time," Ward said. "I was in 'Rogue Magic' which got canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

As one can imagine, performing in a play is nerve wrecking and when Ward was asked about any nerves leading up to the play

**See Players, page 6**

# At the Flicks

**By Mark Pailey**

May looks to bring some outstanding movies to the big screen and there are some highly anticipated series coming to online streaming services. Let's take a look.

On May 6, Benedict Cumberbatch reprises his role as Dr. Strange NR in Marvel Studios' "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness." The MCU unlocks the Multiverse and pushes its boundaries further than ever before.

Journey into the unknown with Doctor Strange, who, with the help of mystical allies both old and new, traverses the mind-bending and dangerous alternate realities of the Multiverse to confront a mysterious new adversary. Rated PG-13.

Also opening on May 6 is "Shepherd." It's rated R and stars Tom Hughes and Kate Dickie.

Haunted by the recent death of his wife, widower Eric Black seeks solitude as a shepherd on a remote Scottish island.

As the bleak desolation of the foreboding landscape and terrifying visions begin to overwhelm him, Eric is pushed to the brink of madness.

On May 13 "Firestarter" hits theaters. It is a remake of the 1984 film with Drew Barrymore and is rated R.

For more than a decade, parents Andy (Zac Efron) and Vicki (Sydney Lemmon) have been on the run, desperate to hide their daughter Charlie (Ryan Kiera Armstrong) from a shadowy federal agency that wants to harness her unprecedented gift for creating fire into a weapon of mass destruction.

Andy has taught Charlie how to defuse her power, which is triggered by anger or pain. But as Charlie turns 11, the fire becomes harder and harder to control. After an incident reveals the family's location, a mysterious operative (Michael Greyeyes) is deployed to hunt down the family and seize Charlie once and for all. Charlie has other plans.

Disney Plus presents Star Wars: The Obi-Wan Kenobi Series beginning on May 25. Cast includes: Sung Kang, Simone Kessell, Hayden Christensen, Joel Edgerton, Ewan McGregor, Kathleen Kennedy, Kumail Nanjiani, Moses Ingram, Joby Harold., Rupert Friend, Hossein Amini, Indira Varma,

## Question of the Month

**By Makayla Ondelacy**

Since COVID restrictions were dropped, do you yourself plan on still wearing your mask?

**Staff:**

"For the most part no, but if I'm not feeling well I still mask up to protect others."

— Ashley Leblach



"I do not."

— David Mills

**Seniors:**

"No, I don't."

— Taelor Stutzman



"I'd prefer to play it by ear. If I have a mask on me or if I'm feeling a little off then I'll wear one, but I'm not as cautious as I was at the start of the year."

— Pascal Stephens

**Juniors:**

"I only wear a mask during school and at my job. Anywhere else, I choose not to wear it."

— Tania Luna Garcia



"No, I don't wear my mask."

— Ayden Sampson

**Sophomores:**

"I wear my mask in class but not outside of school."

— Taimane Talamoni



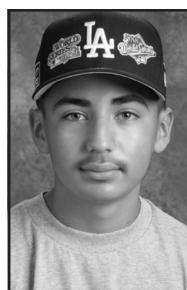
"Yes because I'm insecure."

— Justin Lopez

**Freshmen:**

"Yes, because it's become a part of my daily routine."

— Soraya Dominguez



"Yes I do."

— Brayan Guillen Guillen

O'Shea Jackson Jr., Benny Safdie, Deborah Chow, Michelle Rejwan, Bonnie Piesse.

The story begins 10 years after the dramatic events of Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith where Obi-Wan Kenobi faced his greatest defeat—the downfall

and corruption of his best friend and Jedi apprentice, Anakin Skywalker, who turned to the dark side as evil Sith Lord Darth Vader.

May has some aMayzing movies and series on tap. Grab your popcorn and enjoy.

