

## THE VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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### Upcoming Events

February 15—WVC Foundation Crystal Ball; 6:00-10:00 p.m., Mabel A. Courter Youth Center

February 17—College Closed; President's Day

February 21—Orthopaedic Cadaver Procedure; 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Brubeck Theatre

February 22-23—Softball Camp; Spencer Sports Center

February 28—Midterm

February 29—Bass Fishing Workshop; 8:00 a.m. Registration, Brubeck Theatre

March 2-8—No Classes; Spring Break

March 29—"All Kinds of People" Community Theatre Production; March 26-27 @ 7:30 p.m., March 29 @ 1:30 p.m., Brubeck Theatre

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### Diesel Technology Program purchases new tractors

Wabash Valley College's Diesel Equipment Technology program was awarded funds to purchase eight new tractors to help modernize the program.

The Diesel Equipment Technology Program was awarded funds through an IECC and an Economic Development Administration grant to be used in the purchase of up-to-date equipment. Some of the up-to-date equipment included eight Massey Ferguson 1726E tractors. The tractors were purchased from Herschel Johnson Equipment in Albion, Ill., which has been a long-time supporter of the Diesel Technology program. Leon Johnson, President of Herschel Johnson Implement, was also instrumental in obtaining the A/C tractors that are being replaced.

Diesel Equipment Technology lead instructor Scott Balding stated that the new Massey Ferguson tractors "will be used in Transmissions I classes for students to gain knowledge of the powertrain system from the flywheel to the final drives. Students will gain experience with manual transmissions, power take offs, clutches and differentials. The tractors will also be used in Hydraulics I classes to discuss various parts of the

hydraulic systems along with testing of the systems. They will receive hands on experience on real life equipment as part of these classes."

Due to the purchase of these new tractors, the program will replace the old A/C tractors that were acquired in the mid-1980s. "They were showing their age, as they have been disassembled and reassembled up to two times a year," said Balding.

The new tractors were purchased using funds from the grants the Diesel program received from IECC and the EDA. "Through the recommendations of and help from the Diesel Technology Advisory Counsel nearly three years ago, the grant was awarded in 2019." According to the EDA's website, the grant was given as part of an Economic Adjustment Assistance grant in which \$300,000 was given to IECC to fund upgrades to the workforce training facilities at three campus locations within the District.



Pictured is one of the eight Massey Ferguson 1726E tractors purchased from Herschel Johnson Equipment in Albion, Ill.

These tractors, along with up-to-date engines, will aid in giving WVC students the knowledge of current diesel equipment that is needed to become a successful diesel technician, which coincides with the Diesel Technology program's mission statement—"to provide not only the learning skills and knowledge to become a successful Diesel Technician, but also to become a lifelong learner and a successful citizen."

### 2020 Homecoming king and queen crowned



2020 WVC Homecoming King and Queen

Candidates for Homecoming king and queen were presented during the halftime event at WVC's Men's Homecoming basketball game. Kirk Liebert, representing WVC baseball, was named WVC's 2020 Homecoming king, and Haley Moore, representing Warrior basketball, was crowned as WVC's 2020 Homecoming queen. Second runners up were Ella Banks and Justin Boyd, and first runners up were Kinzi James and Logan Simpson. WVC students were invited to vote for their candidates of choice the week leading up to the Homecoming game.

The candidates for king and queen were: Jaylyn Wease and Kane Jones representing the Business club, Haley Hart and Isaac Wilson representing the Diesel club, Rebecca Girtan and Tanner Daniel representing the Health Professionals club, Vy Tran and Nhut Dang Le representing the International club, Seanna Rordrick and Tanner Creed representing Phi Theta Kappa, Justus Meserole and Tyler Johnston representing Social Services and the Player's Guild, Sierra Hughes and Bryce Klingler representing the Radio/TV & Digital Media programs, Kinzi James and Logan Simpson representing the Student Nurses Association, Morgan Thompson and Troy Stoltz representing the Student Senate, Ella Banks and Kirk Liebert representing Warrior baseball and softball, Haley Moore and Justin Boyd representing Warrior basketball and Darian Neu and Garrett McCully representing WVC cheerleading.

## WVC to host bass fishing workshop with pro angler Bradley Roy

Wabash Valley College's bass fishing team will be hosting a bass fishing workshop with Major League Fishing, Bass Pro Tour angler Bradley Roy on Feb. 29 in WVC's Brubeck Theatre. Middle school and high school anglers will be admitted for free. One coach per school will also be admitted for free. Pre-registration can be completed by visiting [www.wvcwarriorathletics.com](http://www.wvcwarriorathletics.com), clicking club teams, selecting bass fishing and then clicking on the Bradley Roy event.

Cost will be \$10 for those 19 and up who are not a part of a middle or high school bass fishing team. Registration for the event will start at 8 a.m. and sessions one through three will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with a lunch break from 12:00 p.m. until 12:50 p.m.

Bradley Roy was a 2019 Bass Pro Tour- Redcrest qualifier; he placed third in points in the 2018 Bassmaster Elite Series; and, in 2017, he

earned seventh in the Bassmaster Classic. He is a three-time Bassmaster Classic qualifier. Roy has had 10 career Top-10 tour finishes, 22 career Top-20 tour finishes and has a career earning of over \$550,000.

Roy is sponsored by several brands, such as Covercraft, USA Cares, Triton Boats, Mercury, D&L Tackle, Whitetail Heaven, Angler's Outpost, Lowrance, Power Pole, Neat Trucking, Pym1 Camo, FSNB, Seaguar, Solar Bat and Owner.

