

Wendell High School

Trojan Chronicle

Serving the students of Wendell

Volume 1 Issue 1

Published by the staff of the Trojan Chronicle

May 2025 Edition



Finals Week is almost here...

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From your middle school librarian: 'Fun is important'

By: Paige Dodge

Wendell Middle School's beloved librarian Mechelle Fogelsong is retiring and someone else is taking her place. We are all very sad to hear that she won't be here next year but happy to hear who the new librarian is, Wendell Middle School paraprofessional Jesseca Fallin .

Fogelsong has been working at the Wendell School District for 12 years. For the first two years she worked as an English teacher with the seniors and juniors at the high school. Then she spent 10 years at the middle school library. There is more to the story than just Wendell's School District, much more.

Like when she first started to teach fencing (sword fighting) for 20 years...

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in the private sector. It was called “the National Youth Sports Program in Pullman, Washington, and then later at Jerome Recreation District, in Jerome, Idaho.”

Then she was in public school for 32 years. She taught english/language arts at Jerome Middle School.

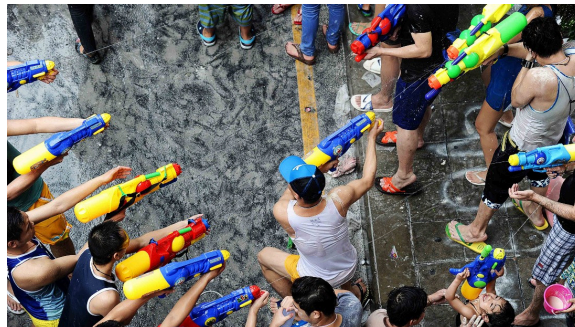
Retirement does not mean she is done working though. Fogelsong plans to continue to work, teaching online sewing classes through her private website and a company that publishes sewing books (C&T Publishing). She also wants to continue designing sewing patterns for doll clothes and work on publishing a few books.

“I'm very excited to take my teaching skills online!” Said Fogelsong. “So there are lots of fun things for me to participate in during my so-called ‘retirement’ years!”

A new librarian will await us next year.

“I am a little nervous and super excited at the same time.” said Jesseca Fallin. “Shelving nonfiction books and trying to fill in the shoes of Mrs. Fogelsong.”

“Mrs. Fogelsong is amazing and she will be missed. She has been very helpful in putting together a binder to help me transition into being a successful librarian next year,” said Fallin. “I appreciate all of the information, time and effort that she has put in to help me feel comfortable in taking on this next chapter and challenge in my life.”



Stock photo by CNN

Senior Splashing

By: Sarah Fleming

The seniors have decided to play Senior Splashing for a \$500 prize. All seniors are included and can only be eliminated off school grounds.

The game is where all seniors have a squirt gun filled with water, and only wear goggles or a floaty to protect them. The only time they are not protected is during something called “the purge,” where no one is protected.

This game cannot happen at the person's job either, in case of risk in getting the target fired.

Samuel Carlson, a senior who is a part of it, doesn't really care for the game but still plays.

“I really don't care about it,” said Carlson. He has also been assassinated, but not sure who took him out. He has assassinated one person.

“Yes, I have eliminated Vetzy Murillo,” said Carlson. Samuel has 100 points currently as the game is still going. In the lead currently is Isaiah Lenferd.

Good luck out there, seniors, and may the best one win.

Baseball vs. Softball: Prank War

By: Parker Sears

Recently, the baseball and softball teams started a war. It all started when the softball team decided to “decorate” the baseball field.

“The first prank to happen to our field was when the softball girls went and put pink flamingos and all sorts of random pink things around our field and dugout,” Ryan Bird said, one of the players on the baseball team. “I was confused because by the time I got to the field, most of it was taken down, so I hadn't seen too much of it.”

The softball girls pranked the Baseball field by putting glitter on the pitcher's mound and home plate, writing “pretty princesses” in the dirt. They also wrapped the storage trailer in plastic wrap and put confetti and balloons on the net and in the dugouts.

However, the baseball team decided to do something similar to the softball field. Members of the baseball team decided to place 500 forks in the softball field's outfield.

“The forks were the first prank that happened in my field,” said sophomore Ashley Rameriz. “Our outfield was forked all over the place. It only took us 10 minutes to take them all off.”

However, the softball team decided to retaliate and use these forks on the baseball field. After coming back from an away game, the baseball team saw the infield covered in forks. The pitcher's mound and home plate were also covered in glitter. And on the third base baseline, “2-1” was written in the dirt.

