

View from the Valley

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“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

—Malcolm Forbes



Valley Briefs



PTA Clinical Coordinator

WVC has hired a PTA Clinical Coordinator: Dr. Kinsey Whitaker. Dr. Whitaker has teaching experience as a faculty member in Vincennes University's PTA Program.



Small World Academy Enrollment Open

Small World's Academy is now accepting applications for enrollment into its summer programming. The Academy provides its students with a variety of enriching activities all summer long.



Solar array installation on Industrial Studies building

A new solar array is being installed on WVC's Industrial Studies building. The funding for the new solar array is coming from a grant through the Illinois Green Economy Network and IEPA.

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.”

—Clay P. Bedford

Radio/TV Broadcasting student wins IBS award for commercial



Drew Pountain (far left) won the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Award for Nation's Best Video Commercial.

Sophomore Radio/TV Broadcasting major Drew Pountain has been named the winner of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Award for Nation's Best Video Commercial.

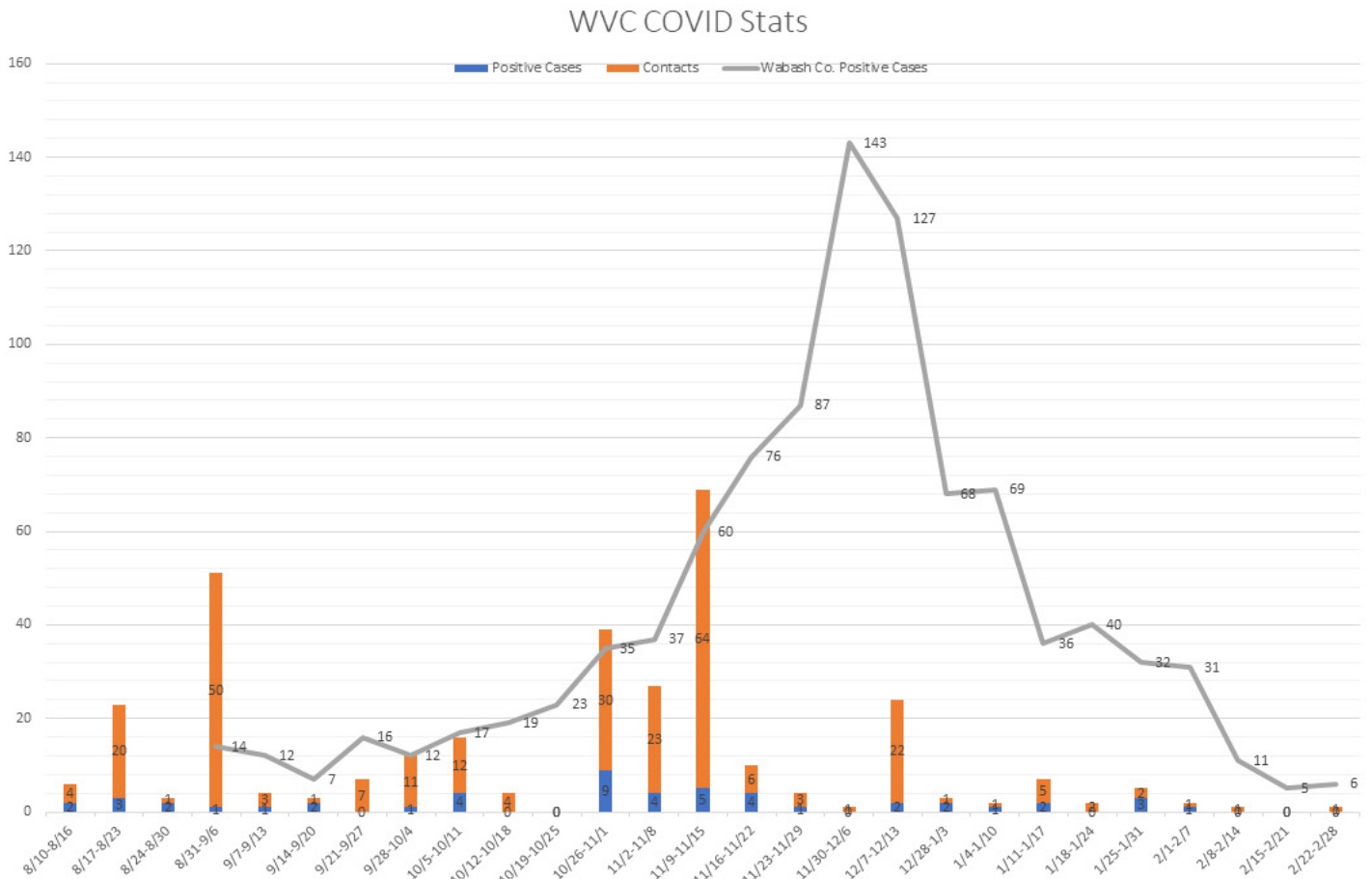
News Channel 15 announced earlier this year that Pountain had been nominated for the award. He is also part of the group that was nominated for Best Video Sports program.