## April/May Calendar

**Compiled by Syd Massey**

**April**

- 18 Staff personal development day, - NO SCHOOL
- 19 Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
Science Test, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15
- 20 Math tutoring/Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- Boys Golf match, 10 a.m.,  
Science Test, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Science Test, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- Career Fair, 9"40 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- Science Test, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Softball @ Sparks High, 3 p.m.
- Baseball @ Sparks, High, 3 p.m.
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Track and Field meet @ Wooster, 9 a.m.
- Baseball @ Spaeks High, 11 a.m.
- Softball @ Sperks High, 11 a.m.
- Swim Meet @ Fernley High School, 1 p.m.
- Prom @ Nevada Automobile Museum, 7 - 10 p.m.
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center
- Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
- Math tutoring/Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Thespian Induction Ceremony, 3 - 5 p.m., Hart Theater
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
JROTC Awards Night, 6 - 7 p.m., Larger Gym
- Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Baseball @ Hug High, 3 p.m.
- Softball vs. Hug High, 3 p.m.
- Swim meet, 9 a.m., Carson Valley Swim Center  
Track Meet, 9 a.m., Truckee High School  
Baseball vs. Hug High School, 11 a.m.
- Softball vs. Hug High School, 3 p.m.

**May**

- 02 Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center
- 03 Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
Math tutoring/Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- 04 Boys Golf, 11 a.m., Edgewood, South Lake Tahoe  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center
- 05 Boys Golf, 11 a.m., Edgewood, Whittell  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- 06 Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Track Meet, 2:30 p.m., Carson High School  
Softball @ North Valleys, 3 p.m.
- 07 Baseball @ North Valleys, 3 p.m.  
Noche de Loteria, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., Wooster Cafeteria  
Track Meet, 9 a.m., Carson High School  
Baseball @ North Valleys, 11 a.m.
- 08 Softball @ North Valleys, 11 a.m.  
Swim Meet, Northwest pool, 2 p.m.
- 09 Baseball Regionals, 9 a.m., Fernley High School  
Track regionals @ North Valleys High School, 8 a.m.  
Boys Golf Regionals, 11 a.m., TBA  
Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12  
Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center
- 10 Boys Golf Regionals, 11 a.m., TBA  
Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
- 11 Math tutoring/Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- 12 Boys Golf Regionals, 11 a.m., TBA  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Booster Meeting, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Career Center
- 13 Boys Golf Regionals, 11 a.m., TBA  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  
Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.
- 14 Regional Track Meet, 8 a.m., Reed High School  
Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center
- 15 Boys Golf Regionals, 11 a.m., TBA  
See Calendar, page
- 16 Graduation Speech Tryouts, 8 a.m., Hart Theater  
Track Regionals, 9 a.m., Reed High School  
Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  
Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center

**See Calendar, page 6**

# Sports

## Baseball off to a rocky start; facing challenges

**By Nathali Villanueva**

Wooster's "boys of summer" are again with the start of a new baseball season, but there have been some noticeable changes this season.

The team started it off strong by winning their first game against Incline High School, but since that win, the Colts are struggling. The team is currently 1-7 overall and an 0-6 league record.

Head coach Coach Andy Dominique and his staff has been working hard to prepare the Colts for the league season.

One of the challenges he and his staff face is the lack of a junior varsity team where younger players can sharpen and develop their baseball skills and fundamentals before entering into a highly competitive varsity level.

There are currently 17 boys and 1 girl on the Colts roster.

Senior Giovanni Crawford, said the seniors have been helping the younger players on the team to improve the team so they can "thrive and win once again."

Crawford said some difficulties the team is facing this season is being understaffed with only



Coach Andy Dominique discusses pitching strategy with pitcher Cayden Niedzielski and catcher Giovanni Crawford.

three coaches and not having a JV team.

"We are trying to improve the team chemistry and coming together as a team and not playing like a group of individuals," Crawford said.

"I've seen our potential in games and practices when this team is possibly one of the best Wooster teams I've ever been on my four years here," he said. "We just have to put it together."

## Softball team grows in experience, ability

**By Ed Murrow**

Wooster's softball team has steadily improved since the beginning of the season. The Colts' record is 5-8 overall with a 3-6 league mark.

The Colts have faced a number of 3A east team which is the tougher part of their schedule.

"Our biggest challenge so far this season has been traveling to and playing some of the tough 3A east teams," said head coach R.A. Hanson.

Hanson the Colts biggest strength in the team's offense and hitting a weakness is learning to play as a team.

Team leaders for the Colts are seniors Madeline Hunden and Reese Viquez.

The Colts graduated some outstanding players off last year's team, but Hanson said a number of players have stepped up to fill the void.