It's all been in good fun though as the teams support each other headed into tournaments.

End of the year finals: Are you ready?

By Marelyn Rincon

Finals are coming in quick, and students and teachers are already preparing for this week-long event. The lower classmen will test May 19-22, and seniors will have their finals a week before the rest of the school due to their early release.

Studying and preparing for finals is a good thing to do if you want to get a good score. It raises your probability to get a higher grade on your exam.

"I strongly believe I will do good on them because I have been studying and preparing for them as well," said senior Yaritza Deniz-Rojas.

Understanding what you are being taught and maintaining good grades in your classes can also make a difference when you are taking your finals.

"I feel like I'm going to do pretty well on finals week because, ... I've been trying to maintain good grades and am mostly understanding what we are learning in all classes. I might not do too well in some but I feel like I would do well in most classes," said freshman Joselyn Arellano Fuentes. "Doing well on my finals is really important to me because I want to be able to pass freshman year with good grades and with a good GPA; that way if I do really think about going into college I can start off college with a good high school GPA."

The difference between the freshmen and senior answers is relatively big when talking about the finals. Fuentes seems to be less nervous about the final exams.

"I don't really feel stressed or worried about finals week because I've been doing pretty good in my classes. Normally I would have felt worried but since I actually tried paying attention and keeping my grades good I'm feeling confident," said Fuentes.

Freshmen may find that middle school and high school finals are seen differently. In high school there is higher pressure to do better. For Fuentes, it really comes down to being prepared.

"I think that finals week in middle school was so much harder for me personally because in middle school I didn't really pay as much attention as I did starting my high school year. I would say that in middle school I was a lot more stressed than I am currently feeling right now," said Fuentes.

Deniz-Rojas on the other hand is more nervous because it is her senior year and she is feeling the pressure.

"I feel nervous and anxious because it's my very last finals and everything together just stresses me out," said Deniz-Rojas. "Doing well on my finals is very important to me because they depend on how much I've learned over the semesters and I want to make sure I pass them."

Schools have finals to evaluate how the student is doing in their classes.

"Finals are given to assess student knowledge of material for the semester and/or year," said Wendell High School teacher Kelli Jasper.

Finals week is not easy for anyone. Students have to prepare for exams. Teachers have to grade everything in time.

"Grading finals is not easy because we are all trying to finish up the year and grade and make sure assignments are in. I wouldn't say difficult but time consuming," said Jasper.

"I do not like the finals schedule but I am not sure how to fix it to make it better. I do think we should have a longer time to take the finals but that would disrupt the entire schedule," said Jasper.

"The schedule looks fine to me because it's close to when we get out of school. I also don't mind the class days schedule," said Fuentes.

"I think the schedules are perfect, they are giving us enough time to study for each class and be prepared. I believe the time given is definitely enough time to get your finals done because usually most tests take the same amount of time," said Deniz-Rojas.

No matter your feelings going into this year's finals week, prepare now because it's just around the corner.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6	7 4th	8 3rd & 5th	9
12 1st & 7th	13 2nd & 5th	14 SENIOR CHECK OUT!!!!	15 4th	16
19 3rd & 6th	20 2nd & 5th	21 1st & 7th	22 CHECK OUT!!!!	23

The **seniors finals** schedule runs from May 7-13. The **lower classmen's finals** are from May 15-21.



'USC Ice Bucket Challenge' hits Wendell High School with a good cause: Mental health

By: Anay Tapia

The USC Ice Bucket challenge has taken the school by storm, with students and staff members at Wendell High School eager to participate and spread awareness about an important cause—mental health. This fun and chilly challenge has not only brought laughter but also a serious message.

Many students and staff members, like junior Jasmine Tapia and art teacher Brad Nebeker, joined in on the fun. Both said it was a great way to support mental health awareness.

The challenge involves pouring a bucket of ice cold water over your head and then nominating friends to do the same. More and more people are getting involved.

Tapia says it's important for everyone to talk about mental health and support one another. The excitement of the challenge has encouraged many to discuss these topics openly.

Wendell High School counselor Kevin Connor agrees mental health is very important and that it should be cared for as well.

"Mental health awareness is important because EVERYONE has mental health concerns at some point in their life. Mental health is no different than physical health. If someone is physically hurting, whether it is a cold, cancer, broken leg, etc. people understand that they may need help and accept the person where they are at. Mental health needs to be treated the same way," said Connor.