Pountain's win adds to the department's growing list of accomplishments.

When he was nominated, Pountain said, "I worked extremely hard on this commercial, all summer long... I hope I can bring home the gold not only for me but also for our program."

Congratulations on bringing home the gold, Drew. We look forward to seeing where the future takes you!

COVID-19 numbers continue to decline



This graph shows the number of COVID-19 infections and close contacts at WVC since August 2020.

Due to the continued efforts of our community members and dedicated health care workers, COVID-19 infections are on the decline.

We have consistently reported low infection rates at WVC due to the diligence of our faculty, staff and athletics staff. Despite having moved over a hundred athletes on to campus coming from all across the U.S., we have not had more than 10 people infected at a time.

Now, due to the increased availability of the various COVID-19 vaccines, the community infection rate has decreased dramatically. The Wabash County Health Department has held several mass vaccination clinics, with great success.

WVC will remain vigilant and dedicated to the fight against COVID-19. We will continue to maintain a sanitization schedule and observe the recommendations of the CDC and our local health department.

Warriors carry a 4-game winning streak into a challenging week



All the Wabash Valley softball team really needed was a little Georgia sun to get back on track.

The Warriors swept a four-game series at East Georgia State and headed into March with a four-game winning streak under their belt.

WVC beat the Bobcats with wins of 4-1 and 12-4. The next day, the Warriors did it again, with their second straight double-header sweep, winning 5-0 and 5-2.

In the series opener, Gracey Himelick drove in two runs with her hit. Other RBIs came from catcher Hannah Chaney and leftfielder Lexi Garloch.

Lyndsi Adamson started the game and went 5 1/3 innings before Kaitlyn Bennett worked the last 1 2/3 innings as relief.

After East Georgia State took an early 1-0 lead, WVC came back with three runs in the second, before adding four in the third, three in the sixth and two more in the seventh.

1,000 wins for Rob Fournier as Warriors swept past Morton



Rob Fournier shows off a cake honoring his 1,000th coaching victory on Saturday, Feb. 27.

WVC head baseball coach Rob Fournier won his 1,000th game as head coach at Wabash Valley in the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 27.

The Warriors defeated Morton College, 7-2, in the home opener to earn the milestone win for their 25-year head coach.

In the second game, No. 1-ranked WVC gave Fournier a head start towards his second 1,000 wins with an 11-0 victory.

On a day when the coach ended up in center stage, Fournier appreciated all the hullabaloo but was happy to move on.

Fournier was presented with the game ball, remarks were made by coaches and players, then a giant cake honoring the moment was unveiled.

"It was pretty cool," Fournier said. "You try to put it aside and fight the nerves, but at the end of the day it was about us trying to get better. It was awfully nice getting that one out of the way."

Warriors end slide with overtime win against Southwestern



Ian Hardy scores on a reverse layup in the game against Southwestern on Monday, Mar. 1.

WVC ended a 3-game losing streak by rallying in the final two minutes of a game against Southwestern Illinois on Monday, Mar. 1, forcing an overtime.

"That was a gritty win," said Coach Mike Carpenter. "The thing we're most proud of is the effort and toughness they showed down the stretch to get some big stops."

Trailing 74-69 with under two minutes left, WVC staged an 8-0 turnaround. Jejuan Weatherspoon hit a 3-point field goal

upping the score to 74-72, and moments later, Weatherspoon did it again.

Carpenter brought Weatherspoon and Hamilton with him to the post-game press conference. Hamilton said this game should be used as a reference point.

"This one game we should always look at," he said. "There were plenty of plays where we made the extra pass, somebody blocked, or somebody rebounded. That is what we did tonight and that's why we got the win."

Lady Warriors win 78th straight GRAC game over Southwestern



Kiki Carney on the dribble-drive against Southwestern on Monday, Mar. 1.

The Lady Warriors won their 78th straight Great Rivers Athletic Conference game on Monday, Mar. 1, beating Southwestern Illinois, but it was harder than it looked.

WVC trailed at the end of the first quarter and recovered only slightly in the second frame to lead by five points at halftime.