"We have had some outstanding performances so far this season," Hanson said. "Madeline Hunden, Reese Viquez, Krystyn Noble and Khloe Glover have



Senior Reese Viquez blasts a base hit. She is one of the leaders on the Colts team this season.

really stepped up for us.

The Colts know if they are going to make the playoffs, they will have to win on the road and against the 3A east teams. In the 3A West, Wooster will also face some tough opponents.

"North Valleys High School Panthers will be the team to beat on our 3A West side of the bracket," Hanson said.

## ROTC Raider Team opens the season

**By Veronica Whitt**

The Wooster JROTC Raider Team opened its competitive season with its first meet of Foster Field at Reno High School on April 2.

"The Raider Team is pretty fun. A lot of people think it's about exercise only, but we have a lot of different activities and we have fun as a team," said senior team member Georgina Jacome Escalante. "We also get to meet different people from other high schools."

The 11-member team, coached by 1st Sgt. Warren Ames, competes in five events including the events that they participate in are the one rope bridge, 5K team run -3.1 miles, physical fitness team test - obstacle course, the tire flip and a cross country rescue - carrying a stretcher with 120 pounds on it.

Jacome Escalante said the team practices every day except Wednesday.

"We records our meets to review them and then we practice to make it better," Jacome Escalante said.

"We had fun, but the results could have been better," said Ames.

The team is still accepting members, but one-quarter class credit for being a team member no longer applies.

They accept all grades, freshmen



Wooster's Raider team, back row (l to r): Daniel Gallegos-Mendez, Joseph Lopez, Axel Bernabe Ibarra, Issac Johnson, Ethan Hudspeth. Front row (l to r): Zackery Kuhns, Samamtha Blake, Trinity Griffis, Georgina Jacome Escalante.



Team members working on the tire flip.

through senior.

The next meet for the Wooster

raider team is scheduled for April 16, at Galena High School.

## Swim team wins meet: sinks Tigers

**By Mark Pailey**

The Wooster girls swim team took its first dual meet win of the season by defeating the Douglas Tigers 138-78.

The girls were led by senior Avery Redmon who took first in 200 meter free with a time of 2:38.14 and third in the 500 meter free with a time of 6:55.28.

Sophomore Sara Westmont finished first in the 100 meter backstroke with a time of 1:27.43 with junior Caroline Perry first in the 100 meter breast stroke at 1:30.57 and second in the 500 meter freestyle, Merryn Anderson first in the 100 meter free-style at 1:15.02 and junior Patel Bansari first in the 100 meter fly at 1:32.57.

The girls also swept second and third place in 200 meter medley and first and third place in the 200 meter relay.



Senior Avery Redmon flyin' in practice. (Photo courtesy Pegasus)

The boys team was outscored by the Tigers, but did register some outstanding performances in individual events.

Senior Sean Ratfield took first in the 200 meter freestyle with a time of 2:00.26 and first in the 100 meter fly with a time of 1:00.23. Sophomore Jacques Peuchaud took first in 50 meter freestyle in 25.54 and first in the

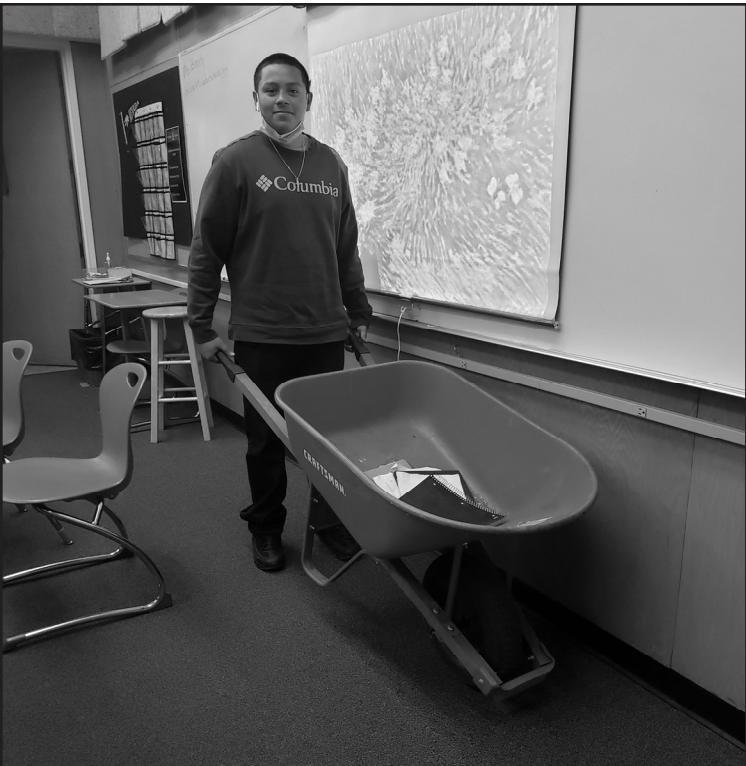
100 meter backstroke with a time of 1:09.33. Freshman Andy Jia took second in the 100 meter fly and the 50 meter freestyle.