Pre-register your team, now; don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to hear bass fishing pro Bradley Roy speak! Pre-registration can be completed by visiting

[www.wvcwarriorathletics.com](http://www.wvcwarriorathletics.com), clicking club teams, selecting bass fishing and then clicking on the Bradley Roy event.



Bradley Roy

## Illinois Legislative District 109 candidate forum helped voters decide

Wabash Valley College, in conjunction with Illinois Eastern Community Colleges and Illinois County Farm Bureau including Wabash County Farm Bureau, hosted an Illinois Legislative District 109 Candidate forum on Feb. 6 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

With approximately 100 people in attendance, the candidates, Andy Hires, John Spencer and Adam Niernerg, addressed a wide variety of subjects, from worker's compensation reform to how to increase foreign trade of Illinois products. They also discussed their positions on many Illinois tax-related issues, such as property tax, Farm-land Assessment and progressive tax. Questions were not taken from the audience but attendees were able to visit with each candidate after the forum.



Candidates participating in the forum included, from left: Adam Niernerg (R), John Spencer (D), and Andy Hires (R).

Several attendees approached the Farm Bureau staff and expressed their gratitude because before attending the event, they did not know whom they were going to vote for, but by listening to the candidates during the forum, they had made a decision.

The forum moderators selected their questions prior to the forum, and the candidates did not receive questions in advance. WVC's News Channel 15 also covered the event, broadcasting the forum live for those who could not attend.



Leah Minear, WVC Freshman of Cleveland, Tennessee and current Miss Riverview 2020, met with WVC President Matt Fowler to discuss her "Let's Read: Literacy Empowering Tomorrow" campaign. As part of this campaign, Leah is holding a Book Drive to collect any new or gently used books, now until February 15. Your book donation can be dropped off in WVC Student Services. All gently used and new books are accepted in all genres, in age levels from Easy Reading for toddlers to Young Adult books. New books will be donated to the Children's Hospital at Erlanger located in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with gently used books going to foster children.

## WVC Hosts Ag Acquaintance Day

Wabash Valley College was honored to host 13 area schools for its annual Ag Acquaintance Day. 120 students from surrounding schools attended the annual event to learn about a variety of topics.

The students learned about Social Media Do's and Don'ts, How to Get a Job in Ag, Ag Careers, Ag Organizations Beyond High School and WVC's Ag Department. The keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Bond of Southern Illinois University, gave a presentation about "18 Things We Wish We Knew When We Were 18."

Lead Ag instructor Steve Hnetkovsky was pleased with this year's event. "We had a good day, good turnout. The closing speaker, Dr. Sarah Bond, was excellent. It was exciting to see the students so attentive and engaged in what was being taught."

By the end of the day, Hnetkovsky reported that 10-15 students had expressed interest in attending WVC to participate in the Ag program.

Around 22 of Hnetkovsky's current students helped serve at the yearly event.



WVC lead Ag instructor Steve Hnetkovsky tells a group of students about WVC's Ag program.

## WVC Baseball Season Preview

Make no mistake – 2019 was a magical year for the Wabash Valley College baseball team. The Warriors finished 55-4, spent most of the year ranked No. 1, and led the country in 13 different categories. Graduation did take its toll, however. Gone is the JUCO Triple Crown winner from last year. Gone is the stolen base leader. Gone are two of the top three winners from the pitching staff with the lowest ERA in the nation.

Yet, coach Rob Fournier begins this season, his 24th at WVC with as much optimism as any, with transfers ready to step right in and first-year players ready to make an impact.

"I couldn't be more excited about the season," Fournier said. "We have 12 sophomores from a positional standpoint coming back so we'll have a wealth of experience."

Already, 17 players have committed to play next year at four-year schools, including 15 to Division I schools, pushing that total to nearly 400 during Fournier's tenure.

"We're really happy with that, because it tells everybody that not only are they real good baseball players, they get things done in the classroom," he said. "They're well-rounded

young men who have represented our program and our school."

Fournier says depth will be his club's strong suit this season, particularly on the mound. "We have an influx of guys who can come in out of the bullpen and throw multiple pitches for a strike. But the depth of our whole team is going to be a strength. We have a good combination of speed and power with our position players."

The Warrior coach admits you can't easily replace the likes of Cael Baker, who led the country in the Triple Crown categories of batting average (.506), home runs (25) and RBIs (101). Or Noah Myers, who stole 77 bases and was only caught stealing once.

Replacing Ryan O'Connell's 15-2 mark and Antoine Kelly's 1.88 ERA will be big challenges for the mound corps for the season ahead.

Said Fournier: "We're excited about the guys we have as they make their own identity."

There is a historic milestone fast approaching for Fournier himself. He carries a total of 977 wins into the 2020



season, and could cross the 1,000-win threshold by mid-season.

Last spring, the Warriors strung together 49 consecutive wins, including the entire 27-game Great Rivers Athletic Conference slate.

WVC is ranked eighth in the pre-season NJCAA Division I poll. The schedule is a demanding one, particularly early. The Warriors open against former national champion Central Alabama (off to a 1-1 start), and two weeks later head south to Florida to play the reigning champs from Chipola (6-1) along with another team ranked in the Top 10, Gordon State, GA (1-4).

This year? Well, first things first. They're just hoping to play a game outdoors. "It's going to be hard to get going, because this weather has really set us back. But it always does," Fournier said. "We just have to go play, and make some mistakes, fail a little bit, and learn who we are."