Connor has a message for each person who has dealt with the effects of mental health issues.

"Mental health needs to come out of the shadows where people suffer alone and be brought out into the sunshine so that we can all feel safe getting help when we need it without being afraid that we will be mocked or criticized for asking. If you have mental health questions or concerns and feel out of control at times then YOU ARE NORMAL. Nobody should be afraid to talk to someone and get help," said Connor.

When Tapia nominated her friends they weren't sure how they would react. At first some friends said they wouldn't take part but eventually they joined in and had a blast. This shows how the challenge can bring people together and make them think about mental health.

"Lots of people did it and nominated others so it spread awareness and the word about mental health," said Tapia. "They were not going to do it and ended up doing it."

When Nebeker was nominated he sounded excited. His good friend DJ McCarty, who is also a staff member at Wendell High School, participated in the challenge and was the one who called out Nebeker in his nomination video.

"I did it because my good friend Mr. McCarty did it and challenged me," said Nebeker.

Overall, the USC Ice Bucket Challenge has been a huge success, helping to raise awareness and funds for mental health nationally. It's a reminder that even fun activities can make a difference in our community.



Tapia answered the icy challenge in support of mental health awareness.



Wendell Baseball concludes their regular season, now heading to 3A districts



By: Jenika Borges

After an early, tough loss to the Firth Cougars 21-3. Wendell Trojan baseball came back a week later, fought harder, only losing 6-7. After those early games, they had lots of practice to do and are now in position to go strongly into districts, being second in the conference.

"We knew graduating 10 seniors last year that with only three returning starters, we had to get some younger, inexperienced players to step up and fill those shoes. They have!" Said head coach Josh Prince.

The key has been the older, experienced upperclassmen working with the younger players from day one.

"The thing I was looking forward to at the beginning of the season is making it to state. I was also looking forward to helping the younger classmen and striving them to be the best they could be," said senior Gunner Jones.

Trojan Baseball 2025 ends their regular season with a record 7-13-1.

Their season improved once they got more practice and games in. They tied a game with the Soda Springs Cardinals and ended up winning seven of the 21 regular season games.

"At the beginning of the season I thought it was going to be a long season but we got to work at practice and got better, and now I have lots of confidence that we will do good things in the postseason," said junior Deegan Prince.

On April 28 the team's last regular season game was against Nampa Christian Trojans, where they took a devastating loss 10-2. Obviously, they were hoping for more "W's."

"The regular season was good but not what we were hoping for. We are looking forward to doing better in districts," said Deegan Prince. "To get us to the championship round we need to take care of some of our struggles, and they are fielding and sometimes batting. I think we need to focus on putting the ball in play and making plays to back up our pitchers."

And that means lots of time on the field to get ready for the district tournament. The only way they can get better is if they take these next few practices seriously and practice every little thing that they need to work on.

They are going to make these next few practices the funnest and the most important practices. They are saying they can compete with anyone, so with that mindset they have to go hard and never give up.

"For districts we need to back up our pitchers with our defense. If we can play defense and minimize our errors we can play with anyone!" Said Josh Prince.

The team is looking forward to seeing what they place in the district tournament. The team has come to a conclusion that they can compete with any team in the 3A conference.

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Baseball from pg. 1

“We need to play our best baseball this week, and our team is confident we can make it to the championship. We know we can compete with anyone in our conference and district, if we can put it all together at the same time,” said Josh Prince.

They're looking forward to getting all the “W's” for the district tournament and trying to power through the state without anything or any team stopping them. They have come in confident for the most important part of the baseball season and that will continue.

“I'm looking forward to playing the best I have all season and making it to the championship and winning it all,” said Deegan Prince.

There are some special moments made for the seniors' last season. But these seniors are wanting to make the best of it and make it to the championship round and the state tournament.

“Playing my last baseball season with my team and friends was a mix of emotions. There was definitely excitement and a drive to make the most of every game, knowing it was the last we'd all be together on the field,” said senior Jones.

Let's see how these Wendell Trojans take this all in and go get some wins. These Trojans have gone through lots of ups and downs this whole season, and they are “not” letting the downs get to them in districts and state.



Julian Ponce steals second base against their rival the Declo Hornets.

Wendell softball heads into districts aiming for a 3A South East Idaho District Championship

By: Sophie Mattix

May 5, 2025 -- The Lady Trojans will play the Declo Hornets for the first round of districts. They will play at home at 5 p.m. This season they have split 1-1 with the Hornets.