Freshman Ari Langer took second in the 500 meter free-style with a time of 8:13.47 and the boys 200 meter relay team finished in second place. The Colts next meet is April 23 in Fernley.

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# Extra

## Winterfest and student creativity



Adrian Rangel brought a wheelbarrow for his backpack.



Sean Ratfield is all the way for team USA.



Daniel Roldan, Christopher Villalobos Oregon and Leonel Ramirez chose their musical instruments instead of their usual book bags.



Liam Durling and Quinn Wilson chose coolers while Pascal Stephens chose a pot to pack his stuff.



Elias Zuniga ain't no store-bought cowboy.



Jason Acosta gives new meaning to "cooking the books" with his air fryer.

## Are smartphones a smart school idea?

### Commentary from Syd Massey

Smartphones have become a part of our lives. That is something that's not going to change anytime soon.

We need to remember we are the first generation to have constant access to social media. Whole revolutions can happen big or small in hours, minutes even if we use social media correctly.

We quite literally have access to all information in the world in the palm of our hands. In the wise words from Uncle Ben in the Spiderman series, "With great power comes great responsibility." It is our responsibility as a generation to learn to use that wisely.

There is also a dark side to the Internet. The entirety of the early 2000's YouTube is an example.

All jokes aside, we need to acknowledge the dangers of the Internet, but we can do so without shunning it entirely.

Our generation uses technology to run our lives when we should be using it to make our lives better. When we talk about phones in the classroom, we need to acknowledge that the Internet gives us access to information in the

world and school should teach us how to use that effectively rather than not using it at all.

One "pro" is that provides further access that ever before. A quick Google search can answer most questions an individual can have. However, sources must be vetted and qualified, but using this to our advantage is extremely useful for research.

A "con" of having phones in class is there is as much to distract us from class as there is to keep us engaged. This can be easily combatted by turning off notifications during school hours and some apps can prevent individuals from opening distractions while the person needs to be focused.

As the only real "con" can be corrected easily, I think the education system could adapt to this generation's use of technology just as easily. This has become increasingly more important as COVID comes to an end because we have officially spent half of our high school career using mostly technology.

This is just one of many adaptations that need to be made after COVID officially ends.

## April/May Calendar

### Continued from page 4

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 16 | Boys Golf State, 11 a.m., TBA<br>Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12<br>Leadership Awards Night, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Small Gym   |
| 17 | Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.<br>Boys Golf State, 11 a.m., TBA<br>Math tutoring/Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center<br>Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m. |
| 18 | Boys Golf State, 11 a.m., TBA<br>Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  |
| 19 | Boys Golf State, 11 a.m., TBA<br>Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center<br>Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.  |
| 20 | Track State Meet, 9 a.m., TBA<br>Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13<br>Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center  |
| 21 | Wooster Multi-COLTural Market, 7:00 a.m., West parking lot<br>Track State Meet, 9 a.m., TBA   |
| 23 | Programming Club meeting, lunch, A12<br>Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13<br>Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center   |
| 24 | Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.<br>Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center<br>Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.  |
| 25 | Study Hall, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Knowledge Center<br>Scholarship Night, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Large Gym  |
| 26 | TMCC Registration Day, 9:40 - 11:40 a.m.<br>Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.  |
| 27 | Korean Language Club meeting, lunch, C13  |
| 30 | Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL  |
| 31 | Upward Bound math and science advising, 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.<br>Basketball open gym, 5- 7 p.m.   |

## Players

### Continued from page 3

she said, "I am nervous that I am going to mess up or something

is going to go wrong, but I have trust in the cast and crew and Mrs. Gibbons, so I think we will be just fine and do great."

Please check next month's *Hoofprints* for a play review.