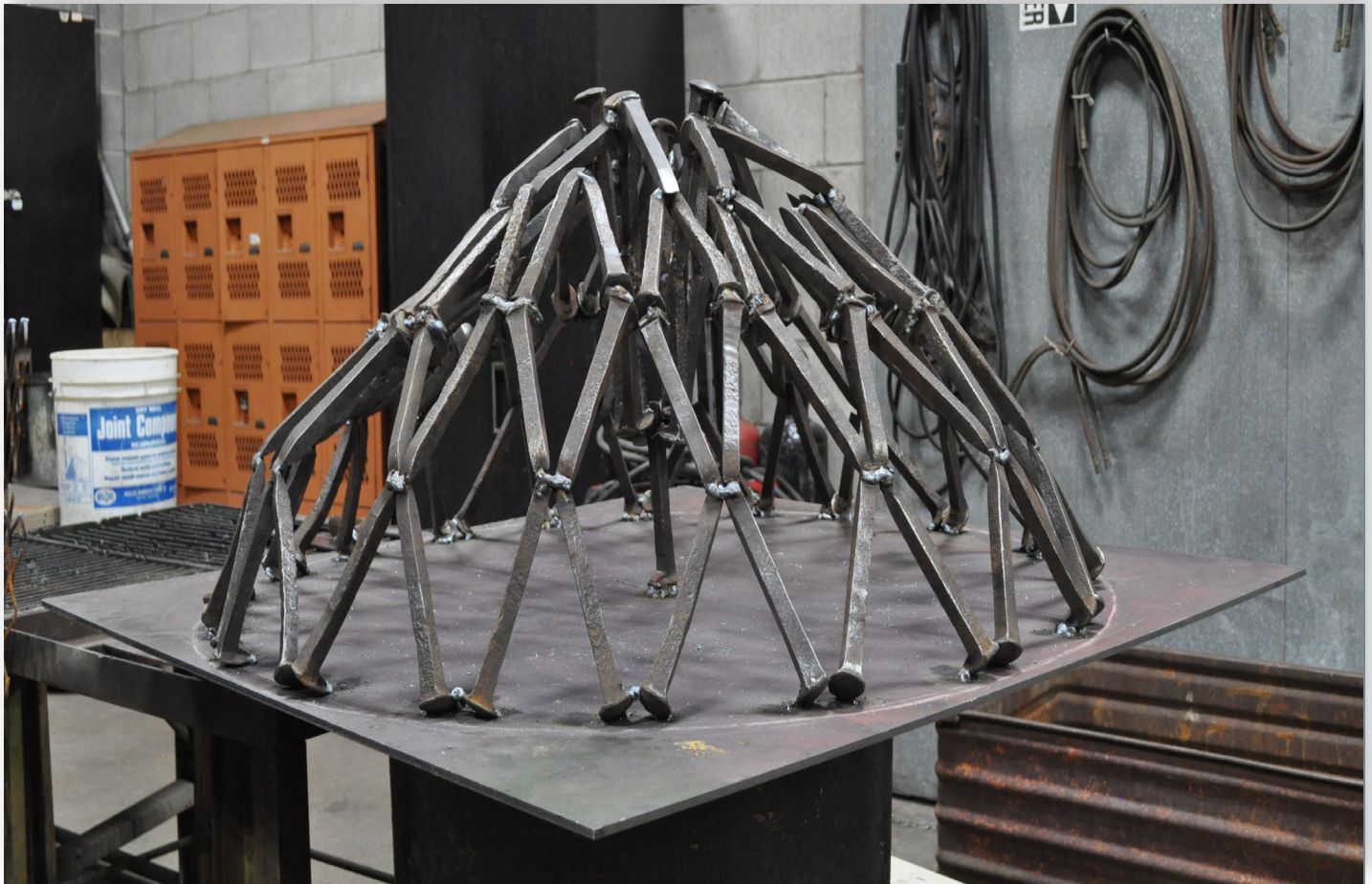
“We didn’t have our best first half, but we bounced back in the second half,” said coach Luke Scheidecker. “We got a lot better, started talking and flying around in the second half.”

Freshman Makira Webster said the Warriors were able to “lock in a little more after halftime. Being able to regroup and talk things over helped us a lot.”

In the third quarter, WVC outscored Southwestern by a 25-11 margin, then added a similar spread in the fourth period.

Jazmyn Turner turned another double-double in the win, her seventh of the season. The sophomore scored 18 points but hauled down even more rebounds – 20, her season-best on the boards.

Welding class creates sculpture honoring WVC's 60th anniversary



Wabash Valley students in Diesel Equipment Technology Lead Instructor Scott Balding's welding class made a statue in honor of WVC's 60th year in operation.

The statue was commissioned by the Wabash Valley Arts Council.

"WVC Ties That Bind," as the statue is named, is made out of old railroad spikes collected by Performing Arts Director Jerry Bayne. The spikes were then given to Balding's class to create the statue.

"Cleaning up the spikes took almost as long

as welding the statue itself," said Balding. "As with most things, preparation was key."

Students in WVC's Advanced Manufacturing program and dual-credit students in the Accelerated Advanced Manufacturing program worked on the statue.

According to Balding, the letters (WVC—unpictured) took two days to weld together while the base (pictured) took three to four class periods to get put together.

The statue is slated to be installed later this year.