The Lady Trojans concluded their regular season games last Friday. They finished 13-7, two of those losses were to two of the top three teams in the state for the 3A division.

Senior Jacelynn Olmos said focus would help the team the best rally into the district championship.

“I think it will help the team if we stay focused and yes, our big goal is to go to state, but in order to get there we need to focus on one game at a time,” said Olmos.

Olmos transferred to Wendell this year just in time for her senior season. She has been here a small amount of time but has provided so much to this team.

The Trojans the past few games have made more mistakes than they normally do and it has shown. They took a tough loss to the Malad Dragons 16-0.

“We need to practice like we play and work on cleaning up the amount of mistakes we make,” said junior pitcher Breanna Comstock, referring to the Trojans average of 3.7 errors a game. “The mindset we have after making a mistake is probably more important than making the actual mistake.”

The Trojans have a few sayings they say to each other to get out of their heads. “No quicksand,” meaning don't get stuck on one thing and keep on moving. And one of their most important sayings, “Next play mindset” helps everything.



Lady Trojans 2025 team.

You can hear people saying that during games when someone makes a mistake; it just helps remind that person to move on and forget about it.

The ladies have a week straight of practice to work on cleaning up the small things leading into the first round of districts.

“We need to go into districts with the mindset that we're going to compete no matter what. We'll take it one inning at a time and be sure that we stay focused and competitive EVERY SINGLE INNING! No matter if we're winning by one or 10 we need to stay focused and aggressive,” said Olmos. “In practice we need to push ourselves to work hard and work on the small details. Our fielding, our throws, our baserunning. It's the small details that make up the big details.”

These Lady Trojans have improved all season and will continue dancing their way into home runs to win districts and the state tournament.



Infield team huddle before Breanna Comstock pitches the first strike of the game.

Wendell Dairyman Invitational 2025 brings home-court comfort for one returning athlete



Wendell's Alvarez and teammates pose for a picture.

By: Kaleimys Nieves- Ramos

This past week at the Dairyman Invitational, our Wendell track and field team had an amazing performance against their rivals while getting new PRs in every event.

Junior Rosa Alvarez is barely coming back after a serious foot fracture. She was scared to race after she was cleared, but racing in her third meet, Alvarez felt a little more comfortable, especially being at her home track.

Another help for Alvarez has been her coach's support, who also happens to be someone she looks up to.

"My track and field idol would be Helmandollar because he never gives up on us, always tries to support and make sure we don't give up, always has energy, and always supports," said Alvarez.

When it comes to getting prepared for a race or a meet, most people get nervous. Everybody has different techniques to be able to calm down their nerves and prepare for the race.

"I calm down, breathe in and out, try to get energized, believe that I will do my best, whether I'm first or last, and never give up," Alvarez said.

When you get badly injured and you try to do sports after it's really scary because you feel like you can't do it right, and you feel out of shape or you are just scared to get hurt again. Coach Melissa Matos has seen a lot of progress from Alvarez since the beginning of the season until now.

"Rosa showed incredible determination this season. Coming off an injury is never easy, but she worked hard, stayed disciplined, and kept a positive mindset," said Matos. "Her progress and resilience were truly inspiring, and I'm proud of how she handled every challenge that came her way," said Matos.

Everybody is proud of Rosa for the accomplishments she's had throughout the whole season. From being scared to being able to race and keep up, to being able to keep up with the workouts and pushing herself through every workout, and every race.



Above: Annabelle McRoberts celebrating with the senior track stars.



The Wendell Trojans golf team after the Pleasant Valley meet.



Right: Fredy Olmos, Treysen Vanderham, Jonathan Swainston, Jarett Borges, Gabe Kelsey, are headed to state golf.

Golf update from Coach Lancaster about state appearance

Earlier in the season the golf team played in Pleasant Valley in Kimberly. Everyone played great and we had three players shoot in the 70's for the first time in tournament play. Maqlynn Lancaster also shot her personal best 96. Things are looking good going into districts in two weeks.

Our boys team was able to qualify for the state tournament by one shot today! We were lead by Treysen Vanderham shooting a 93. These boys worked hard all season with the goal of making the state tournament. Congratulations to the boys. The state tournament is at Rivers Edge in Burley Monday and Tuesday.



Treysen Vanderham teeing off during the district 3A golf championship.

